



Salamander Scoop

A monthly e-newsletter | April 2016

Feature Stories



Maddy's Thoughts: Hitchcock Youth Experience

I believe that children must face some sort of challenge to actually learn something.

[Read more...](#)

Be a Salamander Superhero!

Take the 30-Day Sustainability Challenge



Be a Salamander Superhero!

The Hitchcock Center for the Environment is calling all superheroes! April is Earth month, and Hitchcock is issuing a challenge to the local community: can you be a Salamander Superhero by changing some of your habits this month? [Read more...](#)



Massachusetts Environmental Educators Gather for The Language of Climate Change

Every year in March a group of educators from the Hitchcock Center head to Worcester for the Massachusetts Environmental Education Society (MEES) annual conference at Holy Cross College. [Read more...](#)

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE Update

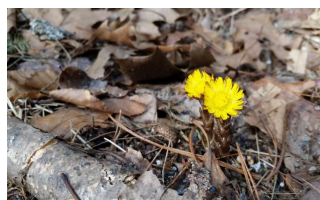
- **New "Living Building" Site Tours** continue on the first Friday of each month 12:30-1pm. Next dates: May 6th and June 3rd.
- **Time-lapse video** of work January - March is available for viewing along with a description and images of the work.
- We are pleased to report that we have raised over \$5.1 million, 88% of our \$5.8 million goal.
- We've nearly met the **Community Foundation of Western**

Massachusetts challenge match of \$50,000, with less than \$4,000 to go. All new gifts from individuals of \$1,000 or more (up to \$50,000) will be matched.

- The **Beveridge Family Foundation, Inc.** will match all new gifts from businesses of any amount (up to \$40,000). **Contribute here.**
- Keep up with what's happening on our site through: **our photo gallery, our video gallery, or on our blog** feed.



Upcoming Programs and Events



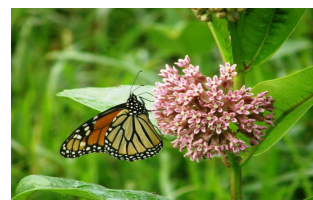
Spring Fling: Mitch's Way

Join us for a leisurely hike along a dirt road in the flood plain near Mitch's Marina in Hadley. [Learn more...](#)



Understanding Residential Solar Options

Thinking about solar power (PV) for your home but not sure where to start, what it costs and what incentives are available? [Learn more...](#)



Low Maintenance Design with Native Plants

Using strategies based on the observation and emulation of naturally existing plant communities, landscape designer Owen Wormser will share techniques for creating beautiful, low-maintenance gardens. [Learn more...](#)



Birding By Ear: Rattlesnake Gutter

Join naturalist John Green and his excellent ear in this magical place. Come to learn or improve your birding by ear skills and see a whole lot more along the way. [Learn more...](#)



Net Zero Water and the Living Building Challenge

The new Hitchcock Center for the Environment and its future neighbor, Hampshire College's R.W. Kern Center, will soon meet the ambitious goal of net zero water. Chris Chamberland, the civil engineer for both projects, will help us understand the systems designed to capture rainfall for drinking water and treat wastewater on-site. [Learn more...](#)



Opening to the World of Birds

Have you always wanted to explore the world of birds but not wanted to get competitive about it? Don't let another spring slip by without deepening your acquaintance with these colorful songsters. [Learn more...](#)



Biothon

The Hitchcock Center's 17th Annual 2016 Biothon is May 13-15 and June 3-5. Teams choose the time, location, and species to count: birds, plants, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, insects, or everything!

[Learn more...](#)



Valley Bird Festival

Family-friendly activities will include a falconry demonstration with Chris Davis, bird banding by U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists, American Kestrel observation with the Kestrel Trust, Barn Swallow observation by the Swallow Project, as well as activities with Watershed on Wheels. [Learn more...](#)



Hitchcock's new "living" building site tour

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

More News

- **SAVE THE DATE** for our Battle of the Botanicals event happening Thursday, June 9th, 5:30pm-8:30pm at the Powerhouse at Amherst College. The evening will feature botanically inspired cocktail and food pairings from top local mixologist/chef teams, plus a live head-to-head mix-off competition. Tickets on sale soon!
- Visit us at the [Amherst Sustainability Festival](#) April 16th on Amherst Town Common.
- Don't forget to register to [Be a Salamander Superhero](#) in April!
- Stay up to date with [Earth Matters](#) columns published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Read recent articles by authors [Henry Lappen](#), [David Spector](#), and [Elizabeth Farnsworth](#).

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!

