



THE DAM NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

FALL 2018+ ISSUE 4+ VOL 22

RAYSTOWN HIGH WATER

& the event to help clean up the debris



Last newsletter there was mention about the rain Raystown received this summer. Not too long after the newsletter came out, remnants from hurricane Gordan dumped nearly 6 inches of rain over the course of 24 hours that led to the impoundment of water to reduce downstream flooding. The lake rose almost 12 feet! All boat launches and some campground loops in Seven Points closed due to the high water. The river flows brought large amounts of trash that accumulated in the lake.

Unfortunately, the Corps had to cancel fish structure building days and instead scheduled a cleanup to help with cleanup efforts. Over 30 scouts from Troop 471 (Saxton) came out plus over 20 other volunteers. Overall, 3 dumpsters worth of trash were removed from the lake including 10 tires, 3 refrigerators and 1 television. Thank you to all of the volunteers who participated and the the volunteers still helping to cleanup the lake!

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

Board of Directors
President + Ron Rabena
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Cooperative Agency
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Raystown Lake Project
6145 Seven Points Road
Hesston, PA 16647
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Park Manager + Nicholas Krupa

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HUNTER TREMAIN RECOGNIZED AT RAYSTOWN LAKE FOR HEROIC ACTIONS

The Friends of Raystown Lake would like to offer our congratulations to Hunter Tremain, who exhibited honor and virtue at Raystown Lake.

"His selfless actions are a direct reflection of Hunter's upbringing. He acted in a valiant manner beyond his years" - Col. Litz.

In July, Hunter observed a gentleman in distress at Raystown Lake and immediately responded to the crisis situation by rendering aid.

Hunter attends North Star High school in Boswell, PA. Hunter was recognized with a certificate of appreciation from Col. John Litz, Baltimore District Commander on Friday October 12th, 2018 in front of his family, friends and the superintendent of North Star School District.

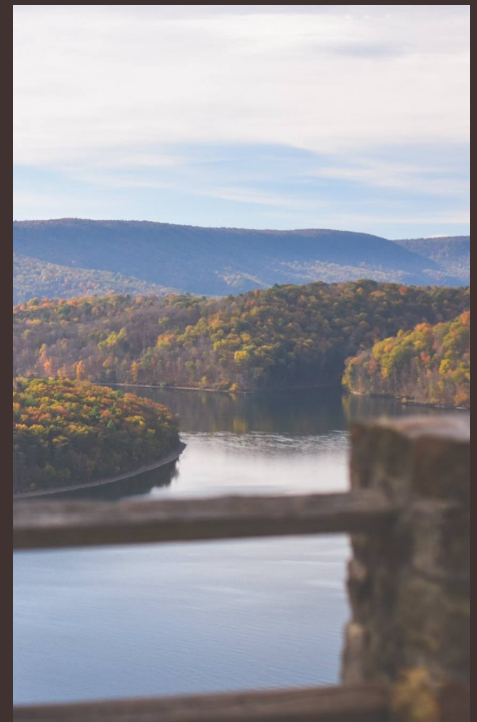


Pictured: Park Ranger Alicia Palmer, Hunter Tremain, Col. John Litz, and Park Manager Nick Krupa

Captain's Quarters

by Ron Rabena, President

As the end of October approaches, Raystown Lake has had a turbulent late summer season, with flooding rains, high lake levels and closures of the launch ramps for several days. On the southern end of the lake debris still is in the water and boaters should be aware of wood just beneath the surface that lower units do not like. A major lake cleanup will be needed next spring. On shore, many of the leaves are still on the trees with very little color expected and should remain into November, hopefully without a snow before they finally come down. The Allegrippis Trails are still open this fall and riders are urged to wear orange as hunting seasons are open on the lake and remember the trail system will be closed for the two week rifle deer season, November 26-December 8. Stay warm.....





Welcome, Jacob!

The staff at Raystown and the Friends of Raystown Lake would like to officially welcome Mr. Jacob Hohman as Raystown's newest Park Ranger!

Jacob grew up in Mansfield, Pennsylvania. He attended college at Lock Haven University graduating magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Jacob worked as a USACE seasonal park ranger for the past three summers at Tioga Hammond and Cowanesque Lakes.

Jacob is very excited to be living in Central PA. He enjoys hunting, biking, and sports.

ALL ABOARD!

Aquatic vegetative surveys

In early October, Buffalo District partnered with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Raystown Lake and students from Juniata College to conduct a lake wide aquatic plant survey with emphasis on hydrilla (*hydrilla verticillata*), an invasive aquatic plant.

The group surveyed the entire shoreline of Raystown Lake for three days and collected data which will be used in preparation for applying herbicide early next spring.

The partnership between the Corps of Engineers and Juniata College will allow future surveys to be conducted and further efforts to help eradicate the highly invasive hydrilla.

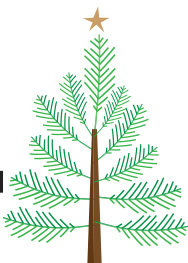


UPCOMING EVENTS

December 8th: Wheelin' Sportsman Hunt. Volunteers are needed! Call the Ranger Office for more information (814) 658-3405 ext. 0



December 13th at 6:30 PM:
Friends of Raystown Lake **Holiday**
Meeting at Hoss's Steak and Seafood
in Huntingdon.



MASTER PLAN UPDATE

- Public meetings and comment period are now complete.
- Wildlife surveys are finished and are now being analyzed.
- The boating study is moving forward and is now collecting survey information from Raystown's boating community.
- As our readers "settle down for a long winters nap" the Corps will be rolling up their sleeves to begin the long process of preparing draft land classifications and maps.

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

The year **2019** 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.

ALLegrippis Ride by Brent Radar

The gravel crunches as cars arrive in the parking lot. Bikes are unloaded. Butterflies fly through stomachs with anticipation. Legs are stretched, helmets meet heads, and it's time for the annual ALLegrippis ride. Each autumn, a valiant group of cyclists descend on the Baker's Hollow parking area to ride all of the ALLegrippis system in one day. The ride, in its third year, is organized by Jake Weller of Rothrock Outfitters. ALLegrippis covers every inch of every trail with as little backtracking as possible. Last year, doing all the trails was difficult due to the pipeline closures on the south side of Seven Points Road, but no such issues were encountered this year.

The total mileage for the ride ends up being approx 50 miles. This year, the ride was expanded to cover the skills park as well as most of Old Logger's Trail.

ALLegrippis is a group ride, not a competition, so everyone rides together. Weller made sure to note that folks can join the ride for as little or as much as they'd like. The first year, thirty people started the ride, and four finished. This year, twelve people started, and six finished.

Folks who finish the ride receive a sticker as a reward for their efforts. The sticker features an illustration of a frog on a bicycle, drawn by Weller, with the words "ALLegrippis" and "Nice Job!" around the outside. The frog drawing was inspired by a first-year rider, Ryan Eisenhower, who said "next year I'll have to get my frog legs on!" From then on, the official mascot for the ride has been a little green frog.

When asked what is difficult about the ride, Weller said "it's surprising how much the ride beats you up. The difference between doing it with a suspension fork versus a rigid bike makes for much less fatigue." Other important things for riders to think about include having adequate water and food, spare tubes, a pump and some tools to make minor trail-side repairs. Riders should make sure that their bicycle is in good shape for an all-day ride.

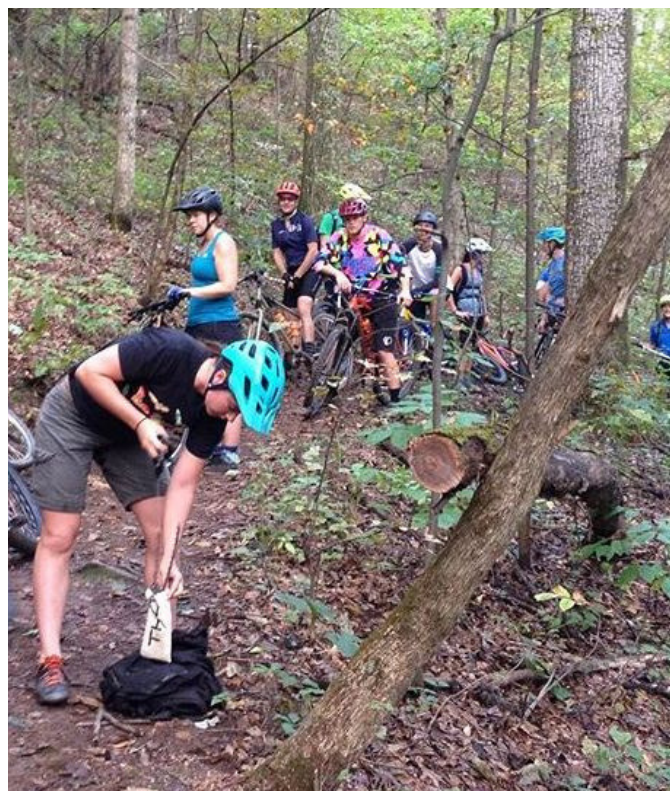
For more info on the ALLegrippis Trails, visit their Facebook page.



Pictured: the final 6 ALLegrippis riders.

"ALLegrippis

"next year I'll have to get my frog legs on!"



Pictured: ALLegrippis riders enjoying a break on the trail.

OPERATION BLUE BIRD AT RAYSTOWN

Working with NestWatch Reporting Program
(www.nestwatch.org)

Raystown Lake staff incorporated Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch this year by visiting known blue bird boxes and other various nests located throughout the project. Staff recorded the data on nesting attempts, number of eggs, and how many young fledged the nest. NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds. The database is intended to be used to study the current condition of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals. In its first year of recording, Raystown fledged 19 Eastern Bluebirds, 12 House Wrens, and 24 Tree Swallows—an excellent start! Ranger and SCA staff also replaced and added over 106 blue birds boxes throughout the project this past summer!



You can help! Participating in NestWatch is easy and just about anyone can do it, although children should always be accompanied by an adult when observing bird nests. Simply follow the directions on the website (listed above) to become a certified NestWatcher, find a bird nest using their listed helpful tips, visit the nest every 3-4 days and record what you see, and then report this information onto the website.



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