



Salamander Scoop

A monthly e-newsletter | October 2015

Feature Stories



New England National Scenic Trail Partners with Hitchcock Center to Support Geology Fieldtrips

On the mountain, kids make music. Rock music. It's a natural introduction to the geology of the Holyoke Range and its trails - the sound rock fragments make when struck or scuffed. It's a minor note, but a memorable auditory experience as students begin to learn about the properties and geology in local formations. [*Read more...*](#)



Volunteer Appreciation: Mary Dunn

Mary Dunn has been volunteering at the center for five and a half years and has assisted Hitchcock staff with a broad range of countless activities: mailings, program registrations, library shelving, cleaning and organizing materials, decorating rooms for Enchanted Forest, cutting and crafting endless children program materials. [Read more...](#)



Welcoming Cornelius the Corn Snake

Few things are more satisfying to me as a Hitchcock educator than seeing the wonder and focus that appear on a visitor's face during an up-close encounter with one of our teaching animals. [Read more...](#)

Upcoming Programs and Events



Wild Mushroom Field Class

Join Dianna for a fascinating glimpse into the diversity of fungi in our autumn woods. She is a walking field guide to our myriad fungi and will identify, complete with latin name, anything you can find.

[Learn more...](#)



Guided Exploration of the Fort River Nature Trail

The new, accessible boardwalk and nature trail, part of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Hadley, is a terrific place to see what's happening in nature. [Learn more...](#)



Morning Nature Walk for Seniors

Join us for an easy walk in the woods with a knowledgeable naturalist!

[Learn more...](#)



Exploring Larch Hill: All Welcome Monthly Sunday Nature Walk

Come young, old, novice or seasoned and join one of our naturalists to see what you can see each month on our new fourth Sunday of the month nature walk around Larch Hill. Fourth Sunday afternoons from 1-3pm.

[Learn more...](#)



Caterpillar Collection Inspection

Join the folks from the Caterpillar Lab and see their collection of butterfly and moth caterpillars. They'll display them on tables in our classroom for all to see up close. [Learn more...](#)



Mountains and Valleys: Geology Field Class

Join naturalist Ted Watt for a hike up Mount Holyoke in Skinner State Park. We'll meet at the entrance gate and hike the auto road part way and then take the New England National Scenic Trail to the summit of the mountain. [Learn more...](#)



Pumpkin Carving

Bring the family to help us carve pumpkins for the Enchanted Forest! We'll provide the pumpkins and tools, you provide the creativity. [Learn more...](#)



Enchanted Forest Nature's Myth Busters

At this year's annual evening along pumpkin lit forest trails, learn fact from fiction from some of your favorite local critters. Fun for all ages!

[Learn more...](#)



What's that Tree? - Tree ID Using Bark and Habitat Clues

Have you ever looked at a tree in winter and wondered what it might be? For nearly half the year bark provides the best clues to tree ID.

[Learn more...](#)

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE Campaign Update

- Tours of our new building have begun! [Photos from these tours are on the blog](#) and include first Friday monthly tours for our community, donor appreciation tours, and a BuildingEnergy ProTour with NESEA.
- Our building's footings and foundations are in the ground, waterproofed, and insulated. [Checkout photos and a timelapse video](#) of this exciting

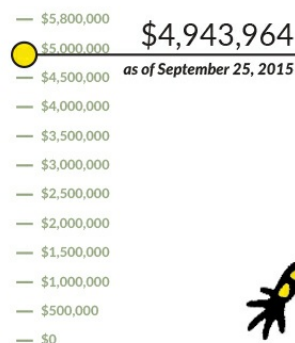
phase in our project.

- Visitors have been asking us, ["Why are you using concrete in a green building?"](#) Find out why.
- Join us for a [New "Living Building" Site Tour!](#) Tours are offered on the first Friday of the month 12:30-1pm. Upcoming tours are October 2, November 6, and December 4.

- Generous donors have stepped forward to support \$10,000 of the \$50,000 challenge grant from the [Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts \(CFWM\)](#) for construction. This grant leverages ***select donations***, allowing those donors to double the impact of their gift. Please [contact Julie](#) for more information about how you can double the impact of your gift with our CFWM Challenge Grant.
- Keep up with what's happening on site [on our blog](#). We will be posting progress updates as well as exploring features of the building.

Building for the Future: the Campaign for the Hitchcock Center

OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$5,800,000



DONATE

More News

- Find out how the Hitchcock Center is working to support schools districts in incorporating the [Massachusetts Adaptation of the Next Generation Science Statndards](#).
- Empowering girls through [a collaboration with Girls Inc. of Holyoke](#) Eureka! Program.
- Growing campers learn about leadership through [Leadership Training Camp](#).
- Hitchcock educators [connect nature, scientific inquiry and language](#) at Jackson Street School.
- Stay up to date with [Earth Matters columns](#) published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette.

About Us

The Hitchcock Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that works to inspire people to learn about our natural world through innovative, hands-on environmental education programs. We help people to explore the interconnections between the health of humans and ecosystems, reinforcing our innate bonds with our environment, and looking to nature as a model and measure to improve our quality of life.

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Let's Keep in touch!

