

## Transition at the Montshire



David Goudy and Marcos Stafne

Please join us in welcoming Marcos Stafne, Ph.D., as Montshire's new executive director. Stafne succeeds retiring executive director David Goudy, beginning April 15.

During his 34-year tenure, David has led the Museum from a fledgling enterprise to a nationally recognized science center.

"Retirement from an organization that has in essence been your life's work is not easy," comments Goudy. "The Montshire is in so many ways a special and unique place. I am confident that Marcos has the wisdom, skill, and leadership capacity to sustain all that the Museum has become and to realize the Museum's great potential for the future. I depart knowing that Montshire is in capable hands, and that it will thrive and grow with opportunities we can only imagine today."

Stafne comes to the Montshire with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of museums. He currently serves as Vice President of Programs and Visitor Experience at the Brooklyn Children's Museum, where he oversees education, collections, visitor services, and the planning and implementation of traveling and new exhibitions.

He has served as the Director of Education & Visitor Experience for the Rubin Museum of Art and the Director of Public Programs & Traveling Exhibitions at the New York Hall of Science.

He has published in the *Journal of Museums and Social Issues*, the *Museum Education Journal*, and contributes to a science blog for the Huffington Post. He holds a Ph.D. in Urban Education from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, and a M.A. in Theatre from Hunter College where he studied museum theatre for science and historical education.

"Continuing to cultivate and maintain a creative community is essential for the sustainability of our future," comments Stafne. "The Montshire has a nationally noted reputation for providing opportunities for all audiences to flex their curiosity, experience the wonder of science, and feel encouraged to try out new ideas. I am excited to guide the next phase of the Montshire's future as we enhance and expand both the indoor and outdoor experiences. The warmth and friendliness of the Upper Valley are palpable, and I can't wait to get to know the community in a deeper way."

*I am excited to guide the next phase of the Montshire's future.*

—MARCOS STAFNE

# Creating Exhibits

Thanks to contributions to the new *David Goudy Discovery Fund*, the Montshire exhibits department has begun the process of creating new exhibits for the Museum's permanent collection. Over the next several years, they'll create exhibits on a variety of topics that will engage visitors and allow for open-ended discovery. The process of developing a new exhibit is complex and takes time, and requires the help of our visitors! Our goal is to create exhibits that are accessible and engaging for families, groups, and individuals.



## Dear Friends,

This is a very exciting and promising time in the life of the Montshire! As you may know, the Board of Trustees recently announced the selection of Marcos Stafne as executive director. Marcos succeeds David Goudy, who has retired after 34 years of visionary leadership.

The Board of Trustees and staff are thrilled to welcome Marcos to the Museum and the community. He is remarkably dedicated to the kind of informal learning that happens in museums, and is passionate about science. Marcos will bring new ideas and fresh perspectives that will build upon the Museum's strengths. This appointment is the culmination of a rigorous national search process and we are delighted with the result.

Please join us in welcoming Marcos, and continuing to support the Museum as we enter the next crucial phase in its growth and development.

With many thanks,

Cinny Bensen  
Chair, Board of Trustees



## 1



### THE CONCEPT

We get ideas for new exhibits from suggestions from visitors, from science concepts, even from phenomena that we've noticed and want to explore. We select concepts that will interest visitors and that seem appropriate for interpretation as a hands-on exhibit. We research the science thoroughly, and then explore how to design an exhibit that will engage visitors in the topic. This concept phase can take several months.

## 2



### PROTOTYPING AND EVALUATION

At the heart of Montshire's exhibit development is prototyping and evaluation. We create a trial version of the exhibit, using temporary materials and labels, to test them with visitors. We try to find out if visitors will know what to do, if there are enough opportunities for open-ended experimentation, if the label is clear and easy to read. We make changes to the prototype based on what we learn and test again. This process continues until we're sure we've got it right.

## 3



### FABRICATION AND INSTALLATION

The final version of the exhibit is fabricated using long-lasting materials. An exhibit has to be able to withstand more wear and tear in a year than most consumer products do in a lifetime. We either build the entire exhibit in the Museum's shop, or have components fabricated by outside specialists and assemble them here. Once everything has been assembled and tested, we install the exhibit for visitors to enjoy.



David Goudy Science Park

### DAVID GOUDY HONORED BY DONORS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

David Goudy retired March 31 after 34 years of exemplary leadership as executive director. To honor his accomplishments, Montshire's Board of Trustees recently announced that Science Park—a transformational element of Montshire's learning landscape—will bear David's name. Come visit *David Goudy Science Park* this spring!

Montshire friends and supporters contributed more than \$1,028,000 to the *David Goudy Discovery Fund* to honor David's leadership and to create new and enhanced exhibits. Every visitor will benefit from this effort! *The Discovery Fund* already has enabled the creation of *Bubbles: Science in Soap*, the renovation of the first floor gallery, and the acquisition of nature photos by Mary Holland and the *Big Blue Blocks*. The entire fund will be invested in learning experiences for Montshire visitors over the next five to seven years.

In addition, a donor has created the *David Goudy Warm Welcome Endowment Fund*, to ensure Museum access for low-income families. We are seeking matching funds to expand the endowment fund. For more information, email [jennifer.rickards@montshire.org](mailto:jennifer.rickards@montshire.org).

### GRANTS HELP SUPPORT MONTSHIRE PROGRAMS

Last winter, Montshire Museum received several foundation grants to support important initiatives. The National Life Group Foundation and The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation have granted funding for Warm Welcome programs, which provide Museum access to low-income families. The Bowen H. and Janice Arthur McCoy Charitable Foundation awarded a grant to enhance Montshire's trails and outdoor spaces. These initiatives also rely on gifts from individuals in order to support the community.

### MCA NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Executives from the Museum's business members, the Montshire Corporate Associates (MCA), are invited to a special networking breakfast on May 14. Joseph J. Helble, Dean of the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth, will discuss exciting plans for growth and how engineering education strengthens our region's economic health.

### MCA EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

Employee Appreciation Day is Saturday, May 30. Employees of MCA member companies are invited to bring their families for a free visit, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Is your employer a member yet? For more information, contact [michelle.kersey@montshire.org](mailto:michelle.kersey@montshire.org).

### MONTSHIRE TINKERING KITS

Tinkering Kits are on sale in the Museum Store. Explore how electricity works while creating a fun, whimsical, and unique object. Three different Montshire-created kits, Scribble Bots, Paper Circuits, and LED Bling, complement activities taking place at the Tinkering Lab. The instructions include graphic illustrations that were created by School of Cartoon Studies alum Sam Carbaugh. Created for children ages 9 and older.

### NEW STAFF

Carol Harry is a new member of the admissions team. She has a degree from UVM in nutritional science and lives in Sharon, VT, with her husband and two teenaged children. When not at the Museum she runs her own business, Up Pup, teaches sewing classes for kids at the League of NH Craftsman, and acts as the local coordinator for PAX, which places international students with host families. Prior to working at the Montshire, Carol was the volunteer coordinator for VINS.



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### Books and Beyond! Science for Preschoolers

April 6, May 4  
10:15 or 11:30 a.m.

This program combines children's literature and hands-on activities for fun science learning and exploration. Each day features a different book and related science activity. For children ages 3–5 and their parents or caregivers. *Free with Museum admission.*

### Young Scientist Program

Session 5: April 22–May 13  
(4 weeks)

Members \$120,  
non-members \$130  
Mornings, 9:30–11:30 a.m.;  
Afternoons, 1–3 p.m.

This weekly program includes hands-on experiments, fun projects, and individual explorations in the physical and natural sciences. Designed to engage and excite preschoolers (ages 4+) and kindergartners about science. Limit: 15 children/session.



Splash! Exploring Water  
Saturday, August 8

### Spectacular Science April Break Camp

Monday– Friday, April 13–17  
9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Choose your camp days during April break! Come one day, or come to them all. We'll go outside, too, weather permitting. Think summer camp, but in April!

- Monday: Astronomy
- Tuesday: Cars and Motion
- Wednesday: Engineering
- Thursday: Insects and Other Invertebrates
- Friday: Light and Illusions

Limit 14 children/day.  
Members \$60/day,  
non-members \$70/day  
Sign up for three or more days  
and receive \$20 off.

### Afterschool Adventures Science Friday: Kids Edition

Session 5:  
Mondays, May 4, 11 & 18  
Drop off between 3:15 and  
3:30, pick-up at 5:15 p.m.

For kids who love “doing” science! This is an opportunity to explore science and nature using hands-on experiences and real experiments. Hypothesize, test, observe, and use your creativity. Explore a different theme each week! For children in grades K-2. Limit: 12 children. Members \$90,  
non-members \$100

## FAMILY

### Egg Drop Challenge

April 18,  
10:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Will a raw egg survive the harrowing 18-foot plunge over the second story balcony? Design a container at home or at the Museum from noon to 2 p.m. that

will protect the egg from breaking. Beginning at 2 p.m., it's “eggs away” as you launch your egg and container over the balcony. *Free with Museum admission.*

### Tinkering Lab

Saturday, May 14 through  
Friday, July 30  
Open 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

The Tinkering Lab is a new, experimental space where visitors try their hand at engineering whimsical contraptions using real tools and materials. Tinkering Lab activities require cooperation, concentration, and a playful “tinkering mindset.” You'll design, test, redesign, and share your creations alongside other participants. For adults and families with children age 8 and over. (Please note that mornings while school is in session, the Lab may be reserved for school groups.) *Free with Museum admission.*

### Scribble Bots

Make moving robots that trace fun patterns with markers using weighted toy motors, batteries, wires, and other everyday materials.

### Electric Island

Design and construct a building or other structure, light it up with an LED, and collectively build a miniature city.

### Keva Planks

Turn simple wooden planks into amazing creations.

### Super Science Saturdays: Science that Sizzles!

Super Science Days at the Montshire combine some hot topics with really cool activities. *Free with Museum admission.*

### CATERPILLAR WEEK AUGUST 13-17



*Come see the beautiful and mysterious world of the caterpillars that inhabit our woods, fields, and backyards. The Caterpillar Lab will be at the Montshire mid-August! We'll have a variety of native species on hand, along with video scopes and other tools to observe these marvelous creatures up close. In addition to live caterpillars, stunning photographs by New England's caterpillar expert and ambassador Sam Jaffe, will be on display. Check our website for details!*

Programs with fees require pre-registration

## Up, Up, and Away!

Saturday, July 11  
10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Spend the day experimenting with the physics and fun of air. Make kites to fly outside in Science Park and capture the power of air by building gliders, rockets, and parachutes at the Science Discovery Lab. It promises to be an uplifting day!

## Nature: Up Close and Personal

Saturday, July 25  
10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Outside, explore Montshire's forests, fields, and riverbanks. We'll grab bug nets and magnifying glasses for an insect hunt near the meadow. Back at the Science Discovery Lab, we'll use microscopes to get an up-close look at aquatic invertebrates from nearby ponds, and take a closer look at the Museum's resident frogs, turtles, fish, bees, and ants.



## Splash! Exploring Water

Saturday, August 8  
10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Spend the day celebrating summer by getting wet. Outside in Science Park, make boats that float down the "Rill." Test the strength of foil boats and experiment with what floats and sinks. Then, explore the science of water at the Discovery Lab. Investigate the properties of water, experiment with density by making liquid rainbows, and see how colors behave in water. It promises to be a wet day both inside and out!

## Microworlds: Investigation of the Very Small

Saturday, August 22  
10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

The Science Discovery



"This is one of the most well-qualified, competent and professional group of counselors I've ever met."  
—MONTSHIRE CAMP PARENT

## Where Learning is Part of the Fun!

Montshire Summer Camp continues to enhance its offerings with ten unique camp programs. Along with some favorites such as **Preschool Nature Camp** and **Outdoor Discovery Camp**, for younger campers and we're offering **Sketchbook Studio**, **Exploring Nature Through Art**, and **Maker Camp** for youth entering 6th through 8th grade.

"We continue designing programs for kids from preschool to the early teen years that support their developing interests and skills in nature and science," says Amy VanderKooi, the Montshire's Walter Meriwether and Eleanor D. Furlow Summer Camp Director. "Learning and having fun are what camp is all about—and with the help of our skilled staff, we do a lot of both."

Register for one or more sessions. Save \$15 when you register for two weeks, and \$30 for three weeks. Montshire members receive special pricing. For details on camp programs or to register online, visit [montshire.org/summer-camp](http://montshire.org/summer-camp), call 802-649-2200, or stop by the Museum.

Lab will be buzzing with activity as we explore an entire world of microscopic wonders. Using an array of magnifying instruments, from hand lenses to compound microscopes, you can observe everything from the weave of a t-shirt, to invertebrates in pond water, and the nuclei of your very own cheek cells. Discover a whole new world just hidden from the naked eye!

## ADULTS Montshire Unleashed

Friday, April 10, 6–9 p.m.  
Allow your inner curiosity to run wild! The Montshire is open after hours for adults of all ages. Pull up a stool at the Science Discovery Lab for some amazing activities or simply explore the Museum's exhibits on your own. Jasper Murdock Ale and wine from the Norwich Inn will be available for purchase. Free with Museum admission.



## Outdoor Sculpture Workshop

Saturday July 18th  
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join the *Prehistoric Menagerie* sculptor Bob Shanahan as he demonstrates how to create life-size prehistoric animals using natural materials. Meet the artist, learn his step-by-step process, and give it a try! Frames and building materials will be on hand. Try sculpting a small, prehistoric multi-toed-horse, similar to the ones on display in *Prehistoric Menagerie*. Free with museum admission.

## The Tinkering Lab

A place to build and create



Combine a motor, some markers, a battery, alligator wires, masking tape, some time to explore, and even a friend if you like—and you're ready to make a silly, whimsical drawing machine called a Scribble Bot. This is one of many activities that happen in the Tinkering Lab, Montshire's unique exhibit space where visitors age 9 and older can build, invent, experiment with familiar and unfamiliar materials, collaborate, re-design, and share.

At Montshire, we believe that people learn by doing. Through thoughtfully designed activities, we can gain important knowledge and skills that have relevance to our lives. Making a Scribble Bot isn't just about wiring a motor, though that's the first challenge. You'll find yourself experimenting with balance, finding ways to compensate for the heavy motor and battery. After you've overcome these challenges and the markers dance across the paper, you can't help but feel a sense of accomplishment. You may not even realize that you've used critical thinking and science skills that are essential to the scientific process.

Projects in the Tinkering Lab are carefully crafted and bring together playful design, artistry, and scientific discovery. Each visitor sets an individual goal and determines his or her own success. Whether aiming to make a Scribble Bot in the shape of an elephant or to use two motors to make the fastest Scribble Bot ever, perseverance will be rewarded. Even after you leave the Lab, your work will continue to inspire others.

Check [www.montshire.org](http://www.montshire.org) for more information and the summer schedule.

## UPCOMING EXHIBITS



### Prehistoric Menagerie:

*Outdoor Sculpture by Bob Shannahan*

June 1 — September 7

Step back in time this summer, when you visit *Prehistoric Menagerie*, a group of sculptures by New Hampshire artist Bob Shannahan. Be on the lookout for a Woolly Mammoth with thick fur, a tiny horse that bounds like an antelope, and a seven-foot tall carnivore that has the head of a giant warthog as you wander through *David Goudy Science Park* from June 1 to September 7.

Each of the six species represented in the Prehistoric Menagerie exhibition evolved during the Cenozoic Age—the “Age of the Mammal,” the last 65 million years since dinosaurs became extinct. During this time, the world's climate went through several changes from hot to cold, and the continents slowly moved into their current positions after the breakup of the large Pangaea continent into those we know today.

The animals of the last 65 million years reflect this dramatically changing and evolving world. North America was a continent filled with many species of mammoths, camels, rhinos, sloths, lions, horses, giant bears – and people. As the glaciers retreated 12,000 years ago after the last ice age, humans migrated here and made their home in a new land filled with prehistoric beasts.

Bob Shannahan has been making and exhibiting his animals in New England for the past ten years. They are an extension of his landscape work and his work with school gardens. Though primarily self-taught, he has studied at the New Hampshire Art Institute and the Boston Institute of Art.

Shannahan remarks that making an animal starts by choosing its geologic epoch. For instance, the mammoth is an easy choice for the Ice Age. “Once I choose the animal, I conduct my research, collect skeletal measurements, and make a small model out of wire and foil, says Shannahan. “Then I make a full-size drawing on cardboard and begin building the animal. The frame is made of steel rebar and aluminum screen is used to depict the major muscle groups. It turns out that the autumn vegetation is perfect for the animals' fur.”

In addition to various forms of vegetation, visitors will notice other natural material used in these incredible sculptures. Come meet these special visitors this summer!



April 22:  
Water on in  
Science Park

APRIL

- 6 Books and Beyond! Science for Preschoolers **C**
- 10 Montshire Unleashed **A**
- 11 *AirPlay* exhibition opens
- 13 Spectacular Science Camp, Astronomy **C**
- 14 Spectacular Science Camp, Cars and Motion **C**
- 15 Spectacular Science Camp, Engineering **C**
- 16 Spectacular Science Camp, Insects and Other Invertebrates **C**
- 17 Spectacular Science Camp, Light and Illusions **C**
- 18 Egg Drop Challenge **F**
- 22 Young Scientist Program, Session 5 begins **C**
- 22 Water on in Science Park



MAY

- 1 Montshire Benefit Auction **A**
- 4 Books and Beyond! Science for Preschoolers **C**
- 4 Afterschool Adventures, series begins **C**
- 14 MCA Networking Breakfast **A**
- 14 Tinkering Lab Opens **F**
- 30 MCA Employee Appreciation Day **F**

JUNE

- 1 *Prehistoric Menagerie: Outdoor Sculptures by Bob Shannahan*, exhibition opens
- 22 Summer Camp begins
- 27 Food service in the Hughes Pavilion begins

JULY

- 11 Super Science Saturday—Up, Up, and Away! **F**
- 18 Outdoor Sculpture workshop **F**
- 25 Super Science Saturday—Nature: Up Close and Personal **F**

AUGUST

- 8 Super Science Saturday—Splash! Exploring Water
- 13-17 Caterpillar Week **F**
- 22 Super Science Saturday— Microworlds: Investigation of the Very Small **F**

Always check [www.montshire.org](http://www.montshire.org) for the most up-to-date information, full program descriptions, and to register.

# Calendar



## MONTSHIRE MUSEUM

The Montshire Museum of Science features exhibits and programs on natural and physical sciences. The Montshire is an interpretive center for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. The outdoor David Goudy Science Park leads to a network of walking trails on our 110-acre property.

**Hours:** Open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas.

**Phone:** 802-649-2200

**Web:** [www.montshire.org](http://www.montshire.org)

### Admission fee

\$14 adults, \$11 children ages 2–17.

Summer rates: (June 20–Labor Day)

\$16 adults, \$13 children ages 2–17

Free for Museum members and children under the age of 2.

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 170  
White River Jct., VT



**Montshire Museum of Science**  
One Montshire Road  
Norwich, Vermont 05055



## MONTSHIRE MUSEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## MONTSHIRE NEWS

The Montshire Museum of Science publishes *Montshire News* three times a year. Montshire members receive a free subscription.

**Executive Director** Marcos Stafne  
(as of April 15, 2015)

**Associate Director** Jennifer Rickards

**Editor** Beth Krusi

**Design** Wendy McMillan Design



First floor exhibit spaces and bathrooms are entirely wheelchair accessible. Second floor exhibit spaces can be reached by elevator. Several nature trails on the Quinn Nature Preserve are also wheelchair accessible.

[www.montshire.org/auction](http://www.montshire.org/auction)

The  
**FIDDLEHEAD**  
*Fling*  
2015  
A BENEFIT AUCTION FOR THE  
MONTSHIRE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE  
*Friday, May 1*  
6:00 pm