

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: May 15, 2021
Re: Weekly Update

Greetings Everyone!

For both new and returning visitors of all ages, the Main Museum building still keeps everyone thinking and learning. Guests are currently enjoying several new natural history displays and interacting with a variety of familiar “older” hands-on exhibits. Visitors can explore light, sound, motion, magnets and electricity with these interactive displays! So, while the Magnet Table, marble rolls, old-fashioned games and musical instruments are tucked away for now, much remains to explore and discover.

For example, you can still ride the Generator Bikes and create enough energy to light up a light bulb, activate a flasher and run a fan or hairdryer. Now, we have two different Generator Bikes, both complements of Great Lakes Energy.



Sisterly love is sharing the generator bike! Faster pedaling will make the flasher turn on. Come try it.

Next, the Six Basic Machines display, which was donated by Midland Center for the Arts, gives visitors a chance to activate a lever, wheel-and-axle, screw, pulley, wedge and inclined plane.



Explore the basic machines here and then look around you for real-life examples.



The marimba sounds beautiful, even if you can't read music!

Third, the Marimba is our tribute to the fine art of music and the science of sound. Guests can play melodies on the piano or just create beautiful sounds with this musical instrument. The rosewood keys are arranged just like the keys on a piano and metal pipes underneath act as an amplifier.

Then, with a little assistance from staff, someone can operate the Can Mover and see how magnets are used in factories. Built in 1988 by twelve Boyne City 8th grade students working with two



Eighth grade students designed, blueprinted, constructed and problem-solved to build this magnet machine! Who knew magnets were so useful?

engineers at Industrial Magnetics, this “Rube Goldberg” shows how magnets are used in factories. Magnetic rails carry a can along and up a wall “to save floor space”. There is a magnetic pulley, plus a magnetic separator, which is used in the food industry to take metal slivers out of cereal or dried pasta before the food is packaged.



The small kaleidoscope uses a face as the design "element"!

Mirrors are always great fun and there are plenty of ways to look at yourself in the mirrors at Raven Hill. Pictures taken inside the large Kaleidoscope or through the small Kaleidoscope are fascinating. The big kaleidoscope was donated by Midland Center for the Arts. Andy Poineau designed and built the small horizontal kaleidoscope.



How many images of you are there inside the kaleidoscope? Too many to count, that is for sure!

Visitors can see themselves floating with the Levitator, a donation by Jordan River Arts Center. There are also concave and convex front-surface mirrors, which create crisp reflections, so visitors can see themselves either right side up (concave mirror) **or** upside down (convex mirror).

The Infinity display continues to engage visitors. Pick the eye holes that are the right height for you and look through them. You will see your eyeballs reflected over and over again in the mirror system.



You can execute fantastic yoga poses at the Levitator!



Two mirrors facing each other use reflections to create this strange image!

The Piano Harp is another hands-on display for visitors to explore! Every time someone hits a piano key, a felt hammer hits a series of wires and produces a musical note. The wood behind the wires is the spruce sounding board and vibrates to amplify the sound.



Lastly, the Animal Room can be eyes-only OR hands-on, if you bring your own "animal handler". For the next month, Raven Hill staff is still trying to stay socially distanced from visitors, so a family member must be willing to share the animals with their youngsters. A Center staff member will be there to act as the "guide on the side".

(Left) Over the years, only two people have actually plucked out a tune on the Piano Harp, but it sure is fun to strum or hit with the little hammers and feel the vibrations in the sounding board!

Between the "old" hands-on exhibits and the new "eyes-only" displays, "time flies". An hour spent inside quickly passes. Guests can then grab a map and spend another hour or more exploring all that is available outdoors. Plan a visit to Raven Hill Discovery Center soon.

If you know someone who might like to receive weekly updates, please send their email addresses to info@miravenhill.org and I will add their names to our list. Previous updates are all on our website— www.MiRavenHill.org

Despite the recent CDC announcement about unmasking indoors and outside, Raven Hill will continue to be open by appointment with **COVID policies in place for at least the next month**. We want to make sure there are no spikes in coronavirus cases, due to the new guidelines, which were recently announced.

So, we ask everyone to continue wearing masks correctly indoors, socially distance and wash hands thoroughly. We will still limit the numbers of visitors indoors at the Center to one family group at a time as much as possible. Current hours are noon to 4pm on Saturdays, 2pm to 4pm on Sundays and other times by appointment. Call us at 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org to make reservations.

If there is already a scheduled group indoors and you didn't book in advance—that's ok! You will be given a return time for the Museum and Animals. While waiting to explore inside, there's plenty to keep you entertained outdoors.

Take care!

Cheri