

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: June 19, 2021
Re: Weekly Update

Happy Father's Day weekend!

This weekend is a double celebration—Sunday is Fathers' Day, as well as the Summer Solstice. Raven Hill is remembering and honoring fathers this weekend, those who are still with us and those who remain with us as memories. Where do I start?! I begin with a group of fathers and others, who gave up their Saturday to help Raven Hill Discovery Center make new connections for visitors. These dads put their own priorities on hold and worked all day here. Our thanks go to Garry Mapes, who donated the tipi and directed its setup; Ed May III, cameraman; crew members Dave Clapp, Clayton Faivor, Max Sasso and Haley Kozek. The Center is lucky to have such dedicated volunteers. Be sure to check out the tipi on your next visit.



Notice the shadows of the tipi poles on the left as the guys roll the canvas toward the lift pole. Everything went without a hitch! How often does that happen?!



Many thanks to the tipi crew, who successfully raised the tipi. Fingers crossed that we can successfully reverse the process in the fall.



That wasn't all. Clayton and Dave stayed after and spent the remainder of the day installing five stations on the Connections Trail. New on the trail is a Curved Balance Beam; Strata Beam; Crawl Tube; Explorer Scope & Drums. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work. What an amazing group!



The special role that fathers play is a daily reminder of my dad and his involvement in my life & in Raven Hill. Dad taught and led by his example. He risked his life as captain and commanding officer of Company "B" Ninth Medical Battalion during World War II. He cared about his patients and their families, charging little or nothing, when he knew they couldn't afford to pay their bill. He dreamed about Raven Hill right alongside us, standing on the future site of the Center, before the main museum building was even a reality. He listened to us describe our dream and he fully expected everything to come to



From a drone, the Med Gardens form a red brick cross on a white concrete "flag". Check out what herbs were used in the past to stay healthy.

Walking the different balance beams takes concentration. Scarlett Faivor and her sister, Hazel, successfully checked out their prowess on the new equipment! How will you fare?!

fruition, just as we described it. It was in honor of him that the Medicinal Gardens were created. There are 16 raised gardens, each containing an herbal remedy—old treatments for stomach flu, sore muscles, heart care, etc. Happy Fathers' Day, Dad.



"Solstice" means sun-stopping and can occur anywhere from June 20th to the 22nd. The Summer Solstice only comes once a year! Enjoy it while it's here!

Sunday is also a time to celebrate the longest day of the year and to share one of my favorite features in the Ancient World. The Obelisk acts like a sundial and "throws" a shadow to tell the time AND the date. If you haven't been to the Obelisk in the Ancient World, it's worth checking out. There are bricks that show the date and time, for each month of the year.

Back in 2006, after the obelisk was installed, Tim marked the tip of the shadow on the 21st of each month, every hour on the hour for all 12

months of the year. He made bricks with the date and time stamped in them. In 2012, the bricks were incorporated into cement strips forming the lines or arcs that represent the months of the year. From overhead, the lines arc to the north in the winter months and to the south in the summer months. The straight line in the middle represents the two equinoxes in March and September! The arc for April and August is the same, as the shadows gets either shorter or longer. The pattern repeats for January & November, February & October, March & September, May & July!

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

Raven Hill is open daily! Regular hours are noon to 4pm on Saturdays, 2pm to 4pm on Sundays, 10am to 4pm weekdays and other times by appointment. Email info@miravenhill.org or call 231.536.3369 for questions. COVID policies remain in place for the time being. For the sake of the children, we ask everyone to wear masks inside, socially distance & wash their hands.

Take care!

Cheri



One thing is for sure—you need the sun to tell the time with an obelisk or a sundial. The Egyptians used a water clock at night or when it was cloudy. How do you suppose that worked?



When the sun is shining, you can triangulate the date and time to within about 15 minutes on the arcs, as seen above! Look carefully and you can also see the ten-foot Obelisk in this drone picture.

Come see it in person soon!