

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2015

RAVEN HILL DISCOVERY CENTER



Where science, history and art connect

4737 Fuller Road ~ East Jordan, MI 49727

231.536.3369 ~ info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org ~ www.ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org



RAVEN ON THE RUN
AUGUST 6, 2016 9:00 AM

RAVEN HILL DISCOVERY CENTER'S FIRST

FAMILY FUN RUN

COME JOIN US & SUPPORT RAVEN HILL!

Put August 6, 2016 at 9 am on your calendar and start getting in shape for Raven Hill Discovery Center's first family fun run. "Raven on the run" will be a new fundraiser for the Center. We are planning a fun race with friends and family. You do not have to be timed, so there is no pressure to hurry and get done, but you can begin collecting pledges to support your participation in the race. Registration can be as individuals or as a family, although all kids must be registered in order to participate. More information will be forthcoming.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH RAVEN HILL

Raven Hill Discovery Center will be a busy place in December. Plan to treat yourself and your family to fun and exploration at Raven Hill Discovery Center at least once during this coming holiday season. Book the Great Room for a party or schedule a class and make some special gifts to give or keep. You can delight your loved ones with a special gift this year. Handmade copper pendants, Shibori scarves & garden flags, handmade paper or marbled paper stationary, fused glass ornaments, jewelry and refrigerator magnets are only a few of the art classes offered at Raven Hill Discovery Center. **Discovery Days** are scheduled from noon to 4 p.m.

daily from Saturday, December 19th through Sunday, January 3rd, with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Visitors can spend hours playing in the museum, hold or pet the animals and bring their winter gear to explore outdoor exhibits, if they choose. A **New Year's Eve Overnight** from 6 p.m. on December 31, 2015 to 9 a.m. on January 1, 2016 will entertain the kids and keep them safe, while you celebrate with them or on your own. Registration is limited and cost is \$100 per child. To book a class or register for the New Year's Eve Overnight, call the Center at 231-536-3369 or email info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org

Mission

Building life-long connections for children and adults that link science, history and the arts in a hands-on learning environment.

RHDC NEWS BRIEFS

FREE Second Saturday

December events include the last **FREE Second Saturday** for 2015. The date is December 12th from noon to 4 pm. This is the 6th year for the popular FREE Second Saturday program. Not only does FREE mean no cost to families, but it also stands for "Families Reaching for Educational Excellence". Families are encouraged to come and have fun, explore and learn new things. The generosity of one local northern Michigan community member has ensured that FREE Second Saturdays will continue at least through the first half of 2016. Raven Hill Discovery Center is now seeking funding for the remainder of 2016. Anyone interested in sponsoring a FREE Second Saturday in 2016 can call the Center at 231.536.3369. One Raven Hill volunteer describes FREE Second Saturday this way, "It's just plain fun to see families exploring and playing together AND learning".

Celebrate 25 Years with The Center

Raven Hill Discovery Center is the thread that binds. For 25 years, a quarter of a century, connections between science, history & art have emerged through exhibits, facilities & programs that provide opportunities for all ages to learn, create, grow & play. Be a part of the Center's silver anniversary. Send us your memories and photos to use in creating a video for our Summer Magic Festival on July 16, 2016 and we will add a length of silver ribbon, cording, yarn, fabric, chain, etc. to our braid symbolizing your link with Raven Hill.

IMPORTANT NEWS FLASHES FROM RHDC

SMART Start

SMART (Science Math And Related Technology) Start is a grant award from the Charlevoix County and the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundations and provides two hands-on science workshops for early childhood teachers, as well as outreach programs into preschool classrooms. Teachers explore hands-on light and sound, force and motion, magnets, chemistry, earth and life science for preschool children. Charlevoix and Emmet County early childhood teachers, providers and paraprofessionals are using easily accessible and inexpensive materials and taking home a variety of simple activities and materials to use with their preschoolers as a part of these active "make & take" SMART Start sessions. In preschool classrooms, youngsters are exploring simple machines—wheel & axles & ramps—and using the force of gravity, while they have fun with their own Big Wheels.

MCACA Award

The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) recently took action on grant requests for fiscal year 2016. Raven Hill Discovery Center received \$18,750 in operational support from MCACA and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The award provides funding for administrative costs, space rental, travel, marketing, publicity and promotion, artistic and/or other expenses. This is the sixteenth year that the Center has received support from MCACA and the NEA. As always, a grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs requires a 1:1 match, so Raven Hill Discovery Center must raise \$18,750 in either cash or in-kind donations to match the grant and receive full funding. Please consider a donation to help with the MCACA match for 2016.

Potato Gun Class for Teachers & Interested Adults

Put Saturdays, March 12 and 19, 2016 from 9 am to 1 pm on your calendar and join us for a fun and educational "make & take". Participants will be building a potato gun for use in science or math classes to test a myriad of controls and variables. A **spud gun** (also known as a **potato cannon** or a **spudzooka**) is a pipe-based cannon, which uses air pressure (pneumatics) to fire chunks of potato. A great STEM activity for students to use to collect and analyze data, the potato gun will add a completely new dimension to your science or math classroom. **Safety will be emphasized.** For more information or to register, call the Center at 231-536-3369 or email info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org

2015 Board Members

Amy Gillard, *Chairperson*
Cheri Leach, *Co-founder and CEO*
Jean Van Dam, *Treasurer*
Nancy Hellman, *Acting Secretary and Volunteer Chair*
Georganna Monk, *Historian*
Katie Reed
Melissa Hansen
Kyra Brazell, *Youth Liaison*

Former and Current Board Members enjoy stepping up on the Pyramid!
Thank you to ALL our Board Members - past & present!



Fun and Success at
Raven Hill Discovery Center



Upcoming Events

NASA Classes for Teachers

Susan Kohler, N.A.S.A. Education Professional Development Specialist for Glenn Research Center in Cleveland Ohio, will be presenting two workshops at Raven Hill Discovery Center in January 2016. On Tuesday, January 12 and Wednesday, January 13, participants can receive STEM training for elementary and middle school grades. These STEM workshops will focus on Winter Explorations and offer different activities each day. The workshops will guide participants through hands-on and inquiry based learning activities in Climate Change, Energy and Phase Changes and Matter and Energy. Educators will practice 21st Century Learning Skills including solving problems, collaboration and evidentiary arguments. Both workshops will run from 9 am to 3 pm. Dress to be outdoors. There is no cost for either workshop, SCECHs will be offered pending approval and lunch will be provided. Email Cheri or Caitlin at info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org or call 231.536.3369 to register or for more information.

Ham Radio Classes

Raven Hill Discovery Center will host its third session of **Amateur Radio Certification Training** during February and March 2016. The class will meet on the four Thursdays in February (4, 11, 18 and 25) and the first one in March (3)—from 5 to 9 pm. Raven Hill installed a Ham Radio Station and established the Raven Hill Discovery Center Amateur Radio Club in 2015. If you are interested in exploring the world of amateur radio, you will enjoy this unique opportunity. John Clements, member of the Top of Michigan Amateur Radio Club—(TOMARC), is the instructor. Cost for the class is \$20 per person, plus \$20 for the book. There is also an exam fee of \$15 at the end of the class. A light dinner will be provided each week. Raven Hill Discovery Center is located between East Jordan and Boyne City, just off C-48 at Pearsall Road. Email Cheri or Caitlin at info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org or call 231.536.3369 to register or for more information.

THE NUTS & BOLTS OF CAPACITY BUILDING



With a 25-year history of promoting quality programs, exhibits and facilities that connect science, history and the arts, Raven Hill Discovery Center is poised to move forward into the future, meeting new challenges and paving the way for long-term viability. Sustainability is a complex and ongoing process with many variables, but the ultimate goal is clearly to build a solid foundation for Raven Hill that will enable the Center to continue its mission of providing a place where children and adults can build life-long connections linking science, history and the arts in a hands-on learning environment. Raven Hill Discovery Center's Board of Directors has been working to address the issues of capacity building and sustainability. The practical implementation of those goals and strategies is now at the forefront. With the recent hiring of Caitlin Koucky as Director of Administration, the Center has compiled a list of actionable items that will build capacity for the Center. Administrative procedures, board policies, rebranded marketing, development of new revenue streams, upgraded/completed facilities and expanded programs are major focus areas. The Charlevoix County History Preservation Society's recent donation of PastPerfect, a collection and contact management software, has been a big help in working towards these goals. Funding is being requested from a variety of sources, including Raven Hill members and donors. With increased administrative staff and funding to train, plan, implement and evaluate, Raven Hill Discovery Center is on track toward a sustainable future.

THANK YOU FROM RAVEN HILL!

Volunteers are a key to much of what happens at the Center! Heartfelt thanks go to our many helpers. In addition to the regular monthly Volunteer Days, volunteers also tackled and completed many other tasks. Nancy Hellman, Nancy Garrison, Kate Kretschmann & Diane Strzelinski helped with the year-end mailing. Exhibits were updated, repaired or cleaned by Ed Strzelinski, Jean VanDam, Gayle Levengood, & Glenn Hindbaugh. John Clements set up a vintage ham radio station from the 1960's. Jean VanDam & Cheri Leach arranged the Fire & Clay Exhibit in the Alternative Energy House. Georganna Monk worked with Barb Hernden, Patrick McCleary and Bob & Jane Prebble on "90 Years-the Todd family history". In-kind donations came from Michelle Chadwick, Dudley Place and Tom & Ann Hanna. Facility upgrades included Andy Poineau & crew installing a cedar shake roof on the treehouse; Ed Strzelinski building a screen for the new copier and Trevor Brazell beginning the big job of organizing the Wood Shop as a future instructional space. Ed Strzelinski; Jean VanDam; Mark Contrucci; Tree, Inc.; Steve Crandall & crew and Liz O'Donnell with her friends, Sophie & Rosa, did grounds upkeep & winterizing, Ed Strzelinski, Gayle Levengood & Jean VanDam all helped with maintenance. Diane and Ed Strzelinski, Don Hicks, Maggi Taylor, Murphy Holt, Nancy Garrison, Nancy Hellman and Pat Wulff put in extra hours helping with FREE Second Saturday or other programs. Our sincere apologies to anyone we have missed.

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM: SCOUT PROGRAMS

Don't forget to book an overnight for your scout group. You choose the focus of study. The evening starts at 7 pm and ends at 9 am the following morning. Overnights include museum and animal time, as well as all the activities to complete a badge, patch or pin. A light evening snack and breakfast are provided, but everyone brings their own sleeping bag for camping out on the floor for the night. Cost is \$20 per person. For more information or to book a date, please call 231.536.3369 or email info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org

CLASSES & NEW DISCOVERY CAMPS

Science, history and art classes for children and adults take place year round, any day or time. Classes feature the best of the old and many new experiences. Individual classes can be booked to fit your family's busy schedule. Favorite classes include African spirit masks, playing school, froggin' around, pioneer living, knights & castles and survival, as well as art classes like Shibori, marbled paper, fused glass, stained glass, copper pendants, jewelry, printing and graphics, papermaking, felting, pysanky and clay. Participants gain new skills, as they experience active science, history and art.

New in 2016, Raven Hill Discovery Center will offer **weeklong Discovery Camps**. During the week of June 20 to 24, Discovery Camp will focus on Science in the morning and Art in the afternoon. From July 25 to 29, Discovery Camp will be Art in the morning and History in the afternoon and from August 8 to 12, Discovery Camp will be History in the morning and Science in the afternoon. Each Discovery Camp includes museum and animal time, as well as hands-on activities. Cost is \$85 per child per one week of Discovery Camp (morning 10 am-12 pm OR afternoon 12:30-2:30 pm). Children can also bring a sack lunch and attend the entire day for \$125. For a registration form or for more information, please call 231-536-3369 or email info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org.

CSI: CLASSROOM SCIENCE INVESTIGATIONS

Law and Order, American Justice, Forensic Files and CSI or Crime Scene Investigations all use science to solve crimes. Currently, these programs flood evening television and are popular shows with many ages. Even most elementary-age children are familiar with these "science detectives". Raven Hill Discovery Center will turn this fascination with forensics into hands-on Classroom Science Investigations (CSI). Students might compare the density of liquids or investigate the chemical reaction between baking soda and vinegar. **CSI** facilitates both teachers' and students' experiences—demonstrating hands-on science; meeting science standards; using science to investigate and answer simple questions; and providing needed practice in science process and critical thinking skills. CSI in East Jordan Schools is funded by Charlevoix County Community Foundation through a donor advised fund. Alternative funding is available to other local schools. To schedule a visit to your school or classroom, call the Center at 231-536-3369 or email info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org.



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East Jordan, Michigan 49727

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RHDC ON SITE AND IN THE COMMUNITY



Rocking & Rolling at the Center



SMART Start Preschool Students testing their Big Wheels

Fun for Everyone!

Raven Hill Discovery Center Calendar Update & Felting Class

Raven Hill Discovery Center's 2016 calendar is filling up fast. Old favorites and exciting new opportunities abound. Keep an eye out for all the happenings. The calendar will be available soon on the website. Meanwhile, get March 22, 2016 on the calendar, if you want to try your hand at needle felting. Diane Strzelinski will provide all the supplies you need to create a felted landscape. Learn a new skill and go home with your artwork, suitable for framing. Time: March 22, 2016 10:30 am - 12 pm. Cost: \$20.



Vintage Ham Radio Equipment



Warm Wishes

**Felted snowman by
Diane Strzelinski**