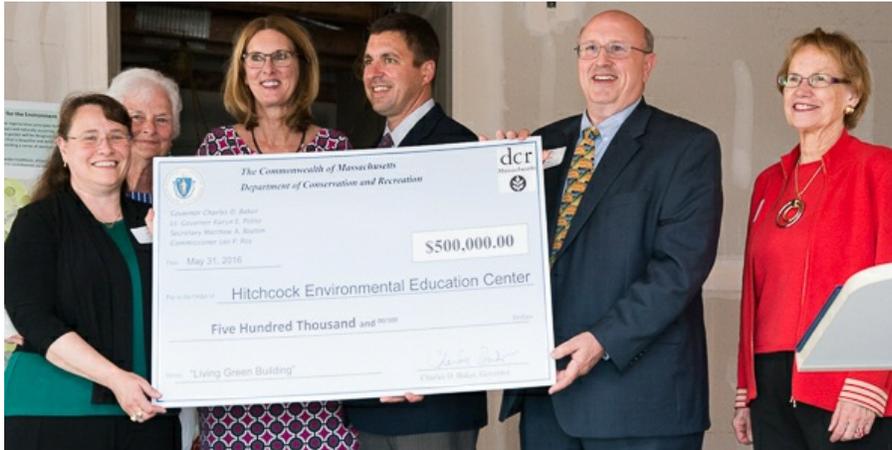




# Salamander Scoop

A monthly e-newsletter | May 2016

## Feature Stories



### Hitchcock's Building for the Future Campaign Receives \$500,000 in Additional MA Environmental Bond Bill Funding

On May 31, 2016, Secretary Matthew Beaton of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and Commissioner Leo Roy of the Department of Conservation and Recreation announced a \$500,000 award to the Hitchcock Center for the Environment's living building project.

The announcement was made during a visit and tour of the Center's new building, now 90% complete, on Tuesday morning. It was an opportunity for Secretary Beaton and Commissioner Roy to meet with the Hitchcock Center's Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, along with key community leaders including Senate President Stan Rosenberg and Representative Ellen Story, to preview this new learning destination that will more than triple the Hitchcock Center's educational space. [Read more...](#)



### April Vacation Camp: Outdoor Learning

The arrival of spring brings many wonderful and welcome things: warmer weather, nesting songbirds, and wildflowers among them. If you're a student it also brings another very welcome event, April vacation and Hitchcock Vacation Camp! We had a great time exploring five different themes in five days!

[Read more...](#)



### Testifying Before the Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development

The Hitchcock Center provided testimony to the MA Joint Committee on Tourism, Arts and Cultural Development during a listening session at UMASS Amherst co-chaired by Representative Cory Atkins (D-Concord) and Senator Eric P. Lesser (D-Longmeadow).

[Read more...](#)

Thank you for your support on Valley Gives Day!



Give education for a healthy planet



Thank you to all of our generous Valley Gives donors! Valley-wide there were 10,124 people who contributed \$1,801,579 in 24 hours to more than 450 local non-profits. 114 people contributed \$10,158 to directly fund the Hitchcock Center's year-round environmental education programs. We rely on your continued support to serve an average of 50 schools and 60 communities each year - places that depend on the Hitchcock Center's educators to deliver science and nature education programs that inspire a spirit of discovery, wonder, and hope for a healthier planet.

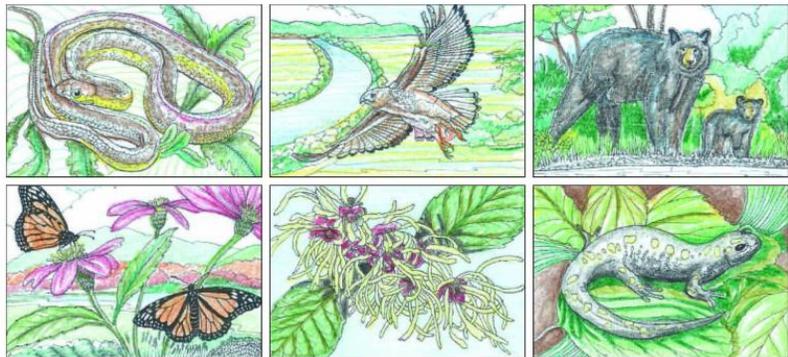
### BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE Update

- New "Living Building" site tour dates are June 3rd, 12:30-1:00pm and July 14, 4:30-5pm.
- Check out our [progress in April](#).
- Read our [special campaign announcement](#).
- Hitchcock Center gets **\$500,000 grant** for new building on Hampshire College land
- The **Beveridge Family Foundation, Inc.** will match all new gifts from businesses of any amount (up to \$40,000). [Contribute here](#).
- Keep up with what's happening on our site through: our [photo gallery](#), our [video gallery](#), or [on our blog feed](#).



### Coloring Postcards Now Available

#### NATIVE SPECIES COLORING POSTCARDS



**Hitchcock Center for the Environment**  
Education for a Healthy Planet

Have you wanted to try coloring for stress relief and relaxation? Are you looking for a new gift idea? The Hitchcock Center's new coloring postcards, featuring original illustrations by Elizabeth Farnsworth, are now available for purchase. The packets of six postcards are available at the Center for \$10. Color in each postcard and then send them to a family or friends. They make great gifts! Stop in during our open hours to purchase.

### Upcoming Programs and Events



### Biothon

The Hitchcock Center's second Biothon weekend is June 3-5. Teams choose the time, location, and species to count: birds, plants, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, insects, or everything! [Learn more...](#)



### Explore the Hitchcock Center's New Grounds

Modeled on the bioblitz approach to gathering extensive data about specific places, we'll spend 3 focused hours exploring the grounds around the Hitchcock Center's upcoming new Living Building Challenge home. [Learn more...](#)



### Wildflowers at Cave Hill

Join naturalist and botanist Nancy Goodman to on an exploration of a beautiful, relatively new conservation area in Leverett- Cave Hill. [Learn more...](#)

THE HITCHCOCK CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT'S

# BATTLE of the BOTANICALS

THURSDAY  
JUNE 9, 2016  
5:30-8:30PM

THE POWERHOUSE  
THE HIPPEST PLACE IN THE VALLEY  
AT AMHERST COLLEGE

\$50 PER PERSON  
ADVANCED TICKETS ONLY

An evening you won't want to miss on June 9th! Six top local mixologist/chef teams present their botanically inspired cocktail and food pairings. Vote for your favorite to determine which teams compete in our live head-to-head mix-off using a mystery box of ingredients. Hosted by Joan Holliday of 93.9 The River and judged by: Monte Belemonte, Amanda Drane, and Tim Driscoll. Enjoy retro cocktail music and a silent auction - all to benefit the Hitchcock Center's environmental education programs. Thanks to Amherst Live for moving their event so now you can do both!

Battle of the Botanicals tickets are limited. Don't miss out. [Get yours here.](#)

## More News

- [Summer camp spaces](#) have become available for one Explorer (age 8-10) in Sessions 2 and 4. If these sessions are of interest to your child, please register soon, all other sessions are filled!
- Have you participated in [Biothon](#)? [Read more](#) about our annual fundraiser to count species in the valley.
- Hitchcock Center presents testimony to lawmakers on [arts and tourism](#).
- Learn how ['Living Buildings' Grow in Western MA](#).
- [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 [Henry Lappen](#), [Elizabeth Farnsworth](#), and [Jessica Schultz](#)

## 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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413-256-6006  
Tuesday - Friday | 9AM - 4PM

Let's Keep in touch!

