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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: Friends and Family everywhere
From: Cheri and Raven Hill
Date: April 23, 2022
Re: More changes over time!

So many iterations have happened, since Raven Hill opened in 1992. Take the Fiber Studio for example. First, there was just the Main Museum Building and an open Picnic Pavilion. In 1994-95, that Picnic Pavilion was enclosed and became the Classroom Building. The Classroom Building was also known as the Time Tunnel, because we were starting to collect artifacts for the current Evolving Technology (ET) Building. Once the ET Building opened in 2015, the Classroom Building became the Fiber Studio. In 2018, a new Picnic Pavilion was erected and last year, the Fiber Studio & Picnic Pavilion together served as Discovery Camp headquarters.

Here's the fun part though. If you look closely at the terrain in the foreground of the photos, you can see that the topography changes. Until 2004, all the land behind the Main Building rose to the same elevation as is shown on the Time Tunnel photo. In other words, the driveway was at the very same height as the Fiber Studio, formerly the Classroom/Time Tunnel, is now. In 2004, the parking lot was moved to the back of the Main Building. The rise was excavated and the soil was pushed to the back corner of the parking lot to make an area large enough for school buses to maneuver around. The resulting slope that formed along the parking lot was originally planted with day lilies. Those lilies now line the sidewalk along the south side of the parking lot. In 2010, the slope became Smallville and displayed the Art & Architecture exhibit of miniature houses along a red brick pathway. The base of the slope was lined with large rocks. In 2019, in an effort to reduce maintenance, eliminate weeds and create a better "first impression" upon entering Raven Hill, the slope was cleared of plants, rocks & bricks and 238 feet of concrete steps were poured. Known as the Steppes, they offer a great place for visitors to sit a while. The Steppes also function as bleachers to gather school children for introductions and a group photo! A cement sidewalk at the top of the Steppes allows easy access to the bathroom in the Fiber Studio.



*Picnic Pavilion
1992*



*Classroom Building
1994*



*Time Tunnel
1995*



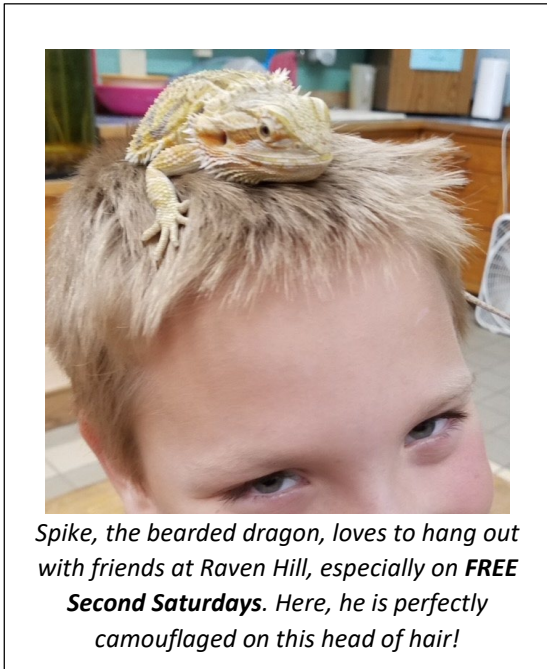
*Fiber Studio
2014*



*Discovery Camp
2021*

We have exciting news! Two new outdoor exhibits are in the works! First, as part of their Environmental and Land Use grant cycle, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation (CCCF) has awarded Raven Hill funding for a **Solar SMART** (Science **M**ath **A**nd **R**elated **T**echnologies) exhibit. One part of the **Solar SMART** display will encourage visitors to compare the solar energy output on solar panels facing the four cardinal directions—north, south, east and west. A second layout will show the efficiency of solar panels at four different angles—90, 60, 45 and 30 degrees. We are waiting to hear back from Great Lakes Energy People Fund about funding to complete the **Solar SMART** exhibit. Watch for pictures once the exhibit is in place. Thank you, Charlevoix County Community Foundation!

Second, the Center just received word from the Alden & Vada Dow Foundation that full funding was awarded for the **Evolving Technology Addition (ETA)** exhibit. In addition, the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation has awarded partial funding for the **ETA** display. This exhibit will complete the ET Building with outdoor panels showing typical clothing, shelter, energy, transportation and road construction from each of the sixteen time periods that are found inside the building where daily life and communications are exhibited. Raven Hill is actively searching for additional funding to be able to add small play structures—boats, wagons, cars, etc.—to entertain the little ones, while others enjoy the technology displayed on the panels. The Center extends their sincere thanks to both foundations for their continuing support of Raven Hill. Again, we'll share pictures as soon as we have them!



*Spike, the bearded dragon, loves to hang out with friends at Raven Hill, especially on **FREE Second Saturdays**. Here, he is perfectly camouflaged on this head of hair!*

FREE (Families Reaching for Educational Excellence) Second Saturdays are back for the warmer months of 2022. From May through October, Raven Hill will offer free admission for families each second Saturday from noon to 4pm. **NO** groups, please, as we need all parents to be watching their own children. We are also limiting the indoor time, as we want our visitors to socially-distance and stay safe in these times of continuing pandemic concerns. Families will be given a group number and a time to visit indoors. With all of the outdoor exhibits, like the Music Garden, Jurassic Park Walk, Schoolhouse, Treehouse, Ancient World and the new Connections Trail, families will have plenty of things to explore outside! The 2022 **FREE Second Saturdays** are in honor of Diane Strzelinski, Raven Hill volunteer and supporter for more than 25 years.

The following are some other dates to put on your calendars!

1. The Smithsonian **Labor Days: History of Work** exhibit is on display during regular hours or by appointment through all of 2022.
2. Remember also to save Sunday, July 10th from noon to 4pm and help us celebrate 30 years of connecting science, history and art at Raven Hill.
3. While we are at it, for all of you who like to ride bikes, August 7th is

the Center's fourth annual **Pedal Pig & Pint Bike Tour** event. Go to www.bikereg.org to register for the event.

4. Finally, be sure to put Thursday, August 11th at 7pm on your calendar and come enjoy an outdoor concert by the Great Lake Chamber Orchestra right here at Raven Hill.

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. Be sure to schedule classes, summer day camps, field trips, birthday parties and scout groups soon.

Hope to see you here soon!

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