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For Immediate Release:

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Volunteers and Stewards invited to learn how to monitor for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
February 16 and March 19 in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County (CCE) will be partnering with the Finger Lakes Land Trust, Central New York Land Trust, and Cornell University to offer two hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) awareness and monitoring hikes on February 16, 2016 and March 19, 2016. Citizens who appreciate hemlock trees and forests can help by learning how to identify HWA and report possible infestations during one of two winter hikes. Winter is the ideal time to see the insect.

On February 16, 2016 at 10:00am families are invited to join CCE and Jason Gorman from the Finger Lakes Land Trust to explore High Vista Nature Preserve and learn how to identify hemlock trees and look for signs of HWA. Snowshoes or cross-country skis may be needed in case of deep snow. Snowshoes may be available to borrow. To register visit: www.cceonondaga.org or contact Jessi Lyons at 315-424-9485 ext. 233 for more information.

On March 19, 2016 at 10:00 am hemlock lovers, property owners, volunteers and stewards, are invited to join the CNY Land Trust, Mark Whitmore of Cornell University, and CCE Onondaga to learn more about HWA, visit the Bahar Nature Preserve to see HWA firsthand, and then monitor hemlock stands at the Elbridge Swamp Preserve. This full-day event will start at the Skaneateles Library to hear more about HWA from Mark Whitmore, and how to monitor and report HWA from Jessi Lyons, environmental educator at CCE. After a break for lunch, the group will carpool to Bahar Nature Preserve and then Elbridge Swamp Preserve. To register visit: <http://cnylandtrust.org/march-19-hemlock-woolly-adelgid/>

HWA is a very small aphid-like insect that can kill hemlock trees within 4-12 years. Hemlock trees are found in glens and gorges throughout the Finger Lakes, and are a popular landscape tree. Hemlock trees provide shelter for wildlife year-round, stabilize steep slopes, and cool streams and lakes which helps maintain water quality and support local fisheries. HWA was discovered along Skaneateles Lake in 2014, and has been found spreading across the western shoreline and southern portions of Skaneateles Lake. HWA has also been confirmed across the Finger Lakes region in recent years, and poses a threat to all hemlock trees in the region.

Support for these hikes comes from the City of Syracuse, the Central New York Land Trust, the Finger Lakes Land Trust and Cornell University.



Sustainable. Educational. Local.