



Examples of Snow's dry stone sculptures. Bottom Left: A photographic model for the sculpture that will grace the Museum's front entrance.

Artist Dan Snow to Create Montshire Sculpture

As part of our 40th anniversary, the Montshire Museum of Science has commissioned Vermont artist and master stoneworker Dan Snow to create a sculpture that will transform the entryway of the Museum. Internationally recognized, Snow fuses his innovative vision with old-world techniques to create unique works of environmental art.

The sculpture, made possible by donors to the David Goudy Discovery Fund, will encapsulate the Montshire's mission of engagement and discovery — signaling to visitors the excitement they will find inside the Museum and across its 100 acres, as well as showcasing the Montshire's commitment to art and science, and the important connections between them. The 1,000-square-foot sculpture will be an interactive representation of the intersection of the waves formed by drops of water into a pond—at an enormous scale, and rendered in individually-shaped stones.

"I believe the sight of a new dry stone construction on the land is a sign of a healthy community," says Snow. "When loose stone is collected and arranged, conversations take place."

"Dan Snow's visionary work will spark joy and delight for Montshire visitors as they enter the Museum," says Montshire's Executive Director Marcos Stafne. "While the sculpture represents the waves formed by a drop of water, it is also symbolic of the ripple effect that takes place when visitors experience that "aha" moment as they engage in science."

Visitors will be able to watch Snow create the piece next to the front entrance of the Museum, stone by stone, beginning in late spring. The completed artwork will be unveiled for full exploration by visitors towards the end of the summer.

In the fall, Dan Snow will give a public talk about the design and creation of the new sculpture.



"When loose stone is collected and arranged, conversations take place."

—DAN SNOW
Vermont artist

The Tinkering Loft

Where you design, build, and create!



What if stone were water, and water stone?

What if I were as big as a drop of water or a droplet were as big as me?

It's fun to imagine things as if they were otherwise, and dream up new scenarios for our reality. When we hypothesize during a scientific experiment, or use good methods of inquiry, we draw from our previous knowledge about the world, and envision new possibilities.

Artists help us connect to the unfamiliar. Experiencing art sparks our imaginations, and broadens our ability to make meaning. By working with artists and providing opportunities to get creative in our galleries, the Montshire utilizes the arts to catalyze the act of scientific discovery.

From Ned Kahn's large Wind Wall on Montshire's tower to Paul Matisse's Musical Fence on the back terrace, we value how artists communicate and interpret the natural and physical world. We hope Dan Snow's stone installation will enliven your journey into the Museum and ignite your imagination even before you enter the front doors.

This summer you can also flex your imagination in the new *Tinkering Loft* exhibition and experiment with arts and engineering to create fantastic contraptions of all sorts and sizes.

Combining creativity and experimentation is the route to innovation, and we hope that you find your way to the Montshire this season to think, dream, and do science.

Marcos Stafne, Ph.D.
Executive Director

The Montshire is excited to feature *The Tinkering Loft* this summer. Over the past two years, Montshire Museum has been developing, testing, and refining a series of tinkering programs that are highly engaging and popular among our visitors. With this experience in hand, we will present *The Tinkering Loft* as our marquee offering for summer 2016.

The 2,500-square-foot exhibition, created by our own team, will have four different activity spaces, two with facilitated programming, offering a variety of age-appropriate experiences for all Montshire visitors.

Tinkering is a playful, exploratory, and iterative way of engaging with science. Visitors will be encouraged to use a variety of materials and real tools to create personally meaningful objects. Join us to design and build whimsical contraptions, and solve open-ended and imaginative design challenges, while exploring a variety of topics such as electricity, geometry, spatial relations, air resistance and friction, and energy. Montshire's tinkering activities provide opportunities to build "grit"—the mindset characterized by perseverance and determination.

The *Tinkering Loft* areas include:

- A "Build It" area featuring our Big Blue Blocks for families to explore engineering concepts and large-scale kinesthetic experiences.
- An "Invitation to Tinker" area encouraging families, older children, and adults to explore a variety of building and engineering challenges on their own.
- Two "Tinkering Labs" where visitors will take part in facilitated design challenges.

Join us June 25 through August 28 and experience the joy of science in *The Tinkering Loft*.

The Tinkering Loft is sponsored by
Chroma Technology Corporation.

Media sponsor



NEWS AND NOTES



The 40 Schools project will bring tinkering programs to 40 fifth and sixth grade classrooms.

40 SCHOOLS

More than 70 schools have applied to be part of Montshire Museum's 40th Anniversary "40 Schools" project. We're excited to work with 40 new and established school partners to bring tinkering programs to fifth and sixth grade classrooms in diverse areas of New Hampshire and Vermont. *This project is made possible by the Kettering Family Foundation.*

POP-UP SCIENCE

Montshire Museum's Pop-up science tent will be visiting 15 communities this spring and summer, bringing engaging, hands-on science activities to the region. *This program is part of the Creativity Garden—a nationwide project of the Association of Science-Technology Centers, generously supported by Disney.*

MCA NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Executives from the Museum's business members, the Montshire Corporate Associates (MCA), attended a special networking breakfast on March 17. Dr. Robert Davis, Director of the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL), discussed some of the many scientific initiatives underway at this major Upper Valley research center.

MCA EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

Employee Appreciation Day is Saturday, June 4. 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 maf@montshire.org, or visit www.montshire.org/join/montshire-corporate-associates

SUMMER CAFÉ

Sandwiches and snacks will be available all summer at Montshire's Summer Café, located in the Hughes Pavilion, adjacent to Science Park. Open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, beginning June 18.

GIVE 40 TO CELEBRATE 40!

Join Montshire's anniversary celebration by donating \$40, or adding \$40 to your membership renewal!

Contributions will be invested in learning experiences for children, families and schools throughout Vermont and New Hampshire, regardless of their socioeconomic status. All donors will receive a commemorative 40th anniversary car magnet.



SPECIAL BREW

Norwich Inn is brewing up a special ale in recognition of Montshire's 40th Anniversary. You can bid on the first case of "Montshire Discovery Ale", which will be available at Montshire's Fiddlehead Fling Benefit Auction, May 6.



MONTSHIRE INTRODUCES NEW RENTAL PROGRAM

Montshire is the perfect venue for receptions, meetings, corporate events, and parties and now you may choose between four different rental options to best meet your needs. New pricing includes discounts for MCA and donor-level members. Learn more at www.montshire.org/rentals

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Books and Beyond! Science for Preschoolers

Monday, April 4

10:15 or 11:30 a.m.

This program combines children's literature and hands-on science for fun science exploration. For children ages 3–5 and their parent or caregiver.

Free with Museum admission.

Young Scientist

Session 5: April 20–May 11
9:30–11:30 a.m. or 1–3 p.m.

This weekly program will engage preschoolers and kindergartners in the joy of science. Each session includes hands-on experiments, engaging projects, and individual explorations in the physical and natural sciences. Morning and afternoon sessions. For children ages 4–kindergarten. Limit: 15 children. Members \$120, non-members \$130

Afterschool Adventures

Session 5: Tuesdays, May 3, 10 & 17, 3:30–5:15 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to explore science and nature using hands-on experiences and real experiments. We'll hypothesize, test, observe, and use our creativity. Explore a different theme each week. For children in grades K–2. Limit: 12 children. Members \$90, non-members \$100

Friday Night for Teen Tinkers

Friday, April 1, 6:30–8 p.m.

Design and build something really cool—magic tricks and gags! The tinkering studio is open for youth in grades 6 and above. Bring your friends and celebrate April Fool's Day by learning some new tricks! Pre-registration is encouraged. Limit: 15 students. Members and non-members \$8



Spectacular Science Camp

April 11–15, 18 & 19

9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Choose your camp days during April break! We'll explore a different topic each day with engaging projects and fun games. We'll go outside, too, weather permitting. Think summer camp, but in April.

- April 11: Insects and Other Invertebrates
- April 12: Eggs Away!
- April 13: Sound and Music
- April 14: Plants
- April 15: Magnets and Electricity
- April 18: Insects and Other Invertebrates
- April 19: Sound and Music

For children in grades 1–3.

Limit: 12 children/day.

Members \$60, non-members \$70. Sign up for 2 or more days and save \$10.

Homeschoolers' Series: Aquatic Explorations

Mondays, May 2, 9 & 16

10:30 a.m.–12 p.m. for ages 6–8; 1–2:30 p.m. for ages 9–12

Explore our local aquatic world in this three-week series. Using microscopes,

students will learn about aquatic insects and invertebrates and be introduced to the many vertebrate species that live in our local ponds and streams such as frogs, salamanders, turtles and fish. Limit: 12 students/session. Members \$70, non-members \$77

Science that Sizzles!

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

➤ Up, Up, and Away!

Saturday, July 16

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! Free with Museum admission.

➤ Nature Up Close

Saturday, July 30

10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.

Outside, explore Montshire's forests, fields, and riverbanks—inside, take a closer look at the Museum's



Programs with fees require pre-registration

resident frogs, turtles, fish, bees, and ants. Outside we'll grab bug nets and magnifying glasses for an insect hunt near the meadow, and back at the Science Discovery Lab we'll use microscopes to get an up-close look at aquatic invertebrates from nearby ponds. *Free with Museum admission.*

➤ **Splash! Exploring Water**

*Saturday, August 13
10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.*

Spend a day at the Montshire celebrating summer by getting wet. Outside in Science Park, try making 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 Science 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! *Free with Museum admission.*

➤ **Microworlds: Investigation of the Very Small**

*Saturday, August 27
10:30 a.m.–4 p.m.*

The Science Discovery 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, to the nuclei of your very own cheek cells. Discover a whole new world just hidden from the naked eye! *Free with Museum admission.*



MONTSHIRE SUMMER CAMP



Where Learning is Part of the Fun!

"We continue to improve and expand our summer camp programs for kids that support their developing interests and skills in science and nature," says Montshire's Summer Camp Director Amy VanderKooi. "Learning and having fun is what camp is all about—and with our skilled staff, we do a lot of both."

For Children ages 4 & 5 or Entering Kindergarten
Preschool Nature Camp
Preschool Science Camp

For Children Entering 1st and 2nd Grades
Outdoor Discovery Camp
Science Camp at Crossroads

For Children Entering 3rd Grade
Aquatic Explorers
Montshire Explorers
Inventors' Workshop
Science Camp at Crossroads

For Children Entering 4th Grade
Aquatic Explorers
Montshire Explorers
Inventors' Workshop
Upper Valley Adventures

For Children Entering 5th Grade
Inventors' Workshop
Upper Valley Adventures

For Children Entering 6th Grade
Aquatic Investigations
Inventors' Workshop
Upper Valley Adventures
Kinetic Art
Montshire Makers Camp

For Students Entering 7th and 8th Grades
Aquatic Investigations
Kinetic Art
Montshire Makers Camp

For information and to register, visit montshire.org/programs/summer-camp, or 802-649-2200.

ADULT

Montshire Unleashed: An Evening for Adults

*Frídays, April 8, May 13
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 visiting and permanent exhibits on your own. Jasper Murdock Ale and wine from the Norwich Inn, and food from Samosa Man will be available for purchase. *Montshire Unleashed is sponsored by Mascoma Savings Bank. Free with Museum admission.*

Introduction to Native Ferns

*Sunday, July 24
11 a.m.–3:30 p.m.*

Learn to distinguish among the most common ferns of New England through lecture, microscopic examination of fresh plant material, and field study. By the end of class, you will be familiar with most of the ferns you encounter in the woods. Bring lunch and a hand lens if you have one. Co-sponsored by New England Wild Flower Society. Instructors: Don Lubin and Alice Schori, fern enthusiasts. Limit: 16 adults. *Members \$60, non-members \$72*

Making Music

May 20– June 12
Check out the prototype
for the upcoming
November exhibition.



As a Montshire visitor, you play an essential role in the development of engaging, effective and interesting science exhibits. It is always exciting for us to bring exhibit prototypes into the galleries with visitors and try them out. This process allows the Museum's exhibits staff to make sure that the various exhibit modules work well together and are engaging for visitors; that the science concepts are clear; and that visitors of varied backgrounds and abilities can connect with the ideas on several levels.

Over the past several months, the exhibits department has been working on an exciting new exhibition about the science and art of musical instruments, and we're planning to test parts of this new exhibition May 20 through June 12. The upstairs gallery will be transformed into a test studio, and Museum visitors are invited to try out the exhibition prototype. Stop by, see what it's about, let the exhibit developers know what you think, and get a sneak peek at *Making Music*, which opens in November.



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Inquiring Minds

Scientific literacy through observing, questioning, experimenting and talking.

“**I**nquiry” is one of those buzzwords that is often overused and misunderstood. At the Montshire we take the word seriously. Inquiry-based learning means more than in engaging in “hands-on” experiences. True scientific inquiry provides the learner with the opportunity to ask their own questions, create their own experiments, make their own observations, and begin to formulate theories about how the world works. Providing high-quality inquiry experiences is an essential part of the Museum's exhibits and education programs. Effective outcomes require a deep understanding of informal education principles, extensive experience, and a commitment to involving our visitors in the design process.

At the Montshire, we get people involved in ‘doing’ science through observing, questioning, experimenting and talking, all of which are integral to developing scientific literacy. Our belief is that engaging in science and working with real materials and phenomena create a greater understanding of the scientific process, and how our world works, and perhaps most importantly, generating excitement about learning—the joy of science!

The science center community continues to develop best practices and build a strong foundation of scientific evidence for the kind of learning we value. Thank you for partnering with us to make this work possible.





April 30:
Water on in
Science Park

APRIL

- 1 Friday Night for Teen Tinkerers **Y**
- 4 Books and Beyond! Science for Preschoolers **F**
- 8 Montshire Unleashed: An Evening for Adults **A**
- 11 Spectacular Science Camp, Insects and Other Invertebrates **C**
- 12 Spectacular Science Camp, Eggs Away! **C**
- 13 Spectacular Science Camp, Sound and Music **C**
- 14 Spectacular Science Camp, Plants **C**
- 15 Spectacular Science Camp, Magnets and Electricity **C**
- 18 Spectacular Science Camp, Insects and Other Invertebrates **C**
- 19 Spectacular Science Camp, Sound and Music **C**
- 20 Young Scientist Program, session 5 begins **C**

MAY

- 2 Homeschoolers' Series: Aquatic Explorations, series begins **C**
- 3 Afterschool Adventures, session 5 begins **C**
- 6 Fiddlehead Fling Benefit Auction **A**
- 13 Montshire Unleashed: An Evening for Adults **A**
- 20 Making Music, exhibition prototype opens **F**

JUNE

- 4 MCA Employee Appreciation Day **F**
- 18 Summer Café at the Montshire opens **F**
- 25 The Tinkering Loft, exhibition opens **F**
- 27 Summer Camp begins **C**



JULY

- 16 Super Science Day: Up, Up, and Away! **F**
- 24 Introduction to Native Ferns **A**
- 30 Super Science Day: Nature Up Close **F**

AUGUST

- 13 Super Science Day: Splash! Exploring Water **F**
- 27 Super Science Day: Microworlds: Investigation of the Very Small **F**

Always check www.montshire.org for the most up-to-date information, full program descriptions, and to register.

C = Children **F** = Families **A** = Adults **Y** = Youth

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

Admission fee

\$14 adults, \$11 children ages 2–17.

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

Summer rates: (June 20 — Labor Day)

\$16 adults, \$13 children ages 2-17

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



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Montshire Museum of Science
One Montshire Road
Norwich, Vermont 05055

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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

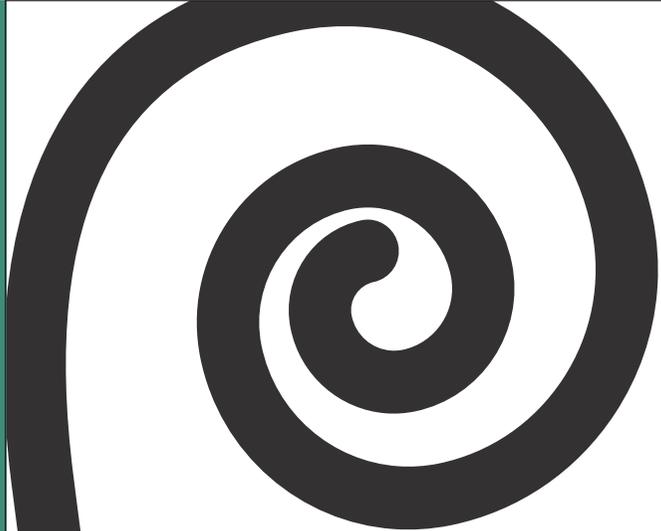
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First floor exhibit spaces and bathrooms are entirely wheelchair accessible. Second floor exhibit spaces can be reached by elevator. Several nature trails on the Quinn Nature Preserve are also wheelchair accessible.



A BENEFIT AUCTION FOR
MONTSHIRE MUSEUM OF SCIENCE

THE
FIDDLEHEAD
FLING
FRIDAY
MAY 6
2016

www.montshire.org/auction