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

Open year-round on weekends – noon to 4pm Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm Sundays.
Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, hours expand to include weekdays from
10am to 4pm. The Center is also open other times, including holidays, by appointment.

MISSION: to provide a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong
learning for all ages by connecting science, history and the arts.

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

To: Friends of Raven Hill
From: Cheri
Date: November 4, 2023
Re: *Depth and Breadth*

“One of the things that I've always loved about children is their vivid, unrestrained, and far-reaching imaginations - the depth and breadth of their creativity.” - *Author: Kevin Clash*, American puppeteer, director and producer. That same kind of vivid, unrestrained and far-reaching depth and breadth is evident here at Raven Hill Discovery Center. There is depth found in classes where participants “drill down” to explore the processes behind the art, history or science. For example, during the “*Art Across the Ages: Painting*” class, art teachers didn’t just paint. They made their own brushes and paints, then tried out old painting styles. These experiences gave those teachers a singular experience that added new insights to their painting experience and by extension to their teaching.

Conversely, the breadth of the Earth’s geologic history from the time our solar system formed to the appearance of modern humans can be experienced along the “*Exploring Beyond Jurassic Park*” walkway. That same kind of breadth can be found in the “*Timeline of Human History*” path from the Ancient World exhibit to the Alternative Energy House. The *Jurassic Park* and *Human History* pathways purposely intersect at the top or modern end of the Jurassic Park walk, forming a giant capital “T” for TIME, which illustrates the breadth of both trails!

This week, a different kind of depth and breadth was evident at the Center. From the depths of the waters at the Pond to the breadth of the skies at the top of the hill by the Schoolhouse, Raven Hill was honored with two new exhibits. Dylan’s Dock on Raven Hill Pond officially opened with a ribbon cutting, plus volunteers helped with the installation of an observatory and telescope donated by astronomer Patrick Stonehouse.



Mary Faculak from the East Jordan Chamber checks out Dylan’s Dock and the informational signage, after the “official” chamber ribbon cutting.

Dylan Clapp of Charlevoix spent the past year working on his Eagle Project. He designed, fundraised, built and installed an accessible dock system at Raven Hill, which allows all visitors to get out over the water to see the shallower and deeper parts of the pond ecosystem. Dylan and his crew of volunteers spent hours on this impressive endeavor. “Dylan’s Dock is an amazing project! What a well-planned and well thought out learning center for ALL to be able to access and learn from. From the engineering, construction and lay-out to the very informative identification plates on the dock, it is a memorable educational experience. I encourage everyone to visit Raven Hill Discovery Center and don’t miss Dylan’s Dock,” says Mary Faculak, East Jordan Chamber Director.

At the other end of the spectrum, astronomer Patrick Stonehouse has been volunteering at Raven Hill for years, spending many evenings at the Center, sharing his interest in the night skies with those wanting to learn more about our vast universe. Back in 1998, Patrick became a worldwide and local celebrity, when he discovered comet C/1998/H1 (Stonehouse). We have been honored to have Patrick share his knowledge and stories with us over the years and we look forward to even more night sky watching here at the new observatory.



Astronomer Patrick Stonehouse adjusts the telescope in the observatory he recently donated to Raven Hill.

We encourage you to explore the depth and breadth of Raven Hill. Come walk Dylan's Dock at the Pond or let us know if you are interested in learning how to use the telescope to "read" the night skies. We are looking for those people who want to enjoy the breadth of our natural environment, as well as those who want to "drill down" and learn in depth the proper operation and workings of the telescope. Please email info@miravenhill.org or call Cheri at 231.536.3369 to let us know of your interest. Raven Hill continues to expand its exhibitions, encouraging visitors to add to the depth and breadth of their own understanding of science, history and the arts.

On another note, we are very excited! The Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) recently acted on grant requests for fiscal year 2024. Raven Hill Discovery Center received \$11,250 in operational support from MACC and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This is the 24th year that the Center has received their support. As always, a grant from MACC & NEA requires a 1:1 match, so Raven Hill must raise \$11,250 in donations to match the grant. To facilitate lifelong learning that connects science, history and the arts, help us meet our match. Thanks, MACC and NEA and to all of you who support Raven Hill Discovery Center.

Cheri



Never has a project gone so smoothly. The observatory slid off the trailer to its new location. Not only was the landing site perfectly level, there was not one single rock hit as rods were pounded into the ground to secure the dome.



Clear skies are the final ingredient needed for the observatory to be activated and ready for a new generation of sky watchers!



2024 sponsors of Raven Hill