



# THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

FALL 2020+ ISSUE 4+ VOL 24



## Fall 2020

Autumn was certainly an eventful season at Raystown Lake! Many Raystown facilities continued to experience record high use as the decrease in visitation typically associated with the fall months was less substantial this year, likely due to the warm, mild weather and many families not returning to their regular fall routines as a result of COVID.

The campgrounds operated at 96% capacity every weekend throughout the months of September and October. Additionally, traffic on the Allegrippis Trails only seemed to increase! The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League (PICL) club held their 1st annual Teen Mountain Biking Event on the Allegrippis Trails on October 17th and 18th, hosting over 800 teens from across the state. We look forward to future partnerships with this organization!

Fall has been a busy season for improvement projects as well. Susquehannock Campground is looking very different these days as shoreline stabilization and campsites improvements are being completed in two separate restoration projects (see Recreation and Resource Updates). Additionally, the Terrace Mountain Trail project is underway at last (see Terrace Mountain Trail Improvements)!

We have scheduled Fish Structure Building Days for April 18th & 19th and Lake Cleanup Day for May 1st. These dates are subject to cancellation based on ever-changing COVID conditions. Spring will be here before you know it! Hang in there and stay healthy!

**FRIENDS OF  
RAYSTOWN LAKE  
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HESSTON, PA 16647**

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# Terrace Mountain Trail Improvements

Improvements to the Terrace Mountain Trail (TMT) are underway! This fall, trail rehabilitation is being completed on a 6 mile section of the TMT that runs between Trough Creek State Park and Tatman Run Recreation Area. As it exists currently, this remote section of trail is only accessible by foot, making it difficult, time consuming and costly to maintain, so repairs will be focused on improving trail tread and accessibility. The project was made possible thanks to Handshake Partnership funding in the amount of \$25,000 and a partnership agreement between The Friends of Raystown, Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau, and the newly formed Friends of Trough Creek and Warriors Path State Park. These groups will bring together their trail maintenance expertise, dedication, hard work and enthusiasm to assist with the project. Thus far, a 1.5 mile section of the trail has been completed (see photo on right) but there is still much more to be done! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jacob Hohman at (814) 658-6813.



## Captain's Quarters

BY RON RABENA, PRESIDENT



As we end a crazy 2020 with the pandemic affecting everything, Raystown Lake had the busiest year ever as people flocked to the outdoors. The Allegrippis Trail System was extremely busy and is now in need of some repairs and restoration. Friends of Raystown Lake is in the process of hiring an outside contractor to work on sections of the trail system as the COVID rules do not allow for large gatherings on weekends, which is how the trails are usually maintained. Fortunately the proceeds from Allegrippis Trail funds will cover this project and the Friends have also applied for a \$2,500 grant to the National Environmental Education Foundation to help with funding. The Corps has also applied for the same amount to cover work at the Skills Park. In the meantime 2021 is approaching and memberships are due. FRL has many other projects that require maintenance such as the marker lights and the Putt's Camp operation. All the money goes to these and other activities that FRL sponsors. Tell a friend about us and get them to join. Have a safe winter and thanks!

- Ron



# Fall 2020 Highlights



Volunteers from the newly-established group Loose Cannon Outdoors performed a small-group lake cleanup on Oct 11th. We look forward to their participation at lake cleanup this spring!



FRL provided lunches for volunteers at the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River Cleanup on National Public Lands Day- Sept 26th.



A seaplane flying from Canada to Florida stopped to refuel at Seven Points this fall!



Participant at the 1st annual Pennsylvania Interscholastic Cycling League (PICL) Teen Mountain Biking Event- Oct 17th & 18th.

## T-SHIRTS FOR SALE



Looking for a Christmas gift?  
How about a FRL t-shirt?



We have **BLUE** shirts (see photo) for **\$15!**  
(sizes SM & MED available).



FRL Logo



You can also order a pocket style version of this shirt for **\$20!**

Email **Andi Clark** to order yours today! [andiclark@atlanticbb.net](mailto:andiclark@atlanticbb.net)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **WHEELIN' SPORTSMEN HUNT- Dec 12th:**

Organized by the Terrace Mountain Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers, 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. For more information on the hunt or to apply for the 2020 Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt, call (814) 658-6813.



- **FRL MEETINGS:** The Friends of Raystown Lake will hold monthly board meetings on Thursdays, December 10, January 14 and February 11. Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm. Held at the Raystown Lake Visitor Center.
- **CHRISTMAS MEETING- Dec 10th:** The FRL Christmas meeting will be a potluck-style dinner held at the Raystown Lake Visitor Center. Please bring a side or dessert and wear your most festive Christmas attire!
- **FISH STRUCTURE BUILDING DAYS- Apr 18th and 19th:** Fish Structure Building Days will be held on Sunday, April 18th and Monday April 19th beginning at 8:00am. Location TBD. Volunteers are needed! Please contact (814) 658-6812.
- **LAKE CLEANUP- May 10th:** The Annual FRL Cleanup Day will be held on Saturday, May 1st at the Tatman Run Boat Launch. Volunteer support is needed, including boat operators with boats. Please call (814) 658-6811. Free breakfast & lunch!

## 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.

# Recreation and Resource Updates

## Shoreline Stabilization



The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission recently completed the first phase of an ongoing shoreline stabilization and aquatic habitat improvement project at Raystown Lake. This fall, 30 sawtooth deflectors (see photo) and 16 rock rubble reefs were constructed along 700 feet of shoreline by mile marker 7 in Susquehannock Campground. These rock-type structures provide additional habitat for fish and protect shorelines from erosion by deflecting wave action.



## Campsite Improvements



The final phase of campsite improvements are being completed on sites 43-62 in Susquehannock Campground. 8 campsites were built along a new road that was constructed in the previously forested area above the waterfront sites. These improved sites feature terraced level camping pads, which will make the sites more accessible to wheeled camping units and tents. The Corps is planning for all of the campsites to be ready for reservation by Spring 2021.



## Prescribed Fire



Did you know fire can be helpful? Prescribed fire, also known as controlled burn, is a forest management tactic that helps to promote fire dependent plant species, control nuisance/invasive species, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce uncontrolled wildfire fuel. These fires only take place within a specific range of atmospheric conditions (humidity, temperature, windspeed) to ensure safety and control can be maintained. The Corps and Pennsylvania Game Commission recently completed a burn at gate 36.



# ALLEGRIPPIS ACTION

By Brent Rader (FRL Board Member & Allegrippis Volunteer)



Wind has been our nemesis at Allegrippis this year. Our most frequent maintenance concern has been clearing downed trees from the trails. The Ash die-off is contributing to this problem as well. As these trees die and start to decay, a strong wind often blows them over.

The flowing nature of the Allegrippis system leads to folks riding at speeds that can make an obstacle like a downed tree quite dangerous. We try to remove these as soon as possible. One tool that has been aiding our efforts is the Trailforks app. A mountain-biking-focused subsidiary of the well-known website PinkBike, Trailforks allows users to track rides and report trail problems and issues. Users can include a GPS location on their report, allowing our volunteers to pinpoint issues and correct them.

In other news, the Friends of Raystown Lake have generously agreed to sponsor a portable toilet at the Baker's Hollow trailhead/parking lot. This toilet will give visitors a place to take care of business, and also alleviate the problem of human waste in the woods just off the parking area. This is the latest in a plan to provide a better experience for Allegrippis visitors. Future plans include a changing area for riders to change in and out of their riding apparel.

The Allegrippis trail committee met earlier this fall to discuss upgrades and maintenance to the trails. We have applied for a grant from The National Environmental Education Foundation to assist in rehabilitating trails that have seen dramatically increased use and wear during the COVID-19 pandemic. We're hoping to use these funds, combined with some of our own, to regrade, repair, and relocate trails as necessary. Watch for more information on this as plans progress.

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. Happy riding!



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