



THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

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Spring 2021

Despite an unseasonably chilly spring at Raystown, the recreation season is already off to a busy start! This May, the FRL had a very successful Lake Cleanup Day and helped to celebrate our fearless leader, Ron Rabena, winning the Enduring Service Volunteer Award (see Lake Cleanup Day article). The Friends also participated in a volunteer workday on the Terrace Mountain Trail, constructed 39 vertical plank structures at Fish Structure Building Day, and helped with a STEM stream study event at Corbin's Island.

An exciting donation was recently made to Putt's Camp and improvements are already underway! The Allegrippis Trails have had a busy spring, hosting the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League Coaches Retreat and our first annual Bike Fest this May!

Raystown is expecting record breaking visitation again this season as visitors shed their COVID cabin fever and spend as much time outdoors as possible. Seven Points Campground reservations are already booked almost every weekend, but there is still availability in Nancy's Camp and the newly improved Susquehannock. We are looking forward to the return of the RayCEP program and some of the larger amphitheater events, such as Glow Swim!

The new CDC and Baltimore District guidance for Raystown Lake now dictates that fully vaccinated individuals (2 weeks past final shot) do not have to wear masks on federal properties. Individuals not vaccinated must wear a mask indoors and when a 6 foot social distance cannot be maintained.

Stay safe this summer and remember to wear your life jacket when recreating on or near the water!

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

Board of Directors

President + Ron Rabena
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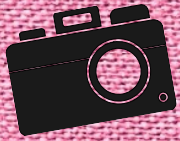
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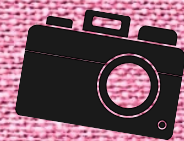
Operations Manager
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Spring Snapshots



Coaches receiving training at the
PICL Coaches Retreat



Spring sunset near Ridge
Campground



A vendor at our first annual
Raystown Bike Fest!



Participants at Fish Structure
Building Day in April



Professor Roy Nagle showing off the
new turtle nesting mounds at
Fouse's Crossing



Improvements in Susquhannock
Campground are ready to go for the
summer season!



Captain's Quarters



BY RON RABENA, PRESIDENT

Summer has arrived at Raystown Lake, with campgrounds, boat launches and day use areas already full almost every weekend. I want to thank everyone who congratulated me on receiving the Enduring Service Award! I told my wife it was nice to receive it while I was still alive. Lots of FRL projects are underway after a very successful Lake Cleanup Day and our first Bike Fest that just wrapped up. The Raycep interns will be patrolling the campgrounds and beaches to share environmental and conservation programs for all to hear. Glow Swim and Chalk the Walk will be back this year as well! FRL is getting ready to do some major repair work on the Allegrippis Trail System; repair work will be done during the week with the entire system open for the weekends. Another project in the works is the electrification of Putt's Camp, thanks to a generous donation of a solar energy system from Energy Transfer. The Pavilion will be hooked up first and then future projects are lighting the Adirondack shelters, a better water treatment system and work on the restroom. Remember all your dues go into these projects and more! Thanks to all for your donations!

- Ron

Raystown Lake Cleanup Day Festivities

This year's Raystown Lake Cleanup Day was a huge success!

As expected, there was a large buildup of litter on the lake shoreline due to the cancellation of last year's event and traffic increases experienced as a result of COVID-19 in 2020. We had 15 boats and over 150 participants at the event who helped to remove approximately 7,000 pounds of garbage from the lake shoreline and roadways across the project, which was a substantial increase over average annual attendance rates and litter removal totals from the past few years.



Additionally, we had the opportunity to take out the new FRL pontoon boat (donated by Energy Transfer) on it's maiden cleanup day voyage! Energy Transfer also generously sponsored lunch from Backwoods Smoke Shack and brought over 25 volunteers to the event!



Ron receiving the Enduring Service Award from Corp Foundation treasurer, Marilyn Jones

After lunch, we held an award ceremony to present Friends of Raystown Lake president, Ron Rabena, with the Corps Foundation Enduring Service Volunteer Award. In terms of enduring service, there are few that set as impressive of an example as Ron. He has served as FRL president for nearly 25 years since the organization's founding in 1996 and logged more than 5,000 volunteer hours, which doesn't include his off-the-clock time. Ron truly embodies the concept of leading by example and has made it his duty to improve, advance and support the US Army Corps of Engineers natural resource and recreation stewardship missions at Raystown Lake.

As part of the award, Ron received a plaque, a \$250 check and a \$250 gift card for Bass Pro Shops. As further testament to Ron's character, no sooner than receiving the prize money did he give it away. The check will go toward installation of the new solar collection system in Putt's Camp and the gift card will be used for Chalk the Walk prizes. In his remarks, Ron thanked those who have made winning the award a possibility, stating "I wish I could cut this up so everyone gets a piece, because this is everyone's award."

At the ceremony, The Pennsylvania Striped Bass Association was also awarded the North Atlantic Division of the Excellence in Partnerships award from the Corps Foundation for their work on the Striped Bass Nursery.

Congratulations Ron and thank you to all who helped to make 2021 Lake Cleanup Day a success!



UPCOMING EVENTS

FRL Meetings: The Friends of Raystown Lake will hold monthly board meetings on Thursdays, June 10, July 8 and Aug 12. Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm both at the Raystown Lake Visitor Center and virtually.

Disc Golf Clinics- June 19, July 24, Aug 21: Join us outside the Visitor Center for FREE disc golf clinics provided by Lets Go Throw. A great chance to learn the game or network with other disc golfers in the area before the new course is installed in Seven Points!

Glow Swim- July 10th: Come out and enjoy the 9th annual Raystown Lake Glow Swim. This event takes place at Seven Points beach after hours at 8:00 pm, in the dark! Learn about the importance of life jacket safety and have the chance to cool off with an evening swim!

Diving Deep into the History of the Old Dam Program- July 24th: A group of local SCUBA divers will discuss their efforts to research the construction and operation of the Old Raystown Dam.

Chalk the Walk- August 7th: Join us at the Seven Points Beach for the 9th annual Chalk the Walk. Participants of all ages are encouraged to compete for cash and prizes for the best chalk drawn water safety message. Registration will be open from 11 AM to 6 PM and judging will be from 6 PM to 7 PM.

For most up-to-date information about all Amphitheater and RayCEP events check the Corp's Facebook page at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Raystown Lake or @raystownlakeproject

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 **2021** 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.

Putt's Camp Improvements

Some exciting new improvement are underway in Putt's Camp! The Friends of Raystown recently received a donation of a 15-panel solar collector system from Energy Transfer (SUNOCO). This unit will soon be installed for general lighting of the picnic shelter area and restroom facility. Eventually, the solar panel unit will also provide electric power to treating potable water in the campground.

We are looking forward to this improvement helping to increase group camping reservations at Putt's Camp, thus ensuring the area remains fiscally sustainable for the FRL and potentially even providing additional revenue for some future facility upgrades!



The future couldn't look brighter!



Welcome Scott and Megan

USACE recently welcomed two new faces to the Raystown Lake team!

Scott Graham is now Lead Park Ranger for the recreation program (Allen Gwinn's old position)! Scott formerly worked at Blue Marsh Lake, a USACE project near Reading, PA. He is excited for his first summer at Raystown, commenting "Since I was selected this past winter to join Raystown Lake's Staff, it has been a great privilege to work at an Army Corps Lake with so many opportunities to provide recreation to 1.2-1.6 million visitors annually. The huge variety of different projects and events the staff at Raystown Lake work together to accomplish with the help of volunteers and The Friends of Raystown Lake are incredible and continue to educate me personally how best to help manage this beautiful public land."



Scott Graham
Lead Park Ranger

Megan Brantner is the new Ranger Administrative Support Clerk. Megan served as a seasonal Park Ranger at Raystown last summer, which helped prepare her for her new permanent position, stating "I'm so excited to be working alongside Raystown's superlative staff and partner groups. They are truly tremendous! I am also grateful for the beneficial advantage of being able to apply last summer's seasonal ranger knowledge to my new administrative position." In her off time, Megan loves camping in Seven Points with her husband and 3 kids!



Megan Brantner
Ranger Administrative
Support Clerk

Scott and Megan have been doing an excellent job thus far in helping to assist the visitors of Raystown Lake! If you see them, be sure to say hello!

ALLEGRIPPIS ACTION

By Brent Rader (FRL Board Member & Allegrippis Volunteer)



Spring has brought a flurry of activity to the Allegrippis Trail System. Most notably, we held our inaugural Raystown Bike Fest the weekend before memorial day. The opportunity to gather with long-lost friends over the shared passion of mountain biking was a balm after dealing with the isolation of the last year or so.

Attendees arrived Friday to a freshly rebuilt Susquehannock campground. Most wasted no time setting up camp and heading out on their bikes, stopping to check out the expo area where vendors of bicycle and outdoor parts and accessories were showing their wares. The weather cooperated for the entire weekend, yielding bright sunny days and warm nights. Saturday was filled with riding and camaraderie. Standing Stone Coffee Company kept us caffeinated, while vendors Root Juice and Rebelz Mobile Cuisine kept us cool and full. Sunday brought more riding and folks hanging out much longer than normal due to the nice weather. The last stragglers left about 5:00 pm and we locked the gate on a successful event.

COVID restrictions made this event smaller than Dirtfests of years past, but it did not dampen our enthusiasm. We're not exactly sure how the event will look going forward, but we're definitely looking forward to next year. We would welcome input on how we can grow the event and make it better. A huge thanks goes out to FRL trail volunteers who worked tirelessly to get the trail system ready for Bike Fest. Also thank you to the folks who volunteered their time to staff the event. Last, but not least, we are indebted to our event coordinator, Trina Haynes, for pulling together a successful event despite the challenges of the last 18 months.

Finally, as always, if you'd like to get involved with Allegrippis, please check our Facebook and Instagram accounts for happenings. We're always looking for new volunteers to help out at the trails. Hopefully, with more people getting vaccinated we'll be able to safely gather more often for trail maintenance this year. Happy riding!

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

