



Friends of Raystown Lake
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The DAM NEWSLETTER

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FRL to Operate Putt's Camp

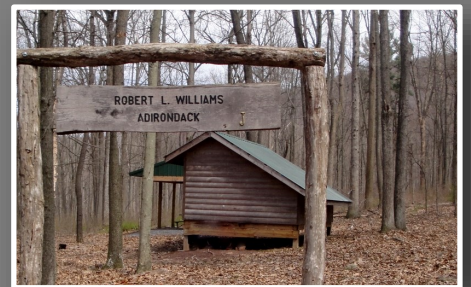
Putt's Camp is a primitive camping area located near MM26 in the southern portion of Raystown Lake. Until just recently, Putt's Camp was operated through a lease with the US Army Corps of Engineers by the Laurel Highlands Council of the Boy Scouts. Due to changes within the Council, the local troop was unable to continue operation of the camp. Rather than see the facility close, the Friends of Raystown Lake agreed to assume the responsibility of the lease for operation and maintenance of the facility.

The Friends will continue to operate Putt's Camp in the same spirit and manner as the Boy Scouts. This means that Putt's Camp will provide camping opportunities for boy scout troops and non-profit groups only.

The camping facility includes a large pavilion and fireplace, chapel, and Adirondack shelters along with lake access for fishing and boating. If you are a Boy Scout Troop or are part of a non-profit group who is interested in Putt's Camp, please contact the Friends at: puttscampFRL@comcast.net for more information!



Photo Top: Putt's Camp provides a shelter with fireplace for group meals and social activities. Photo Bottom: Two Adirondack shelters provide camping opportunities in addition to grass and wooded area campsites.



Captain's Quarters

Spring is just around the corner as I write this in sunny Arizona on our annual visit to the relatives. It has been a mild winter at Raystown Lake with not much snow but enough rain to erase the deficit in the lake level. As you see on the front page, FRL is back in the campground business, but not as inclusive as before. FRL was approached by the Corps a year ago that the Boy Scouts of America was closing several boy scout camps in the area including Putt's Camp on Raystown Lake. Under Corps regulations if no one would assume the lease the campground would have to revert back to nature. FRL agreed to assume the lease and is happy to report that the local Boy Scout Troop 471 and their leaders are joining forces with FRL to keep the camp in operation. All the spring dates are set in this newsletter and the editor gave me orders to keep it short.....Thanks....

Ron

-Article provided by Raystown Staff

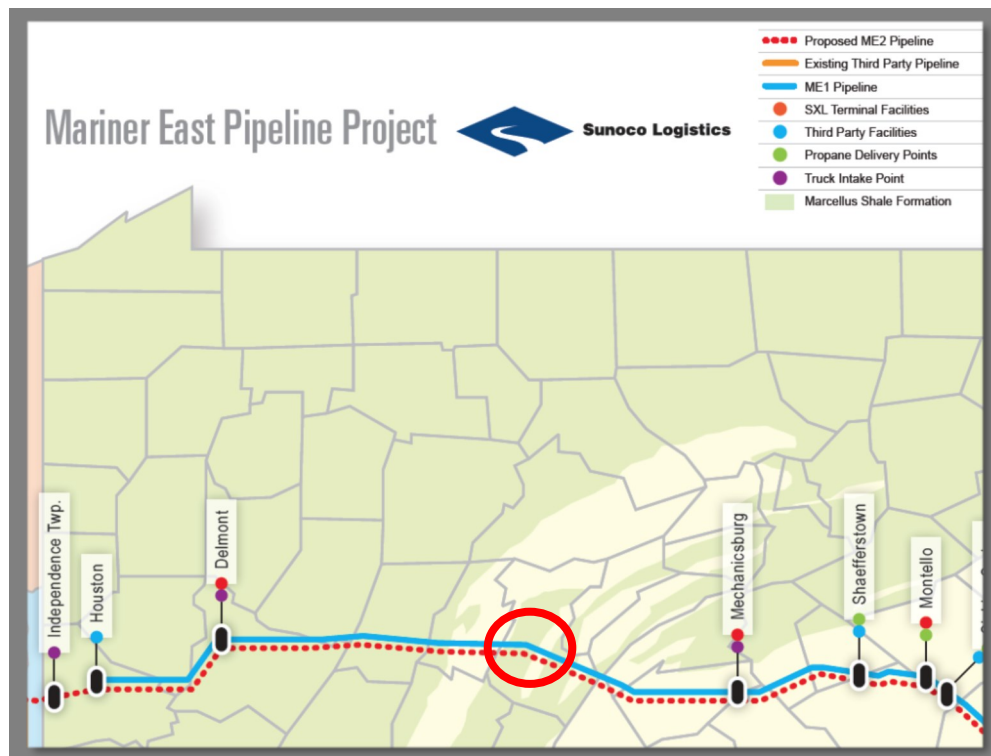
Pipeline Construction to Begin

The staff at Raystown Lake would like to share information with visitors regarding the construction of the Sunoco Logistics Mariner East 2 Pipeline Project. The Mariner East 2 Pipeline Project is a planned new underground pipeline system traversing nearly 350 miles to ship natural gas liquids from the Marcellus and Utica shale areas in Ohio and West Virginia to the company's Marcus Hook complex near Philadelphia.

As part of the pipeline route, approximately 5 miles will be constructed on the Raystown Lake Project, specifically, through the Seven Points Recreation Area adjacent to the existing pipeline.

Construction on the pipeline began at the end of February and the staff at Raystown Lake is working closely with Sunoco Logistics to minimize impacts to visitors. As warmer weather and recreation season is fast approaching we are anticipating impacts from construction to be noise from the operation of heavy equipment and increased truck/vehicular traffic on our roadways. There may be periods of delayed campground openings and temporary closures on portions of the Allegrippis Trails.

We ask that if you have any questions or concerns while you are recreating at Raystown Lake that you visit the Ranger Office.



FRL Seeks River Inner Tube Access

Over the past several years, local residents and visitors to Raystown Lake have been increasingly seeking lawful places to do an inner tube float. Recognizing this, the Friends of Raystown Lake has taken on a new project to provide a convenient and lawful take-out point near the mouth of the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River downstream from Raystown Dam.

The Problem: Currently inner tube users can lawfully put-in on the Raystown Branch at Corbins Island or the Riverside Nature Trail, but the next lawful take-out point is on the main stem of the Juniata River at Mapleton's Riverside Park, which is too far for a safe and enjoyable tube float. Many tubers illegally use PA Fish and Boat Commission's Point Access to end their floats, and wind up walking away with a fine.

The Friends of Raystown Lake has received a grant from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Canoe Access Development Fund to address this user conflict and to find a workable and lawful solution for inner tube use on the lower Raystown Branch, but in the meantime, we want visitors to the area to be aware that the use of Point Access for this activity is prohibited.



Volunteer Village Grand Opening — Spring 2017

Does working outdoors, meeting new people, and working alongside Park employees sound fun to you?

Raystown Lake announces the completion and operation of a newly-constructed, stand-alone campground specifically for volunteers in Seven Points Recreation Area. The village is not a public camping area but rather a private camping loop for volunteers who have been accepted into the program through the Raystown Lake Project's volunteer coordinator, Alicia Wicker.

We now have an opportunity for volunteers to work with us and contribute hours of important service while living here," Wicker said. "Volunteers residing at the village will help with maintenance needs, natural resource management, trail work, and other valuable and exciting programs. We are proud to complete the village to better serve these outstanding volunteers."

Volunteers will stay at the village for a period of several months while they work on projects or provide visitor services at the lake. As a volunteer, they will be part of a team that works together to conserve our recreation resources and keep valuable assets accessible to everyone. In many cases, volunteers are the first contact visitors will have with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Anyone interested in volunteer opportunities including short term and long term at Raystown Lake should contact Park Ranger Alicia Wicker at (814)658-6812.



Go FRL!

-Article provided by Andi Clark, FRL Marketing Committee

Teamwork: the ability to work together toward a common goal. Our goals in the FRL include assisting and coordinating with Lake Cleanup ,RayCEP, The Allegrippis Trails & Skills Park , Lake Navigation Lights, plus so much more. Wow! Do we need a bigger team!

That is why the Marketing Committee is asking all members to encourage all your friends who enjoy activities at Raystown Lake to join the Friends! Ask your camping, fishing, biking, hiking, swimming, and boating pals to join us so that we may continue to do great things on our public lands at Raystown Lake!





Upcoming Events

- **CAMPGROUND OPENING:** Select campgrounds in the Seven Points Recreation Area will be open beginning Friday, April 7th. All campsites will be available on a first come –first serve basis until reservations begin on Thursday, May 18th. The Susquehannock Campground will be open beginning on Thursday, May 25th.
- **FISH STRUCTURE BUILDING:** A Fish Structure Building Day will be held on Sunday, April 30th beginning at 8:00am at the Snyder's Run Boat Launch.

Sup-port: (verb) to promote the interests or cause of

- **FRL ANNUAL LAKE CLEANUP:** The Annual Friends of Raystown Lake Cleanup Day will be held on Saturday, May 6th at the Tatman Run Boat Launch. Groups and individuals are both welcome and needed.



- **DIRTFEST:** The Annual DirtFest sponsored by DirtRag Magazine is scheduled to be held on the Allegrippis Trails beginning on Thursday, May 18th through Sunday, May 21st.
- **FRL Meetings:** The Friends of Raystown Lake will hold the monthly board meetings on Thursdays March 9, April 13, and May 11th. Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm at Hoss's Steak and Sea House, Huntingdon.

For more information on any upcoming event, please contact the Friends of Raystown Lake or the Raystown Lake Ranger Office at 814-658-3405.

Vol-unt-er: (verb) to freely offer to do something

Action on the Allegrippis

-Article provided by Brent Rader, RMBA

It's been a strange winter, not only here at the Allegrippis Trails, but throughout central Pennsylvania. It feels more like the Pacific Northwest than typically-cold Pennsylvania. We've taken advantage of the mild weather to do some riding on the trails. The 'Grip, as we affectionately call it, is beautiful this time of year, with many more views of the lake than are possible with summertime foliage. It's definitely the quiet time of year at the trails; I've been on a few solo rides recently and did not see another soul, save for deer, bear, squirrels, and turkeys.

We've also been getting out to check out trail conditions much earlier than would normally be possible. I am pleased to report that the trails are in very good condition, despite the wet weather this winter. One of our biggest issues continues to be porcupines. They chew our benches and signs, even eating the aluminum! We are in the midst of planning trail work and activities for the year, so watch for announcements of those dates in the coming weeks. We'd love to have folks come out and lend a hand, or just check out what we're doing. We at the Raystown Mountain Bike Association (RMBA) have been busy throughout the year, and especially this past autumn. As you know, we opened the Raystown Mountain Bike Skills Park officially in September. The park saw heavy use this past year, and will require some maintenance come spring, but by all accounts was a resounding success.



While the Skills Park consumed a large amount of our volunteer hours this year, we found some time to get a few other important projects completed. RMBA volunteers worked to construct a new bridge/boardwalk/wooden berm on Stony trail to take care of a perennial wet spot/mud hole. This bridge provides an interesting new feature on the trails, and helps prevent further erosion in this area. We are planning to construct a few other bridge projects in areas with similar wet spots. We have replaced the porcupine-chewed boards on the benches at the vista overlooking the Hawn's Bridge area, and we plan to work on some of the other benches in the coming year. *Article continued on Page 6.*



Window Strikes?

"Thump!", -Article provided by Sydney Spicer, Juniata College and the bird hits the ground – at least such was the case at Raystown Field Station. For years, window strike (when a bird flies into a window) plagued the Field Station. Many solutions were attempted, but none seemed to stick, so birds kept thumping and falling.

Window strike was affecting the Field Station big time, but it isn't just the Field Station which is affected by this tragedy. This issue is more common than many of us are led to, or would like to believe. According to a study published in *The Condor: Ornithological Applications* in January of 2014¹, it was found that between 365 and 988 million birds are likely killed each year in the US due to window strike, with some estimates reaching 1 billion birds each year. This human-caused fatality crises especially effects songbirds, including some which are already of national conservation concern, such as the Golden-winged Warbler.

After many different solutions were tried and failed, students and staff of the field station spearheaded a research mission to find a product that would work, and found one that did. The product is called CollidEscape, and guarantees to stop all window strikes from occurring. A few prominent sites had already installed CollidEscape, so students and staff took a trip down to Hawk Mountain to check out the final version, and determine if it really did work as well as they claimed.

With rave reviews from the staff at Hawk Mountain, Raystown Field Station Resident Director Taylor Johnston met with a designer, came up with a plan, and CollidEscape was on its way to the Field Station. CollidEscape makes the windows visible to birds



Installation of the CollidEscape on the front of Shuster Hall.
Photo courtesy of Jess Murray.

without obstructing one's view of the great outdoors. After CollidEscape's installation in the fall of 2016, the Field Station now bears a beautifully decorative window, and the birds living around Raystown Lake are a little bit safer when flying.

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

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Friend | \$500 (lifetime) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Friend | \$10/year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Friend | \$15/year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club / Organization Friend | \$25/year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Friend | \$50/year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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

The year 2017 membership dues have started! 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.

New Nest!



We are excited to announce that a new Bald Eagle nest has been built at the Raystown Dam. The new nest is located on the downstream side of the Dam and is visible when accessing the public recreation area.

Raystown Staff is asking folks viewing the new nest to not stop on the roadway and to be mindful of the restricted areas present. Raystown Staff will continue to monitor this nest for the production of young.

Action on the Allegrippis...Continued

RMBA has also been busy with our normal trail maintenance responsibilities. We have trimmed the brush back on most of the trail system. This provides an open, safe, easy-to-ride-through corridor. Along with trimming, we've been keeping the leaves blown off the trails as much as possible. This keeps organic matter from building up on the trail surface. Our trails are in such great shape because the lack of organic matter on the surface allows them to drain water well and dry quickly. In conjunction with blowing leaves, we've worked to cut drains in low spots so that water doesn't pool. The Ash tree die off continues to be an issue for us, with many trees down across the trails that require cutting.

As always, we have appreciated the support the FRL has given us in the last year. We wouldn't be able to have this amazing trail system without the Friends. We're excited about the future, and we only see growth in visitation to our beautiful area. With the help and support of FRL, we've put together something pretty special here, and it's recognized throughout the cycling community nationwide.

If anyone would like to stay up-to-date on RMBA activities, shoot me an email at brentonrader@gmail.com, and I'll get you added to our list. Be sure to give us a like on the Allegrippis Trails facebook page, follow us on Instagram at @allegrippistrils, and Twitter @allegrippistrils. We try to have trail work days at least once a month, and we have ride and picnic days occasionally. We're looking forward to another year of great riding trails!



REMEMBER THE COLD WEATHER MANDATORY LIFE JACKET WEAR

Winter boaters should remember the life jacket law established by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in 2012. This year, from November 1, 2016 thru April 30, 2017 boaters are required to wear a life jacket at all times (while underway or at anchor) on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak.

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