



# CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE HEMLOCKS

Just miles from New York City lies a rare forest of thousands of ancient trees that dates back to when Native Americans lived on this land, an important remnant of the old-growth forest that once covered the entire Eastern United States. Sadly, this forest is dying. The hemlock trees of this “primeval” forest are being attacked by an aggressive, non-native insect called the hemlock woolly adelgid.

The Gorge’s old-growth forest has battled the hemlock woolly adelgid for several decades and many scientists, MRG staff included, thought it could weather the threat. Unfortunately, last year’s extreme drought severely weakened these trees, making them more susceptible to damage. It is now abundantly clear that the 400-year-old trees in Mianus River Gorge Preserve cannot survive even the next few years without our help.



*Dead Hemlock Forest in Southeastern U.S.*

With the help of scientists at Cornell Cooperative Extension, MRG staff scientists have developed a comprehensive and fast-acting plan that will save the hemlocks. But, we need to act immediately and we need your help! Staff have already begun treating some of the oldest hemlocks with a long-acting insecticide that has been proven to kill the adelgid and is safe for other forest wildlife and humans.

Because this treatment is extremely expensive, especially when applied in a forest setting, Mianus River Gorge has embarked on a two-year campaign to raise \$500,000 to Save the Hemlocks. We need your help to raise funding for the immediate treatment of the trees; the longer-term work to restore the understory, increase the seed bank, and protect younger trees and habitat; and to build a “hemlock fund” that will enable MRG to repeat the bark spraying regimen in subsequent years. At the same time, MRG will work to identify a permanent, biological solution that will eradicate the hemlock woolly adelgid once and for all.



*Basal Bark Spraying Hemlocks*

Please join us in this vital effort to save the very essence of the Mianus River Gorge Preserve.

*In December 1953, Gloria Anable learned that developers had trained their crosshairs on the Mianus River Gorge. With great urgency, Anable enlisted a cadre of renowned scientists to walk the Gorge with her and provide their appraisal of the ancient forest. Recalling this seminal expedition, Anable, one of the founders of the Mianus River Gorge Preserve, later wrote, “The Gorge was, the professionals agreed, an outdoor schoolroom, a living laboratory, a sanctuary, an open-air museum and a place of abiding beauty.”<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> The Story of the Gorge by Gloria and Anthony Anable, 1979