



# Salamander Scoop

A monthly e-newsletter | January 2017

## Feature Stories



### Educating for a Healthy Material World Series Funded by the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at UMass Lowell

The Hitchcock Center for the Environment was recently awarded a grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) at UMass Lowell. This grant will support a series of educational programs focused on the toxic materials most commonly used in constructing our homes and places of work, the harmful effects they have on human and environmental health, and alternatives that can lead toward a healthier planet.

[Read more...](#)



### Hitchcock Nature Summer Camp is Growing!

The Hitchcock Center is excited to offer our first Nature Summer Camp at our new living building in 2017! Our new center, with three classroom spaces, allows us to add a new age group, the Eco-Investigators. The new group will help us respond to popular demand, allowing more families the opportunity to experience the joy of Hitchcock's camp, while maintaining a strong and inquisitive learning environment for all of our campers.

[Read more...](#)



### Tackling "Hot" Water Issues Symposium

Our Hot Water Issues symposium brought nearly 100 people together to hear three distinct perspectives on water issues: how water conservation can make a difference, what is being detected in our water and the corresponding health effects, and what climate research is telling us about managing our precious water. [Read more...](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

THE HITCHCOCK CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT'S **SECOND ANNUAL**

# BATTLE *of the* BOTANICALS

THURSDAY  
JUNE 8, 2017  
5:30-8:30

THE POWERHOUSE  
AT AMHERST COLLEGE



## Upcoming Children and Family Programs



### Saturday's at the Hitchcock Center

We're now open 9am - 1pm second and third Saturdays through June. Drop in, see Hitchcock's new home, and learn about our living building.



### Second Saturday Science

Join us for seasonal nature and science programs, 10-11am, each second Saturday of the month. Designed for children with their parents, these programs will explore cool topics in nature. Drop in!



### Winter Vacation Camp

Come play and explore at the new Hitchcock Center this winter break. Sign up for as many days as you wish. Space is limited, so sign up early!



### Screech Owls are Cool!

Learn about these cool, nocturnal predators! We'll start with a talk, then assemble a nesting box for "screechies." Families will take their boxes home!



### Prowling for Owls

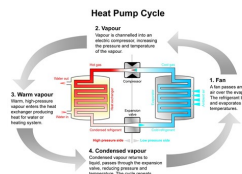
Come listen for owls and learn about their behavior and habits! Who will you hear??



### Youth Birding

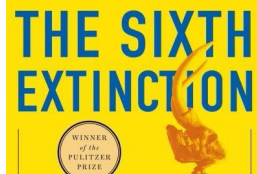
Spring migration is the most exciting time of year to get out and see birds! Be the next generation of birders!

## Upcoming Community Programs



### The Latest in Efficient Heating and Cooling: What Are Air Source Heat Pumps

Did you know...air at any temperature above absolute zero contains some energy. Come learn how air source heat pump technology works.



### Community Read: The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History

This year we will be collaborating with the Jones Library for the 2017 community read On the Same Page-Amherst. Read with us and learn more about all the events in this series!



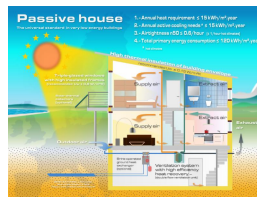
### It All Starts at Home: What YOU Can Do for the Climate

Find out what you can do to reduce your home's climate impact, by making it an energy savvy home that wastes less electricity and heat.



### From Hurricane to Climate Change Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Integrating the voices of experts and ordinary citizens, the film offers a model of response for this looming environmental challenge for communities across New England and beyond. The film will be followed by a panel discussion.



### Passive House Tour

A comfortable, affordable home doesn't have to use a single drop of fossil fuels. The Potwine Passive House uses 8 times less energy than the typical Massachusetts home while not compromising on style, affordability, comfort, or convenience. Come see how it's done.



### Drinking Water from Source to Your Tap: Quantity & Quality of a Precious Resource

Learn about our local (Amherst) drinking water system from sources to your tap, and consider our local situation in the context of regional, national and global water issues.



### Living Building Tours

Come meet our newest educator - our building! It is designed to model systems in nature, it is net zero energy, net zero water, has composting toilets, and has been made with responsibly sourced non-toxic materials, come check it out at one of our bi-monthly tours.



### Amherst's Spotted Salamanders

Learn about one of Amherst's claims to fame - the spotted salamander tunnels under Henry Street. Naturalist Ted Watt will detail the finely-tuned life history of this creature and the history of the first amphibian tunnels in North America in our town.



### Drive Green

Green your ride and your electric bill with Drive Green and New England Green Start! Learn about these opportunities and incentives to help purchase an electric vehicle. Take a test drive while you're here!

## More News

- Curious about our new [freshwater fish exhibit](#)?
- A [bumper crop of visitors](#) comes to explore in our first season!
- Honoring [Representative Ellen Story](#).
- Hitchcock Center naturalist contributes to [environmental education anthology](#).
- Living Building Challenge [water petal case study](#) in Massachusetts.
- Catch up on [Earth Matters columns](#) by your favorite authors.

## 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.

## With funding support from



Massachusetts Cultural Council



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You can visit us:  
Tuesday - Thursday  
9AM - 5:30PM  
Friday  
9AM - 5:00PM  
Second and third  
Saturdays

You can keep in touch:



