



THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

WINTER 2020+ ISSUE 1+ VOL 24

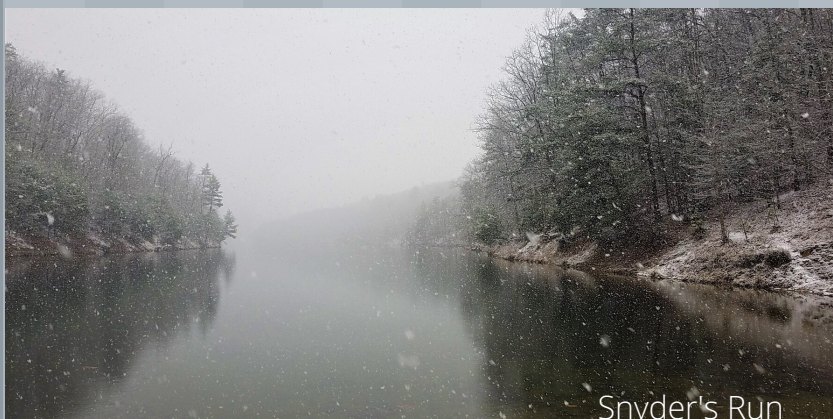


Winter 2020

Spring is finally on the way and are we ever excited! Quite a few changes have occurred at Raystown while you were hibernating.

Most notably, the Friends have agreed to step up and carry the torch for a significant event that has been held at Raystown for several years (keep reading to find out what it is). We have also entered into a Handshake Partnership agreement with the Corps and the Friends of Trough Creek / Warriors Path State Parks for much needed rehabilitation on the Terrace Mountain Trail (volunteers needed).

The final draft of the Raystown Lake Master Plan is still on schedule to be released in May and we are looking forward to seeing what the document lays out for Raystown in the coming years. Hope to see you at Raystown this April when facilities and campgrounds begin to reopen!



Snyder's Run

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

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Hesston, PA 16647
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Park Manager
Jude Harrington

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Handshake Partnership Program

Terrace Mountain Trail Improvements



New partnerships, trail improvements and volunteer opportunities are on the horizon at your favorite local parks! The Handshake Partnership Funding Program awarded a grant to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Raystown Lake Project in the amount of \$24,056 to complete much-needed improvements on the Terrace Mountain Trail. The Friends of Raystown Lake and the newly formed Friends of Trough Creek and Warriors Path State Parks, along with the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau and the Friends of Rothrock State Forest will be working together on this project to rehabilitate the section of trail that runs from Tatman Run to Trough Creek. Each partnering organization has a vested interest in developing this section of trail due to its proximity to both Raystown Lake and Trough Creek State Park. We anticipate the project will begin in the late summer or early fall of 2020.

How did the Corps secure this funding? The Handshake Partnership is a nationally competitive grant program that seeks to encourage local organizations and stakeholders to initiate new relationships or enhance existing partnerships with the Corps on projects that help to preserve and protect our parks and natural resources. Collectively, the projects funded by the Handshake Program strive to improve recreational opportunities for all visitors by increasing access to land and water-based activities, involving the local community in the Corps stewardship goals and engaging local, state and federal organizations in a shared mission- to protect, preserve and enhance the natural spaces we love for future generations to continue to enjoy! The US Army Corps of Engineers and Friends of Raystown are greatly looking forward to the opportunity to build new relationships and partner on future projects with these organizations for years to come!

Contact Jacob Hohman at jacob.t.hohman@usace.army.mil or (814) 658-6813 to sign-up to volunteer!

Captain's Quarters

by Ron Rabena, President

It has been a mild winter at Raystown Lake and spring flowers are appearing, just as the groundhog predicted. My attempt at retirement has been delayed as a search is still on for my replacement. In the meantime, FRL is gearing up for another busy year. With the bankruptcy of the DirtFest promoter, FRL will take over in the interim and host a very similar event as scheduled in May. Fish Structure dates are set for late April and the annual lake cleanup is already on the schedule for May 2nd. The selection process for two summer RAYCEP interns is beginning with a lot of interest being shown. The consortium of groups that applied for the successful \$24,000 USACE Handshake Grant are gearing up for the rehabilitation of the Terrace Mountain Trail in the Tatman Run Area. Memberships are due and all your support goes directly to FRL projects. Enjoy the early spring!





Raystown Bike Fest

You may have heard the rumors and unfortunately it is true- Dirt Rag Magazine, the host of the annual Dirtfest at Raystown Lake, has gone out of business. That means that Dirt Rag will not be hosting Dirtfest this year.

However, we are very excited to announce that the Friends of Raystown Lake has agreed to step up and run a very similar event called "Raystown Bike Fest" with the help of past event coordinator Trina Haynes. Although this event is a significant undertaking, the Corps and the Huntingdon County Visitor Bureau plan to support the Friends of Raystown Lake extensively throughout the planning and execution of the event.

Currently, the event is still planned for May 15-17th, 2020. The name "Dirtfest" may have changed, but the celebration of the Allegrippis Trail System and the incredible sport of mountain biking will remain at the heart of this event. Keep an eye on FriendsOfRaystownLake.com for updated information as we receive it.



New Putt's Camp Brochure

Welcoming all Non-Profit Groups

Putt's Camp is open to all 501 c3 non-profit organizations, such as Scouts Troops, Youth Groups, Summer Camp Programs, etc. If you are looking for a quiet, private place to enjoy the lake away from the hustle and bustle of the public campgrounds, look no further than Putt's Camp!

See the back of this brochure for reservation contact details!

Access

Putt's Camp can be reached by motor vehicle, by boat or by foot via the Terrace Mountain Trail.

Putt's Camp

SAXTON, PA

FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

The Putt's Camp Experience

Putt's Camp boasts 20 acres of some of the most scenic waterfront property that Raystown Lake has to offer. This hidden gem lies nestled just north of mile marker 26 on the lake, within hiking distance of Lake Raystown Resort.

The camp features a spacious picnic shelter with a hand-built fireplace that can easily accommodate large groups, an all-faith chapel, water-pumps and vault toilets on-site.

Feeling adventurous? Putt's Camp is open year-round, so why not try winter camping?

Activities

- Waterfront Camping**
 - Primitive style camping means you'll be getting the true outdoors experience
- Boating & Paddlesports**
 - Bring your boat and enjoy waterskiing, wakeboarding, tubing and more!
 - Shoreline access makes canoeing, kayaking and paddleboarding a breeze!
- Swimming**
- Fishing**
- Hiking**
 - Putt's Camp is located within easy walking distance to the Terrace Mountain Trail
 - Close access to an Adirondack Shelter for overnight hiking trips

Pricing

\$3.00 per person per night

\$50.00 minimum camp fee per stay

*An additional \$50.00 reservation fee must be paid prior to arrival. This fee will be refunded on the satisfactory inspection of the camp or notification of cancellation two weeks before your arrival.

Day Use Rates

\$75.00 campground- one day use fee

\$10 pavilion rental- one day use fee

\$8.00 Adirondack Shelter rental- per day use fee

\$5.00 Hiker/Biker- one day use fee

The Putt's Camp brochure got a face lift! Occupancy at Putt's has been down in the past few years, so we are recruiting new groups and we need your help! If you know of a nonprofit group that may be interested in using Putt's Camp, which has fantastic primitive waterfront campsites, please contact Wayne Hammond, Mobile: (814)935-0355 or Email: PuttsCampFRL@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **CAMPGROUND OPENING:** Select campgrounds in the Seven Points Recreation Area will be open beginning Friday, April 3rd. Reminder: All campsites are now available for advance registration online for Spring 2020. Susquehannock Campground will be open beginning on May 21st.
- **FISH STRUCTURE BUILDING:** Fish Structure Building Days will be held on Sunday, April 26th and Monday April 27th beginning at 8:00am at the Snyder's Run Boat Launch. Volunteers are needed! Please contact (814)658-6811.



- **FRL ANNUAL LAKE CLEANUP:** The Annual FRL Cleanup Day will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at the Tatman Run Boat Launch. Volunteer support is needed, including boat operators with boats. Please call (814)658-6811. Free breakfast & lunch!
- **RAYSTOWN BIKE FEST:** We are happy to announce that the Friends of Raystown Lake is launching Raystown Bike Fest, picking up the Dirt Fest Pennsylvania torch with the new event on the same weekend, May 15-17, 2020.



- **FRL MEETINGS:** The Friends of Raystown Lake will hold the monthly board meetings on Thursdays, March 12th, April 9th and May 14th, 2020. Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm at Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Huntingdon.

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 !



Donate now with..

PayPal™

Membership Reminder

Please consider your **2020** 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.

Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt

On December 14th, 29 hunters participated in the 18th Annual Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt here at Raystown Lake. Organized by the Terrace Mountain Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation in cooperation with the US Army Corps of Engineers, this hunt enables individuals with disabilities to get out and enjoy a free hunt in some of Raystown Lake Project's prime locations. This year, hunters battled with heavy rain, dense fog and cold temperatures but still harvested three deer! A special thanks to all the drivers, guides and other volunteers who came out to make the hunt a success!



Wildlife Monitoring

A few weeks ago, Juniata College students set up camera traps with different baits around the Raystown Lake Field Station to see what they would capture. One group of students used a deer carcass and captured some really neat wildlife including a bald eagle, a bobcat, a red fox, a crow, and even two golden eagles feeding on the carcass! We are very excited to see what other wildlife these camera traps bring in!



Allegrippis Action

By Brent Rader (FRL Board Member & Allegrippis Volunteer)

As you've read elsewhere in this issue, Raystown Bike Fest is replacing Dirt Fest this year as our main spring trail event. We're sad that Dirt Rag has gone out of business, and we'll miss their crew. We are excited, though, to make this event our own and offer mountain bikers from all over the country a chance to experience the Allegrippis Trails. So, how does an organization like the Friends of Raystown Lake pull off a major event like Raystown Bike Fest? For our inaugural year, we were lucky to bring on veteran Dirt Rag events coordinator Trina Haynes to run the event. Trina is a Friends member, and has many connections throughout the cycling industry. She has leveraged those connections to ensure that we have good industry support for our event from bicycle and gear manufacturers.

There is much coordination to be done leading up the Fest. Vendors and food must be arranged, plans for entertainment must be put into place, and even things like garbage disposal need to be worked out. Major bicycle brands have already signed on, and food vendors and entertainment are falling into place. Past attendees have been contacted about the new event and many have already registered. The outpouring of support for our new festival has been overwhelming. In addition to Trina's work in getting people and vendors to the event, Friends of Raystown Lake trail volunteers will be busy this spring making sure the trails are in top shape for the festival. Brush will be trimmed back, drainage will be corrected, and leaves will be removed from the trail where necessary to ensure a safe and fun trail corridor. There are also areas where the trail surface will need to be re-cut into the hillside after some erosion.

Once the event arrives, the real work begins. Many volunteers will come together under Trina's direction to make the event run smoothly. Volunteers handle all kinds of duties including leading rides, on-trail guidance and help, customer service, sanitation, assistance with evening festivities, and much, much more. If you're interested in volunteering, email raystownbikefest@gmail.com with your contact information and what your interests are. We'll add you to our list and start sending out information soon. If you'd like to attend the event, register at raystownbikefest.com. There are several options, including camping with us at Susquehannock, and event attendee only passes. Your entry fee gets you access to the latest demo bikes, evening festivities, events, skills clinics, and more. Be sure to check us out. To keep tabs on what's going on, watch the Allegrippis Trails Facebook page, and follow us on Instagram at @allegrippistrails.



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