



# Salamander Scoop

A monthly e-newsletter | December 2016

Are you a customer at Florence Bank?

It only takes a moment to **vote for the Hitchcock Center** in the Florence Bank Customers' Choice Community Grants Program.

[Vote here](#) before December 31st and follow the instructions to select the Hitchcock Center as a recipient. **Thanks for your vote!**

## Feature Stories



### Our First Living Building Season Sees a Bumper Crop of Visitors!

On September 13, 2016, after four years of planning, designing, fundraising and building, the Hitchcock Center opened the doors to our new 9,000 square foot "living" building. In just our first week, we welcomed over 400 program participants and visitors through our Monarch Citizen Science, Caterpillar Lab, Nature Play Afterschool, Homeschool, Girls Into the Wild, Phenology, preK-12 Teacher Open House, and Building Tour programs! [Read more...](#)



### Hero for Healthy Planet Awarded to Former Representative Ellen Story

State Representative Ellen Story was honored with the Hitchcock Center's Hero for a Healthy Planet Award at the annual Salamander Sunday Brunch on November 6th. Her service to the community and her commitment to seeking funding and support at the state level for the Center's new "living" building has been unwavering. [Read more...](#)

## EDUCATION IN TIMES OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Teaching Children to Be Agents of Change

Edited by Ken Winograd

### Hitchcock Naturalist Ted Watt Contributes to Environmental Education Anthology

We're excited to announce a new anthology of essays titled *Education in Times of Environmental Crises: Teaching Children to be Agents of Change*. This is an anthology written for teachers about how to work with children and increase their awareness of environmental challenges that lie ahead and empower them to make a difference. [Read more...](#)

## Tatoos Support Hitchcock Center



Thanks to [Off the Map Tattoo](#) in Easthampton for choosing to support the Hitchcock Center on their Charity Tattoo day on November 13th - over 90 customers raised \$4,600 for our environmental education programs! You can check out their nature-themed work from the 13th on their [Facebook page](#). Thank you Off the Map!

## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE Update



Our initial \$5.8M goal was ambitious, but thanks to the amazing outpouring of support from our local community, private foundations, and state and federal funding sources, we successfully achieved this fundraising goal! THANK YOU!

We have successfully concluded phase one of our campaign, we created an innovative new environmental learning center that supports our expanded program aspirations. Our center is serving as an effective teaching tool publicly demonstrating the principles of ecology and the practice of sustainability.

Now we enter phase two of our Building for the Future campaign as we pilot our new "living" building and implement an assertive plan to maximize our ability to promote observation, imagination and creative learning opportunities throughout our facility - both indoors and outdoors. [Read more...](#)

**DONATE**

Building for the Future

## Upcoming Programs and Events

### Winter Children and Family Programs

Winter Children and Family Programs, including Afterschool, Homeschool, Preschool, Girls into the Wild, Vacation Days and more are now available on our website. [Registration is now open online!](#) Also, check out our [new Saturday programs](#) for families happening January through June!

### Winter Community Programs

Winter Community Programs for adults and families are now posted [on our website](#). Registration for most programs begins on January 3, 2017. Please check our website for specific dates and registration links.

## More News

- Meet our [Fall 2016 interns](#).
- [Ollie's Report: A Living Building](#) is a report of Homeschooler Olivia Perrault.
- [Water Petal Case Study: Momentum in Massachusetts](#) spotlights how the Hitchcock Center and other Living Buildings in western Massachusetts have worked to achieve the net zero water petal of the Living Building Challenge.
- Our one-of-a-kind watershed map was featured in [Concrete Decor Magazine](#).
- Articles on our Grand Opening Celebration in [english](#) and [spanish](#).
- One month in a Living Building: Staff [share their experiences](#).
- A [Welcome from Hampshire College](#).

## 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.

## Thank You to our Business Sponsors



**Hitchcock Center for the Environment**  
*at Hampshire College*  
525 South Pleasant St.  
Amherst MA 01002  
413-256-6006  
[www.hitchcockcenter.org](http://www.hitchcockcenter.org)

**You can visit us:**  
Tuesday - Thursday  
9AM - 5:30PM  
Friday  
9AM - 5:00PM

**You can keep in touch:**

