

COMMUNITIES

Neuroscience nature walk planned in Cornwall

CORNWALL - The little Cnidarian Hydra is thought to have the simplest nervous system on Earth, yet can perform remarkably complicated behaviors, like somersaulting. Observing hydra is a great way to learn about neuroscience.

The Black Rock Forest Consortium will host "Neuroscience & Behavior of Hydra," with Dr. Rafael Yuste, from 1:30-4 p.m. Oct. 3, for ages 9 and up.

Participants will hike to a Black Rock Forest pond to collect hydra specimens, then watch them under a microscope as Yuste and his colleagues from the Neurotechnology Center at Columbia University illuminate how these invertebrates process information, and explain their behavior.

The Black Rock Forest Consortium is a nonprofit organization



Observing the tiny hydra is a great way to learn about neuroscience. PHOTO PROVIDED

that has been providing science education for children in the region for 25 years. Both the Newburgh School District and the Cornwall School District are founding members of the Consortium.

Named one of the "top 5 scientists to watch" by Nature magazine in 2013, Yuste is a neuroscientist who is helping to lead the Brain Activity Map Project, an international initiative to identify, manipulate and analyze the activity of every neuron in the human brain. He is a pioneer in the field of neuronal imaging techniques, and holds several patents for his work in this area.

This activity is offered as part of the Black Rock Forest Consortium's Fall Family Days program. Registration is \$25 per family, regardless of family size.

The Black Rock Forest Consortium is at 65 Reservoir Road, Cornwall. For more information, call Emily Cunningham, director of external affairs, at 534-4517, ext. 26, or go to www.blackrockforest.org.