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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: October 10, 2020

Greetings!



Two hidden gems at Raven Hill:

The **Treehouse** is tucked back in the woods behind the Schoolhouse and the **Pond** is directly across the road from the main driveway into the Center.

First impressions are important and it all happens in a few seconds. So, if it looks different as you drive in to Raven Hill, you are correct! We still have more to do to create an eye-catching entrance, but all the big rocks along the driveway are gone, so no more weeding and mulching. The added bonus is no more hitting a rock in the winter! Next up is finding some cool sculpture or painting to adorn the front of the main building and create an extraordinary first impression of Raven Hill!



Enjoy the fall colors. Keep your eyes open for the dimetrodon and the pteranodon as you walk along **Jurassic Park**, which highlights geologic time with real plants & rocks, plus sculptures of extinct species.

Fall is here and the colors are peaking now at Raven Hill. If you are out and about, you are welcome to drive through or park and hike our trails. Please let us know that you are coming, so that we can track our attendance. You can text 231.675.6025 with numbers of children and adults. Grab a map from the brown mailbox and enjoy.



(Before) Waiting for a dozer ride to their new temporary home.

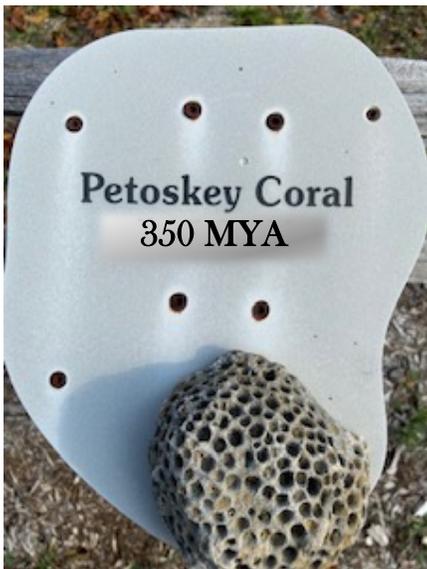


(After) Less is more! Less maintenance. More welcoming!

I certainly enjoyed the fall weather this week, while getting the Center wrapped up for winter! It took three trips up the **Jurassic Park** walkway with the golf cart and all the smaller sculptures are now safely displayed inside for the winter. One of my favorites is an artistic interpretation of a Petoskey coral. Outside in **Jurassic Park**, this beautiful work of art is found in the coral reef, as it would have been during the Devonian geologic period about 419 to 359 million years ago (MYA). At that time, Michigan was covered with a shallow sea, hence all the fossilized corals found around here. A nearby textural sign allows visitors to finger-trace the individual polyps forming the fossilized coral colony.



Believe it or not: a hexagon-shaped candle, the rounded end of a screwdriver handle and a fork were the tools used to create this awesome Petoskey coral sculpture.



Imagine little tentacles with nematocysts timidly coming out of each "hole", shooting their barbed coiled threads to poison and reel in their prey.



A live colony of *zoanthus* coral with multiple polyps open. This colonial coral is similar to the ones from which Petoskey stones formed. Photo by Kazvorpai, displayed under a [Creative Commons License](#).

Irish author, Benny Lewis said, "the difference between a stumbling block and a stepping stone is how high you raise your foot." Maybe that's how to think of these current times, a stumbling block **or** a stepping stone...as we assess Raven Hill programs and craft a plan to reopen in old and new ways! I'm sure we are all looking forward to 2021. Be safe and keep in touch. Email me anytime at [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org) or you can text or call my cell—231.675.6025. I would love to hear your voice!

Take care,

Cherí