

Be a Hemlock Hero!

Help the LGLC protect the Lake George watershed from the hemlock woolly adelgid!

Photo: Bill Cook, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org

What is the hemlock woolly adelgid?

The hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is an invasive forest pest that was introduced to North America from Japan. They are tiny, aphid-like insects that attach to hemlock trees and suck the moisture and nutrients from the base of the tree's needles. HWA does not have any natural predators in the eastern U.S., and our hemlocks do not have a natural resistance to infestations.

What do they look like?

An **eastern hemlock** can be most easily identified by its needles. They are flat with round tips, and have two distinct white lines on the needle's underside.

HWA is very small and is most easily identified during the winter months when its eggs appear on hemlock twigs as "woolly" masses.



photo: Chris Evans, The University of Georgia, www.forestryimages.org

Why does it matter to Lake George?

The eastern hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis*, makes up an estimated **60% of total tree cover** in the Lake George watershed. Commonly found along streams, hemlock roots stabilize streambanks, preventing erosion and drastically reducing the amount of sediment and excess nutrients that enter the lake.

Eastern hemlocks also provide food and habitat to many animals in the northeast. Brook trout depend on the cool water temperature that is maintained by dense hemlock cover. Chickadees, wrens, warblers, and other songbirds rely on hemlock for habitat. White-tailed deer, snowshoe hare and porcupines feed on its bark and needles.

Without the eastern hemlock, the water quality of Lake George, and the forest habitat of the watershed, would suffer.

What is the LGLC Doing About HWA?

Mapping The LGLC has identified locations of hemlocks within the watershed believed to be most at-risk and critical to monitor and protect.

Monitoring Each year LGLC staff and volunteers walk more than 75 miles on protected lands within the watershed to check for signs of HWA.

Treating Trained staff will treat infestations if found on LGLC land, and provide assistance to partners if HWA is found on other properties.

Training The LGLC has hosted trainings at our office and in partnership with other groups, for hemlock and HWA ID, monitoring, and reporting.

What You Can Do:

Attend a Training If you are interested in learning more about HWA, please contact the LGLC or check our website to see if we have any upcoming informational sessions. Knowledge is power!

Monitor for HWA You can look for infestations while you are out in the woods, or even in your front lawn. It only takes a few seconds to check the underside of a hemlock twig—but this short exercise could make a huge impact in protecting the health of our watershed.

Report your Findings If you suspect that a tree is infested with HWA, please take a photo of the and email it to Monica at mdore@lgc.org with a note of its location.



Contact Us and Learn More Visit us at 4905 Lake Shore Drive (9N) in Bolton Landing, call 518-644-9673, or find us online at www.LGLC.ORG and @HikeLakeGeorge

Protecting the Land that Protects the Lake since 1988