



THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

SPRING 2026 + ISSUE 1 + VOL 36



Spring 2026

Spring has officially arrived at Raystown Lake, bringing with it new energy, opportunities, and plenty to look forward to in the months ahead.

As the days grow longer and the landscape comes back to life, so does the momentum of the Friends of Raystown Lake and our incredible community of volunteers and partners.

In this edition of the newsletter, we're excited to share a recap of the Alternative Spring Break Program, where dedicated students rolled up their sleeves to make a lasting impact on the Allegrippis Trails. You'll also find a lineup of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities: perfect ways to get outside, give back, and connect with the lake you love.

As we head into the busy season, we're highlighting important updates from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including facility opening schedules and a new Pack It In, Pack It Out policy. And of course, spring wouldn't be complete without a look at one of our favorite seasonal milestones: nesting bald eagles!



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Alt Spring Break Program

Earlier this month, the Friends of Raystown Lake was proud to welcome a group of dedicated students from Rowan University as part of the American Hiking Society's Alternative Break Program. This initiative connects college students with meaningful volunteer opportunities, and this year's group chose to spend their spring break giving back on the Allegrippis Trails.

Despite a cold and rainy start to the week, the students jumped right into their work with enthusiasm and determination. Partnering with volunteers from the Raystown Area Mountain Bike Organization (RAMBO) and supported by trail crew leaders from Rothrock Outfitters, the group focused on improving trail conditions and long-term sustainability across the system.

Over the course of their visit, the students made a significant impact. Their efforts included repairing sections of trail that had collapsed or washed out, completing miles of drainage improvements to reduce erosion, and clearing downed trees and debris from the trail corridor. They also addressed larger safety concerns, such as unstable root balls and other hazards that can affect both trail integrity and rider safety.

These hands-on projects are essential to maintaining the quality and longevity of the Allegrippis Trails, and the students' hard work did not go unnoticed. Their willingness to trade a traditional spring break for one rooted in service speaks volumes about their commitment to outdoor stewardship. We extend our sincere thanks to Rowan University's Alternative Break crew for their time and effort, as well as to Rothrock Outfitters and RAMBO volunteers for providing guidance and leadership throughout the week. Together, this collaboration helped ensure that the Allegrippis Trails remain safe, sustainable, and enjoyable for all who visit.



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Upcoming Events

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

April 12: RAMBO Work Day

10 a.m. @ Baker's Hollow Lot

April 15: Fish Structure Building

9 a.m. @ Seven Points Boat Launch

April 26: RAMBO Work Day

10 a.m. @ Baker's Hollow Lot

May 2: Cleanup Day

8 a.m.-1 p.m. @ Tatman Run Rec Area

May 8-10: Spring Swap Disc Golf Tournament

Susquehannock Campground

May 15-17: DirtFest 2026

Susquehannock Campground, Allegrippis Trail System



Check our Facebook for more information

Opening Schedule

USACE Facilities

Baker's Hollow Water Pump:	Apr 6
Seven Points Beach:	May 15
Tatman Run Beach:	May 22
Boat Launches:	Open Year Round

Restrooms

Oak:	Apr 3
Raytown Lake Dam:	Apr 3
Pine:	Apr 24
Miller, Laurel:	May 8
Bay 1:	Apr 3
Bay 2:	May 15

Concessionaires

Lighthouse Concessions:	May 23
Lake Raystown Resort	
• Waterpark:	TBD
• Campground:	Apr 13
• Marina:	Apr 25
• Restaurant:	Apr 11
Seven Points Marina:	Apr 25
Branch Camp:	Apr 3

Gate Opening

(Hunting Season)	
High Germany (Gate 28):	Apr 25 - Jun 1

'TREAD LIGHTLY' DRIVE 35 CAMPAIGN

To celebrate 35 years of promoting responsible recreation, Tread Lightly! has launched the Drive 35 campaign in partnership with Bombardier Recreational Products Inc. (BRP) with their Responsible Rider Program.

The Responsible Rider Masterclass is a short, accessible online training program designed for riders of all experience levels. The courses focus on three core pillars: safety, riding behavior and environmental stewardship, and provide practical guidance riders can apply across snow, water and off-road environments.

As part of the Drive 35 campaign, BRP will contribute \$35 for every Responsible Rider Masterclass completion, directly supporting Tread Lightly!'s nationwide education initiatives and stewardship projects focused on protecting trails, waterways and public lands.

To learn more visit <https://treadlightly.org/responsibleridermasterclass/> or scan the QR code



Membership Application

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

Friends of Raystown Lake
6993 Seven Points Rd, STE 1
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!

Pack It In, Pack It Out

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, will transition Raystown Lake's recreation areas to a Pack-it-in, Pack-it-out policy, effective Mar. 25, 2026.

Dumpsters at most of Raystown's recreation areas will be removed, and day-use visitors should be prepared to remove **all trash** they bring into the flood risk management project and dispose of it at home.

Dumpsters will remain accessible to reservation holders at Raystown's Seven Points, Nancy's Camp Boat-to-Shore, and Susquehannock Campgrounds, as well as Seven Points Beach. All dumpsters will be closely monitored, and offenders disposing of household waste are subject to enforcement actions including citations.

Pack-it-in, Pack-it-out requires visitors to remove all trash, food scraps, and waste they bring to Raystown Lake facilities. It prevents litter from accumulating which also protects the environment and wildlife. If you carried it in, carry it out!

Similar Pack-it-in, Pack-it-out policies are already standard practice across Pennsylvania state parks. Here are a few tips to help guests plan and prepare for a successful trip:

- All the items you brought with you must leave with you, including trash. This includes but not limited to: Food items, disposable drink containers, bottle caps, wrappers, cigarettes, napkins and more.
- Bring trash bags along and keep them accessible as you set up for the day.
- When bringing food, plan for meals with minimal waste by incorporating reusable solutions for beverages and food.
- Reusable water bottles can be refilled at potable water spigots or fountains, including the Raystown Lake Visitor Center and Seven Points picnic shelters and dump station.
- Anglers: make sure to take all fishing supplies with you. This includes fishing line, bait containers, tackle, and any scraps.
- Boaters: expect no trash cans at launch sites. All food trash and boating supplies must be taken with you.
- Leashed pets are permitted in designated recreation areas. To protect waste collectors and prevent odors, double-wrap pet waste before adding it to your trash bag for disposal offsite.

To learn more about this policy, visit <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Dams-Recreation/Raystown-Lake/Pack-It-In-Pack-It-Out-policy/> or contact Raystown Lake USACE at (814) 658-3405 ex 0.

Eagles on the Nest

Spring at Raystown Lake brings one of the most exciting signs of the season: bald eagle nesting activity is officially underway! Multiple nests around the lake have been confirmed as actively incubating. This means adult eagles are currently keeping their eggs warm as they await the arrival of this year's eaglets.

Confirmed active nesting sites include Raystown Dam, Nancy's Camp, MM10, Coffee Run, Terrace Mountain Trail, and Lake Raystown Resort.

For many visitors and locals alike, spotting an eagle is a highlight. But this time of year, it's especially important to give nesting birds plenty of space.

Disturbances can cause adults to leave the nest, putting eggs and young eaglets at risk. To avoid disturbing these birds, keep a respectful distance from known nesting areas, avoid loud noises, and follow any posted closures.



Photo by Mike Tome, Duckdog Photography



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