



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

Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991,  
is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Open year-round on weekends – noon to 4pm Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm Sundays.  
Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, hours expand to include weekdays from  
10am to 4pm. The Center is also open other times, including holidays, by appointment.

**MISSION:** to provide a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong  
learning for all ages by connecting science, history and the arts.

WHERE **SCIENCE****HISTORY****AND****ART** CONNECT

To: Raven Hill friends  
From: Cheri  
Date: October 26, 2024  
Re: *Shaping the future*

Our volunteers bring Raven Hill Discovery Center to life in countless ways. From maintaining our gardens and galleries to welcoming every guest with a friendly smile, their contributions are truly invaluable. They take on the essential, day-to-day tasks of cleaning and upkeep, ensuring that Raven Hill is always inviting and ready for visitors. They make special projects and events possible, overseeing each detail with care. Some volunteers enjoy warmly greeting our guests, sparking curiosity, and encouraging them to explore and discover all that Raven Hill has to offer. Whatever form their volunteerism takes, their dedication helps to shape the Raven Hill experience, making it vibrant and welcoming for everyone.

*Near future*



*This will be the scene soon, as Boyne Mountain generously volunteers to store and maintain our golf carts again this winter.*

*Planting for the future*



*The newly installed hedgerow at Raven Hill will soon be a vibrant, year-round focal point in our Open Space, with flowering shrubs and native grasses that will bring natural beauty to every season, creating a colorful and textural entrance to the Center for visitors. Ready, set, plant!*

Each week brings new and familiar reminders of these invaluable contributions of our volunteers. For instance, Boyne Mountain has once again stepped in to support us. For years now, they've generously transported our golf carts to their Cart Barn, where they provide winter maintenance and care. Volunteers also rolled up their sleeves to plant a new hedgerow of flowering shrubs, adding a fresh, natural touch to our Open Space. This hedge will not only greet visitors for years to come but also help reduce snow drifting onto

*New donation*



*Not your ordinary donation, Checkers II recently joined the menagerie at Raven Hill and is already a new favorite. Thanks to the Kanime family for their contribution to the Animal Room.*

Fuller Road. And, as always, Raven Hill delights in displaying the many treasures our supporters donate—Checkers II included! From stone tools to snakes, know that these cherished items will be shared with visitors for generations to come.

### Planning for the future



*It takes quality time and thought to map out the future of Raven Hill, but strategic and succession planning is also an exciting process.*

Raven Hill volunteers are also stepping up to help organize and prepare for the exciting **Smithsonian Gathering** that is taking place on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at The Boathouse on Lake Charlevoix in East Jordan. They are ensuring that every detail is in place for this culminating event.

By way of explanation, this **Smithsonian Gathering** is celebrating the collaboration between the Smithsonian, Raven Hill, Char-Em Intermediate School District and local school districts. In 2023 several northern Michigan schools, including East Jordan's high school Spanish class, participated in the Smithsonian's **Youth Innovation in Rural America (YIRA)** challenge. The East Jordan group's project was chosen by **Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum** to be one of 25 featured exhibits in the ***Making Home—Smithsonian Design Triennial*** in New York City. The Smithsonian is flying East Jordan students to Manhattan for the exhibition opening on November 1<sup>st</sup>. How exciting is that?!

### Making Home story video



*There are three videos up on the Smithsonian YouTube channel. These will be playing in the Cooper Hewitt **Making Home—Smithsonian Design Triennial** as a part of the East Jordan students' portion of the exhibition.*

Currently, our board, along with a few dedicated key volunteers, is working to shape the future of Raven Hill through strategic and succession planning. Together, they're envisioning the next chapters for Raven Hill—ensuring that our mission of connecting science, history, and art continues to thrive for generations to come. Through careful planning and collaboration, these volunteers are laying the groundwork to support our mission and vision well into the future.

### Preparing for the future



On March 17, 2024, Smithsonian staff returned to Michigan to interview those who participated in the 2023 "Youth Innovation in Rural America" challenge at Raven Hill.

East Jordan gets a shout out!!! Check out the New York Times—Design, Unearthed and Unfettered, in Cooper Hewitt's Triennial. Print versions will be available in Sunday's New York Times.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/23/arts/cooper-hewitt-smithsonian-design-triennial.html?smid=nytcore-android-share>



## JOIN US FOR THIS RED LETTER EVENT

### WHO:

- East Jordan Spanish students and their families
- Raven Hill Discovery Center supporters and anyone interested in celebrating our future

### WHAT: Smithsonian Gathering

- ***Making Home—Smithsonian Design Triennial*** exhibition opening with East Jordan students livestreamed from New York to us here in Michigan
- Hearty soup bar
- Raven Hill volunteers are providing the entertainment.
  - Demo of cutting-edge 3D printing technology
  - Live music by *String Theory*—a guy & his guitar
  - Explore the cosmos through a telescope

### WHEN:

- Friday, November 1, 2024
- 5:30pm to 8pm
- Livestream happens about 6pm

### WHERE:

- The Boathouse on Lake Charlevoix
- 204 Water Street
- East Jordan, Michigan 49727

### WHY:

- Celebrate these future thinkers and creators from our local schools
- Acknowledge 34 years of Raven Hill's unique role in sparking curiosity and wonder for all generations

### HOW:

- Admission to the Smithsonian Gathering is free, thanks to the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum.
- Email [cheri@miravenhill.org](mailto:cheri@miravenhill.org) or call Cheri at 231.536.3369 with the number of guests in your group.
- Reservations are appreciated, but not required. **Mark your calendar!**

Remember, the Main Museum is open regular fall/winter hours—12pm to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays—plus other times by appointment. Plan a visit soon to explore the exhibits at the Main Museum and all the outdoor exhibits on the Main Campus, Connections Trail and in the Ancient World. Schools, scouts and other groups are encouraged to visit and check out the hands-on room, animals and all that the Center has to offer. Raven Hill staff is also available for onsite classes and educational outreach programs that come directly to schools and libraries. Call Cheri at 231.536.3369 with questions, for more information or to book a day and time for classes, field trips or outreach opportunities.

Cheri

Thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who support our vision. You are an essential part of Raven Hill's team.

Hard at work



Last Thursday, five volunteers planted 30 shrubs and grasses representing 10 native plant families to start the Open Space hedgerow! One of the new plants, a forsythia bush, is pictured to the right.

Picture the future of this forsythia



The hedge of forsythia pictured below near the Schoolhouse **and** the forsythia on the Taxonomic Trail in the Olive family area all came from ONE forsythia shrub planted in 1992. The original plant can still be found at the Main Museum building by the kitchen (yellow) door! That plant just keeps giving and next spring, a portion of it will be transplanted to the new hedgerow in the Open Space.

