



# Salamander Scoop

A monthly e-newsletter | December 2015

## Feature Stories



### **A Hitchcock Story: Romy and Diane in Their Own Words**

Summer camp participant Romy Leuchs-Curtis and her mom Diane Curtis recently shared a story at our Salamander Sunday Brunch about their differences: Romy is growing up as a country kid and Diane was a city kid. Their conversation illustrates how Hitchcock programs can serve as an empowering tool for parents to pass on empowering nature skills even when their own experience was very different. [\*Read more...\*](#)



# Climate of Change

## Welcome Peter Lamdin!

Peter Lamdin has come full circle. "It's hard for me to believe, but it was 40 years ago this past summer that I first became connected to The Hitchcock Center. That summer of 1975 was the start of my journey as an educator." [Read more...](#)

## Hitchcock Education Staff

### Attends

## Climate of Change Conference

Each year the education staff at the Hitchcock Center (HCE) attends the NEEEA (New England Environmental Education Alliance) conference to present and strengthen our practice as environmental educators as well as network and build partnerships across New England. [Read more...](#)

## Upcoming Programs and Events



### Homeschool I: Nature's Superheroes

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? It's a nature superhero! In Homeschool I this spring we will learn about superheroes of survival in nature. We'll explore super senses, and learn how sight, hearing, and smell are used to capture prey and avoid detection. [Learn more...](#)



### Homeschool II: Understanding Animal Behavior

Have you ever wondered why animals act the way they do, or what they are thinking? Why do coyotes howl at night? Do the two crayfish you caught like each other? During this spring's Homeschool II class we'll be exploring these and many other questions about the inner lives of the animals around us. [Learn more...](#)



### Homeschool Discovery Days

Discovery Days, our one-time programs about science and nature. In a mixed-age setting, we explore cool topics at the Hitchcock Center, meet science experts, and sometimes go on field trips. Our Discovery Day programs are appropriate for everyone from first-time to veteran homeschoolers, and we welcome almost-6 year olds who are interested in joining our class in the fall. [Learn more...](#)



### Girls into the Wild

Get to know nature, and make friends at the same time! This afterschool program is designed to bring girls together in a supportive environment that fosters creativity, nature skills and inquiry. Each afternoon will consist of hands-on projects and free outdoor exploration at the Larch Hill Conservation Area. [Learn more...](#)



### Preschool Winter Wonderland Tracking Day

Come walk through Hitchcock Center's winter wonderland searching for tracks and signs of active winter animals. We will make a track guide, go on an adventure, eat a detective snack, and read a tracking story. [Learn more...](#)



### Make Your Own Window 'Winsert'

Do you have an old window that leaks warm air during the winter? And you're not ready to replace the whole window? Come to this workshop to make a frame and film insert to fit in your window, like an inside temporary storm window. [Learn more...](#)



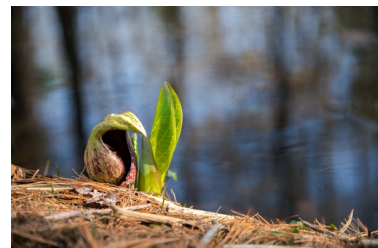
### Killer Plants

Think plants are passive victims of insect attacks or other herbivory? No! Plants have evolved all manner of strange and wonderful adaptations that enable them to withstand the onslaught of those who would eat or exploit them. Elizabeth will take you on a journey through New England and beyond that introduces you to the innovative defenses of plants. [Learn more...](#)



### Bear With It Slide Show & Mammal Tracking with Sue Morse

Two great opportunities to Learn from expert tracker Sue Morse! First, a comprehensive slide show on bear sent-marking behaviors. The second, perhaps the last opportunity to learn tracking from Sue in the field before she retires - here in the Valley in Plainfield! [Learn more...](#)



### Nature All Year Phenology Study Club - 2016

Join us for our third year of offering an in-depth natural history course for naturalists and citizen scientists. Each month in our series of nature explorations with different local naturalists, we explore a focused, seasonal, natural history topic. [Learn more...](#)

## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE Campaign Update

- Join us for a [New "Living Building" Site Tour](#)! Tours are offered on the first Friday of the month 12:30-1pm. We will skip New Year's Day, so the next tours will be Fridays, January 8 and February 5th.



- Our contractors **worked under a rainbow** in November.
- This month, the Living Building Challenge (LBC) Collaborative: Boston **organized a tour** of our LBC project geared toward industry professionals and students interested in learning in-depth about the game-changing LBC building process. The tour was sponsored and hosted by **Wright Builders**. Also participating were members of the LBC Collaborative: Connecticut, and project team members **Integrated EcoStrategy** and **Linnean Solutions**.
- 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.



Cast Your Vote for Education for a Healthy Planet

**Florence Bank** is once again holding its annual **Customer's Choice Community Grant**

program. This year they will be donating \$100,000 to local non-profit organizations across the Pioneer Valley, based on votes placed by the community. You can cast your vote for the Hitchcock Center, found in the Environmental category.



**Click here to vote**

Biothon T-shirt Sale

Biothon 2015 T-Shirts are on sale for the holidays.

**\$10 each while supplies last!**

Original artwork by Hitchcock Board Member and scientific illustrator Elizabeth Farnsworth.



More News

- Hitchcock Educator Patty O'Donnell and Enchanted Circle Theater's Priscilla

- Hitchcock Educator Patty O'Donnell and Enchanted Circle Theater's Patricia Kane-Hellwig talk about [Storm Drain Art and Advocacy](#) on WGBY's Connecting Point.
- Thank you for your gifts on #GivingTuesday! 43 donors raised \$2,895 in support of the Hitchcock Center's year-round hands-on science and nature programming.
- [Teaching substitutes join staff](#) for Spring and Summer 2016.
- [Hampshire Life photographers](#) caught up with our programs!
- Curious about our [Phenology Study Club](#)?
- Our Monarch Tagging program goes [From Zero to 100](#)!
- Collaborative watershed education works toward [Greening Our Rivers in Greenfield](#).
- Stay up to date with Earth Matters columns published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Read recent articles by authors [Betsy Krogh](#) and [David Spector](#).

## 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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525 South Pleasant St.  
Amherst MA 01002  
[www.hitchcockcenter.org](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org)

413-256-6006  
Tuesday - Friday | 9AM - 4PM

Let's Keep in touch!

