

# Bringing the Outdoors into Our Schools

The Amherst Recreation Department has teamed up with local schools to teach children about natural science and the environment. Using demonstrations and hands-on strategies, Peabody Mill Environmental Center educators and naturalists teach children about a variety of topics both in their school classrooms and on site at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center. All programs meet the requirements of the NH Framework for Science Literacy.

Both teachers and students enjoy this nature outreach program because it “offers a hands-on opportunity for children to interact in a fun, educational, and memorable way” – *Grade 3 Teacher*. Classroom



*Paul Scopa and a student inspect a bug found in the PMEC pond.  
Photo by Candy Shirey*

lessons, such as Phases of the Moon, Plant Classification, Fossils, and How Weather Affects Animals, help students to better understand our beautiful and unique planet. Field trips to PMEC provide an opportunity for students and teachers to get out of the classroom and into the natural world to learn about Animal Tracking, Orienteering, Survival Skills, and What Lives in the Pond.



*Diane Hayden, a snake and lizard enthusiast, lets a student touch one of her snakes.  
Photo by Candy Shirey.*

Peabody Mill Environmental Center educators come from a variety of backgrounds including science education, environmental education, and even book publishing; and have worked with a diverse range of students from Kindergarteners through High Schoolers; special needs groups; homeschool groups; and more. All lessons are customized to the age range and abilities of students.

The Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC) is an environmental and science education center which abuts almost 600 acres of Joe English conservation land. Located at the end of Brook Road in Amherst, New Hampshire, the PMEC is directed by the Amherst Recreation Department. The mission of PMEC is to foster an awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural world, by offering environmental, conservation, and science programs to all ages. PMEC strives to foster diligent stewardship of our environment so that future generations may inherit and continue to be inspired by the wonders of a protected and natural world. More information on PMEC programs can be found on our website at [www.pmec.org](http://www.pmec.org) or by calling 603-673-1141 or 603-673-6248.



*Students inspecting the pond life at PMEC.  
Photo by Tom McMillan*