



04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727
(231) 536-3369 | www.miravenhill.org
info@miravenhill.org

Raven Hill Discovery Center 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: August 22, 2020
Re: Update

Greetings everyone!

Hope this finds you well and enjoying the home life as much as possible. Even though Raven Hill is closed to the public, exciting things are happening. Here's the latest from this week!

According to their website, the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA) is based in Traverse City, Michigan. It is dedicated to maintaining the natural beauty and ecosystems of northern Michigan, while simultaneously nurturing the economic vitality of the region. The organization serves a 13-county area and cares for over 4 million acres of land in Northwest Lower Michigan. Staff, wildlife biologists, fisheries biologists, engineers and field technicians work with land owners to plan, locate funding options, cut through red tape, and implement programs to enhance the habitat value and beauty of this region. **Here's the exciting part:** the CRA is currently working on a design project for three timber bridges, two on the Jordan River and one on Deer Creek at Fuller Road. The Jordan River is an undeniable treasure to its surrounding community. Raven Hill



View of the Fuller Road culvert from Viewing Platform

students, staff, and visitors regularly cross Deer Creek to access the facility and use a deck downstream to conduct water sampling and experience other recreational and educational opportunities. Raven Hill provides an environment that gives everyone the opportunity to explore, learn, grow, and play, as they come to appreciate the earth and water that surround us. Right now, a poorly designed culvert is threatening the creek's health and natural flow. Raven Hill and other partners have been anxious to replace troublesome culverts at the Deer Creek site and two additional crossings at Jordan River Road, East and West. Raven Hill is excited to be involved in the restoration, revitalization, and preservation of Deer Creek and the Jordan River Watershed that magically connects us to the rest of the world and helps us make better sense of the world as it was, is and might be. A \$40,000 funding gap remains to cover the design of 3 channel-spanning timber bridges for these crossings. To help with this project and show your love for the Jordan River and Deer Creek, you can make a donation today at www.rivercare.org/support.



Wading Deer Creek

More exciting news: Emily Elliott is the Special Sections Editor for the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM). In each issue of *Michigan History* magazine, they run a section called "Facts and Finds," which features a specific artifact from an HSM member museum. Raven Hill has been invited to share an artifact with magazine readers in a future issue of *Michigan History*! The Center may submit an interesting or obscure artifact that has some kind of Michigan connection, including a little history of the artifact itself, the display it is in and some photos! It has been fun to think about what to submit! Open to your ideas!



Old tools to be mounted for permanent display in Wood Shop

The **Labor Days History of Work** exhibit in collaboration with the Smithsonian is progressing nicely. Old woodworking tools are finding their way to the Wood Shop to be mounted on the walls for permanent display. The Wood Shop will also feature 25 historical logging photos and logging tools on loan from Joel VanRoekel of East Jordan. Anyone interested in helping to sort, clean and mount the tools can call Cheri at 231.675.6025 or email info@miravenhill.org Likewise, contact

Cheri, if you have photos or artifacts pertaining to the history of work that you would like to share or if you just want more information about the exhibit. **Labor Days** will focus on where we worked; who worked; how we worked and why we worked! It is scheduled to open Saturday, August 14, 2021.

Raven Hill is closely following local schools and their plans for reopening during the pandemic, with an eye on helping out, as is feasible. The Center has funding from both the Charlevoix County and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundations for a **STEM Plus** program that focuses on **STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics)** activities, **Plus** their relationship to communications and language arts. Will the "new" **STEM Plus** be working online with teachers, who will then teach their students? Will it be a Zoom session with students and then teachers facilitating a hands-on investigation in the classroom? Or is there some iteration yet to be created? Only time will tell!

Thanks to Ed & Pat May for yet another snake food delivery; to Ed & Diane Strzelinski for installing a new mailbox and measuring display cases for glass replacement; and to Boyne Irrigation for a quick irrigation fix!

Stay safe and keep in touch. Call anytime 231.675.6025 or email cheri@miravenhill.org and let us know how you and your family are doing.

Take care,

Cheri



Checkers, the corn snake, says, "thanks for the mice"!



Mailbox for maps