



Laurel Valley Echoes

September, 2006

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Annual Meeting Report

The minutes of the annual meeting are attached. If you weren't able to attend, they will give you a good summary of what happened in the Valley in the 2005-2006 year and items of interest that were discussed.

A few things of particular note:

- In addition to the \$750 road fee, we will be requiring contractors to put up a refundable \$1250 deposit. This will give us the means to correct damage or do clean-up if a contractor is uncooperative. We will be scheduling a meeting soon with all the known builders in Laurel Valley
- We have purchased equipment to treat hemlocks for the woolly adelgid. This equipment will be available for property owner's to use. There is a separate article in this Echoes with the details.
- The vote on the security was overwhelming against adding full-time coverage.
- There were not enough votes to pass the amended by-laws and restrictions. The membership requested that we have open meetings to discuss the changes.

Save Our Hemlocks

Our mountains' hemlock trees are disappearing before our eyes, being overcome by the Hemlock woolly adelgid. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) is a piercing-sucking insect that feeds on the xylem tissue of hemlock trees causing loss of

defoliation and death. It is easily identified on hemlock trees by the presence of white cottony masses on the twigs and at the base of the needles. This problem is not going away; however, there are treatments that can save some of these beautiful trees.

What can I do on my property?

Treating Your Hemlock

There are two treatment types available to the homeowner or private landowner for treating adelgid infested trees. They are soap and systemic treatment (by soil drenching, soil injection or tree injection). Selecting the appropriate treatment method for your hemlocks depends on factors such as the trees' accessibility (can you get to it easily), whether it is near water or in rocky soil, and the expense of the treatment. Each treatment option has benefits and drawbacks. None of these treatments have any preventative effect, so treating uninfested hemlocks will not protect them.

Soap Spray Method - Insecticidal soaps are one of the most effective treatment methods and has the least potential for negative environmental consequences. These may be purchased at your garden center. Application will be most effective in last March through April when adelgids have hatched from their eggs, and in late August to October before the nymphs produce their woolly coverings. To prevent leaf burn, do not spray in the spring when new twigs are growing or when temperatures are above 75 degree F or below 45

degree F.

Systemic Treatment - Soil drenching is accomplished by slowly pouring a stream of Imidacloprid solution of the soil or into a set of small holes in the soil spaced evenly around the tree and about 6 to 12 inches from the base of the tree. While the benefits of using these products-saving your hemlocks-may far outweigh the environmental consequences of using them, imidacloprid can kill aquatic species and, potentially, some beneficial insects. One should never use either soil drenching or soil injection near open water or in rocky soils that will drain quickly to open water.

The third method, truck injection is the only method available to trees near open water because truck injection prevents contact between the water and the chemicals. **Your Board has purchased the ArborJet system with chemicals to treat hemlocks in the common areas of Laurel Valley. This tree injection system will be available for the use by all property owners provided they purchase their own chemicals.** The best seasons for treatment are spring and fall. Soil temperature should be above 40 degrees and air temperature below 70 degrees. This method requires training to be sure the treatment is properly done and effective. Now is the time to contact one of the board members to get on the list to start training for the use of the ArborJet tree injection system.

If you would like to use the LVPOA equipment to treat your trees, please contact Alan Doyle at 387-6202. **LET'S TRY AND SAVE OUR BEAUTIFUL HEMLOCKS!**

Know a Good Plumber???

Tim Stringfellow, our webmaster, is continuing to develop our web page as a source of information for all property owners. He would like to compile a list of local contractors and service people that Laurel Valley folks would like to recommend to their neighbors. It's pretty hard to open the yellow pages and feel confident about getting good service. If you

have used a plumber, electrician, handyman, landscaper, tree cutter, etc. and would like to share that name with the association via our web page, please email tstring@laurelvalley.org.

Road Paving

Weston Paving is going to be doing some paving work for the Association, starting any day now. If you are interested in having driveway work done, contact them immediately, as you may get a price break if they can schedule your work when they are out here. Call Denise at Weston, 680-2130.

Bear Activity

This is the time of year when bears are actively foraging in search of fall food, primarily hard mast (acorns). Apparently the mast production has been low this year and the bears are hungry and having difficulty locating enough food. We can expect increased bear activity in Laurel Valley. **Please** do not do anything to encourage the bears – this includes leaving food outside or garbage outside in non-bearproof containers and having bird feeders outside. Don't leave food in your car and keep your Bar-B-Q grills clean and grease free. Help protect our residents, our visitors, and our bears!

Fall Party

Come one, come all to the LVPOA FALL FLING

Lily Barn on Friday October 13, 2006
(don't let the date scare you off)

Bring your favorite covered dish to share and BYOB. Social hour from 6 to 7 p.m. and then some serious eating. Be sure to mark your calendar.

Also please reserve Friday December 8, 2006
This is the date we will gather together at the

Laurel Valley Restaurant for our annual
Christmas celebration.