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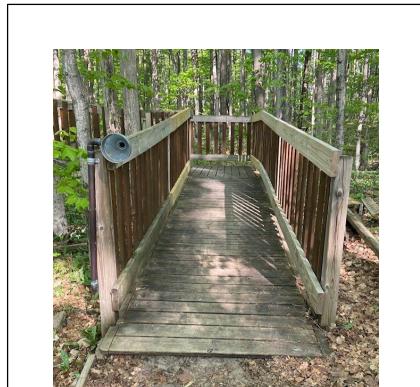
Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: Friends and Family everywhere
From: Cheri and Raven Hill
Date: May 14, 2022
Re: Spring continues!

It was another busy week at Raven Hill Discovery Center. The azaleas are in bloom, as are the dandelions! While we usually ask our visitors not to pick the flowers, they can pick all the dandelions they want! It keeps them from going to seed, so picking dandelions is a “win-win” situation!



There is just enough shelter from the winter cold and winds to keep the azalea healthy & happy. This bush is 30 years old, just like Raven Hill.



This is the first real damage to the Treehouse in 14 years and, hopefully, it will be the last. Come prepared to spend time enjoying the Treehouse and surrounding woods during your next visit.

Ramp repairs make the Treehouse look as good as new! Thanks go to Dave & Dylan Clapp for their perseverance! The two finished up repairs late last Sunday evening in preparation for spring field trip groups. The Treehouse was built in 2008 with grant funds from MCACA (Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs). MCACA was recently renamed MACC (Michigan Arts & Culture Council). The Treehouse is built in the shape of a maple leaf and the barrier-free ramp represents the stem of the leaf. Families tend to spend quality time together in the woods, playing in the Treehouse and walking log balance beams.

Tuesday of this past week, Raven Hill hosted its 27th Non-traditional Science/Mathematics Career Expo for middle school

students. Sponsored by Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District (Char-Em ISD) since 1993, the hands-on career sessions give students a “real” feel for a variety of careers. This year careers included water quality, forensics, engineering, emergency medical services, alternative energy and fisheries. The expo attendance numbers were down this year, after being cancelled the last two years due to the pandemic, but those attending from Charlevoix and Emmet counties got hands-on experiences and left with a good sense of possible future careers. We look forward to larger numbers next spring!



Great Lakes Fisheries staff look on as middle school students don waders and get ready to participate in a population study at Raven Hill's pond.



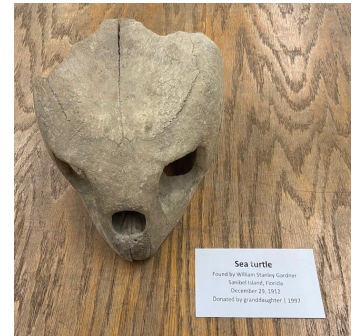
Everyone likes visiting T-rex and friends! if you look northwest up the hill from the main Raven Hill building, you can see T-rex towering above his friends.

Concord Academy Petoskey 4th graders; Harbor Light Christian Kindergarteners and the Petoskey Genesis playgroup all enjoyed exploring Raven Hill this week! Children of all ages, as well as their teachers and chaperones, always love the Center and all that it encompasses, both indoors and out. The Hands-on Room adapts easily to a variety of ages and the guided session in the Animal Room is tailored to fit the developmental needs of the visitors. Outdoors, the Music Garden, Jurassic Park walk, Schoolhouse, Treehouse, Connections Trail and Ancient World are fun for everyone. Jillian Freds of Genesis playgroup emailed this, “We all had a wonderful time and the kids will not stop asking to go back.”

Last week, an email “call” went out to Raven Hill members, donors and friends for “extras” needed in a commercial shoot by a local television station. Danny, videographer for TV 9&10 News, spent two hours Friday videotaping Raven Hill “visitors” for the commercial. Filming was done indoors in the Hands-on Room, the Animal Room and the Smithsonian Labor Days exhibit, as well as

outside at several favorite outdoor exhibits. The early morning turnout gave the Center a well-used look and the kids did a great job of “playing their part”. The 30-second commercial will air 48 times over the summer to entice tourists and locals to come check out Raven Hill. Next video call is Friday, May 20th at 3pm, Raven Hill will again have a videographer on site to film for CR Marketing. If you are interested in playing the role of “visitor”, email Cheri (cheri@miravenhill.org) and let her know you are planning to come!

Elizabeth (Betty) Brooks Hoffmann (1931 to 2022) supported Raven Hill in many ways. Her memorial was this week. A lifelong teacher, fondly referred to as “Our Miss Brooks” early in her career, Betty taught in both East Jordan and Charlevoix. Over the years, Betty supported Raven Hill financially, as well as donating many artifacts. Whenever you ring the bell at the Schoolhouse or wonder at the size of the sea turtle skull or check out the 1915 sewing machine featured in the Evolving Technology Building, think of Betty. Her donations continue to teach our visitors.



In 1997, Betty Hoffmann donated this sea turtle skull. Her grandfather found it on Sanibel Island, Florida in 1912. What a wonderful discovery!



Diane in action!

Today is Saturday, May 14th and our first **FREE (Families Reaching for Educational Excellence) Second Saturday**, since the COVID lockdown on March 13, 2020. The 2022 **FREE Second Saturdays** honor longtime

volunteer, Diane Strzelinski. For years, Diane was as often a participant in classes and workshops, as she was a volunteer helping others with their artistic endeavors. Over the years here at Raven Hill, Diane enjoyed felting, batik, ceramic and copper fish workshops as a “student”. Whenever she was asked, Diane was also there as a docent

to help with field trip groups, teach felting classes and demonstrate spinning to visitors. Thanks, Diane for your support over the years.

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 for reservations. Summer hours are in effect between Memorial Day and Labor Day, when the Center is open weekdays from 10am to 4pm daily, plus regular weekend hours. Have a good weekend,

Cheri