



04737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727  
(231) 536-3369 | [www.miravenhill.org](http://www.miravenhill.org)  
[info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org)

*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: September 26, 2020

Greetings, everyone!

As I posted on Facebook this week, it's too bad I don't like beer! The hops are looking great this year. They are growing at the old Todd home site here at Raven Hill! (circa 1860's) Hops vines are native in Eurasia and the Americas. They have been cultivated for brewing for over 1200 years. The dried female flowers or cones are used for their "mellow bitterness and delicate hop aroma, as well as for their preservation properties"! —Encyclopedia Britannica

Personally, I'm happy collecting a few hop flowers to dry for a spot of green in the white of winter. They dry easily and definitely give off an aroma!



Hop Hornbeam (aka Ironwood) trees have very similar flowers/fruit to the hop vines, hence the name.



(Above) Diane Strzelinski and others from her spinning group will be demonstrating their craft during the Smithsonian **Labor Days** exhibit in 2021.



Thanks to Ed and Diane Strzelinski for their help at the Evolving Technology (ET) Building this week. Ed put up more shelves for artifact display. Diane hung out in the sunshine and spun roving into yarn!

I worked in the ET Building and got the "old" silk butterfly kite mounted in the Ancient time period, where kites were first flown. Now, the "new" plastic octopus kite, which had been acting as a "placeholder" in the ancient display area, will be relocated and hung in the Information Age exhibit area! I still need to replace the Checkers game with a more appropriate replica in the Ancient era and move the plastic Checkers game board & pieces forward in time! Lots to do, but a fun break from computer work and it can be addicting! Keep wanting to do "one more thing".

(Left) While the oldest depiction of a kite is in a Mesolithic cave painting in Indonesia and is dated to about 9500 to 9000 years ago, China claims to have invented kites, such as the one pictured here, two to three thousand years ago.

Computer work this week was focused on reformatting the “Home Learning Opportunities” that we posted daily on Facebook at the beginning of COVID. Now, instead of only being able to access one lesson at a time, all activities will be available for use. Check out our website: [www.MiRavenHill.org](http://www.MiRavenHill.org) Both parents and teachers can access a variety of hands-on science, history and art activities that are both fun and educational. Activities are appropriate for the entire family or classroom! Plus, they are easily done with simple materials found at home.

(Right) One of my favorite hands-on activities is exploring air pressure! This is one of several illustrations of air pressure. I am currently working on writing up the other air pressure lessons and will post them soon for your enjoyment!



(Above) “Serpent of Light” at Chichen Itza. (Right) Raven Hill’s “Serpent of Light” was found on the west side of our pyramid!



In case you are interested, I did check it out on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30am and, sure enough, we have our own “serpent of light” at Raven Hill! Of course, Raven Hill doesn’t have the serpent’s head at the base of our pyramid, but who knows what the future will bring!

Enjoy this beautiful weather. Stay safe and keep in touch. Email me anytime at [info@miravenhill.org](mailto:info@miravenhill.org) or call my cell—231.675.6025.

Take care, *Cheri*