



THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

FALL 2025 + ISSUE 1 + VOL 34



Fall 2025

Fall has arrived at Raystown Lake, bringing crisp air, colorful leaves, and plenty of updates to share!

Raystown Area Mountain Bike Organization (RAMBO) is gearing up for our Allegrippis Work Weekend October 17-19 (see pg. 5).

Hunters can now reserve Putt's Camp as a base during the season (see pg. 4)

There are also several events on the horizon. Be sure to check out the schedule inside (see pg. 3).

Most exciting of all, our friends with USACE were able to hire some of their seasonal staff and reopen Susquehannock, Nancy's, and Seven Points Campgrounds!

Thank you for being part of our mission to protect, enhance, and enjoy Raystown Lake. We hope to see you on the trails, at camp, or by the water this fall!



**FRIENDS OF
RAYSTOWN LAKE
P.O. BOX 87
HESSTON, PA 16647**

Board of Directors

President + Michael Tome
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Raystown Lake Project
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NAV LIGHT UPDATE

In our last newsletter, we were excited to share that we had successfully completed our navigation light campaign.

However, over the 4th of July holiday, we discovered that the initial survey had missed a light.

With that, we are thrilled to share that we have secured a sponsor, and the missing light will be installed soon!

Thank you to Nelson & Suzy Wert for their sponsorship!

We are grateful for the area's generosity and support in making our waters safer for all.

LIFE JACKET REMINDER

A disproportionate number of boating fatalities occur during the months of November through April in Pennsylvania and cold water is one of the primary reasons.

Follow the law for Cold Weather Life Jacket Wear:

Boaters are **required by law** to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe, kayak or paddleboard from November 1 through April 30.

For more information, visit the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission's website



President's Post

BY MIKE TOME, PRESIDENT



As we transition into the vibrant colors and crisp air of fall, I'm reminded of the simple joys and natural beauty that make Raystown Lake such a special place for all of us. Whether you're an avid angler, a hiker, a camper, or someone who simply enjoys the peacefulness of the water, there's something here for everyone.

This season, FRL continued its mission to preserve and enhance the Raystown Lake experience. We're grateful for the dedication and support of our members, volunteers, and partners. Together, we've made important strides in educational programs, safety promotion, environmental efforts and community outreach. From lake cleanups to bike trail maintenance and Putt's Camp improvements, your involvement helps ensure that future generations can enjoy this unique treasure.

I encourage you to stay engaged: join us at upcoming events, spread the word about our initiatives, share your stories of Raystown Lake with friends and family, or make a donation to one of our programs. Your passion and support are the heart of our success.

If you have ideas or feedback about how we can make an even greater impact, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for being a Friend of Raystown Lake. Let's continue to work together to protect and celebrate this beautiful resource.

-Mike Tome

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for upcoming events with the Friends of Raystown Lake and our partners organizations!

October 2: RAMBO Group Ride

Location: Allegrippis Trails, Baker's Hollow Lot

October 17 - 19: Allegrippis Work Weekend

Location: Susquehannock Campground

November 6: RAMBO Group Ride

Location: Allegrippis Trails, Baker's Hollow Lot

November 8: 4th Annual 'Race'town Space Race

Location: Seven Points Pine 9 Disc Golf Course

November 16: RAMBO Work Day & Group Ride

Location: Allegrippis Trails, Baker's Hollow Lot

January 17-18: Wilderness First Aid Course

Location: Raystown Field Station

May 15-17: DirtFest 2026

Location: Susquehannock Campground

Check our Facebook for more information



Fish Habitat Enhancement

Raystown Lakes shoreline is primarily shale, which has left little ability for native aquatic vegetation to propagate. To help combat these issues, each Fall staff with USACE and PFBC cut down deciduous hardwood trees into the lake. Each tree is then secured to its stump using heavy duty cable and staples. This method is commonly referred to as "Chop and Drop," and is a widely accepted and cheap method of enhancing aquatic habitats.

This process provides numerous benefits, including creating shelter and feeding grounds for fish and aquatic insects, stabilizing shoreline, reducing erosion, and improving water clarity by trapping organic matter. The leaves of these deciduous hardwoods provide an important food source for algae. This benefits the fishery by supporting the aquatic food web from the bottom up by feeding the macroinvertebrates that will later be eaten by the fish.



Putt's Camp Hunting Reservations

Are you ready for another season of adventure at Putt's Camp? The Putt's Camp oversight committee has announced that the camp will be open to hunting parties this fall using updated reservation fees:

Adirondack Shelters: \$75/night for up to 6 people

Campsites: \$50/night for up to 10 people per site (waterfront site: \$70/night)

Pavilion: \$25/day rental

Reservations are required and can be made through FareHarbor. Due to limited space, we encourage hunters to book early to secure their preferred dates. Access to the camp is available by both road and water, but please note there is no winter maintenance on the access road. Travel is at your own risk, and use of a 4-wheel drive vehicle is highly recommended.

Before arriving, make sure you have all necessary permits and are familiar with camp policies. Hunters must adhere to all Pennsylvania Game Commission regulations and cannot park along the road to hunt. The campground will close for the season on December 15th. Prepare for a safe, responsible, and memorable hunting experience at Putt's Camp!

For more information or to reserve your spot, visit
friendsofraystownlake.com/putts_camp.

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TRAILS WORK WEEKEND

Join Raystown Area Mountain Bike Organization (RAMBO) October 17-19 for a weekend of giving back to the trails we all love!

The Allegrippis Work Weekend is your chance to help maintain and improve the world-class Allegrippis Trails while connecting with fellow riders and outdoor enthusiasts.

In exchange for a little sweat equity, participants will enjoy free camping at Susquehannock Campground, camaraderie around the campfire, and the satisfaction of keeping the trails in top shape for all to enjoy.

Expect a mix of trail work, fun, and community. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends, give back to the trails, and enjoy some fall days at Raystown Lake.

To RSVP or ask questions, contact Rothrock Outfitters at routfitter@gmail.com.



Membership Application

Please complete this application and send it along with a check payable to:

Friends of Raystown Lake
PO Box 87
Hesston, PA 16647

Check One:

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| ☐ Senior Friend (65+): | \$ 10/yr |
| ☐ Individual Friend: | \$ 20/yr |
| ☐ Family Friend: | \$ 25/yr |
| ☐ Club / Organization Friend: | \$ 50/yr |
| ☐ Business / Corporate Friend: | \$ 100/yr |
| ☐ Lifetime Friend: | \$ 500 |
| ☐ Other Donation Amount: | \$ _____ |
| | |
| ☐ Newsletter (emailed): | \$0/yr |
| ☐ Newsletter (mailed): | +\$5/yr
(for S&H) |

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Scan for online
membership form



Membership Reminder

Please consider your **2026** membership! Our memberships are set up on a calendar basis—January through December. The bulk of our operating budget comes from membership fees. Please help to keep FRL strong and renew your membership today!

Closing Schedule

USACE Facilities

Seven Points Camp Loops (ALL):	Oct 28
Baker's Hollow Water Pump:	Oct 28
Ridenour Overlook:	Dec 15

Concessionaires

Lighthouse Concessions:	Sept 30
Lake Raystown Resort	
• Campground, marina, restaurant:	Nov 3
Seven Points Marina:	Oct 13
Branch Camp:	Oct 27

Restrooms

Oak, Seven Points Boat Launch:	Oct 27
Raystown Lake Dam:	Oct 27
Boat Launches:	Open Year Round

Gate Opening (Hunting Season)

High Germany (Gate 28):	Oct 3 - Jan 20
Susquehannock (Gate 8):	Oct 3 - Jan 20
Upper Corner (Gate 13):	Oct 3 - Jan 20
Millers Farm (Gate 35):	Oct 3 - Jan 20
Hawn Road (Gate 1):	Oct 3 - Dec 14
John Bum Road (Gate 27):	Oct 3 - Dec 14
Bowser's Orchard (Gate 5):	Nov 28 - Dec 14
Nancy's Camp (Gate 26):	Nov 28 - Dec 14

Reminder: Though not required, it's always a good idea to wear orange while recreating outdoors during hunting season



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Hesston, PA 16647

