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ForestWatch Outing

Outing Alert

October 20th, 2018

**Invasive Species Hike & Removal
 Cohutta Wilderness in Fannin County
 Saturday, November 3, 2018
 *Only Two Spots Remaining***

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Georgia ForestWatch

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Check us out on the web at www.gafw.org



Volunteer cuts a two-year-old princess tree sapling in the Cohutta Wilderness - Photo by Jess Riddle

Leader: Jess Riddle, Forest Ecologist

Hike Location: Cohutta Wilderness, Fannin County

Outing Description: We are continuing to combat the Asian princess trees that swarmed into the Cohutta Wilderness after the 2016 Rough Ridge Fire. The fire produced ideal conditions for this extraordinarily fast-growing tree to reproduce. The largest trees are now over 10 feet tall, while native tree seedlings have reached only three feet.

On two outings in September, a small team of volunteers removed over 1,000 princess trees. This was fantastic progress and gave native species the upper hand across several acres. However, large areas remain infested. We will hike into the wilderness and clear princess tree seedlings by either pulling or cutting them. Along the way, we'll stop to talk about fire ecology, invasive species, and anything else that catches our interest.

Large and remote, the Cohuttas offer the best chance in northern Georgia for natural processes to operate as they did historically. Very few other invasive species are present in the wilderness. This is a place we can make a real difference.

Meeting Time and Place: Meet at 10:00am at the Chatsworth Food City (502 G I Maddox Pkwy, Chatsworth, GA 30705). The store is at the northern intersection of US76 and US411, behind a row of fast food stores. [Click](#) for Google map. We'll carpool to the hike location.

Distance and Difficulty: Strenuous. Total hiking will only be one to two miles. However, we will be working on steep slopes away from the trail and pulling or cutting vegetation, so the overall exertion level will be high. Everyone is encouraged, though, to take breaks as needed during the princess tree pulling.

Duration: This is an all-day event, and we are not likely to be back at the vehicles until about 5:00pm.

Participant Limits: maximum of 11

What to Bring and Wear: Lunch, plenty of water, raingear, sturdy footwear, gloves. We found loppers and small hand saws to be very effective on the princess tree sprouts. If allergic to bees/wasps, remember to bring your meds/epi-pen.

Cancellation/Rain Date: Hikers will be notified if hike is canceled due to forecast of severe weather, etc.

Pet Policy: No pets please

Family Safe Policy: Georgia ForestWatch outings are a smoke, alcohol, and drug-free setting.

Sign up now!
Space is limited
Reservations required

Our outings are free of charge and open to everyone on a first come, first served basis, up to the limit. **BUT DON'T FORGET**, [Georgia ForestWatch members are always given priority on our hikes](#). To learn how you can become a member, [click here](#).

To Reserve Your Spot

Please click [here](#) to register (for the best chance of securing a spot) or call 706-867- 0051 with the following information.

1. Name of person(s)
2. Your email address
3. Your phone number (preferably cell if you will be carrying it on the outing day)

For more information on the hike, OR if you need directions on the day of

the hike, please contact Jess Riddle by [email](#) or call the phone number provided in your confirmation message.

Upcoming Outings & Events - Mark Your Calendars!

Wednesday, November 7th - Appalachian Trail, Dicks Creek Gap to Powell Mountain - *with Melanie Vickers*

Saturday, December 1st - Dog-Friendly Hike on the Appalachian Trail - *with Tom Colkett*

