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The Chatsworth Times

Serving Murray County since 1913

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The Chatsworth Times is located at 224 N. Third Ave., Chatsworth.

Volunteers begin hemlocks restoration

Times staff reports

Trout Unlimited volunteers included: (left to right) Bob Wetzsteon, Gary Peterson, Carl Riggs, Bigfoot (Henry Ostaszewski), Bill Nelson, and Jim Reich.

photos submitted

Volunteers from the Blue Ridge Mountain and Gold Rush Chapters of Trout Unlimited recently planted 42 new Eastern Hemlocks, treated a large number of existing hemlocks and cleared brush around a stretch of Rock Creek in Murray County. This community service project was organized by an AmeriCorps Vets-Work-sponsored intern assigned with the U.S. Forest Service in the Conasauga Ranger District, with the main goal being to enhance trout habitat on public land, where people can enjoy the experience of fishing on healthy trout waters for generations to come.

This was the first hemlock restoration project undertaken in Murray County, though it likely will not be the last.

"Save Georgia's Hemlocks and Trout Unlimited, Blue Ridge Mountains Chapter conducted a similar test project on the Toccoa River near Suches in the fall of 2016 to establish protocols for planning, preparation, execution, and follow-up," said Donna Shearer, chairman of Save Georgia's Hemlocks . "This project at Rock Creek is the first one we've done in Murray County, and it was funded through a grant received by SGH from the North Georgia EMC, given specifically for such projects in Murray and/or Whitfield counties. We hope to do at least two more Hemlock restoration projects in those two counties over the next 24 months."

Save Georgia's Hemlocks was approached by Colin Crofts, an Americorps intern, to partner for this restoration project as his final internship project.

Since most of the best trout streams in North Georgia are on federal land, the U.S. Forest Service helped identify a good trout stream segment that was good Hemlock habitat but met certain criteria: it needed help to restore/improve; it was open to the general public, and was accessible and safe as a volunteer work site; and that the USFS would grant permission for the project.

More rojects like these are necessary, according to experts. All of the North Georgia counties in the Native Hemlock Range have been infested by the invasive pest called Hemlock Wooly Adelgid for several years now. Many trees have already died, and many more are in poor condition, which creates a serious threat to the Riparian area surrounding the trout streams. The first step in the process is to identify Hemlocks that are still viable. Then based on runk diameter at breast height, a specific amount of systemic treatment material is injected into the soil at the base of the tree using a hand-held soil injector.

The material is taken up and translocated throughout the tree so that the insects feeding on the tree ingest it and are killed.

This is the standard process used across the National Forest and state lands in Georgia, can be done safely and economically, and is highly effective in protecting the trees for an average of five years per treatment.

Save Georgia's Hemlocks is a 100% volunteer, 501©(3) nonprofit organization of concerned citizens dedicated to saving endangered Hemlocks throughout education and charitable service.

It is their vision that through our efforts of preservation, conservation and restoration, there will be a healthy population of Hemlocks in Georgia for future generations.

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Letters to the Editor

Mr. Editor and Area Citizens,

Sunday, November 5, 2017, has been proclaimed by Governor Nathan Deal as Retired Educators Day in Georgia.

The proclamation states, "There are more than 121,000 retired educators in Georgia". "The retired educators of Georgia donate thousands of hours of volunteer service and make invaluable contributions to the welfare of their respective communities across the state". Also proclaimed, "It is appropriate that a day be designated for citizens to express their appreciation for the contributions that retired educators have made and continue to make for the betterment of human lives and for society."

We join with Governor Deal in thanking retired educators for their contributions to communities in Murray and Whitfield counties and beyond both for their years as an active educator and now as a retiree.

Please take a moment on Sunday to thank a retired educator that helped you along the way or is continuing to give of themselves in a volunteer role.

Thank you,
The Executive Committee
Dalton-Whitfield-Murray
Retired Educators Association

Around The Region

Murray County Schools Win Golden Radish Award

Murray County is a leader in school nutrition, and they now have the Golden Radish Award to prove it. The Golden Radish Award publicly recognizes school districts for all aspects of farm-to-school, from local food procurement to hosting taste tests and gardening with students. Districts are evaluated on their work implementing farm to school objectives.

More than 40 percent of Georgia public school districts have farm-to-school programs. These programs teach students about food and agriculture through hands-on food and garden education, supporting the local economy through local food purchases for school meals, and fighting childhood obesity and other preventable, food-related diseases. A record-breaking 75 school districts participated in farm-to school-programs during the 2016-17 school year.

MMC Welcomes Dr. Lisa Counsell

Lisa Counsell, MD, has joined Murray Medical Center as a hospitalist.

Dr. Counsell is a graduate of the Medical College of Georgia where she earned her doctor of medicine degree. She then completed a residency and internship in internal medicine at the Medical College of Georgia. Dr. Counsell is also board-certified in internal medicine.

HHCS Earns Leadership Awards, Welcomes Hyperbaric Specialist

Vizient MidSouth recently recognized Hamilton Health Care System (HHCS) with the Brilliance and Leadership Excellence awards.

The Brilliance Award recognizes member organizations that submit successful projects and leading best practices in the areas of clinical, financial/operational and innovation. HHCS received second place in the Financial/Operations category for a submission called, "Patient Flow: EVS Turnaround Time."

Norman McCulloch, Jr., MD, new physician for Hamilton Wound and Hyperbaric Services, says he loves hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) because it combines two of his passions – treating patients and SCUBA diving. McCulloch joined board certified physician William Pullen, MD, at the center.

Financial Aid Help for College Students

All high school students, parents and educators in the Tennessee Valley are invited to attend "College Goal Tennessee" next Sat. Nov. 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the UTC University Center.

There will be free on-site assistance to help students fill out the federal FAFSA form (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) which all students must complete to be eligible for any federal or state financial assistance. Students can sign up at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CGTN2017.

Chatsworth Resident Joins ACB

Atlantic Capital Bank announces the addition of Chatsworth resident Shannon Amos to assist with small business lending growth throughout the Northwest Georgia market. The veteran commercial banker serves as Vice President and Business Banking Officer, working in the Dalton Thornton Avenue office.

NMHS Wins Food Drive

North Murray won the canned food drive against Murray County High School this year. The canned food drive helps many people in need in the community.

"We felt like the competition was an excellent opportunity for our two schools to show a united support for those in our community who are in need. I hope it continues to be something we can do every year," said Gina Linder, Principal of MCHS.

Road Work Continues on Highway 52

The Georgia DOT advises motorists on State Route (SR) 52 in Murray County that a maintenance crew continues its work on repairing and deep patching the deteriorating asphalt spots on this highway. Work will proceed daily Tuesday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Murray Educators Need Your Opinion

Murray County educators would like to have your input on your son or daughter's school. Please take approximately 10 minutes to complete this survey. The Georgia Department of Education encourages all parents to take the Georgia Parent Survey because the data will be used as part of the calculation of the School Climate Star Rating. Parents may complete the survey using their personal computer, smartphoncontains 24 questions. Survey responses are anonymous and will be submitted directly to the Georgia Department of Education for analysis. The Georgia Parent Survey is also available in Spanish. Parents may select the Spanish version within the survey. The Georgia Parent Survey link is posted below.

This is the link to the Parent Survey: http://gshs.gadoe.org/parents

Gas Prices Falling

Average retail gasoline prices in Georgia have fallen 2.7 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging $2.32/g yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 5,883 gas outlets in Georgia. This compares with the national average that has increased 0.6 cents per gallon in the last week to $2.45/g, according to gasoline price website GasBuddy.com.

NEWS TIPS?

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We, the editors of this 2017 Area's Best Business Review offer this suggestion to the people in our area: So, whether or not you need a big grocery shopping trip, get your tire changed or pick-up a prescription, do what smart shoppers do…make WALMART your one-stop shopping headquarters for the best products, the largest selection and the ultimate in everyday bargains!

VOTE FOR & ELECT

K.W. GONG

Chatsworth
City Council Member
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