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Raven Hill Discovery Center 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: November 7, 2020
Re: News from Raven Hill!

What beautiful weather we have had this week! This spell of warmth and sunshine after an autumn frost is something we all look forward to before winter comes to stay. The Meteorological Glossary defines a week like this as: "a warm, calm spell of weather occurring in autumn, especially in October and November. This wonderful weather used to be linked to ancient weather lore and the church calendar. In mid-October, for instance, it would have been called 'St Luke's Little Summer' as the feast day of St Luke falls on October 18th, while in mid-November it would be 'St Martin's Summer' as St Martin's feast day is November 11th. Shakespeare also used the expression 'All Halloween Summer' in Henry IV part I, referring to a period of warm sunshine as October gives way to November."

It was a perfect week for Raven Hill to host the Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA), the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) and the Charlevoix County Road Commission. The group visited the Deer Creek road crossing to start forming next steps and discuss possible ideas for replacing the culvert with a more environmentally suitable structure.



Neither cold temperatures nor rushing flow of the water could stop Conservation Resource Alliance Director, Kim Balke, from her appointed job of helping Luke, from EGLE, measure the width of Deer Creek.



The Labyrinth "in the beginning"2004

In 2004, we created a Classical Labyrinth between the Center and Fuller Road, where our parking lot once was. Summer camp kids helped collect the rocks for it. We needed all the rocks we could find, even the little ones. Our Labyrinth remains 35 feet in diameter, but has

“grown” over the years. As families came back in following summers, they brought larger rocks to replace the little ones. We had a ceremony to “retire” the little rocks and “place” the larger ones! I’m sure ours is the only labyrinth, whose rocks have “grown” over time.

A typical labyrinth has only one path to the center and one entrance, which is also the exit. Some labyrinths have a spiritual significance. Ours has a wonderful sitting stone in the middle. A labyrinth is different from a maze, which has many choices of paths and some dead-ends. We are Labyrinth #2063 on the **World-Wide Labyrinth Locator**. Check it out!



The labyrinth is a favorite attraction for families.



Today, as larger rocks have replaced smaller ones, the paths have narrowed, but the resting rock in the middle is still the focal point. This week, the Labyrinth was a great place to stop for a spell and enjoy the sunshine.

Winter is really coming. We are pretty much buttoned up and battened down for the season. Volunteer, Ed Strzelinski got the water turned off. The granite lithophone and the garden bench are covered to guard against any freezing and thawing. Boyne Mountain came this week to pick up the golf cart. They will give her a maintenance check and keep her warm and cozy in the cart barn until spring. That about does it, I think!



Miss Daisy spends the winter at Boyne with the Mountain’s fleet. She is well taken care of and has lots of company! Thanks, Boyne Mountain!



Take care. You know the drill. Mask, distance and wash those hands often. It sure can’t hurt.

(Left) Be a “fashionista”. Follow the fashion trends and wear your mask.

Keep in touch. Email me at cheri@miravenhill.org or you can text or call my cell—231.675.6025. As I keep saying, I always enjoy hearing from you.

Stay safe,

Cheri