



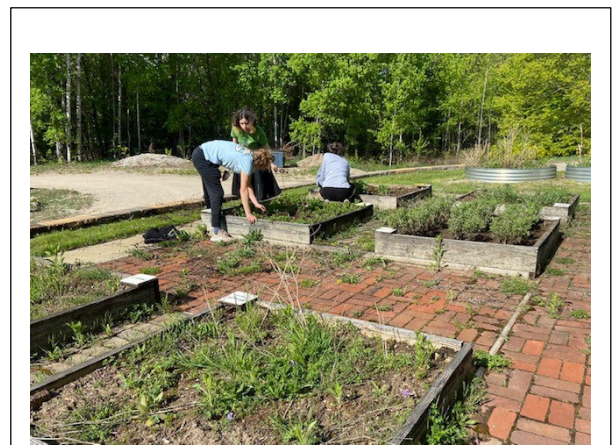
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*Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.*

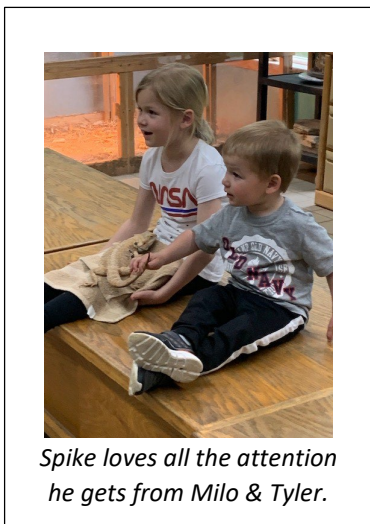
**Mission:** Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: Friends and Family everywhere  
From: Cheri and Raven Hill  
Date: May 21, 2022  
Re: Many hands!

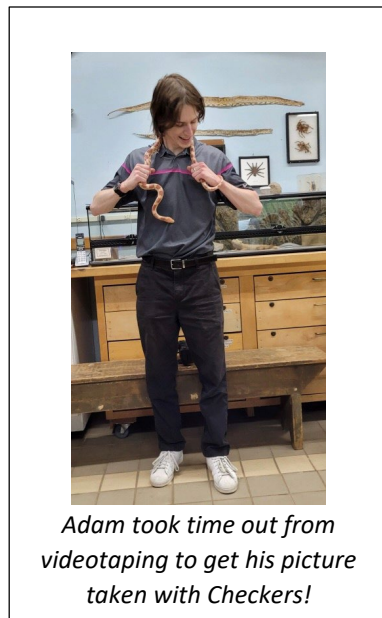
The phrase, “Many hands make light work”, dates back to the 1300s and still holds true today, as evidenced by the work accomplished at Raven Hill this past Thursday. Alanson’s Agri-Science class spent a combined 45 hours of weeding and pruning. For five hours, two instructors and seven Alanson high school students worked side by side to get Raven Hill spruced up for spring and summer visitors! The crew weeded all 16 Medicinal Gardens and prepared the three Discovery Camp gardens for planting. They took their time walking up the Jurassic Park Walkway, pruning trees and removing dead branches along the way. After a break for lunch, the group was back at work pruning trees and clearing out invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn along the half-mile Taxonomic (Taxi) Trail. Thanks, everyone for all your hard work!



*Clockwise from the lower left shows the “before, during and after” as Alanson Agri-Science students worked miracles on the medicinal gardens.*



*Spike loves all the attention he gets from Milo & Tyler.*



*Adam took time out from videotaping to get his picture taken with Checkers!*

For the second week in a row, we had a videographer here filming at Raven Hill. Last week it was TV 9&10. This week, it was Lansing-based CR Marketing. Back in mid-April, Blain Cronn from Boyne Country Propane contacted the Michigan Propane Gas Association (MPGA) and suggested that Raven Hill Discovery Center might be a good site for an environmental video, featuring the Center’s educational exhibits and highlighting its use of propane heating, a “green” fuel. Yesterday, Adam from CR Marketing spent two hours filming for MPGA’s series of videos. Despite all the rain, weather alerts and tornadoes around us, it was warm and dry here at the Center, as Adam

attempted to capture the essence of our mission and our thoughts about propane. After a few interview questions, the fun began, as Raven Hill visitors showed Adam all their favorite hands-on exhibits. In the Animal Room, Adam watched the turtles eat, met Spike & held Checkers, the corn snake! The kaleidoscopes, generator bikes, magnet table, and all the musical instruments were highlights in the main museum.

The main focus of yesterday's video was propane, which is considered a relatively clean fuel. Propane is produced from crude oil refining and natural gas processing. It leaves a small carbon footprint, compared to other kinds of fossil fuels. We showed Adam our fossil display with examples of animals found here in Michigan 450 million years ago, when this land was covered by a shallow sea. It is those fossils that are ultimately responsible for the coal and natural gas found here. The hard skeletons of these ancient animals formed the fossils we know and love today. The soft body parts of those same animals, along with plants, rotted or decomposed, forming crude oil, which is trapped inside rock formations, similar to the air trapped in bubble wrap!



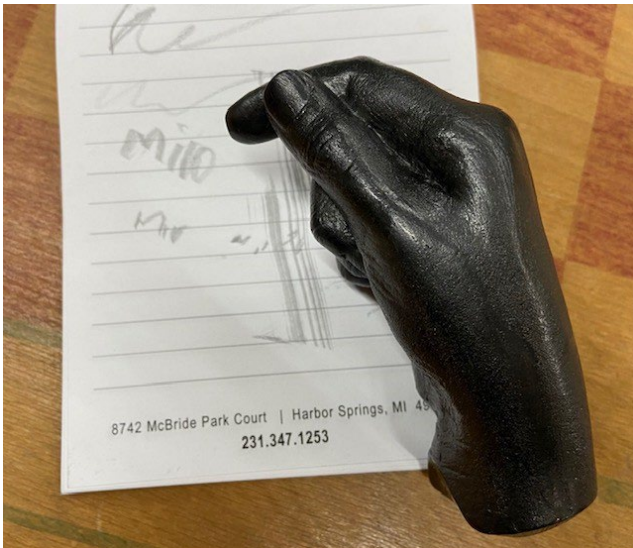
*Next time you find a Petoskey "stone", remember that there is oil trapped in that rock. Fossil fuels are a part of the process of fossil formation.*



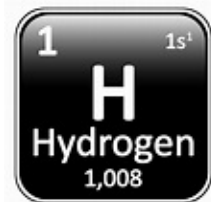
*If you are a hunter of fossils, such as fish, snail, coral and clam remains, you may enjoy discovering nature's art in the process.*

Propane is a hydrocarbon and its chemical formula is  $C^3H^8$ , so it was natural for us to share the Center's Periodic Table of the Elements with Adam. He explored the element "carbon" in some detail. While we don't have any

diamonds to show visitors as a product containing carbon, we do have graphite, a crystalline form of the element carbon, which converts to diamond under high heat and pressure. Graphite is used in casting molds, pencil "lead" and lubricants. We even have a graphite hand molded of wax with graphite embedded. In fact, you can hold the wax/graphite sculpture and write with the hand, just as if it was a pencil! You can also write with the edge of the graphite mold!



*Is it handwriting or hand writing? It's both! Next time you visit Raven Hill, ask to use this graphite hand to show off your handwriting skills!*



Summer hours will be in effect between Memorial Day and Labor Day, when the Center is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm daily, plus regular weekend hours. Raven Hill is open year round to the public from noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays, plus other times by appointment. You can call 231.536.3369 or email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org) for reservations.

Have a good weekend,

Cheri



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.