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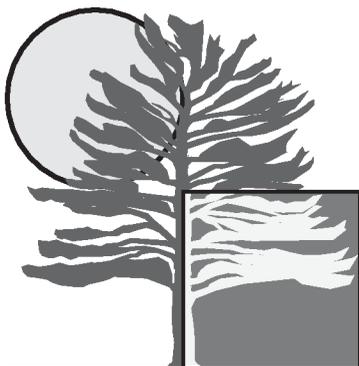
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GREEN CAUSES



Photo/Jessica Schultz/Hitchcock Center

Naturalist John Green leads a Biothon foray into the woods to count the number of species in a given area. Participants solicit pledges (or fixed donations) to benefit the Hitchcock Center for the Environment.

'Fun'-raiser seeks pledges based on number of species found on woody forays

Hitchcock Center's Biothon set for May 1-3 and 8-10

By ELIZABETH FARNSWORTH
Special to Going Green

With the advent of spring comes an opportunity to support a great organization and celebrate the great outdoors at the same time. The Hitchcock Center for the Environment in Amherst holds a fundraising Biothon each year, an educational event that has become a tradition in the Pioneer Valley. In 2015, the 16th anniversary of the event, the Biothon will happen during the first and second weekends of May (1-3 and 8-10), when bird migrations are peaking and many gorgeous plants are in full spring flower.

People form teams, headed by an experienced naturalist or two. The idea is to go to a favorite natural area where lots of plant, animal, fungal, and/or insect, etc. species might be found. Teams recruit a

cohort of people who are willing to bid on the total number of species found during the foray. Bidders can pledge on a species-by-species basis (a penny, a dollar, or any amount per species), or donate a fixed total amount. Members of the Hitchcock staff and board help with fundraising for pledges, and team leaders and members are encouraged to recruit friends and family to bid on species or join in the fun. At the end of the outing, teams tally up the species they have seen and send their lists in to the Hitchcock Center. Prizes are offered for the teams that have seen the most species or have raised the most funds. At the same time, teams contribute valuable data on the species present in the natural areas around the region.

Many amateur and professional naturalists have been participating in the Biothon for years, and keep returning, both for the new discoveries and the sheer comradery. Susan Lewandowski recalls of her 2014 Biothon experience, "There were 20 of us birding from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. I love the warblers at this time of year." Biothon founder, David Spector, says, "If I had to

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'The Extreme Life of the Sea': Deep — and deeply weird — sea life

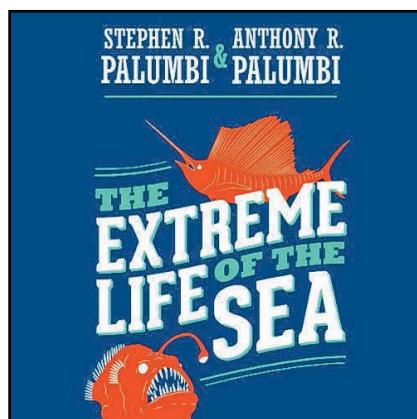
By MELISSA DAVIS
The Seattle Times (TNS)

"The Extreme Life of the Sea" by Stephen R. Palumbi and Anthony R. Palumbi; Princeton University Press (225 pages, \$27.95)

Only the strong survive, it is said, but "The Extreme Life of the Sea" makes a good case for the strange, the efficient and the ugly.

Oceans are full of "extreme" creatures, surviving in the face of extraordinary challenges. In recent decades, scientists and their submersibles have shown us some of the animals that glide along in secret, their lamplike eyes and freaky self-created light cloaked by the frigid, bone-crushing deep.

But canny survivors are more familiar to us than we realize; even otters and starfish pull off pretty amazing stuff, thanks to their biological limitations and their harsh environments. Marine scientist Stephen R. Palumbi and his son, the writer Anthony R. Palumbi, present these contrasts in an engaging blend. Stanford professor Stephen serves up the heavier science of DNA and physiology, seasoned with a sprightly narrative, some scene-setting and humor



"The Extreme Life of the Sea" from novelist Anthony.

"Extreme Life" uses Guinness Record-like chapters to discuss the smallest, the deepest, the shallowest and the coldest marine life-forms. I'd award a ribbon for Most Likely to Become a Sci-Fi Star to the zombie bone worm, whose Latin name, *Osedax mucofloris*, translates as "bone-eating snot flower."

This "flower" is related to the giant tube worm. But it doesn't feed on microscopic organisms floating by, like its worm cousin. *Osedax* has drill-like tendrils that pock the bones of whale skeletons that hit the bottom of the ocean with tiny holes, so it can extract the lipids. The lipids are then turned to useful

Continued on next page

■ Biothon: Sign up by March 1

Continued from previous page

pick only one highlight, it would be encountering and sharing with other naturalists in the field and hearing about interesting sightings from other teams."

Kids and families learn by exploring new places and by bringing a new eye to the diversity of life around them; in 2014, three youth teams (grades 4-6 from several schools) participated. Overall, more than 80 people went out to explore wildlife and found 450 different species of birds, plants, trees, insects, amphibians, reptiles and more.

Join the fun

More information on how to participate, and easy ways to donate, is on the Hitchcock Center's website (<http://hitchcockcenter.org/index.php/support-us/biothon/>) or call Marcus Simon at 413-256-6006 or email marcus@hitchcockcenter.org. Sign up by March 1.

About the **HITCHCOCK CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**: Founded in 1962, the Hitchcock Center for the Environment is an independent nonprofit environmental learning center primarily serving the communities of Western Massachusetts. Its mission is to foster a greater awareness and understanding of our environment and to develop environmentally literate citizens.

Greenfield Community College
A Leader in Sustainability Education
is pleased to
announce new initiatives
serving our local community.



Look to this space in upcoming issues for class listings and announcements about exciting new courses for college and high school students and professional development opportunities for their teachers.

- Internships in Renewable Energy and Farm and Food continue to provide exceptional rewards for both students and host sites. Pictured above are Laughing Dog Farm and Habitat for Humanity.
- An On-Farm Introductory Agriculture course open to GCC students and junior and senior high school students will start in July 2015 and continue as a mentoring course in Summer 2016.
- STEM STARTER Academy for recent high school grads or rising seniors last year was robust and exciting for college bound STEM students and will continue this summer.
- Professional development opportunity for High School teachers supporting the development of Sustainable Agriculture curriculum suitable for integration into their science classes is being planned.
- The college is actively pursuing funding that would provide partial or full scholarships for qualified students in Renewable Energy Farm and Food, Environmental Science and Engineering. More should be known about this opportunity in the coming months.

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Greenfield Community College is thrilled to be the overall winner of the **Green Genome Award** presented by the American Association of Community College's Sustainable Education and Economic Development program. The college was honored for its programming in Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Agriculture, its sustainable stewardship of its facilities and for its extensive collaborations with community businesses and organizations.

Be part of the solution...



At GCC we will help you find your place in a sustainable world.
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