



Salamander Scoop

A monthly e-newsletter | November 2015

Feature Stories



Greening Our Rivers in Greenfield!

Thanks to the generous support of Greening Greenfield - a local non-profit committed to building a more sustainable Greenfield - and the Greenfield Public Schools, Hitchcock Center educator Patty O'Donnell was able to participate in a collaborative watershed education initiative with all 5th grade classrooms in the district in September. [Read more...](#)



Phenology Study Club at the Hitchcock Center

The second full year of our intensive natural history course is drawing to a close as we observe the coming of winter. What does it mean for naturalists to be learning about and documenting our local organisms' lives and natural processes? We've considered this question from a variety of perspectives during these two years. [Read more...](#)



From Zero to 100 with Monarch Butterflies

The Hitchcock Center has invited families, girl scout groups, and school groups to participate in an annual citizen science ritual - Monarch Tagging. I, along with my son Thomas, have guided many hands through the placement of tiny tags on the colorful butterflies before their long flight - up to 3,000 miles - to overwintering sites in Mexico. Scores of children have run exuberantly through local fields to catch, tag, and release these beautiful butterflies in this annual event... [Read more...](#)

Upcoming Programs and Events



Animal Tracks and Signs at The Quabbin

Come and enjoy an exciting day of animal tracking in the north Quabbin Reservation with professional wildlife tracker George Leoniak. We'll be exploring the forests looking for signs of animals as they prepare for winter. We'll also search for tracks along the sandy shores of the reservoir. [Learn more...](#)



Hike a Portion of the New England Scenic Trail

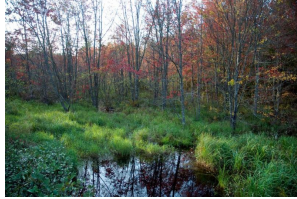
We'll hike along a northern section of the New England National Scenic Trail in Erving. We'll have a nice fairly level hike into a short, steep side trail that leads down to the Hermit's Cave.

[Learn more...](#)



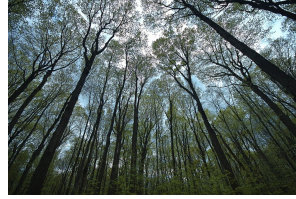
Prowling for Owls

Owls are setting up their winter and spring breeding territories right now. And they do that by hooting or making other cool sounds in the night! We'll learn what the calls of the different species sound like and then go out and see if we can locate them vocalizing in the dark. [Learn more...](#)



Exploring Swamp Trees at Nasami Farm

Nasami Farm in Whately lies within the Great Swamp, one of the largest and best examples of a perched swamp left in Massachusetts. We'll examine the trees and look for any wildflowers we might encounter at this time of year. [Learn more...](#)



Health of Our Forest Trees

You've probably heard about a number of threats to the health of our native forest tree species; and you may be wanting to learn more. Jennifer will speak about the emerald ash borer, the hemlock wooly adelgid, sudden oak death and a resurgent gypsy moth, among others. [Learn more...](#)



Fungi as Global Citizens

Michael researches the impacts of diseases in natural populations, with a main focus on fungi. He loves discussing this diverse kingdom and the important functions of fungi in the environment. [Learn more...](#)



Exploring Larch Hill Conservation Area in Amherst

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. [Learn more...](#)



Trees of the Connecticut River Floodplain

Join us for a leisurely hike along a dirt road in the flood plain near Mitch's Marina in Hadley. We'll be observing different species by their bark, their shape, and habitat, since most of the leaves will be down. [Learn more...](#)



Hitchcock's New "Living" Building Tour

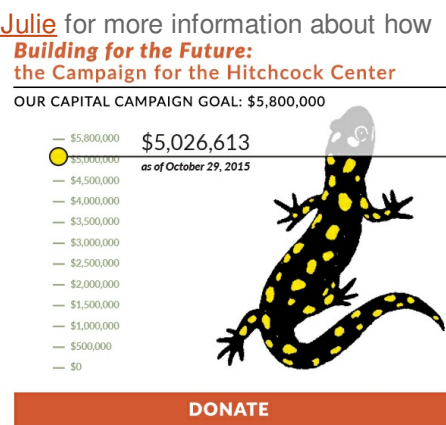
Join us at our our construction site for a free tour on the 1st Friday of each month. [Learn more...](#)

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE Campaign Update

- Our campaign fundraising has passed the \$5 million mark thanks to a recent \$40,000 challenge grant awarded by the Beveridge Family Foundation! Thank you for your support and donations that have made this possible.
- Join us for a [New "Living Building" Site Tour!](#) Tours are offered on the first Friday of the month 12:30-1pm. The next tour is December 4.
- [Hitchcock Center is Doing it Right!](#) featured in Green Energy Times.
- Site work picked up pace in October. Check out [what happened this month.](#)
- Generous donors have provided a gift of \$10,000 to leverage another \$10,000 from the Community Foundation's \$50,000 challenge grant. Many thanks to Annie Leonard and Dano Weisbord for making this

leadership 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 our site through: [our photo gallery](#), [our video gallery](#), or [on our blog](#) feed. We will be posting progress updates as well as exploring features of the building.



More News

- #GivingTuesday is December 1st! Learn more about #GivingTuesday and how you can [support Hitchcock here](#). Your donations on #GivingTuesday not only benefit the Hitchcock Center, but our partner, Network for Good is matching all gifts given online - making your support go even further.
- Our [Enchanted Forest](#) theme of Nature's Myth Busters was so much fun this year! Check out [photos and video](#) of the annual two-night family-friendly Halloween event.
- Hike It Baby [parents and toddlers visit the Hitchcock Center](#).
- [Teaching substitutes join staff](#) for Spring and Summer 2016.
- [Hampshire Life photographers](#) caught up with our programs!
- We welcomed [Cornelius the Corn Snake](#) to our teaching "staff". He is comfortably settling in and serving as an ambassador in many of our programs.
- New England National Scenic Trail [Partners with Hitchcock Center to Support Geology Fieldtrips](#)
- Our volunteers are the best! In this post, we appreciate [Mary Dunn](#) and her work with the Hitchcock Center.
- Stay up to date with [Earth Matters columns](#) published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Read recent articles by authors [Margaret Bullit-Jonas](#) and [Lawrence J. Winship](#).

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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