THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

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Fall 2026

As the leaves begin to turn and the busy days of summer wind down, we're taking a look back at some of the programs and projects that made the season special at Raystown Lake. From educational programs and outdoor adventures to community efforts, it was another busy summer for Friends of Raystown Lake!

Inside this issue, you'll find a recap of some of our summer programs, a look at upcoming events and activities, and important updates from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, including the seasonal closing schedule for facilities around the lake. We'll also share a few updates from the Corps Foundation..

Whether you're planning one more fall adventure or already looking ahead to next season, we hope you'll enjoy catching up on what's happening around Raystown Lake. Thanks for being part of FRL and for helping us support, protect, and celebrate this special place!

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

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Chalk the Walk & Glow Swim

On Saturday, August 1, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff and volunteers held Raystown Lake's 15th annual Chalk the Walk and 14th annual Glow Swim events at Seven Points Beach. These annual public safety initiatives provide a fun, interactive environment to promote safe recreation and directly reinforce critical water safety messages.

During the Chalk the Walk event, visitors of all ages covered the Seven Points Beach walkway with 43 unique, water-safety-themed chalk drawings. Local businesses donated gift cards and merchandise to the Friends of Raystown Lake to serve as prizes for the winners, demonstrating strong local business support for our safety mission.

Following the art contest, participants took part in the annual Glow Swim, using glow sticks and illuminated items to increase visibility in the water after dark. As an absolute safety requirement, all participants were required to wear a properly fitted lifejacket, which was individually checked by USACE staff and volunteers prior to entering the water.

In total, staff and volunteers made over 400 direct water safety contacts during the two events. By combining community creativity with strict safety protocols, these events successfully advanced the Corps' public safety mission and strengthened relations with local residents and businesses.





CONNECT WITH US

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Upcoming Events

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

October 8: FRL Monthly Meeting
7 p.m. @ Marina Cafe, Lake Raystown Resort

October 9-11: RAMBO Work Weekend
Susquehannock Campground, Allegrippis Trails

October 24: Raystown Trunk or Treat
5-8 p.m. @ Raystown Lake Visitor Center

November 14: RAD's 5th Annual MVP Space Race
1:30 p.m. @ Seven Points Pine 9 Disc Golf Course

November 12: FRL Monthly Meeting
7 p.m. @ Hoss's Steak & Sea House, Huntingdon

Check our Facebook for more information

Corps Foundation Launches Flipbook

The Corps Foundation, in partnership with the American Park Network (APN), has developed a new online flipbook guide to the lakes and rivers managed by USACE. The new guide is an interactive digital publication that looks like a book and allows digital device users to flip through the pages.

The guide builds on information from the original National Lakes and Rivers brochure, including its maps and graphics, while adding convenient links to facility charts available through the NRM Gateway. The new guide makes it easier for visitors to access information about USACE campsites, boat ramps, and the wide variety of recreational opportunities available at more than 400 lakes and rivers across the country.

View the flipbook guide at https://online.flippingbook.com/view/277823363/, or by scanning the QR Code to the right

THE CORPS FOUNDATION
SUPPORTING
AMERICA'S LAKES AND WATERWAYS

USER FEES RETURNED TO USACE REC PROJECTS

What do infrastructure improvements at public outdoor recreation facilities look like to you? Renovated boat ramps? New restrooms and sanitation systems? Better roads and parking areas? Upgraded campgrounds? For the 260 million visitors who use U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) recreation areas each year, improvements like these directly enhance safety, access, and visitor experience.

The Corps Foundation is proud to mark a major milestone for USACE recreation. Authorized in Section 1154 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2024 and supported by funding authority in the Energy and Water Development Act of 2026, USACE can now reinvest recreation user fees back into the projects where they are collected.

This long-sought change brings USACE more in line with other federal land management agencies and provides an important source of support for priority repairs and improvements.

Learn more at https://corpsfoundation.org/

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 **2027** 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!

Raystown Summer Nights

During the summer of 2026, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers partnered with the Huntingdon County Arts Council and Friends of Raystown Lake to host the inaugural Raystown Summer Nights concert series at the Lake Raystown Amphitheater. This series was designed to increase recreational opportunities, encourage visitors to enjoy the lake after traditional hours, and strengthen partnerships with local organizations.

The free, family-friendly series featured three evening concerts showcasing local musicians: Dylan Miller & Chris Strait on June 6, Nick Miller on July 11, and the Eric Ian Farmer Trio on August 8. In addition to live music, the events featured food from Lighthouse Concessions, environmental education activities led by Student Conservation Association (SCA) and Raystown Conservation Education Partnership (RayCEP) interns, and recreation activities including yard games, crafts, and giveaways. This was made possible through active participation from community partners, including the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Rothrock Outfitters, Huntingdon County Arts Council, Huntingdon County Library, Raystown Area Discgolf, and the Clearwater Conservancy.

Despite rain impacting portions of the series, the inaugural season was well received, welcoming over 350 visitors across the three events. Furthermore, this initiative demonstrated incredible partnership value: our partners donated over 120 volunteer hours between planning and implementation, delivering an estimated value of $4,336. This successful first year provides a strong foundation and valuable experience to assist in the planning of future events.





Closing Schedule

USACE Facilities

Seven Points Camp Loops (ALL):	Oct 26
Baker's Hollow Water Pump:	Oct 30
Ridenour Overlook:	Dec 14

Concessionaires

Lighthouse Concessions:	**Oct 31**
Lake Raystown Resort	
• Campground, marina, restaurant:	**Nov 1**
Seven Points Marina:	**Oct 11**
Branch Camp:	**Nov 1**

Restrooms

Oak, Seven Points Boat Launch:	Oct 26
Raystown Lake Dam:	Oct 26
Boat Launches:	Open Year Round

Gate Opening (Hunting Season)

Hawns Bridge Road (Gate 1):	NOW - Jan 19
Susquehannock (Gate 8):	NOW - Jan 19
Upper Corner (Gate 13):	NOW - Jan 19
High Germany (Gate 28):	NOW - Jan 19
Weaver Falls Rd (Gate 35):	NOW - Jan 19
Bowser's Orchard (Gate 5):	Nov 25 - Dec 14
Susq./BO Connector (Gate 7)	Nov 25 - Dec 14
Nancy's Camp (Gate 26):	Nov 25 - Dec 14
John Bum Road (Gate 27):	Nov 25 - Dec 14

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

