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We are currently open noon to 4pm Saturdays & 2pm to 4pm Sundays | Open holidays & other times by appointment

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: Raven Hill Friends

From: Cheri

Date: March 4, 2023

Re: Marble runs

Marbles date back to ancient times. The earliest marbles were made of stone and were used in ancient Egypt and Rome for games. Marbles made from clay were popular in ancient Greece and the game of marbles became widespread throughout Europe during the Middle Ages. Since the 1800s, marbles have mostly been made from glass.

Marble runs, which are structures built to allow marbles to roll down a series of tracks, also have a long history. The earliest known marble run was created in the 17th century by none other than Sir Isaac Newton. He built a wooden track with grooves for marbles to roll down.



*Hanging out between two marble runs makes it easy to take turns or keep both going!*



*There's a little friendly competition going on between these two. They were celebrating their wedding anniversary at Raven Hill and became totally engrossed in trying to slow the golf ball down on the ramp systems they were designing!*

At Raven Hill, the marble runs are always popular attractions, especially with our younger visitors. They love the sound and sight of the moving marbles. Just as popular is the Rollaway, which adults find quite a challenge! The Rollaway uses a golf ball in place of a marble and the object is to create a ramp to slow the ball down!

Rolling marble sculptures are also popular. Next time you visit Raven Hill, ask for a demonstration of the metal marble run. Because it is actually a work of art, it is only "hands-on" under supervision! The center also has a clock that keeps time with rolling metal marbles and we are glad to demonstrate that for visitors too! All you need to do is ask!

If you are interested in creating your own marble run, we would love to display your artistic, scientific or just plain "fun" run here during Raven Hill's Smithsonian exhibit, **Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America** from August 26 to October 7 of 2023. Contact Cheri at 231.536.3369 or email [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org) for more details!

Plan to pay a visit to Raven Hill soon. Have fun, get involved and try all the different marble runs for yourself!

Cheri



*Always a pushover for making connections, Cheri purchased this metal marble run at Koucky Gallery years ago—an innovative way to link science and art!*