

# Let's Get Outdoors

## Pioneer Valley Outdoor Fair 2014 Activity Descriptions and Schedule

*Visit sponsoring exhibitor's table to participate in their activity*

**Bird Walk** (Great for kids) Allen Bird Club  
**(9:30 – 10:15 & 11:45 – 12:30)**

Join expert birders for a half hour walk to identify some of our native birds who are now starting to nest. All ages welcome. Bring your binoculars if possible.

**Signs of Spring** (Great for kids) Mass Audubon Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary  
**(9:45 – 10:30 & 12:15 – 1:00)**

Take a jaunt outside to the nearby woods with educators from Arcadia to look for plants, animals, and signs of spring. All ages welcome on this easy hike.

**Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents** Richard Little and Steve Winters  
**(10:00 – 12:00; Downstairs in Room 220/222)**

Come discover the amazing geo history of the Connecticut River Valley, from dinosaur inhabitants to the ancient Lake Hitchcock and more. First, join geologist Richard Little as he paints a picture of the ancient history of our valley as far back as 600 million years. His humorous presentation will be topped off with a chance to touch armored mud balls which he discovered right here along the Connecticut River. Immediately following the program, Steve Winters, Assistant Professor of Earth Science at HCC will guide us through an easy hour-long walk back into the Mesozoic Era when basaltic lavas covered our campus and dinosaurs roamed Western Massachusetts. All geology will be easily visible from the Campus Loop Road. This two-hour adventure will have you completely enraptured about the dynamic geo history of the ground right beneath your feet.

**Challenge Games** (Great for Kids) Wilderness Experiences & Westfield Water Sports  
**(10:00 – 10:45 & 1:00 – 1:45)**

Visit the WE&WWS outside by the trees to try your hand at walking the slackline. Visit their booth to try getting the Frisbee in the disc golf basket.

**Bike Ride** (Great for Kids) Cyclonauts  
**(10:15 – 11:00 & 12:30 – 1:15)**

Take a ride on the roads with enthusiastic cyclers on your own bike. Be sure to wear a helmet. Minors need a parent.

**Noticing Nature** (Great for Kids) MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation  
**(10:30 – 11:15 & 2:00 – 2:45)**

Notice sun, soil, plants and evidence of little critters in springtime. This presentation is geared toward our younger explorers, children ages 3-7 and their grown-ups, but all are welcome.

**Hike the National Scenic Trail**  
**(10:45 – 11:45 & 12:45 – 1:45)**

Wilbraham Hiking Club

Join members of the Wilbraham Hiking Club for an easy 1 1/2 to 2 mile hike in the wooded trails right behind HCC campus. Bring water and a snack. Great hike for anyone 10 years and older.

**Geologic History Hike**

Steve Winters, HCC

**(11:00 – 12:00; meet downstairs outside room 220/222)**

Steve Winters, Assistant Professor of Earth Science at HCC will guide us through an easy hour-long walk back into the Mesozoic Era when basaltic lavas covered our campus and dinosaurs roamed Western Massachusetts.

**Mountain Bike Ride**

New England Mountain Biking Association

**(11:15 – 12:00 & 1:45 – 2:30)**

Bring your mountain bike and go for a ride on the trails behind campus with New England Mountain Biking Association. Wear your helmet. Minors need a parent.

**Stories of the Land** (Great for Kids)

KWK Explorations

**(11:30 – 12:15 & 1:30 – 2:15)**

The land is a storybook, telling us tales of the earth, the people, and the animals living here. These stories cover time spans from millions of years to a few days. We will sample a few of these on our walk through the woods on the outskirts of campus.

**Get to Know your Dragons and Damsels**

Athol Bird and Nature Club

**(12:00 – 12:45; Downstairs in Room 220/222)**

Explore with us the mysterious world of dragonflies and damselflies. From the beautiful yet diminutive Fragile Forktail damselfly in our smallest wetlands to the dynamic Wandering Glider that migrates hundreds of miles, you'll gain an appreciation for these amazing creatures during this indoor presentation.

**Leave No Trace Scavenger Hunt** (Great for kids)

Appalachian Mountain Club

**(12:00 – 12:45)**

Go on a nature scavenger hunt. Bringing back a sample or a picture gets you a prize!

**Exploring the Forest in Spring** (Great for kids)

The Naturalists' Club

**(1:15 – 2:00)**

Take an easy hike through the forest around campus with Naturalists' Club President Dave Gallup. While you look for signs of spring improve your knowledge of birds, wildflowers and trees and wildlife.

**Telescope viewing and Demonstration**  
**(throughout the day)**

Springfield STARS Club

Take a look through various types of telescopes set up on the patio outside Kittredge Center.

**Year of the Salamander Vernal Pool Hike on Sunday**

Trustees of Reservations

The Trustees are celebrating the "The Year of the Salamander" with a hike to a vernal pool at one of our newest properties tomorrow, Sunday April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00. A vernal pool is a low spot in the forest that seasonally fills with water. Because predatory fish cannot survive in these temporary pools, they are one of the most preferred places for salamanders to lay their eggs in the spring. Join us for this hike and visit our booth for more information.