

Local Tree-Huggers Need Your Help: Stop the Hemlock Woolly adelgid scourge

Written by Administrator

Monday, 17 February 2014 15:39 - Last Updated Monday, 17 February 2014 20:56

This Saturday, February 22 at 10 AM, please come help with a survey of hemlock trees in the beautiful Six Mile Creek gorge. Meet at the Giles St. parking lot at the Mulholland Wildflower Garden in Ithaca NY.

Dress appropriately for being outdoors for 2-3 hours. Thank you!

Contact: steward@cayugalake.org for information about this event.

The City of Ithaca, assisted by the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and others, are launching an intensive tree-by-tree survey for the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), an aphid-like invasive pest that can quickly weaken and kill hemlock trees.

Come join one of several small survey teams and head to your assigned grove to inspect each tree. HWA was first found along the creek there last November by Cornell expert Mark C. Whitmore.

There is a special urgency to locate HWA infested trees along the creek that supplies the City of Ithaca with drinking water. Losing hemlocks from steep gorge slopes and along the creek would lead to a rise in sediment from increased erosion, and warmer creek water from loss of shade, altering water quality and habitat.

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Our hemlock trees are also essential to the region's beauty and their loss would leave a big hole in our hearts. The HWA can be controlled and the disease slowed or stopped – if caught early.

Residents along the west shore of Cayuga Lake are already dealing with this pest, as are our local state parks. Yes, this is a climate change opportunist – HWA is moving north with warmer weather overall. Once established, even a colder winter like this one won't stop it. More info: <http://www.cornellplantations.org/our-gardens/natural-areas/invasive/hemlock-woolly-adelgid>

Hug a Tree-Stompa woody Adelgid~!