Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Education for a Healthy Planet



Annual Report 2009

525 S. Pleasant Street
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002
(413) 256-6006
Fax: (413) 253-2809
hcenter@crocker.com
www.hitchcockcenter.org



The Hitchcock Center for the Environment's mission is to foster a greater awareness and understanding of our environment and to develop environmentally literate citizens.

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Spring campers visiting the animal barn at Bramble Hill Farm.

This Annual Report is for Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09), which spans July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

From the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

Our nation's future relies on a well-educated public to be wise stewards of the very environment that sustains us, our families and communities, and future generations. It is environmental education which can best help us as individuals make the complex, conceptual connections between economic prosperity, benefits to society, environmental health, and our own well being.

Environmental literacy has made tremendous progress since 1970, securing inroads within the nation's formal and informal educational systems. Today, nearly two-thirds of the nation's 2.5 million K-12 teachers include environmental education in their classrooms, and the majority of all students at over half of all colleges take an environmental course—just two examples of the broad reach of environmental education. More recently, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) has established an unprecedented, sweeping effort to jumpstart our economy through green investments that enable our nation to become more energy efficient, environmentally sustainable and economically secure.

This momentum has enabled many outstanding model programs to be developed and, consequently, has exposed millions of Americans to a positive environmental education experience. Yet, despite this exposure to environmental education, the grim reality is this: Americans still widely lack the environmental knowledge that would enable them to safeguard public health, protect natural areas, support energy conservation efforts, and engage in the movement towards a more sustainable future.

How is this possible given that more environmental education is happening now than nearly 40 years ago? In general, the belief that nature is ours to exploit is very deeply rooted and pervasive not only within American society but within most academic disciplines and subjects as well.

The Hitchcock Center for the Environment works diligently to dispel this deeply rooted belief system through a concerted, systematic approach to environmental education. The test of whether we have met our goal toward achieving an environmental literacy is the capacity of an individual to act successfully in daily life on a broad understanding of how people and societies relate to each other and natural systems, and how they might do so sustainably.

In the pages of this report, you will find numerous examples of how the Hitchcock Center's School and Community Programs provide sufficient awareness, knowledge, skills and attitudes for people to incorporate appropriate environmental considerations into daily decisions about consumption, lifestyle, career, and civics, and to engage in individual and collective action.

In the coming decades, the public will more frequently be called upon to understand complex environmental issues, assess risk, evaluate proposed environmental plans and understand how individual decisions affect the environment at local and global scales. Together, we can prepare people for this future. But we can't do it without you.

In this report, we welcome the opportunity to recognize the invaluable role that our members, volunteers, donors, sponsors, funders, educators, and advocates have played in furthering the cause of environmental literacy in the Pioneer Valley. Your gift of time, expertise, knowledge, passion, dedication, skill, and resources have strengthened and solidified environmental education as a priority in this community. We celebrate our accomplishments together in this report.

With warmest regards,

Julie Johnson

Executive Director

RENEWABLE ENERGY EDUCATION PROJECT



Hitchcock Center educator Micky McKinley worked with 85 elementary and middle school students in Springfield and Northampton helping them to better understand renewable energy resources, including the scientific and technological concepts of renewable energy, through hands-on activities.

NORTHAMPTON NATURALISTS-IN-RESIDENCE PROJECT



Hitchcock Center educator Ted Watt has spent the last 2 years working intensively with the teachers and students at the Ryan Road School in Northampton, MA, to develop and implement grade-specific, standards-based curriculum that integrates the outdoor school grounds into daily exploration and instruction.

CHICOPEE NATURALIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROJECT



Hitchcock Center educator Helen Ann Sephton spent 16 weeks at the P.E. Bowe School in Chicopee, MA, assisting 68 second grade students to learn about the natural world outside their school through nature journaling and inquiry-based field investigations.

"When we were considering issues that contribute to the achievement gap, we found that common—the thirst for nature incredibly exciting for us. Every [project]. I've noticed the children and each other."

Margie Riddle Principal Ryan Road Elementary School

HOLYOKE CREATIVE SCHOOL PROJECT



With funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Creative Schools Program, the Hitchcock Center partnered with the Enchanted Circle Theater to strengthen science inquiry skills among 235 Holyoke students through integrated arts and science projects.

MUSEUM INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING SCIENCE



Hitchcock Center educators Helen Ann Sephton and Micky McKinley provided a 2-day summer training institute on July 8-9 for teachers wanting to strengthen their science instruction using the outdoor classroom.

WATER CONSERVATION AND GROUNDWATER EDUCATION PROJECT



Funded through Amherst's Department of Public Works, over 900 elementary schoolchildren in the Amherst Public School District learned about the importance of water resources in their community.

UMASS SCIENCE METHODS SEMINAR



Hitchcock Center educator Micky McKinley taught a Science Methods seminar for 15 graduate students training to be teachers through the UMASS School of Education.

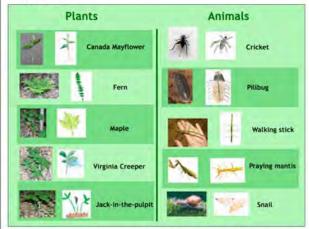


GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP



Hitchcock Center educator Ted Watt leads sixth grade students from Amherst up Mount Holyoke on a Geology Field trip at Skinner State Park.

SCHEFFIELD SCHOOL BIKE PATH CURRICULUM PROJECT



Hitchcock Center educator Colleen Kelley worked with over 60 first grade students and teachers to develop a field guide and place-based curriculum that used the nearby Canalside Rail Trail as a resource for outdoor exploration and learning.

"Dear Helen Ann,
Thank you so much for an
Thank you so much for an
Thank you so much for an
Thank you so much and had such a
program. Our first grade class
program. Our first grade class
program. Our first grade class
Thank you is
engaging, fively, and thoroughly
engaging, fively,
engaging,
fively,
and field trip.

Much Appreciation,
Much Appreciation,
Mary Franck."

PROGRAMMENANT COLORS
POLICES

INSECT INVESTIGATIONS FIELD TRIP



Over 400 elementary students learned about entomology and discovered what scientists have learned from insects through our popular Insect Investigations field trip on the beautiful 20-acre Larch Hill Conservation Area where the Hitchcock Center is based in Amherst, MA.

ATLANTIC SALMON RESTORATION PROJECT



In partnership with the Richard Cronin National Salmon Station, over 300 fifth grade students participated in community-service learning projects to help restore threatened Atlantic Salmon.

SCIENCE INQUIRY INVESTIGATION



Led by Hitchcock Center educator, Micky McKinley, students at Northfield Elementary conducted a pillbug investigation to test their scientific inquiry skills.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS • FY09 SUMMARY

Using hands-on, real-world learning experiences, our School Programs teach about ecological patterns, systems of causation, and the long-term effects of human actions on those patterns.

(Programs listed below include the grade level and numbers served in parentheses.)

FIELD TRIPS

Forest Ecology:

Sept. 25 Smith Campus School/Northampton (Gr.1–40) April 30 Smith Campus School/Northampton (Gr.1–40)

Schoolyard Forest Ecology:

Oct. 8 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr. 1-40)

Oct. 10 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr. 1-40)

Oct. 15 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr.1-40)

Oct. 16 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr.1-40)

Salmon Survival:

Oct. 10 Sunderland Elementary/Sunderland (Gr.5-32)

Mountains and Valleys:

Oct. 22 Hawlemont Elementary/Charlemont (Gr.4-18)

May 6 Whately Elementary School/Whately(Gr.5-18)

June 10 Pepin School/Easthampton (Gr.4-40)

June 11 Pepin School/Easthampton (Gr.4-40)

June 19 Lincoln School/Springfield (Gr.4-67)

Animals in Winter:

Jan. 27 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr. I-80)

Jan. 28 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr. 1-80)

Jan. 29 Amherst Montessori School/Amherst(Gr.K-6)

Jan. 30 Common School/Amherst (Gr.1,2-22)

Feb. 2 P.E. Bowe School/Chicopee (Gr.2-46)



Feb. 3 P.E. Bowe School/Chicopee (Gr.2-23)

Feb. 4 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr. 1-40)

Feb. 5 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr. 1-40)

Feb. I I Plains School/South Hadley (Gr. 1-40)

Feb. 12 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr. 1-40)

Feb. 10 Bement School/Deerfield (Gr.1-19)

Technology of Winter:

Jan. 7 William E. Norris School/Granby (Gr.2-40)

Jan. 8 William E. Norris School/Granby (Gr.2-40)

Amazing Animal Adaptations:

May 12 Gill Elementary School/Gill (Gr.K,1, 2-64)

Great Falls Discovery Center: Wildlife and Water:

May 26 Bridge Street School/Northampton (Gr.4-54)

Insect Investigations:

May 7 Pepin Elementary School/Easthampton (Gr.1-40)

May 8 Bement School/Deerfield (Gr.2-40)

May 28 Margaret C. Ells School/Springfield (Gr.K-34)

June 3 Mark's Meadow School/Amherst (Gr.K-22)

June 8 Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School/

Amherst (Gr.1,2-45)

June 15 Tatham Elementary School/West Springfield (Gr. 1-40)

Life in a Pond:

May 6 St. Joan of Arc/St. George School/Chicopee (Gr.K-40)

May 12 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr.1-80)

May 13 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr.1–80)

May 13 Bridge Street School/Northampton (Gr. 1–33)

May 14 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr.1-40)

May 18 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr.1-40)

May 20 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr. I-40)

May 23 Plains School/South Hadley (Gr. 1-40)

May 27 Stonyhill School/Wilbraham (Gr.3-41)

May 29 Stonyhill School/Wilbraham (Gr.3-20)

June I Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School/ Amherst (Gr.K-39)

June 16 Deerfield Elementary/Deerfield (Gr.K-23)

June 18 Warwick Community School/Warwick (Gr.Pre-K-2-25)

June 22 Center School/Longmeadow (Gr. 1-42)

June 23 Center School/Longmeadow (Gr.1-42)

June 24 Deerfield Elementary/Deerfield (Gr.K-46)

Habitat Studies:

April 7 Frederick Harris School/Springfield (Gr.3-96)

April 15 Frederick Harris School/Springfield (Gr.3-48)

April 16 Frederick Harris School/Springfield (Gr.3-48)

May 15 Hatfield Elementary School/Hatfield (Gr.2-21)

June 4 St. Stanislaus School/Chicopee (Gr. 1-37)

Small Animals:

June 9 Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School/ Shelburne Falls (Gr.K,1-30)

SCHOOL PROGRAMS • FY09 SUMMARY

CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS

Amazing Animal Adaptations:

Jan. 26 Blueberry Hill School/Longmeadow (Gr. 1-90)

April 28 Warwick Community School/Warwick (Gr.K-6 - 100)

Animals of Massachusetts:

April 10 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (Gr.3-35)

Small Animals in the Classroom:

July 17 Ware Middle School/Ware (Gr.1-4-55)

Sept. 22 R.H.Conwell Elementary School/

Worthington (Gr.K-4 - 60)

Dec. 11 Big Brothers, Big Sisters/Springfield (Gr.4&5-20)

Jan. 15 Big Brothers, Big Sisters/Springfield (Gr.4&5-20)

May 18 Newton School/Greenfield (Gr.K-2-85)

May 28 Newton School/Greenfield (Gr.1-3-80)

June 5 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (Gr.K-18)

June 18 Whately Elementary School/Whately (Gr.K-15)

Life in a Pond:

June 12 Conway Grammar School/Conway (Gr.K-20)

June 17 E.N. White School/Holyoke (Gr.4-40)

Wild About Water:

June 16 New Hingham Elementary School/Chesterfield (Gr.4-18)

Energy Investigations:

June 16 New Hingham Elementary School/Chesterfield (Gr.4-18)

Water Quality in the Fort River:

Sept. 29, Oct. 2 & 3 The Common School (Gr.5,6-22)

AMHERST GROUNDWATER/WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Ground Water Education (Grade 4):

Dec. 2 Wildwood School/Amherst (42)

Dec. 4 Pelham School/Pelham (21)

Dec. 4 Wildwood School/Amherst (21)

Dec. 9 Fort River School/Amherst (43)

Dec. 11 Fort River School/Amherst (41)

Dec. 16 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (43)

Dec. 18 Mark's Meadow School/Amherst (21)

Ground Water Education (Grade 6):

Mar. 3 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (40)

Mar. 5 Mark's Meadow School/Amherst (43)

Mar. 10 Pelham School/Pelham (18)

Mar. 11 Wildwood School/Amherst (22)

Mar. 12 Wildwood School/Amherst (44)

Mar. 17 Fort River School/Amherst (43)

Mar. 19 Fort River School/Amherst (43)

Water Conservation (Grade 2):

Nov. 5 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (43)

Nov. 6 Pelham School/Pelham (21)

Nov. 6 Fort River School/Amherst (22)

Nov. 12 Fort River School/Amherst (41)

Nov. 13 Wildwood school/Amherst (43)

Nov. 19 Wildwood school/Amherst (20)

Nov. 20 Mark's Meadow School/Amherst (23)

Water Conservation (Grade 5):

Jan. 6 Fort River School/Amherst (41)

Jan. 8 Pelham School/Pelham (20)

Jan. 8 Fort River School/Amherst (22)

Jan. 13 Wildwood School/Amherst (41)

Jan. 15 Wildwood School/Amherst (22)

Jan. 20 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (22) Jan. 21 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (21)

Jan. 22 Mark's Meadow School/Amherst (42)



Winter scene at the Bramble Hill Farm.

ECOBUS PROGRAM

Geology of the Pioneer Valley (Grade 6):

Oct. 1 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (Gr.6-43)

Oct. 2 Pelham School/Pelham (Gr.6-24)

Oct. 7 Fort River School/Amherst (Gr.6-44)

Oct. 8 Fort River School/Amherst (Gr.6-46)

Oct. 14 Mark's Meadow School/Amherst (Gr.6-45)

May 19 Wildwood School/Amherst (Gr.6-65)

Atlantic Salmon Restoration Project (Grade 5):

April 6 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (43)

April 7 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (21)

April 8 Crocker Farm School/Amherst (20)

April 13 Pelham School/Pelham (20)

April 13 Fort River School/Amherst (42)

April 14 Pelham School/Pelham (21)

April 15 Fort River School/Amherst (23)

April 16 Fort River School/Amherst (21)

April 27 Wildwood/Amherst (65)

April 28 Wildwood School/Amherst (21)

April 29 Wildwood School/Amherst (23)

April 30 Wildwood School/Amherst (21)

May 4 Mark's Meadow School/Amherst (46)

May 4 Fort River School/Amherst (22)

May 5 Mark's Meadow School/Amherst (23)

May 6 Mark's Meadow School/Amherst (23)

May 7 Fort River School/Amherst (22)

SCHOOL PROGRAMS • FY09 SUMMARY

SCHEFFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL— BIKE PATH CURRICULUM

Nov. 13 Scheffield School/Turner's Falls (Gr.1–66) Nov. 19 Scheffield School/Turner's Falls (Gr.1–66) Jan. 15 Scheffield School/Turner's Falls (Gr.1–66) Feb. 26 Scheffield School/Turner's Falls (Gr.1–66) Mar. 26 Scheffield School/Turner's Falls (Gr.1–66) April 30 Scheffield School/Turner's Falls (Gr.1–66) June 6 Scheffield School/Turner's Falls (Gr.1–66)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SPECIAL PROJECTS

July 8 & 9 Museum Institute for Teaching Science, Hitchcock Center/Amherst (9 teachers, 2 days, 12 hrs.)

Sept. 17-Oct. 30 Early Childhood Small Wonders Nature Program, Union 38/Erving (12 teachers, 12 mtgs., 12 hrs.)

Sept. 24 The Nature of Fall in Your Backyard, Childcare Outlook/Greenfield (25 teachers, 2 hrs.)

Oct. 2–30 Science Inquiry Methods Seminar, Mt. Holyoke College/South Hadley (15 pre-service teachers, 5 mtgs., 15 hrs.)

Nov. 12 Fundamentals of Inquiry, Westfield State College/ Westfield (26 teachers, 2 hrs.)

Dec. 2 The Nature of Winter in Your Backyard, Childcare Outlook/Greenfield (25 teachers, 2hrs.)

Dec. 2 & Jan. 27 ELT Climate Change Program, Greening Greenfield/Greenfield (5 teachers, 4 hrs.)

Jan. 14, 21& 28 Using Trade Books: Connecting Science and Literature, Rowe Elementary/Rowe (8 teachers, 10 hrs.)

Feb. 13 & 15 ELT Climate Change Program, Greening Greenfield/Greenfield (6 teachers, 3 hrs.)

Mar. 10-Apr. 1 Science Methods, UMass Education Department/ Amherst (33 pre-service teachers, 6 mtgs., 15 hrs.)

Mar. 18 Early Childhood Water Workshop, Union 38/ Leverett (15 teachers, 2 hrs.)

Mar. 20 Fundamentals of Inquiry, Chicopee Public Schools/ Chicopee (20 teachers, 7 hrs.)

April 2-June 4 Outdoors After School, Sunderland Elementary School/Sunderland (12 students, 8 mtgs., 8 hrs.)

Apr. 19 Energy Connections Workshop, UMass Education Department/Amherst (9 teachers, 2.5 hrs.)

Apr. 28 The Nature of Spring in Your Backyard, Childcare Outlook/Greenfield (20 teachers, 2 hrs.)

Apr. 29–13 Geology and Schoolyard Habitat, Rowe Elementary/Rowe (8 teachers, 3 mtgs., 10 hrs.)

HOLYOKE CREATIVE SCHOOLS PROJECT GET OUT! Inquiry Science and Arts on the School Grounds (Grade 5):

Feb. 24–June 16 Professional Development Workshop (6 teachers, 3 mtgs., 6 hrs.)

Mar. 24-April 2 White School (2 teachers, 78 students, 31 hrs.)

April 6–16 Kelly School (2 teachers, 72 students, 31 hrs.) June 2–11 Sullivan School (2 teachers, 79 students, 31 hrs.)

NATURALIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROJECTS

Heath Elementary School (Grades Pre-K-6 Using the Environment as an Integrating Context for Learning):

Oct. 21-June 17 School Grounds Nature Investigation Field Trips (5 teachers, 90 students, 36 hrs., 24 sessions)

Northampton Elementary Schools (Grade K-5 School Grounds Nature and Science Study):

Oct. 3-June 2 Professional Development Workshops/Curriculum Planning Sessions (40 teachers, 62 hrs., 31 mtgs.)

Nov. 24–June 18 Schoolyard Inquiry Modeling Sessions (47 teachers, 930 students, 104 hrs., 53 sessions)

P.E.Bowe School/Chicopee (Grade 2 Schoolyard Habitat Exploration Project)

Sept. 29—Nov. 24 Fall Schoolyard Inquiry Modeling Sessions (3 teachers, 68 students, 24 hrs.)

AMHERST/PELHAM CREATIVE SCHOOLS PROJECT Emily Dickinson and a Sense of Place

Grade 2 Professional Development Workshop:

Feb. 4 Exploring Nature Through Our Senses (8 teachers, 2 hrs.)

Grade 2 Field Walks:

April 17-June 8 Exploring Nature Through Our Senses (7 teachers, 140 students, 10 hrs.)

RENEWABLE ENERGY EDUCATION PROJECT

Dec. 3 JFK Middle School/Northampton (Gr. 7-14)

Dec. 9 JFK Middle School/Northampton (Gr. 7-14)

Jan. 8 JFK Middle School/Northampton (Gr. 7-14)

Feb. 24 Hughes Academy Charter School/Springfield (Gr.4-22)

Feb. 24 Hughes Academy Charter School/Springfield (Gr. 5-23)

Feb. 26 Hughes Academy Charter School/Springfield (Gr. 6-20)

Mar. 3 Hughes Academy Charter School/Springfield (Gr. 4-22)

Mar. 3 Hughes Academy Charter School/Springfield (Gr. 5-23)

Mar. 5 Hughes Academy Charter School/Springfield (Gr. 6-20)

Mar. 9 Hughes Academy Charter School/Springfield (Gr. 4-22)

Mar. 9 Hughes Academy Charter School/Springfield (Gr. 5-23)

Mar. 12 Hughes Academy Charter School/Springfield (Gr. 6-20)

SCHOOL PROGRAM STATS:

No. of Children Served: 4577

No. of Field Trip: 137

No. of Classroom/School Visits: 106

No. of Teachers Trained: 347

No. of Schools Served: 40

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS • FY09 SNAPSHOTS

NATURE DISCOVERY PRESCHOOL



For over 20 years, the Nature Discovery Preschool program, developed by Hitchcock Center educator Colleen Kelley, engages young children's natural curiosity about their surroundings giving them many ways to investigate, navigate, and discover the mysteries of the natural world with their parents.

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM 2008



Under the direction of Hitchcock Center educator, Casey Beebe, over 120 children ages 6-11 participated in Summer Camp, combining fun outdoor learning experiences with recreation and exercise that encourages healthy living and healthy kids. Camp scholarships allowed 11 children from economically disadvantaged families to attend this year.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY TAGGING



Hitchcock Center educator Jennifer Unkles attaches a coded tag on a butterfly as part of a citizen science project designed to help researchers better understand this amazing long-distance journey.

FORT RIVER FESTIVAL



Approximately 40 paddlers explored some of the most picturesque areas of the Fort River between Amherst's Kiwanis Park and Groff Park. At Groff Park, participants were greeted with music, a family-fun rubber duck derby, and hands-on activities to help them learn more about this important water resource.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS • FY09 SNAPSHOTS

FAMILY SATURDAY SCIENCE



On Saturday, December 12, 2008, Hitchcock Center eductor Micky McKinley explored "Small Animals Up Close" with family members during Hitchcock Center's ongoing Family Saturday Science series.

HENRY STREET SALAMANDER TUNNELS



A group of over 10 Hitchcock Center staff and volunteers cleaned out debris built up in the Henry Street Salamander Tunnels and mended the drift fences damaged over the winter in preparation of the annual spring migration of amphibians.

OLD GROWTH FOREST PROGRAM



On May 30, 2009, Bob Leverett ("old growth forest evangelist of the east") led an interpretive hike through old growth forests at the Mohawk Trail State Park. His widespread travels have led to a large database of tree measurements and an encyclopedic knowledge of the significant remaining forests of the eastern U.S.

SCHOOL VACATION CAMPS



Students attending the Spring Vacation Camp from April 20-24, 2009 helped to re-install ceramic butterfly tiles made by children at the Common School as part of a community service learning project that helped establish the Larch Hill Conservation Area's interpretive butterfly trail.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS • FY09 SNAPSHOTS

BIRDING COURSES



We are proud to have Scott Surner, one the state's top birders, share his expertise and knowledge with beginning, intermediate, and advanced birding students through his courses and workshops that are a regular part of the Hitchcock Center's ongoing natural history programs.

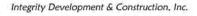
WORKING TOWARD NET ZERO



On March 31, 2009, Mary Kraus of Kraus-Fitch Architects conducted a workshop for over 40 builders, homeowners, and others interested in working on solutions to climate change through net zero energy homes.

Special Thanks to our Community Program Underwriters







Kraus-Fitch Architects, Inc.



Teagno Construction, Inc.

Through their generous support, Hitchcock was able to offer over 50 natural history & sustainability classes, workshops, and lectures, many at low or no-cost, to over 1600 Pioneer Valley residents.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS . FY09 SUMMARY

Our efforts to build sustainable communities can only succeed if future generations learn how to partner with natural systems to their mutual benefit and to do this people must become "environmentally literate." We firmly believe that the concept of "environmentally literate" is one of the most powerful means for achieving a healthy, sustainable society. (Numbers of people served are in parentheses.)

June 30-Aug. 15 Summer Camp (120)

Aug. 25 Nature Trivia (42)

Every Tuesday Sept.-May Nature's Storytime (178)

Sept. 14 & 17 Monarch Butterfly Tagging (18 & 32)

Sept. 16-Nov. 28 Homeschool: How Things are Made and the Energy it Takes to Make Them (12)

Sept. 18 An Evening Insect Concert (12)

Sept. 19-Dec. 12 Nature Discovery Preschool: Precious Plants (20)

Sept. 20 Fall Birding Sampler: Plum Island (10)

Sept. 21 Ferns at Mt. Toby (7)

Oct. 4 Fall Birding Sampler: Local Birding (9)

Oct. 5 How to be a Tourist in Your Hometown: A Workshop in Place-Based Writing (6)

Oct. 12 The 4th Annual Larch Hill English Style X-Country Classic (75)

Oct. 16 Changing Views of Earth History: Edward Hitchcock & the Dinosaurs (30)

Oct. 18 A Glimpse into the Sustainable World of Two Papua New Guinea Tribes (17)

Oct. 23 Pumpkin Carving Night (18)

Oct. 24 & 25 Enchanted Forest: Creatures of Our Forest (300)

Nov. 2 Fall Birding Sampler: Berkshire Lakes/Worcester Reservoirs (6)

Nov. 8 Saturday Family Science: All About Birds (15)

Dec. 6 Simple Gift Making (18)

Dec. 13 Saturday Family Science: Small Animals Up Close (9)

Jan. 13-Feb. 17 Winter Homeschool: Wild About Winter (11)

Jan. 16-Feb. 27 Nature Discovery Preschool: Winter Wonders (21)

Feb. 5 Film Screening—In Praise of the Earth: The Poetry of Wally Swist (16)

Feb. 7 Quabbin Winter Walk (12)

Feb. 12 The Voyage of Charles Darwin: How an Expedition, Scientific Collecting, and Keen Observations Changed the World (42)

Feb. 14 Saturday Family Science: Animal Tracking (18)

Feb. 16-20 Winter Vacation Camp (45)

Feb. 24 Film Viewing and Discussion—"The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil" (15)

Feb. 25 VEEC Lecture Series—The People's Pint: A Model of Sustainable Business (10) Feb. 26-June 6 Spring Birding Course (23)

Feb. 28 Tracking Predators and Prey: Coyotes and Turkeys
(11)

Mar. 5 Hampshire College Ecology Club Presentation (50)

Mar. 9 What Would Nature Do? An Evening of Biomimicry (14)

Mar. 14 Saturday Family Science: Squirrels (18)

Mar.14 Salamander Tunnels Maintenance Day (7)

Mar. 17-jun. 9 Homeschool: Digital Ecology (12)

Mar. 18 Slideshow—Through the Seasons with Wildflowers (29)

Mar. 20-June 12 Nature Discovery Prehistoric Preschool (24)

Mar. 31 Working Towards Net Zero Energy (30)

Apr. 7 Reading and Booksigning—"Mount Toby Poems" by Wally Swist (6)

Apr. 11 Zoobilee! A Live Animal Fair (68)

Apr. 14 Presentation to Round the World Women (50)

Apr. 18 Birding by Ear (3)

Apr. 20-24 Spring Vacation Camp (26)

Apr. 25 Wildflower Photography (3)

Apr. 25 Trail Work Day (1)

May 3 Qigong-Spring Flow (4)

May 9 Old Growth Forest Excursion (14)

May 9 Whately Library Naturalists Walk (23)

May 16 Birding by Ear (12)

May 28 The Art and Technique of Landscape Photography
(13)

May 30 Old Growth Forest Excursion (20)

May 30 Fort River Festival—Aquatic Critter Collection (17)

June 6 Pondering Ponds (12)

COMMUNITY PROGRAM STATS:

No. of Program Participants: 1622

No. Attending Adult Programs: 694

No. Attending Children Programs: 469

No. Attending Family Programs: 829

No. of Programs: 55

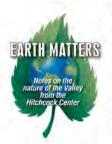
OTHER NEWS

The Kendeda Fund Awards the Hitchcock Center \$100,000 for its Sustainable Building Project

The Kendeda Fund has awarded a total of \$100,000 to fund Phase I of the planning and feasibility phase of the Hitchcock Center's sustainable building project. Half of this award, \$50,000, was conditional on the Center's ability to raise an additional \$50,000 from its donor support base. In FY09, the Hitchcock Center surpassed this goal by raising a total of \$58,000 from a select group of individuals who support the Hitchcock Center's building vision. We give a heartfelt thanks to the Kendeda Fund as well as to all those who helped us meet their \$50,000 challenge: Jan Albano, Penny Beebe, Andrew and Susan Bellak, Lisa Bertoldi, Jim Brassord, Jaana Cutson and Paul Rothenbery, Michael Dover and Rebecca Reid, Judith Espinola, Janice Gifford, Charlie and Susan Haight, Gordon Hall, Caroline Hanna, Martha Hoopes, John Kowelski and Erin Baker, Thomas Millette and Susan Alton, Rick Proctor, Mark Protti and Michell Sedor, Ann Romberger and Martha Ackman, Ken Rosenthal, Robert Saul, Eva Schiffer, Sonya Sofield, Dano Weisbord, Pete Westover.

Amherst College's Student Internship Program Benefits Hitchcock

The Hitchcock Center was proud to participate in Amherst College's Partnership Program which provides students with internships, both nationally and internationally, with public service organizations identified as excellent internship opportunities by the College's Center for Community Engagement. Conor McDowell, a geology major who just completed his junior year, worked full-time over an 8 week period assisting the work of the Hitchcock Center's Green Building Committee by organizing a series of regional green building tours and completing a green building benchmarking report.



Hitchcock Center Launches Newspaper Column: Earth Matters

In March of 2009, the Hitchcock Center began collaborating with the Daily Hampshire Gazette to publish a column every other Saturday on a wide variety of topics. Under the heading Earth Matters, we are drawing on the writing talents of Hitchcock staff and board members, along with local friends of the Center to provide an array of voices and perspectives. Beginning with Ted Watt's essay on the spotted salamander, the column has treated readers to such subjects as home energy conservation, the behavior of Eastern phoebes and American woodcocks, local biodiversity, the importance of children's outdoor play, and the joy of walking. Look for the column on the Outdoors page of the Weekend Gazette. And visit the Center's website for links to past columns. We give special thanks to Hitchcock Center Board member Michael Dover for serving as editor-in-chief for this column.

4th Annual Salamander Soirée a Great Success!

On March 27, 2009, over 200 people gathered at Amherst College's Lewis-Sebring Commons for another evening of food, drink, entertainment, and fun. This year's Salamander Soirée was the best ever fundraiser, bringing in more than \$18,000 to support the Hitchcock Center's education programs. Music was provided by the Amherst Regional High School jazz combo, Jazz III, as we enjoyed the event's new location with more space and fine ambience. More than 90 businesses and local artists contributed everything from food and drink to raffle and auction items, and we thanked them in a large display ad that appeared in the Daily Hampshire Gazette and Amherst Bulletin. One of the highlights of the evening was a live auction of a baseball signed by the Boston Red Sox captain, Jason Varitek, donated by the team. Auctioneer Bill Hart kept the energy going by claiming that there were Yankee fans in the crowd who might do something dastardly if they won the bidding! Thanks to all who worked on and contributed to the event, and to all who attended. We look forward to seeing you all next year.





Prevention Magazine's "Picture of Health" Award Winner Colleen Kelley Raises \$5,000 for Environmental Education

When Hitchcock environmental educator Colleen Kelley's daughter wanted to enter her into the Prevention Magazine's "Picture of Health" contest, Colleen's first reaction was "no way." But when she found out it could raise money to support her favorite charity, she decided to go for it. It is no surprise that Colleen won this contest which was conducted nationally by Prevention Magazine and ABC News Now to select women who lead exemplary lifestyles marked by healthy habits and a positive outlook. Nothing describes Colleen better being a "picture of health", from the way she cares for her community, her family, her body, and her profession...environmental education. And her favorite charity... the Hitchcock Center, of course. Thank you Colleen! You are inspiration to us all.

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Partnering with or Assisted by the Hitchcock Center for the Environment

Academy Hill School, Springfield Amherst College Amherst College's Center for Community Engagement Amherst Montessori School, Amherst Bement School, Deerfield Big Brothers, Big Sisters Biomimicry Guild Blueberry Hill School, Longmeadow Bramble Hill Farm Bridge St. School, Northampton Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School, Shelburne Falls Center School, Longmeadow Colrain School, Colrain The Common School, Amherst Community Action Conway Grammar School, Conway Crocker Farm School, Amherst Deerfield Elementary, Deerfield E.N.White School, Holyoke Earthwork Programs **Enchanted Circle Theatre** Five College Learning In Retirement Fort River School, Amherst Franklin Land Trust Frederick Harris School, Springfield Great Falls Discovery Center Gill Elementary, Gill

Hampshire Bird Club

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Schools & Or
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Newton School, Greenfield

Association

Northeast Sustainable Energy

Schools & Organizations Stats: No. of Schools & Institutions: 58 No. of Org. & Groups: 33

OLUNTEERS

We are often asked how the Hitchcock Center accomplishes so much on such a tight budget—volunteers!! Our volunteers are our heroes, it is with our deepest gratitude and respect that we thank the many folks who give so generously of their time and energy. We could not do it without you!

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Wings! Chorus

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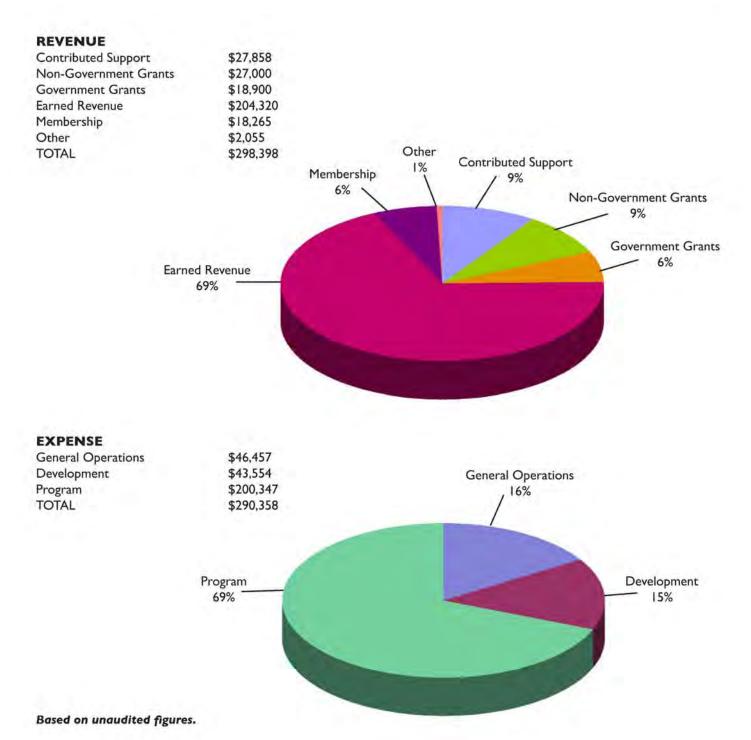
No. of Businesses: 84

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No. of Donor Households: 286 No. of Member Households: 422

FINANCIAL REPORT



The Hitchcock Center for the Environment is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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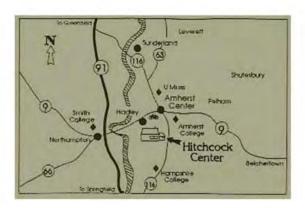








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Public Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.

PHONE: (413) 256-6006

WEBSITE: www.hitchcockcenter.org.

Trails are open to the public during daylight hours.