



THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

SUMMER 2026 + ISSUE 1 + VOL 37



Summer 2026

Summer is the busiest, and most rewarding, time of year at Raystown Lake. As the days grow longer and more visitors discover everything our region has to offer, Friends of Raystown Lake continues working alongside our volunteers, partners, and supporters to enhance the recreation, conservation, and educational opportunities that make this place so special.

Inside this issue, you'll read about a successful Alternative Spring Break project where students from the City College of New York improved the Terrace Mountain Trail, along with highlights from this year's Raystown Conservation Education Program (RayCEP). We'll also recap another fantastic DirtFest weekend and share updates on the new Seven Points Putting Course and our ongoing fish structure building efforts. Finally, be sure to check out our calendar of upcoming events for opportunities to volunteer, learn, explore, and connect with the Friends of Raystown Lake community throughout the summer.

Thank you for being part of Friends of Raystown Lake. We look forward to seeing you out on the trails, on the water, and at our upcoming events this summer!



FRIENDS OF
RAYSTOWN LAKE
6993 SEVEN POINTS RD
STE 1
HESSTON, PA 16647

Board of Directors

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Cooperative Agency
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Raystown Lake Project
6145 Seven Points Road
Hesston, PA 16647
(814) 658-3405



Operations Manager
Allen Gwinn

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2nd Alt Spring Break Program

This April, Friends of Raystown Lake welcomed a second Alternative Spring Break crew through the American Hiking Society's Alternative Spring Break Program. Students from the City College of New York (CCNY) Outdoors Club traded a traditional spring break for a week of service, dedicating their time and energy to improving the Terrace Mountain Trail.

Working alongside volunteer crew leaders from Rothrock Outfitters and the Raystown Lake, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the students tackled a variety of projects. Throughout the week, they cleared downed trees, reblazed sections of the trail, and improved the corridor connecting Route 994 to Trough Creek State Park, making the trail safer and easier to navigate for future hikers.

Their hard work represents the spirit of stewardship that the Alternative Spring Break Program is all about—giving back to public lands while gaining hands-on experience in trail conservation. By the end of the week, the crew had made a meaningful and lasting contribution to the Terrace Mountain Trail, ensuring it remains an enjoyable outdoor destination for years to come.

Friends of Raystown Lake extends a heartfelt thank you to the students from the CCNY Outdoors Club for spending their spring break serving our public lands, as well as to our dedicated volunteer crew leaders from Rothrock Outfitters and the Raystown Lake, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for sharing their time, knowledge, and expertise. We are grateful to the American Hiking Society and the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau for making this opportunity possible.



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CONNECT WITH US

@FriendsofRaystownLake



Instagram

Upcoming Events

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

First & Third Sundays: RAMBO Work Days

10 a.m. @ RAMBO Shed

July 11: Raystown Summer Nights

6-9 p.m. @ Raystown Lake Amphitheater

July 18: Glow Swim

8 p.m. @ Seven Points Beach

Aug 1: Chalk the Walk

11 a.m. @ Seven Points Beach

Aug 8: Raystown Summer Nights

6-9 p.m. @ Raystown Lake Amphitheater

Aug 9-15: Huntingdon County Fair



Check our Facebook for
more information

Fish Structure Building

Raystown Lake, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continued a longstanding partnership program working with partnering agencies and volunteers to construct and place artificial structures in Raystown Lake to offset the habitat void created by 1970's construction activities.

The habitat structures consist of rough-cut lumber that promotes vegetative growth and contain voids and open spaces with narrow slots. The design allows fish to find refuge, to spawn, nest, ambush, forage, migrate, and rest in their aquatic homes. The structures are suited to provide nursery habitat opportunities for all of the many varieties of fish species that inhabit Raystown Lake. Without these structures, young fingerlings have very little place to hide from larger predatory species.

This year participants collectively built 40 short vertical plank structures. The structures were placed in Twin Hollows and Beer Barrel Bay



PUTTING COURSE PROGRESS

Exciting progress is being made on Raystown Lake's newest disc golf project: a dedicated putting course at Seven Points Beach.

Designed to complement the existing Pine 9 and Ravine 18 courses, the new putting course will provide a fun, approachable space where players can sharpen their short game and introduce newcomers to the sport.

Over the past several months, volunteers from Raystown Area Discgolf (RAD) have been hard at work transforming the area. Crews have cleared brush, established fairways, and begun installing baskets throughout the course. Every workday has brought the project one step closer to becoming a reality, thanks to the countless volunteer hours donated by members of the local disc golf community.



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!

2026 RayCEP Schedule

Raptors

Thursday, July 2nd, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Huntingdon Farmer's Market

Come hang out with RayCEP and learn about some of the coolest birds of prey!

Eagle Mania

Friday, July 3rd, 6:00 p.m.

Raystown Lake Visitor Center

Celebrate Independence Day by soaring into the world of eagles!

Bats & Caves

Thursday, July 9th, 1:00 p.m.

Huntingdon County Library

Spelunk into the fun world of the native bats of PA.

Bats After Dark

Friday, July 10th, 6:00 p.m.

Raystown Lake Visitor Center

Spelunk into the fun world of the native bats of PA. Get ready for an evening of adventure as we discover the wonders of caves!

Amphibian Frenzy

Thursday, July 16th, 11:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.

Huntingdon Farmers' Market

Join RayCEP to learn about fascinating amphibians. It's sure to be ribbit-ing!

Amphibian Frenzy

Friday, July 17th, 6:00 p.m.

Raystown Lake Visitor Center

Dive into a night full of amphibians. Learn about these fascinating creatures with us at 6 p.m. in the visitor center, it will be absolutely ribbit-ing!

Aquatic Invaders

Thursday, July 23rd, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Huntingdon Farmers' Market

Dive into the world of aquatic ecosystems as we spotlight the invasive species making waves in Raystown Lake.

Aquatic Invaders

Friday, July 24rd, 6:00 p.m.

Raystown Lake Visitor Center

Dive into the world of aquatic ecosystems as we spotlight the invasive species making waves in Raystown Lake.

Wildflowers

Thursday, July 30th, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Huntingdon Farmers' Market

Stop and smell the roses! Join RayCEP for some flowery fun.

Wildflowers

Friday, July 31st, 6:00 p.m.

Raystown Lake Visitor Center

Stop and smell the roses! Join us at the visitors center for a night of flowery fun with red columbines and crafts!

Jungle Animals

Thursday, August 6th, 1:00 p.m.

Huntingdon County Library

Explore the world of jungle animals!

Creepy Crawlers

Friday, August 7th, 6:00 p.m.

Raystown Lake Visitor Center

Crawl on down to Raystown to learn all about your favorite insects and 8-legged spider friends!

Fantastic Foliage

Thursday, August 13th, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Huntingdon Farmers' Market

Step back in time as we explore the history of Pennsylvania's native trees!

Fantastic Foliage

Friday, August 14th, 6:00 p.m.

Raystown Lake Visitor Center

Step back in time as we explore the history of Pennsylvania's native trees!

DirtFest 2026

Another successful DirtFest is in the books! This May, mountain bikers from across the region gathered at Raystown Lake for a weekend of riding, learning, and community, showcasing everything that makes the Allegrippis Trails one of Pennsylvania's premier mountain biking destinations.

Throughout the weekend, riders of all ages and skill levels took advantage of guided rides, skills clinics, educational workshops, and vendor demonstrations. From first-time trail riders to seasoned cyclists, DirtFest offered something for everyone while highlighting the incredible trail system maintained year-round by the Raystown Area Mountain Bike Organization (RAMBO), a program of Friends of Raystown Lake.

Friends of Raystown Lake extends a sincere thank you to everyone who attended, volunteered, sponsored, exhibited, instructed, or otherwise contributed to another fantastic weekend. We are especially grateful to our title sponsor, Tonewood Brewing, as well as all of our event sponsors and partners whose generosity helped make DirtFest 2026 possible.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to Raystown Lake next year for another unforgettable weekend on the trails!

Friends of Raystown Lake
6993 Seven Points Rd, STE 2
Hesston, PA 16647

