



# Salamander Scoop

A monthly e-newsletter | January 2016

## Feature Stories



### Youth Birding Course Excites and Inspires

When you are young, every bird you see is a life bird (one you've never seen before). Learning bird songs is like learning a foreign language, but hearing them repeatedly allows you to remember them for the rest of your life. [Read more...](#)



### Energize Northampton!

Hitchcock is pleased to be able to continue our Energy Literacy program in 2015-2016, thanks to a grant awarded from the Northampton Education Endowment Fund. Our educators will bring this program to every 4th grader in the Northampton School District.

[Read more...](#)



### Plants: Eat or Be Eaten!

We mostly think of plants as well-behaved, passive creatures, rooted in one place and hoping quietly that sun and soil will provide them what they need in life. But we'd be wrong! Plants actively shape their habitats, communicate with each other, conspire against predators, and sometimes become predators themselves. [Read more...](#)

Book "Sale"!

In preparing for our move, we've selected some library books that we need to part with. We invite you to stop by the Center to check out the selection. Books are free with a suggested \$1 donation each. All donations will go toward our Scholarship Fund, to help send children to camp this summer. Books will be available through January 22nd.

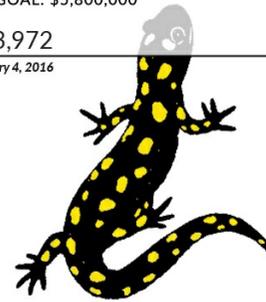
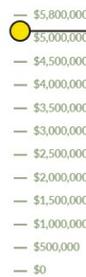
## BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE Campaign Update

- Join us for First Friday Construction Site Tours 12:30-1pm. Next tours are February 5th and March 4th.
- December was a thrilling month as our building was framed, sheathed, and trussed, and our water reservoirs were installed. Watch our [our progress](#) in timelapse video and images.
- We are thankful for the generous donation of \$50,000 from [All States Asphalt, Inc.](#)
- Help us meet two fundraising challenges! As we raise the last \$700,000 needed to reach our \$5.8M campaign goal, we've received two challenge grants to keep momentum going. The [Community Foundation](#) of Western Mass will match all gifts of \$1,000 or more from individual donors, up to \$50,000, and the [Beveridge Family Foundation](#) will match all gifts from businesses, up to \$40,000. Visit [our donation page](#) to make a contribution with double the impact!

### Building for the Future: the Campaign for the Hitchcock Center

OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN GOAL: \$5,800,000

\$5,800,000  
\$5,083,972  
as of January 4, 2016



DONATE

## Upcoming Programs and Events



### Exploring Larch Hill

Come all ages, novice or seasoned and join one of our naturalists to see what you can see each month on our new fourth Sunday of the month nature walk around Larch Hill. [Learn more...](#)



### Winter Nature Walk

Get outside and enjoy the winter light and fresh crisp air for a winter nature walk at the Notch with John Green. [Learn more...](#)



### Killer Plants

Think plants are passive victims of insect attacks or other herbivory? No! [Learn more...](#)



### Girls into the Wild

Get to know nature, and make friends at the same time! This afterschool program is designed to bring girls together in a supportive environment that fosters creativity, nature skills and inquiry. [Learn more...](#)



### Preschool Winter Wonderland Tracking Day

Come walk through Hitchcock Center's winter wonderland searching for tracks and signs of active winter animals. [Learn more...](#)



### Make Your Own Window 'Winsert'

Do you have an old window that leaks warm air during the winter? And you're not ready to replace the whole window? [Learn more...](#)



### Winter Botany at the Quabbin

Spend a day out in nature, learn more about winter natural history, and leave the tensions of your world behind for a while. [Learn more...](#)



### Bear With It Slide Show & Mammal Tracking with Sue Morse

Two great opportunities to learn from expert tracker Sue Morse! [Learn more...](#)



### Nature All Year Phenology Study Club - 2016

Join us for our third year of offering an in-depth natural history course for naturalists and citizen scientists. [Learn more...](#)

## More News

- **Nature Summer Camp** registration begins February 2nd for members. Check our website for up-to-date details.
- We are excited to **Welcome Peter Lamdin** to our staff.
- A **Parent Child Conversation** highlights the Hitchcock Center experience.
- Hitchcock Educator Patty O'Donnell and Enchanted Circle Theater's Priscilla Kane-Hellwig talk about **Storm Drain Art and Advocacy** on WGBY's Connecting Point.
- **Teaching substitutes join staff** for Spring and Summer 2016.
- Collaborative watershed education works toward **Greening Our Rivers in Greenfield**.
- Stay up to date with **Earth Matters** columns published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette. Read recent articles by authors **Elizabeth Farnsworth**, **Michael Dover**, and **Reeve Gutsell**.

## 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!

