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*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 11, 2022  
Re: Looking forward to summer!

Raven Hill was the final field trip destination for several area schools this week. Harbor Springs fourth grade, Manton fifth grade, Petoskey Sheridan first grade and Wolverine fourth grade classes all visited. Teacher, Laura Mastenbrook shared this, “Wolverine fourth grade students, chaperones, and teacher had an absolute blast at Raven Hill Discovery Center! Thank you for providing this wonderful hands-on learning opportunity that will stay with students for years. Many are excited to return with their families. We appreciate your dedication to Mother Earth and to inspiring all!” One highlight of the fourth graders’ visit was a snapping turtle hanging out in the Watershed Model and looking a lot like a rock! The turtle was perfectly camouflaged, except for its head!



*This snapper was EYES ONLY and NOT a hands-on experience at Raven Hill on Thursday! Once Wolverine school students departed for home, staff relocated the turtle to Raven Hill Pond!*



*Wolverine 4<sup>th</sup> graders took a trip through the Wetlands AND back in time, as they traveled the boardwalk to Raven Hill’s Ancient World.*

Two new gardens have been added to the existing gardens at Raven Hill thanks to a donation of plants by Billie’s Floral & Boutique in East Jordan. At the Alternative Energy House, a small vegetable garden reinforces the concept of “off-grid” living & sustainability. The second garden is located in the Ancient World. It commemorates the “Three Sisters”. Corn, beans & squash were the first crops to be domesticated in North America between 8,000 and 10,000 years ago. The Three Sisters are located near the Olmec mound, raised crop beds and the shuduf in the Americas cultural area of the Ancient World.

Staff has been busy working on Raven Hill’s exhibits and facilities in preparation for the Center’s 30<sup>th</sup> summer season. They are



*Haley Tasiemski works at weeding and planting in the Medicinal Gardens at Raven Hill. Billie’s Floral in East Jordan donated plants for the Med Gardens, the Discovery Camp gardens and for two new gardens.*



*The new title signs provide three directives and three connections—to science, history & art—stimulating visitors’ neurons at each of the thirty-plus learning stations.*



*Two kaleidoscopes allow visitors to enjoy a unique and geometric view of flowers.*



*Look through one of the kaleidoscopes. The plant colors become a great design element.*

putting finishing touches on the **Connections Trail** in preparation for a **Ribbon-cutting Ceremony** on Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. New title signs have been installed, which will encourage hands-on participation at each learning station and help make science, history and art connections for visitors, as well as identify the donors who made the **Connections Trail** possible. The upper **Trail** begins behind the Schoolhouse with the kaleidoscope, which is now complete with its title sign and a dish garden filled with colorful blossoms. As visitors look through the kaleidoscope and slowly turn the little garden, they generate wonderful patterns.

Following Thursday’s ribbon cutting, the celebration will continue over the weekend. **FREE Second Saturday** is scheduled for July 9<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4pm in memory of Diane Strzelinski. Finally, an **Open House** is planned for Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4pm to celebrate the informal learning opportunities found at the Center. These three events are open to the community. Join Raven Hill in celebrating the past 30 years and imagining the 30 years yet to come.

There are spaces available in both the **Luke Buck Watercolor Workshop** on June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, as well as in most of the **Raven Hill Discovery Camps**. If you or someone you know are interested in more information on workshops or day camps, you can check out our website—[www.miravenhill.org](http://www.miravenhill.org). Alternatively, call Cheri at 231.536.3369 or email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org).

Summer hours are now in effect. Raven Hill is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm between Memorial Day and Labor Day. In addition, Raven Hill is open all year round from noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays. Call 231.536.3369 or email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org) to make appointments for other times, including major holidays.

Have a wonderful week,

*Cheri*



*Remembering Diane Strzelinski—friend, supporter and ever the teacher. Raven Hill Discovery Center is forever grateful for over 25 years of her volunteerism and support. We will miss her.*



Raven Hill Discovery Center is supported in part by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council (MACC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through a 2022 Operational Grant Award.