

Raven Hill

DISCOVERY CENTER

WHERE SCIENCE HISTORY AND ART CONNECT

04737 Fuller Rd | East Jordan, MI 49727 | 231-536-3369 | info@miravenhill.org | www.MiRavenHill.org

We are open 10-4pm weekdays, 12-4pm Saturdays & 2-4pm 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 and supporters

From: Cheri

Date: June 17, 2023

Re: Dragonflies, frogs, flowers and treehouses

Artist Kelly Boyle returned to Raven Hill this weekend to focus on individual “garden art” instead of community mural paintings. The Saturday workshop encouraged participants to paint for permanent display outdoors—in their garden, on their garage or wherever! Participants could choose one of her designs to personalize or branch out with their own creation. Boyle demonstrated the steps, shared her techniques and everyone went home at the end of the day with their own piece of garden art.

This informal workshop included beginner, intermediate, and accomplished artists with everyone motivated and inspired by friends and fellow artists.



Even applying the first coat or “underpainting” was fun!



Gayle Levensgood used Raven Hill’s Treehouse, which is built in the shape of a maple leaf, as the inspiration for her garden art painting. Thanks to her generosity, the sign will remain at the Center and help visitors find their way along the trail and into the woods to the accessible Treehouse.

Boyle is a Lansing-area print-maker, art teacher and muralist who sees a blank wall as an ideal canvas for expression and community involvement. Her first community mural, “Meridian in Motion,” was painted during Meridian Township’s annual summer festival in 2016 and involved over 250 community members. “Anyone who wanted to paint was welcome,” says Boyle. “We had toddlers, teens, seniors – even a dog!” The mural was designed so that each person could creatively paint his or her own small section.



Art instructor, Kelly Boyle, demonstrates the application of the clear coating that is the final step for the Garden Art paintings.

In 2018, 2019 and 2022, Boyle designed and directed different community art projects right here at Raven Hill Discovery Center. “There’s a special energy, when people are painting together – a peaceful, purposeful excitement,” she says. “And I love seeing the community’s pride in the mural they created.” In 2021, Boyle was commissioned to paint two dinosaur panels for the Connections Trail at Raven Hill. This year’s artist workshop focused on individual panels. Whether it is a community mural project or individual artist workshop, there is always that same special energy of people painting together – “a peaceful, purposeful excitement”.



From dragonflies to flowers to frogs, the diversity of the garden art produced during Saturday’s workshop was amazing!

Raven Hill is currently open to visitors seven days a week—10am to 4pm on weekdays, noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays. Call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org to make appointments to visit other times, including major holidays.

Classes are available for both children and adults. Summer classes for kids are Monday through Thursday. Kids can come for a four-class session or for just one day. Morning and afternoon classes are offered, so children can bring a lunch and attend two classes each day. Pre-registration is appreciated. Adults have the flexibility of scheduling individual or group art and other classes at their convenience. There is no minimum number of participants for adult classes.

Be sure to mark your calendars for August 26 and the opening of the Smithsonian Museum on Main Street traveling exhibit, **Spark! Places of Innovation in Rural America**. The exhibit will be open during Raven Hill’s regular hours for six weeks—August 26 to October 7.

Have a great week and we hope to see you soon,

Cheri



2023 Sponsors



Raven Hill Discovery Center | August 26 to October 7, 2023