



Salamander Scoop

A monthly e-newsletter | July 2016

Feature Stories



Congressman Jim McGovern Announces \$148,586 Federal Institute for Museum and Library Services Grant To Hitchcock Center for "Learning from Nature" Exhibit Design

On June 29, 2016, Congressman Jim McGovern (D-MA) visited the Hitchcock Center's new living building site and announced an exciting federal grant award to the Hitchcock Center from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The Hitchcock Center was awarded a \$148,586 IMLS grant for its innovative "Learning From Nature" exhibit design plan that will capture the interpretive potential of its artifacts and objects, its outdoor spaces, and built environment as portals into knowledge, feelings, and actions. [Read more...](#)



Westfield students at Russell Elementary learn about their environment

The children at Russell Elementary School have been getting to know their new environment close-up this spring with the help of naturalist Ted Watt and a \$5,000 STARS grant (Students and Teachers Working with Artists, Scientists and Scholars) from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. [Read more...](#)



2016 Biothon Results

The results from the 2016 Biothon are in. This year a record 20 teams, including 7 youth outings, participated in finding 620 different species throughout the Valley. Teams also helped to raise over \$13,300 for the Hitchcock Center's programs.

[Read more...](#)



First Annual Battle of the Botanicals

On June 9, over 240 guests partied with the Hitchcock Center in celebration of our award-winning science and nature education programs at the first annual Battle of the Botanicals held at the Powerhouse at Amherst College. Six teams of local chefs, mixologists, and small business owners showcased their talent in amazing cocktail and food pairing tasting stations that featured local botanicals like beets, rosemary and bee pollen.

[Read more...](#)

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE Update

At the time of this e-newsletter release, the Hitchcock Center has raised an astounding \$5,823,818 for our new 9,000 square foot home! This includes two remarkable grants announced in June - a \$500,000 award from the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and \$148,586 award from the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services.

Only \$888,524 remains to successfully conclude our campaign, thanks to over 340 contributors to date!

Our volunteer Building for the Future Capital Campaign Committee members continue to call on our community to help us create a world-class environmental education center. We need gifts and pledges (up to three years) of all sizes to help us:

- Raise the remaining \$128,000 for **our building and site**.
- Raise \$760,000 for **our enhanced outdoor classroom, trails and exhibits**.



Please help us open our doors to the public this coming fall by donating today!

DONATE

Building for the Future

Thank you!

Building for the Future Campaign Committee

Nancy Eddy, Chair; Merle Bruno, Margaret Bullit-Jonas, Kathy Callahan, Anne Cann, Jaana Cutson, Charlie Haight, Bill Hart, Justine Holdsworth, Martha Hoops, Chuck Longworth, Tony Maroulis, John Olver, Senator Stan Rosenberg, Representative Ellen Story

Upcoming Programs and Events



Girls into the Wild

Get to know nature, and make friends at the same time at this weekly afterschool program. Now in its third year, Girls into the Wild is designed to bring girls together in a supportive environment that fosters creativity, nature skills and inquiry. [Learn more...](#)



Hitchcock Homeschool I & II

This fall ages 6-8 year will be learning all about bears, bats, squirrels and more as we dive into the world of mammals. Ages 9-12 will become eco-photographers and will be using the camera as a tool to study nature and enhance our observation skills. [Learn more...](#)



Curriculum Day

There is no school for Amherst Schools on Curriculum Day in November and the day is beginning to fill. Join us for a fun-filled day of exploring at our new home! [Learn more...](#)

More News

- Meet our [2016 Nature Summer Camp Staff](#).
- Learn how ['Living Buildings' Grow in Western MA](#).
- [Hitchcock Center lands \\$148,500 grant to reflect nature through art](#)
- [Coloring postcards make great gifts! Stop in and buy yours today.](#)
- Stay up to date with [Earth Matters](#) columns published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Read recent articles by authors [Elizabeth Farnsworth](#), [David Spector](#), and [Ted Watt](#)

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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Support and Funding Provided By



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Let's Keep in touch!

