

Check Below for Previous Events at Raven Hill Discovery Center!

Celebrating Presidents' Day Weekend February 17-20, 2012

Raven Hill Discovery Center will be celebrating Presidents' Day all weekend with extended hours from noon to 4:00 pm on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, February 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th. Visitors can participate in a special project by designing their own Family or Presidential Seal and/or Family or Presidential Flag. Learn about the history and meaning of the Presidential Seal and Presidential Flag. Admission is \$8 per person, except for babies who stay in backpacks or strollers. Admission includes indoor, hands-on exhibits and exotic animal session, as well as outdoor exhibits. The activity is \$3 per person over and above the admission cost. Can't make it during regular hours? Call to schedule an appointment at your convenience or to schedule a class.

Saturday, February 11, 2012, FREE 2nd Saturday Program: Marbled Paper Valentines

The popular FAMILY AFFAIR events continue at Raven Hill Discovery Center into 2012, starting **FEBRUARY 11th**. Visitors can fashion a unique valentine by creating marbled paper while learning about the science of density. Sponsored by the Charlevoix County Community Foundation from February through June, each month **FREE 2nd Saturdays** will highlight a different science, history or art activity (AND the connections between them!), as well as allow families to explore the hands-on museum and animals indoors and enjoy the Music Garden, Jurassic Park Walk, School House, Tree House and other outdoor exhibits. **FREE 2nd Saturday** hours are from noon to 4 pm. Bring the whole family OR make it a special event for parent and child. There will be fun problem-solving demos & activities to fit various ages, abilities and interests every second Saturday at least from February to June of 2012. *Please no organizations or groups on 2nd Saturdays - remember, it's a family affair!*

In 2010, Second Saturday Science Days were sponsored by the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and in 2011, Second Saturday Science Days were made possible by the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and other generous donors. Because of these donations, family groups were able to strengthen creative & critical thinking skills by exploring a different science concept each month, plus enjoy the museum, animals and the outdoor exhibits. In 2012, the name changes to **FREE (Families Reaching for Educational Excellence) 2nd Saturdays** and the special activities will expand to include history and art, as well as science. The Center is actively seeking funding for the second half of 2012--July through December.

The Petoskey Regional Audubon Society at Raven Hill on Saturday, February 4, 2012 9 am

Snowshoeing at Raven Hill Discovery Center with Evelyn and Jim Howell

Join Evelyn and Jim Howell for a leisurely morning walk on snowshoes, exploring two trails at Raven Hill Discovery Center, near East Jordan. Both the Ancient World Trail and the Taxi (taxonomic) Trail are fairly level, with small hills, and both are about one-half mile in length. Birds and other animals (and their tracks) may be seen, and 26 tree families are represented. PRAS will be the guest of Cheri Leach, Raven Hill's co-founder and CEO, who will serve hot chocolate and coffee upon folks return to the nature center after the snowshoe. No fee will be charged for the outing. Call Evelyn at 582-7751 for more information, or to check on snow conditions for the outing. Check out the PRAS web site at www.petoskeyaudubon.org. Optional brunch at a nearby eatery afterwards.

NOMAC Astronomy Club Meeting: What Telescope Should I Buy & Sky Observing on Thursday, February 2, 2012

Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 7:30 pm is the next scheduled meeting of NOMAC, the Northern Michigan Astronomy Club at Raven Hill Discovery Center. The talk will be: "Beginning Astronomy: What Telescope Should I Buy?" The club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. After the indoor program, the group will spend time at the Center's Moon Base viewing the heavens through the Center's 16-inch reflecting telescope, if the weather permits. Attendees are also invited to bring their own telescopes. Call 231.536.3369 or go to NOMAC's web site at www.nomac.net for more information.

NOMAC Astronomy Club Meeting Thursday, January 5, 2012

Thursday, January 5, 2012 is the next scheduled meeting of NOMAC, the newly formed Northern Michigan Astronomy Club at Raven Hill Discovery Center. Bryan Shumaker will share "Basic Cosmology: How things work and what do all those abbreviations mean?" The club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. After the indoor program, the group will spend time at the Center's Moon Base viewing the heavens through the Center's 16-inch reflecting telescope, if the weather permits. Attendees are also invited to bring their own telescopes. Call 231.536.3369 for more information.

Winter Holiday FUN at Raven Hill 2011-12-15

Treat yourself and your family to an afternoon of fun and exploration at Raven Hill Discovery Center this holiday season. Located between East Jordan & Boyne City, just off C-48 at Pearsall Road, the Center helps visitors build connections between science, history and the arts in an interactive learning environment. In addition to the hands-on museum and exotic animals, visitors can dress for the weather and spend time in the one-room schoolhouse, explore the Tree House, see the geologic history of the earth on the Exploring Beyond Jurassic Park outdoor

exhibit, and snowshoe or cross country ski around the Taxi Trail and to the Ancient World outdoor exhibit. Raven Hill will be open every day noon to 4 p.m. from Saturday, December 17th to Saturday, December 31st, except for Christmas Day.

The cost of general admission is \$8 per person and the average visit is 2 hours even just indoors. For more information, phone 231-536-3369 or toll free 877-833-4254.

A special celebration of the Winter Solstice is scheduled for Wednesday, December 21st. The Center will re-open at 6 pm for a special display on Timepieces Through the Ages. Both Father Christmas and Father Time will make an appearance and then around 7 pm those with hearty souls and a sense of adventure can snowshoe or cross country ski an illuminated trail to the Ancient World for a bonfire. Everyone is invited to bring food to share around the fire.

A New Year's Eve Overnight for Kids will run from 6 p.m. on December 31, 2011 to 9 a.m. on January 1, 2012 and will entertain the kids with a variety of fun activities and keep them safe, while you celebrate with them or on your own. Registration is limited and spaces must be booked by December 24th, so call Cheri at 231.536.3369

Second Saturday Science scheduled for Dec 10th 2011-12-05

It's a FAMILY AFFAIR at Raven Hill Discovery Center this last second Saturday in 2011— December 10th from noon to 4 pm. Thanks to a grant awarded by the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, the Center has offered **free admission for families** and special science activities on the second Saturday of each month in 2011, ending this Saturday, December 10th. Bring the whole family "team" OR make it a special event for parent and child. There will be fun problem-solving demos & activities to fit various ages, abilities and interests.

In 2010, Second Saturday Science Days were sponsored by the Charlevoix County Community Foundation and in 2011, Second Saturday Science Days have been made possible by the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation and again there has been record attendance. Because of these generous donations, family groups have been able to strengthen creative & critical thinking skills by exploring a different science concept each month, plus enjoy the museum, animals and the outdoor exhibits. The focus this Saturday will be **Lasers**. Learn how lasers work and how they are used.

Monthly Astronomy Club Meeting, NOMAC - 2011-11-28

Thursday, December 1, 2011 is the next scheduled meeting of NOMAC, the newly formed Northern Michigan Astronomy Club at Raven Hill Discovery Center. Rod Cortright, astro-photographer, will share information about photographing the night skies, using a variety of camera equipment. Bring your camera and learn how to capture the stars. The club meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. After the photography program, the group will spend time at the Center's Moon Base viewing the heavens through the Center's 16-inch reflecting telescope, if the weather permits. Attendees are invited to bring their own telescopes. Call 231.536.3369 for more information.

Raven Hill Announces Thanksgiving Hours for 2011

Raven Hill Discovery Center will be open from noon to 4 p.m. for family visits during Thanksgiving break. Hours are Friday, November 25th through Sunday, November 27th. Visitors can explore the hands-on museum and hold the animals. Special activities are available on request and include Shibori, an ancient folding and dyeing technique that yields beautiful scarves, Hot Glass Beads, working with a torch to create your own glass beads, plus marbled paper, leather pouches, aluminum repose and other offerings from the Raven Hill Discovery Center class list.

Plan to treat yourself and your family to an afternoon of fun and exploration at Raven Hill Discovery Center this Thanksgiving break. Located between East Jordan & Boyne City, just off C-48 at Pearsall Road, the Center helps visitors build connections between science, history and the arts in an interactive learning environment. In addition to the hands-on museum and exotic animals, visitors can dress for the weather and visit the tree house, the one-room schoolhouse, play in the music garden, see the geologic history of the earth on the Exploring Beyond Jurassic Park outdoor exhibit, and snowshoe or cross country ski around the Taxi Trail and to the Ancient World outdoor exhibits.

Raven Hill Discovery Center is a regional science and technology center. It is located on 157 acres in a rural area of northwestern Lower Michigan next to the Little Traverse Conservancy's Raven Ridge Nature Preserve. It is also a cultural, historical and art center and is the 2005 Crooked Tree Arts Center eddi Award recipient for Arts and Cultural Organizations. For more information, phone 231-536-3369 or toll free 877-833-4254.

Northern Michigan Astronomy Club Meeting (NOMAC) - 2011-10-31

Anyone interested in learning more about the night sky is invited to attend the first regularly scheduled meeting of Northern Michigan Astronomy Club (NOMAC) at 7:30 pm on Thursday, November 3rd at Raven Hill Discovery Center. The newly formed group will present "Finding Your Way Around the Night Sky", an exciting program for astronomers, both beginning and advanced, or anyone just interested in learning more about our heavenly neighbors, both near and far, like the moon, planets, constellations and nebula.

The program will provide information about what to look for and where as you gaze at the skies over northern lower Michigan, with or without a telescope. Presenters, Bryan Shumaker and Rod Cortright are both avid amateur astronomers and will share their expertise with the group. If the weather cooperates and the skies are clear, the group will move to the Center's Moon Base to see the night sky through Raven Hill's 16 inch reflecting telescope! Raven Hill has one of the best observing sites in all Michigan with its dark sky and low horizons. Anyone interested in bringing their own telescopes is more than welcome to do so.

Plans are for NOMAC to meet at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month at Raven Hill, so if you can't make the meeting on November 3rd, mark your calendar for Thursday, December 1st. Call Cheri at 231.536.3369 or email info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org for more information. Registrations are appreciated, but not required. There is no charge for the program.

Astronomy Club Meeting on Wednesday the 19th - 2011-10-17

There will be an astronomy club/group planning and brainstorming session on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011 at 7:30 PM at Raven Hill Discovery Center. Interested community members are invited to bring lots of ideas, suggestions, and enthusiasm. The group will create a road map to organizing a vital and successful astronomy group! The program will be an open forum—everyone's input and opinions are important. If you are interested in space science and astronomy, we need your ideas and opinions as to club format and goals. This is a "ground floor" opportunity to be involved.

If weather permits, the group will gather later at the Center's Moon Base to view the night sky through the Center's 16 inch reflecting telescope. Participants are also invited to bring their own telescopes, if they want. Raven Hill has one of the best observing sites in all Michigan with its dark sky and low horizons.

The session will be led by Bryan Shumaker, local amateur astronomer. He was formerly an instructor in Astronomy at Oakland University and director of their Astronomy Observatory. Call Cheri at 231.536.3369 or email info@ravenhilldiscoverycenter.org for more information or if you have any questions. Registrations are appreciated, but not required. There is no charge for the program.

Science Magic Happening at Raven Hill - 2011-10-03

Just in time for Halloween, Science Magic is the theme at Second Saturday Science Day. Come and be prepared to learn some cool "magic tricks". The FAMILY AFFAIR at Raven Hill Discovery Center happens every second Saturday in 2011—next up: Saturday, October 8th from noon to 4 pm. Thanks to a grant awarded by the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, the Center will offer FREE ADMISSION and special science activities for families on the second Saturday of each month in 2011. Bring the whole family "team" OR make it a special event for parent and child. There will be fun problem-solving demos & activities to fit various ages, abilities and interests every month. Family groups can strengthen creative & critical thinking skills by trying a different science challenge each month, plus enjoy the museum, animals and outdoor exhibits. Watch for other fun events every second Saturday in 2011 and make plans for your family to join us.

[Celebrate the Fall Equinox & Explore the Night Skies](#)

Anyone interested in learning more about astronomy is invited to attend an introductory program Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 7:30 pm. The event will be held in the new Warren Loranger Great Room and later at the Center's Moon Base, if the weather permits.

[MI Coral Reef Grand Opening Sunday, September 25th](#)

Raven Hill Discovery Center is pleased to announce the Grand Opening of its newest exhibit: MI Coral Reef. The exhibit is the third expansion of the Center's existing **Exploring Beyond Jurassic Park** Exhibit and the eleventh grant award that Raven Hill has received from

the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Opening is scheduled from noon to 4 pm on Sunday, September 25, 2011 and the public is invited to attend.

[MI Coral Reef](#)

2011 Special Events and Projects

A Year of Hands-On Activities at Raven Hill Discovery Center

2011 has brought Raven Hill Discovery Center 's Hands-on Museum has a new look--refinished wood floors and new paint, plus upgraded exhibits AND new spaces: Christopher's Art Corridor & the Warren Loranger Great Room allows more room for exploring science, history and art. If you have not visited in the last month, there are new things to see. If you have not visited in the last year or more, you will be amazed at the changes. If you have never visited Raven Hill, you will be wowed! Call or click below to see all the scheduled activities at the Center.

[Click here to download 2011 Calendar](#)

Second Saturday Science

For a second year: It's a FAMILY AFFAIR at Raven Hill Discovery Center every second Saturday in 2011. Join us on the second Saturday of each month from noon to 4 pm. Thanks to a grant awarded by the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation, the Center will offer FREE ADMISSION and special science activities for families on the second Saturday of each month in 2011 through December 2011. Bring the whole family "team" OR make it a special event for parent and child. There will be fun problem-solving demos & activities to fit various ages, abilities and interests every month. Family groups can strengthen creative & critical thinking skills by trying different science challenges, plus enjoy the museum, animals and outdoor exhibits. Each month brings a new focus. Watch for Second Saturday Science and FREE (Families Reaching for Educational Experiences) on other Weekend Days in 2011.