



# THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

SUMMER 2021+ ISSUE 3+ VOL 25



## SUMMER 2021

We are wrapping up the end of another successful summer at Raystown Lake!

We're grateful for a return toward normal this summer with another record-setting recreation season in the books! The Seven Points Amphitheater was jam packed with new programs and performances from our partners, such as the Striped Bass Hatchery tour, "Standing Stone Trail and 1000 Steps" presentation, disc golf clinics and "Project Raystown: Diving Deep into the History of the Old Dam" (see photos in Summer Memories). Additionally, RayCEP returned this summer and delivered a total of 123 environmental education programs attended by 2531 visitors!

Although visitation will soon be slowing down, we certainly won't be! There are some big plans in the works for the fall, including a 9 foot lake drawdown, the installment of the highly anticipated Disc Golf Course in Seven Points, a new solar collector system in Putt's Camp, improvements in Twin Hollows and a major timber sale that will affect the Allegrippis Trails (see On the Horizon article). We're also looking forward to fall events, including the 1st annual Trashmaster Classic on National Public Lands Day in September, the PICL Teen Mountain Biking Event in October and Wheelin' Sportsmen in December.

FRL meetings have returned to Hoss's Steak and Sea House in Huntingdon at 7 PM! We hope to see you at the next meeting on Oct 14th!

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

### Board of Directors

President + Ron Rabena  
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# SUMMER MEMORIES



2021 RayCEP Interns Clarice and Daphne during their Extravagant Elk program in August.



3 disc golf clinic were hosted this summer by Standing Stone Disc Golf Club founder, Rick Romo.



A group of local SCUBA divers discuss the old Raystown Dam and recount their diving experiences.



George Conrad, president of the Standing Stone Trail Club, gives a presentation on the SST & 1000 Steps.



Tour of the PSBA Cooperative Striped Bass Hatchery given by director Nelson Wert in August.



PA Game Warden, Amanda Isett, shows how to tag a young black bear during the PA Black Bear program in June.



## Captain's Quarters



BY RON RABENA, PRESIDENT

Another great summer season is drawing to a close. Despite COVID and in light of increased vaccination opportunities, visitors have flocked to Raystown Lake. There are still plenty of days left to enjoy boating and the outdoors as the leaves start to change. FRL has resumed meeting at Hoss's Steak and Sea House in Huntingdon on the second Thursday of the month at 7 pm. Plans are underway for another small Bike Fest this May. FRL is looking for an event coordinator, so if you are interested or know someone who may be, contact us. Vendors are saying it will be 2023 until they are back up to full speed. Discussions have begun with a contractor to begin repair work on the Allegrippis Bike Trails and now that the Master Plan has been signed, plans are underway for the houseboat tie up connecting to the trails near Mile Marker 4. Construction has started on the solar power system for Putt's Camp, which also includes concreting the pavilion floor. Tell all your friends to become a member of the friends! All membership money goes to all our projects.... Stay safe

- Ron





# TURTLE NESTING MOUND SUCCESS



Raystown Lake is home to many different turtle species, such as wood, eastern box, and map turtles. During nesting season, many female turtles cross roads in search of a place to lay their eggs. Road mortalities, along with loss of habitat and the illegal pet trade has caused a decline of these long-lived reptiles and Raystown Lake is no exception.

This summer, Raystown Lake's Environmental Stewardship staff partnered with Professor Roy Nagle from Juniata College to protect our turtle populations. Nesting mounds made of sand and shale were created at the Riverside Nature Trail to encourage turtles to lay their eggs in a protected area. Additionally, turtle fencing was placed alongside the road to decrease road mortality. Throughout June and July, Juniata College research student, Park Ranger and former RayCEP intern Paige Hollibaugh helped to protect and monitor the nests. In total, 29 nests were protected! Congrats to USACE and Juniata College on their huge success on the project!

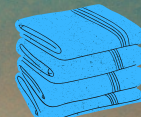
Research student Paige with an eastern box turtle



A map turtle using the new nesting mounds



## "I GOT CAUGHT" LIFE JACKET CAMPAIGN



This year, the FRL and USACE participated in a campaign known as "I Got Caught Wearing My Life Jacket" to help spread the word about the importance of wearing a life jacket when recreating on or near the water at Raystown Lake. The visitors in these photos "got caught" wearing their life jackets while boating and earned a free "Life Jackets Worn, Nobody Mourns" beach towel!





## UPCOMING EVENTS

**FRL Meetings:** The Friends of Raystown Lake will hold monthly board meetings at 7 PM on Thursdays, Sept 9, Oct 14 and Nov 11. We have returned to Hoss's Steak and Sea House in Huntingdon!

**Trashmaster Classic- Sept 25:** Join us on National Public Lands Day at Tatman Run Recreation Area with the FRL, USACE and Loose Cannon Outdoors crew for the 1st Annual Trashmaster Classic. The tournament is limited to 30 boats and the premise is exactly what it sounds like - whoever picks up the most trash wins the grand prize.

**Registration is free but is limited to only 30 boats**, so sign up by emailing [rob@loosecannonoutdoors.com](mailto:rob@loosecannonoutdoors.com).



**Wheelin' Sportsmen- Dec 11:** Organized by the Terrace Mountain Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in cooperation with the USACE, the Wheelin' Sportsmen hunt enables individuals with disabilities to get out and enjoy a free hunt in some of Raystown Lake Project's prime locations. To volunteer or apply for the 2021 Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt, please call (814) 658-6813.

For most up-to-date information about all Raystown Lake events check the Corp's Facebook page at Raystown Lake, US Army Corps of Engineers 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Thank You !



Donate now with..

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### 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.

# CLOSING SCHEDULE

## USACE FACILITIES

Seven Points Beach:	Sept 20
Seven Points Camp Loops (ALL):	Nov 1
Susquehannock Campground:	Sept 27
Baker's Hollow Water Pump:	Oct 27
Ridenour Overlook:	Dec 13

## CONCESSIONAIRES

Lighthouse Concessions:	Sept 13
Lake Raystown Resort	
• Waterpark:	Sept 6
• Campground, marina, restaurant:	Oct 29
Seven Points Marina:	Oct 17
Branch Camp:	Nov 1

## RESTROOMS

Pine, Miller, Laurel, Mushroom:	Sept 20
Oak, Seven Points Boat Launch:	Nov 1
Raystown Lake Dam:	Nov 1
Boat Launches:	Open Year Round

## GATE OPENING (HUNTING SEASON)

High Germany (Gate 28):	Oct 1 - Dec 11
Hawn Road (Gate 1):	Oct 15- Dec 11
Susquehannock (Gate 8):	Oct 15- Dec 11
Upper Corners (Gate 13):	Oct 15- Dec 11
John Bum Road (Gate 27):	Oct 15- Dec 11
Weaver Falls Road (Gate 35):	Oct 15- Dec 11
Bowser's Orchard (Gate 5):	Nov 26- Dec 11
Nancy's Camp (Gate 26):	Nov 26- Dec 11



## ON THE HORIZON



**It will be a busy fall as work begins on a variety of projects at Raystown Lake!**

### Lake Drawdown



Plans are underway for a 9 foot controlled water drawdown from lake elevation 786.5 (normal summer pool) to 777.5 NGVD, which will occur incrementally throughout the months of October and November. Lowering the lake level allows USACE and other agencies, such as the PA Fish and Boat Commission and FRL, to complete several important projects in areas that are typically underwater and/or inaccessible. Some of these projects include shoreline restoration, inspecting and repairing beach swim areas and boat ramps, fish structure survey, aquatic invasive research, debris removal, and more. All projects will be completed by late February.

### Twin Hollows Improvements



Twin Hollows in Seven Points Recreation Area is receiving a makeover! The PA Fish and Boat Commission is working to clear the area of trees, stabilize the shoreline, and add new fish habitat. Additionally, USACE is creating level picnicking areas, improving ADA accessibility, and building a new fishing pier. Parking is still available but use of the shoreline is limited throughout the duration of the project this fall.

### Drumming Grouse Timber Sale:



A large timber sale will be occurring near the maintenance compound in Seven Points Recreation Area. This sale will close 1.2 miles of the Old Loggers Trail and 2.1 miles of the Allegrippis Trail System (Stoney Trail) throughout the duration of the sale from November 1 to April 31.





# HURRICANE IDA IMPACTS

Although Raystown Lake is an excellent place for camping, boating, swimming, and fishing, recreation must sometimes fall second to the lake's main purpose- flood damage reduction.

When heavy rains from Hurricane Ida swept through the region from Tuesday, Aug. 31 to Thursday, Sept. 2, water was stored in the lake to lessen the impacts of flooding downstream by reducing flows into the Juniata River basin. The US Army Corps of Engineers began releasing water from the spillway approximately 2 days in advance of the storm and stopped releasing as the downstream basin began filling toward flood stages.

At its peak, the lake rose nearly 12 feet above normal summer pool and held back an extra 20 billion gallons of water, which is still only 40% of the storage capacity of Raystown Lake. All boat launches, waterfront campsites and several roadways were closed or blocked off due to high water levels in the lake.

On Friday, Sept 3, the spillway reopened and began releasing approximately 13,000 cubic feet of water per second. At this rate, the lake receded by about 2 feet per day. Facilities reopened by Friday, Sept 10 after USACE ranger and maintenance staff reinstalled courtesy docks, removed debris from launch ramps, reconnected utility amenities, and performed other safety inspections.



Rangers took advantage of the opportunity to teach visitors about USACE's flood risk management mission at Raystown Lake.



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