

WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

To: Raven Hill friends  
From: Cheri  
Date: August 19, 2023  
Re: Thank you one and all!

According to Wikipedia, a conductor prepares the musicians in rehearsal, considers every aspect of the music and how to make it as inspiring and incredible as possible. Then they work with the orchestra to make that vision come alive. All summer, and this past week was no exception, the “conductor” of Raven Hill worked to position staff, making sure that the “Raven Hill experience” for visitors, summer classes and field trip groups occurred without a hitch. As summer is winding down, it’s time to say thank you to the staff and volunteers who were part of Raven Hill’s 2023 summer “orchestra”, making sure that a visit to the Center was memorable for all of our guests.

Most of our staff worked part time this summer, but individually, they stepped up to meet the challenges of the moment, easily shifting duties from helping with summer classes & field trips, showing animals to families, or making sure that everything was clean and neat in the museum and on the grounds.



*Taking a break after class and before lunch, Brady creates an “improv” drum set and proceeds to entertain everyone with his drumming.*



*Over the week, young glass artists immersed themselves in fused glass as an art medium. They formed their initials, made sailboats & Christmas trees, and finally created funky fish and bird pendants to wear or hang in their windows at home!*

A big “THANK YOU” goes to the many people, who were indispensable this summer. Raven Hill wouldn’t exist without you. You all are much appreciated. In fact, you are the orchestra that makes Raven Hill’s music! Summer staffers include Haley, Elise, Lila, Paige, Cameron, Miranda, Morgan and Michael. They were able to flex on a dime and help as the immediate situation demanded, often anticipating where their help was needed the most. Raven Hill volunteers also pitched in to assist when asked, including Nancy, Yvonne, Katie, Debbie, Holly, Darrell, Dave, Ed, Eddie, Joel, Taylor and Elizabeth. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me.

Several special projects required outside help, but many were completed this week, thanks to all involved. The new dock that was installed by Eagle Scout Dylan Clapp and his crew is almost complete. Signage has been designed and is now being printed.

This week the Charlevoix County Road Commission reclaimed Fuller Road from the encroaching woods, making the entire roadway available again and allowing cars to easily pass each other. The Road Commission also continues to work on C-48, upgrading it with new pavement and curb & gutter at road junctions. Even the intersection of Pearsall and Fuller Roads has been improved with curb & gutter! All this road construction has made the trip to Raven Hill longer, as well as a little more challenging and memorable than usual, but in the long run, these improvements will be much appreciated.



*As if the road projects aren't enough, Norm's Roofing finished the roof "re-cover" project at Raven Hill this week! Thanks to all our visitors for their perseverance.*

Last week and this, Norm's roofing recovered both the Main Museum and Fiber Studio roofs with a rubber membrane, extending the life of our roof for the next twenty years. This roof repair was made possible thanks to funding from the Herbert H and Grace A Dow Foundation; the Alden & Vada Dow Family Foundations; the VonVoigtlander Foundation; the Great Lakes Energy People Fund; EJ (formerly East Jordan Ironworks); the Baiardi Foundation; Boyne Country Propane and East Jordan Plastics.

This coming week will be just as exciting, as two exhibitions will be installed early in the week. The Smithsonian traveling exhibit, **Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America** is finally arriving and Raven Hill's companion exhibit, **The Raven Hill Patent Office** panels will be delivered on Monday. Both exhibits will be set up in the Great Room and be open for public viewing from August 26 to October 7. In addition, the Center is also getting ready for the **Spark! Kick-off Celebration** to be held on Saturday, August 26 from noon to 4pm. State scholar, Thomas Henthorn, will be sharing some exciting innovators and inventors with visitors. There will be demonstrations of old and new innovations. Visitors can enjoy a blacksmith, ham radio operator, 3D printer, fly-tying, fiber artists and solar energy in action. Both the Alternative Energy House and the Evolving Technology Building will be open to visitors.

Schools, service organizations and other groups can reserve a special time to visit this exhibit during the six weeks it is on display at Raven Hill. Thanks to Charlevoix County and Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundations, there is even funding available to help Charlevoix and Emmet County school groups visit. Email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org) or call Cheri at 231.536.3369 with questions or to book a day and time for your visit.

As a reminder, until the end of the **Spark!** exhibition, Raven Hill will be open weekdays from 10am to 4pm, as well as from noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays. After October 7, the Center will return to regular weekend hours and be open during the week and other times only by appointment. Again, call 231.536.3369 or email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org), if you need more information!

Have a great weekend and we hope to see you here soon,

**Cheri**



*It has been a real experience just getting to Raven Hill this week! There is road construction on C-48, INCLUDING new curb & gutter at the intersection of Pearsall & Fuller Roads. Plus, the Charlevoix County Road Commission has been busy trimming the trees along Fuller Road. Thanks to everyone involved in all these upgrades.*



*Over 80 visitors took advantage of sunshine and cooler weather on Friday to explore indoors and outside at Raven Hill. We love to be busy and see such a full parking lot!*