



**Fall Membership Cookout and Paver Dedication  
Saturday, November 5th, 2016**

The Friends of Hemlock Bluffs hosted a fall celebration in the courtyard of the Stevens Nature Center to thank members, friends and paver patrons for their support of the Friends of Hemlock Bluffs and Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve. We had a beautiful day, made more beautiful with the sounds of Celtic music from Rip the Calico. We also had organic food from Whole Foods of Cary and fun kid's activities hosted by the Teen Council of Cary. Our membership socials are a great way to meet other like-minded individuals who enjoy and support Hemlock Bluffs, and to meet the staff and Board of Hemlock Bluffs and the Friends of Hemlock Bluffs.

A big thanks to Whole Foods of Cary who donated the cookout for our members and patrons!



**The Board of the Friends of Hemlock Bluffs along with Hemlock Bluffs staff at the Fall event.**

If you'd like to be involved with the Board and volunteer to assist with on-going Friends support of Hemlock Bluffs, please email [fobsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fobsecretary@gmail.com), the commitment is minimal and we'd be happy to have your help.



**Children participating in the craft activities during the Fall membership cookout and paver dedication.**

Teen Council volunteers look on as a group of girls make crafts from tree slices at the fall event.



**Friends of Hemlock Bluffs provide scholarship programs.**

Throughout the year, the Friends provide environmental education opportunities at no charge to residents in the local area who might not otherwise be able to participate in the nature programs offered at Hemlock Bluffs. This may include: individuals or groups with mobility issues, inclusion needs or the underprivileged. The Friends not only pay for the programs, but in most cases provide the educational programming as well. This expands the programming provided by staff and allows staff to focus on the already ambitious program schedule they provide to the public.



**Staff have been watching wildlife on a trail camera.**

With the assistance of technology, staff have been better able to see who lives on the nature preserve. They placed a digital camera, which is triggered by movement, at a location where there is a known animal den and watched who came by. So far it has been a very busy location. Mice, squirrels, fox and coyotes have been filmed! Check out the videos posted on Instagram at: [Friends\\_of\\_Hemlock\\_Bluffs](https://www.instagram.com/Friends_of_Hemlock_Bluffs)



**Spring approaches at Hemlock Bluffs.**

Even when temperatures are cold, flower buds are forming on early blooming species of Hexastylis. In less than a month, trout lily leaves will be up, too.





**Help Fund Research and Protection of the Hemlocks at Hemlock Bluffs!**

This year you can provide input into the Town of Cary budget process and potentially have a positive impact on funding important research and protection of the Hemlock trees at Hemlock Bluffs. Through a possible partnership with the Camcore Program at NC State University, long-term help and hope is on the horizon for on-going treatment and genetic research for the Hemlock trees at Hemlock Bluffs. If the Town of Cary funds an agreement with Camcore, NC State will provide top-notch experts to monitor the trees, apply appropriate treatment when necessary, climb the large trees to assess their health and welfare and collect seed to establish an off-site nursery to create a future gene pool if needed in the event of a catastrophic event on-site. This assistance would be invaluable, but comes at a cost of \$25,000. This amount is less than the Town is currently paying for Hemlock treatment. This new partnership is a proactive approach and is an investment in the future of the Hemlock trees at Hemlock Bluffs. Please show your support for this partnership by emailing: [budgetinput@townofcary.org](mailto:budgetinput@townofcary.org) or by contacting your Town of Cary Council member directly. You are also welcome to attend any Town of Cary Town Council meeting and speak during the "Public Speaks Out" portion of the meeting. Please consider attending and speaking *positively* about Hemlock Bluffs and the potential for this partnership.

**Fundraising Goal for 2017**

The Friends' plan to assist Hemlock Bluffs staff in attaining their goal of updating the "welcome film" in the mini-theater in the Stevens Nature Center's exhibit hall. The short movie, created by amateur film-makers within the Town of Cary, is out-of-date and is using obsolete technology for playback. The Friends want to help raise funds to hire a reputable local firm to shoot current relevant film footage in HD, as well as provide current day technology in the mini theater exhibit for playback. Fundraising has already begun. A \$750.00 grant was recently received from the Lazy Daze Foundation. The total project cost is expected to be approximately \$7,000. Let us know if you'd like to help with a donation, or if you know or a potential funder. Email [fohbsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fohbsecretary@gmail.com) with feedback.

**Be Sure to Check out the Friends' Website**

**Become a Member Today!**

The Friends of Hemlock Bluffs is an all volunteer organization with an emphasis on supporting Hemlock Bluffs Nature Preserve financially and promoting the unique resources as well as the environmental education programs and conservation projects which improve the quality of life in this region.

Please visit our website to become a member, renew your membership, make a donation or use our "shop to support" site to provide funds to enable us to give back to Hemlock Bluffs!



Friends Website



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