

Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: Friends and Family everywhere
From: Cheri and Raven Hill
Date: May 8, 2021
Re: Weekly Update

Happy Mother's Day weekend!

Raven Hill is remembering and honoring all mothers this weekend, those who are still with us and those who remain with us in our memories. Nothing is quite as beautiful as the memories of the mother who raised us. These thoughts also remind us that mothers are unique and wonderful people in their own right.

This beautiful icon of spring reminds me of my mother, my childhood and Raven Hill. Mom let me spend many a day exploring the woods around our summer cottage. Trout lilies carpeted the area, just as they do here at the



A trout lily grows in colonies that can live to be 300 years, just as mothers live forever in our hearts and memories. Take a walk in the woods soon and admire these fragile spring flowers.

Center. Not only is the trout lily an early harbinger of the sunshine and warmth soon to come, it is a wildflower that comes with multiple "titles", just like most mothers. This diminutive wild flower is known as a trout lily, because its leaves are spotted like a trout. It is called a fawn lily for its leaves, which look like the perky ears of a fawn. Another name is spotted adder's tongue, because the leaves emerge from the ground looking like an adder's tongue. The name I learned first as a child is dog tooth violet. While not really a violet at all, it is small like a violet and the underground bulb is shaped like a canine's tooth! What fun to have so many names and what good memories this special little flower holds.

What are a mother's many titles! Over the years, my mother acted as cook, chauffeur, cheerleader, confidante, decorator, diplomat, purchasing agent, seamstress, teacher and more to my siblings and me. In 1992, when Raven Hill became a reality, she shared many of those skills with the Center. The volunteers enjoyed her cabbage slaw. Some occasionally still ask for the recipe. Mom loved arranging floral centerpieces and making favors for our Summer Magic Festivals. She always donated a crazy quilt cat or pillow for the Festival's auction. Mother acted as one of Raven Hill's buyers, when she saw items that she thought would fit with our mission. If I asked her to sew tablecloths, she was happy to help.



While this is not the mother I remember growing up, this picture embodies every bit of her spirit and beauty. What words do you use to describe your mother?



Dressing up & sewing are two things Mom loved to do for Raven Hill!



The phone books at our house were always full of pressed flowers. She loved sharing her passion for creating petal people during Raven Hill classes. Call 231.536.3369 to book a pressed flower class.

Mom taught many classes at Raven Hill, including creating “petal people” notecards and pinecone ducks. If I needed a certain display, she would make it happen, while at the same time teaching me something new. Raven Hill’s dreams and ideas became hers and her creations are still scattered throughout the Center and my house.



A plastic duck decoy is the starting point for this pine cone sculpture. Individual pine cone petals are attached with hot glue. Both patience & safety were needed for this class!

hours working on her buttons and she would impart her vast knowledge with anyone willing to listen and learn. I remember once, she asked Tim how to tell the difference between a real wooden button and a plastic wood imitation. She had him stumped. She asked him for a glass of water, which he willingly got. She dropped two “wooden” buttons into the water. The real wooden button floated and the plastic one sunk to the bottom, a simple and yet effective test! You would also see her pressing buttons to her cheek. Glass buttons are cold to the touch and plastic ones are not.



Check it out yourself. Maybe you don’t have buttons, but imitation wood (plastic) sinks and real wood floats.

One of Mom’s great loves was her button collection. It was a passion shared with her mother (my grandmother)! Mother would spend



Mother-daughter pairs are always special. That goes for buttons too!

Mom belonged to the Jacksonian Button Club and enjoyed designing cards for competitions. This card of “Mother/Daughter” black glass buttons is one of my favorites and is certainly appropriate for this weekend. Whether you are a great-grandmother, grandmother, mother, daughter, granddaughter or a supporter of women, enjoy this weekend and think fond thoughts of the mothers and mother figures in your world! “A mother is your first friend, your best friend, your forever friend.”—Unknown. Mom was certainly a first friend, best friend and forever friend to Raven Hill. Thank you, Mother, for your faith in the Center and for all you have done to make Raven Hill what it is today! Come enjoy our new pearl button display in Mom’s honor—the button tradition has certainly passed from grandmother to mother to daughter!

If you know someone who might like to receive weekly updates, please send their email addresses to info@miravenhill.org and I will add their names to our list. Previous updates are all on our website—www.MiRavenHill.org

At the risk of repeating things again and again, don’t forget that Raven Hill has re-opened by appointment with COVID policies in place. We ask everyone to wear masks correctly, socially distance and wash their hands thoroughly. We are limiting the numbers of visitors indoors at the Center to one family group at a time as much as possible. We encourage people to get vaccinated, although we are not requiring it. Current hours are noon to 4pm on Saturdays, 2pm to 4pm on Sundays and other times by appointment. Call us at 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org to make reservations. If there is already a scheduled group indoors and you didn’t book in advance—that’s ok! You will be given a return time for the Museum and Animals. While waiting to explore inside, there’s plenty to keep you entertained outdoors.

Hugs to everyone this weekend, especially to all mothers everywhere! Cheri