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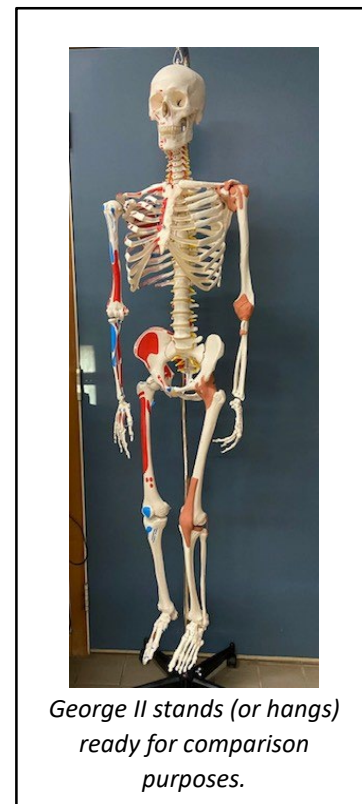
Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: Friends and Family everywhere
From: Cheri and Raven Hill
Date: October 23, 2021
Re: Weekly update

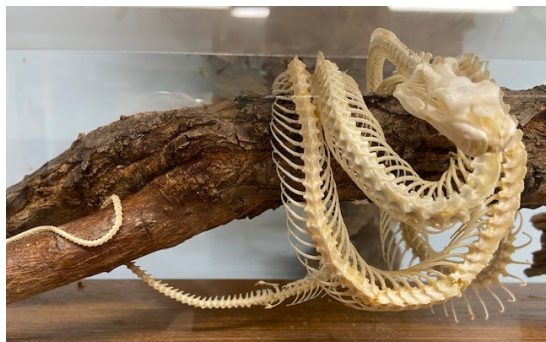
Greetings, Everyone!

Compliments of donor, Patricia Woollcott, a replacement skeleton arrived last weekend! "George II" is now fully articulated, thanks to Kay Moler and Ed Strzelinski. George has joined the ranks of other skulls & skeletons in the Animal Room, all of which are used as learning tools! "George I" lost an arm early in 1992, when a little five-year-old tried to do a twirl, while dancing with him. It was downhill from there for him! "I hope lots of kids go beyond their Halloween fantasies looking at and feeling it! You can put your old pieces in a basket and ask them to figure out which ones they are :)," says Patricia.

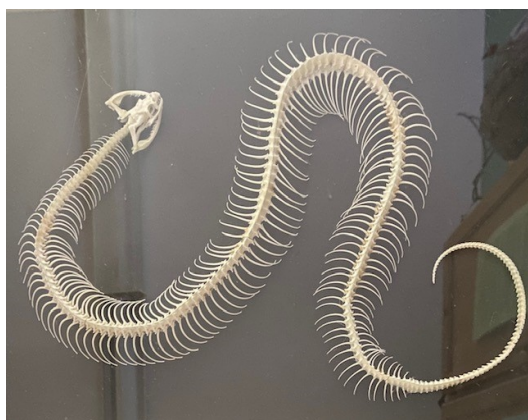
Skeletons are always popular Halloween symbols, making the Animal Room ever ready for this fall holiday. Though not the fun skeleton dogs, birds, cats and other animals often used as Halloween decorations, all kinds of fascinating skulls and skeletons can be found at Raven Hill, sparking new and intriguing connections for visitors.



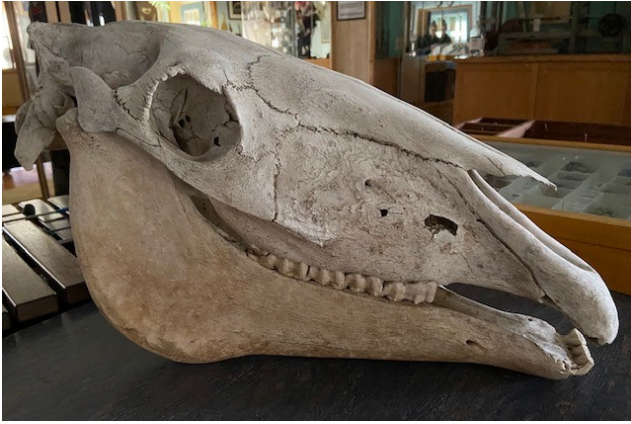
George II stands (or hangs) ready for comparison purposes.



(Above) Look closely at the python skeleton, where the ribs end and the tail begins. You can see the hipbone and hind legs, only found in boas & pythons. (Below) A modern snake lacks a hipbone and legs.



(Left) Turtles cannot come out of their shell and walk around. A turtle's shell is part of his skeleton. The top shell or carapace is formed from the backbone and ribs. The bottom shell or plastron (not shown) is the turtle's sternum. A bridge fuses the two shells together on each side.



Visitors are always intrigued by the size of this horse skull. It is 20 inches long & 13 inches tall. The first horse, Eohippus or "dawn horse", lived 58 million years ago and was about 16 inches tall.



Sharks have cartilage instead of true bone, making them lighter and more buoyant. We have cartilage in our ears and nose tip, as well as other places in our bodies for structural support. This shark jaw is made of cartilage with six rows of bony teeth.



Ponder Stibbons is a wizard and junior member of the Faculty of Unseen University.

I'm usually not a big fan of fantasy, but I do like this quote by Ponder Stibbons, an early "Harry Potter-like character" in the fictional universe of author Terry Pratchett's "Discworld" series. Ponder says this about skeletons, "Whoever had designed the skeletons of creatures had even less imagination than whoever had done the outsides. At least the outside-designer had tried a few novelties in the spots, wool and stripes department, but the bone-builder had generally just put a skull on a ribcage, shoved a pelvis in further along, stuck on some arms and legs and had the rest of the day off. Some ribcages were longer, some legs were shorter, some hands became wings, but they all seemed to be based on one design, **one size stretched or shrunk to fit all.**"

Don't forget that Raven Hill Discovery Center, including the Smithsonian **Labor Days: History of Work** exhibit, is open on weekends—noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays with no appointment needed. We are also open during holiday breaks and other times by appointment. If you want to enjoy all we have to offer during the week or if you would

like to bring a group to see the **Labor Days** exhibit, please call ahead to schedule a date and time for your visit. Remember, for the sake of the children who cannot yet be vaccinated, we continue to ask everyone to mask while inside Raven Hill. Take care,

Cheri

"The **skeleton** of success is self-discipline."

—Sunday Adelaja, pastor, journalist and author

To learn more about Raven Hill exhibits, facilities and programs, click to follow the link to our website: <http://www.miravenhill.org>.



Boyne City Rotary recently visited the Smithsonian **Labor Days** exhibit. Call 231.536.3369 to book a date for your group.

Raven Hill Discovery Center is supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts through a 2022 Operational Grant Award.