



# THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

SUMMER 2019+ ISSUE 3+ VOL 23



## Monarch Migration at Raystown Lake

Unlike most other insects in temperate climates, Monarch butterflies cannot survive a long cold winter. Instead, they spend the winter in roosting spots. Monarch's east of the Rocky Mountains fly farther south to the forests high in the mountains of Mexico. The monarch's migration is driven by seasonal changes. Day length and temperature changes influence the movement of the Monarch.

In all the world, no butterflies migrate like the Monarchs of North America. They travel much farther than all other tropical butterflies, up to three thousand miles. They are the only butterflies to make such a long, two way migration every year. Amazingly, they fly in masses to the same winter roosts, often to the exact same trees. Their migration is more the type we expect from birds or whales. However, unlike birds and whales, individuals only make the round-trip once. It is their children's grandchildren that return south the following fall.

The Fall Migration is from September - November in this region. The figure below is an interpretation of the routes taken by Monarchs during the Fall migration. The pathways are based on tag recoveries and observations of Migrating Monarchs.



Raystown Lake Resource Staff is partnering with Juniata College Interns this fall to tag Monarchs caught at Raystown Lake! Focused captures will be at pollinator specific plots in Seven Points. We are hopeful that our tagged Monarchs will make it to Mexico. Stay tuned for the next newsletter for results of the tagging!

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

Board of Directors  
President + Ron Rabena  
Vice + Leslie Leckvarcik  
Secretary + Valerie Robbins-Rice  
Treasurer + Wayne Hearn

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



Acting Park Manager +  
John Kolodziejki

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Monarch Butterfly Migration.....	1
Summer Scenes .....	2
Captain's Quarters.....	2
PSBA Hatchery Report.....	3
Upcoming Events.....	4
Membership Application.....	4
Allegrippis Action.....	5
Junior Ranger Program.....	5
Raystown Lake Brochure.....	5
Welcome OPM.....	6



# SUMMER SCENES AT RAYSTOWN LAKE



**Pictured:**  
**Far left-** Park Ranger Emily promoting FRL at Shy Beaver Boat Launch.



**Middle-** Marklesburg Water Rescue Training at Aitch.



**Far right-** RayCEP Interns presenting on pollinators at the Amphitheater.

**Left-** Pollinator Habitat along Bay Drive in Seven Points Recreation Area.



## Captain's Quarters

by Ron Rabena, President

It has been a crazy summer weather wise with lots of rain and lots of heat. The fall season is a great time to be at Raystown Lake. Boating traffic starts to ease up and the leaves start to change, but the weather still stays nice for boating a few more weeks. The Allegrippis Trails are in good shape along with the skills park and it is not so hot to bike our beautiful trails. With the fall weather comes hunting seasons and all people in the outdoors of Raystown Lake should be wearing some orange especially on the bike trails. Our three RayCEP interns have completed another successful season of interpretive environmental and conservation topics for all visitors at Raystown Lake. Putt's Camp is enjoying another successful season with an Eagle Scout project putting a new roof on the pavilion. Some eagles are around the lake at different areas so be on the lookout and enjoy the fall.





# PSBA 2019 Hatchery Report

By: Nelson Wert

We planned to spawn the first three females we received from the University of North Carolina in mid May, followed a week later by the last three females plus any additional females we caught in the lake. One of the first three females turned out to be immature and produced tiny eggs with no fertilization. We did get approximately 100,000 fry from the first spawn which were placed in a net pen in Runks Bay. Unfortunately, our chiller broke down and had to be replaced after we had already started the warm up period on the last 3 females. Their cycle had to be paused for 8 days while we waited the arrival of new equipment. These females then began re-absorbing their eggs during this time and we were unable to get any fertilized eggs from the last spawn. We had planned on putting the anticipated fry from the last spawn into the pond we prepared in Lancaster County but because of the chiller problem were unable to do so. All the females we caught from lake had already spawned out.

The net pen worked well initially. We had a green light in the water next to a pump which pumps water into the net pen. The green light attracts cope-pods and zooplankton which is then pumped into the net pen for the fry to eat. There was plenty of food in the net pen and the fry were doing well. In retrospect, it is possible that we were pumping a little too much water in to the net pen as algae started to grow on the interior surface of the net pen. I observed some fry getting stuck on the algae and being unable to escape, so the remaining fry were released into the lake. If we try the net pen next year, we will greatly reduce the water flow into the pen to avoid the algae problem with the hope we can then keep the fry in the pen longer to raise them to a larger size. Runks Bay did have copious food for the released fry to eat as well the lot of vegetation to hide in so hopeful some of these fry will make your clicker sing in a couple years.

We also had difficulty getting fresh males for the first spawn as we went 9 days without catching one, so we have talked to North Carolina University about the possibility of getting both domesticated males and females in the spring. This has the possibility of reducing our hatchery costs as these fish would be in the hatchery for a much shorter period of time, and we would be guaranteed having both males and females which we could put under our spawning protocol simultaneously. I believe there is a reasonable chance they will work with us on this, and I will keep you informed when I get a final reply.

In addition to our work at the hatchery, the PSBA stocked 7"-8" fish which we purchased from Delmarva Aquatics. Our members also acclimated 3 loads of striped bass stocked by the Pa Fish and Boat Commission. I want to thank our members who were willing to give their time to perform this important function to ensure the best survival for the fish being stocked.



Pictured: Nelson Wert giving a tour of the Hatchery to PA Governor's Advisory Council for Fish & Wildlife.



Pictured: Runks Bay net pen.

# Allegrippis Action

By Brent Rader (FRL Board Member & Allegrippis Volunteer)

Volunteers have been busily working on the Allegrippis Trails this summer. Several severe storms that have come through the area have caused damage and increased maintenance needs. The most frequent problem we've had this year is with trees getting knocked down in the storms, blocking passage on the trails.

At last count, Friends of Raystown Lake trail committee volunteers had cut over 200 trees and logs off of the trails. This number far exceeds what we'd normally do in a year, or even two years. Thankfully, a new lightweight chainsaw, purchased with FRL Allegrippis Trails fund dollars, has made this task much easier. This is especially important when a volunteer has to walk several miles to reach a tree that's down.

Another way the burden has been eased on FRL volunteers this year is through a new partnership with the State Correctional Institution at Smithfield's Community Works Program. This program, coordinated by Christian Garman, allows inmates to go out into the community to do things like mowing, trimming, and other work. The inmates and staff of this program are helping to keep the Raystown Mountain Bike Skills Park mowed and trimmed regularly, freeing up volunteer time for other tasks. The work is all done at no cost. Thanks to Mr. Garman and the rest of the crew for keeping the skills park looking great!

In other news, volunteers including Ellis Dunklebarger, Marci Chamberlain, Gatsby Bodnar, and Brent Rader constructed a boardwalk over a particularly wet trouble spot on Doe trail. We were able to get this done just before Dirtfest, so it helped to reduce erosion on that section of the trail. Volunteers, led by Ken Smith, also reconstructed a section of rock armoring at the intersection of Allie, Grippis, and Red Legs trails. A spring had developed in this area and was running down the trail like a stream. Moving the rocks around helped to cover wet areas, and to direct drainage straight across and away from the trail.

As always, look for announcements of trail work days. We'll have multiple days coming up through the fall. We usually post days on the Allegrippis and Friends of Raystown Facebook pages. We'd love to have anyone and everyone come out to lend a hand. We'll have tasks for folks of all skill levels, so even if you haven't done trail maintenance before, there are ways that you can help out. Thanks to everyone who's helped keep the trails in good shape this year!



## Junior Ranger Program coming to Raystown!

"Explore, Learn, and Protect!" The Junior Ranger motto is recited by children around the country; each taking an oath of their own to protect parks, continue to learn about parks, and share their own ranger story with friends and family.

The USACE Junior Ranger program is an activity based program conducted in almost all national parks. Interested youth complete a series of activities during a park visit, share their answers with a park ranger, and receive an official Junior Ranger badge and Junior Ranger certificate. Junior Rangers are typically between the ages of 5 to 13, although people of all ages can participate.

Raystown Lake will offer the Junior Ranger Program at the Raystown Lake Visitor Center in the fall 2019.



## Updated Raystown Lake Project Brochure available

Raystown Lake Staff recently updated the Project brochure with a new and improved map (thanks to the Huntingdon County Mapping Department!) and updated information/pictures (thanks to Graphic Designs!). You can pick up a new brochure at the Raystown Lake Visitor Center.





# UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall is a busy season at Raystown Lake with plenty of things to do while enjoying the spectacular fall colors of the region. Here are a few upcoming events for your calendar:

**October 28th: Campgrounds Close.** It is that time of year where the campgrounds close the for the winter....see you in the Spring!

**December 14th: Wheelin' Sportsman Hunt!** Volunteers are needed to assist hunters at blinds and driving deer. Call the Ranger Office for more information (814) 658-6809.

**FRL Meetings: The Friends of Raystown Lake will hold the monthly board meetings on Thursdays September 12th, October 10th, and November 14th. Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm at Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Huntingdon.**

**2019-2020 Every Kid in a Park 4th grade passes available!**



Did you know? Your fourth grader can get you and your family FREE entry into all national/federal parks for the remainder of their fourth grade year! You can print out a voucher from [www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov) to exchange for a durable pass. Passes are available at the Raystown Lake Visitor Center Ranger Office.

## 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

- New Member  Renewal
- Special Friend \$500 (lifetime)
- Individual Friend \$10/year
- Family Friend \$15/year
- Club / Organization Friend \$25/year
- Business Friend \$50/year
- Corporate Friend \$100/year

Extra Embroidered Patches: \_\_\_\_\_  
@ \$3.00 each

Extra Decals: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$1.00 each

Pins: \_\_\_\_\_ @ 5.00 each

Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send my quarterly newsletter by email

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You !



## Membership Reminder

Please consider your **2019** membership ! Our memberships are set up on a calendar basis—January through December. As you may know, the bulk of our operating budget comes from membership fees. Please help to keep FRL strong and renew your membership today.

# Welcome, OPM Detail



The friends of Raystown Lake are excited to welcome Acting Operations Manager (OPM) John Kolodziejcki to the Raystown Lake Project. John arrived at Raystown on August 4th, 2019 and will serve as the Acting Operations Manager until November 22nd. John is joining us from his position as the Natural Resource Manager for Pittsburgh District's Shenango Lake Project. He has been with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 36 years. John received his degree in Recreation and Resource Management from Penn State University. He is happily married to his wife Dianne, who served as a seasonal park ranger here at Raystown Lake in the early 80's. John and Dianne are the proud parents of three daughters and one son. John is excited to spend some time in the beautiful Raystown Lake region.

Friends of Raystown Lake  
P.O. Box 87  
Hesston, PA 16647

