



Friends of Raystown Lake
P.O. Box 87
Hesston, Pa 16647

Officers of the Board of Directors

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Cooperative Agency

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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The DAM NEWSLETTER

A publication of:

FRIENDS OF RAYSTOWN LAKE

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Improvements to Nancy's Boat to Shore Campground Complete

Improvements to Nancy's Boat to Shore Campground have been completed! Last fall, the Raystown Lake Maintenance Staff began a series of improvements including removing aging low quality trees, stabilizing the eroding shoreline, and improving draining within the campground facility. This Spring, the Maintenance Staff returned to begin improvements on many of the 50 sites that are available for use within the campground. Improvements included providing level pad areas for tents, installing lantern post holders, new picnic tables, and fire rings. If you are interested in camping at Nancy's please know that all sites are reservable through the National Reservation Service online at www.recreation.gov or by calling 877-444-6777. We hope that you enjoy your remote, rustic camping experience at Raystown Lake!



Captain's Quarters

It has been a very busy spring at Raystown Lake! As many may be aware, the construction of Sunoco's Mariner 2 Pipeline crossed the Allegrippis Trail System. A last minute rush completed repairs to the trail system so that the annual Dirt Fest could be held with out any negative effects. The Raystown Mountain Biking Association was also busy clearing many downed trees from the trails due to severe storms through the area just weeks before the big event. The Friends of Raystown Lake held the Annual Lake Cleanup and worked with Boy Scout Troop #471 of Saxton to clear trees from Putt's Camp and prepare the facility for it's first use of the season. Looking ahead, Critter Nite, Chalk the Walk, National Pollinator Week, and many other great events are just around the corner! Also, please don't forget that 2017 memberships are due and all the money goes to FRL projects.....Thanks!

Ron

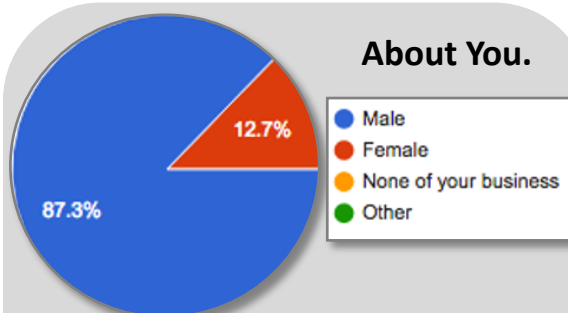


And the Survey Says.....

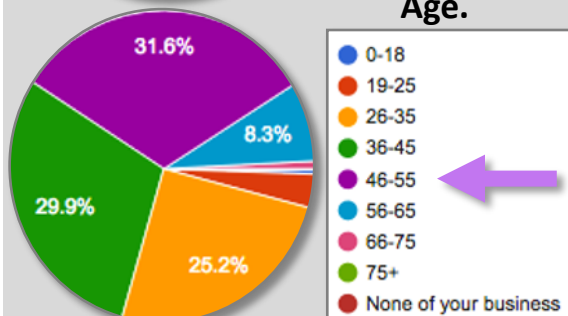
The Allegrippis Trails opened on May 9, 2009, just a little over 8 years ago. Through AllegrippisTrails.com a survey was generated to gather some facts around who is using the trail system, where riders are coming from, and a bunch of other neat pieces of information. This particular survey was open for 35 days in which 361 folks responded. We found the results rather interesting, and wanted to share them with you.



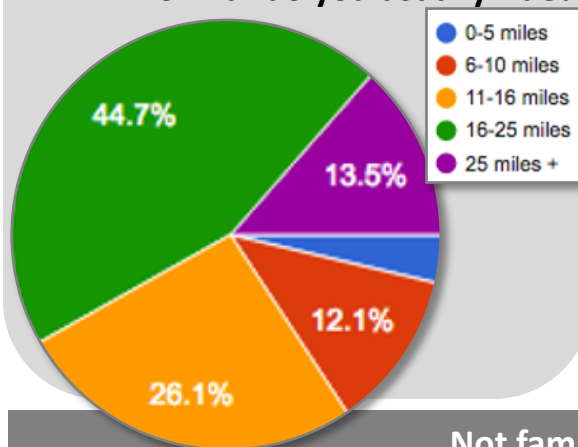
About You.



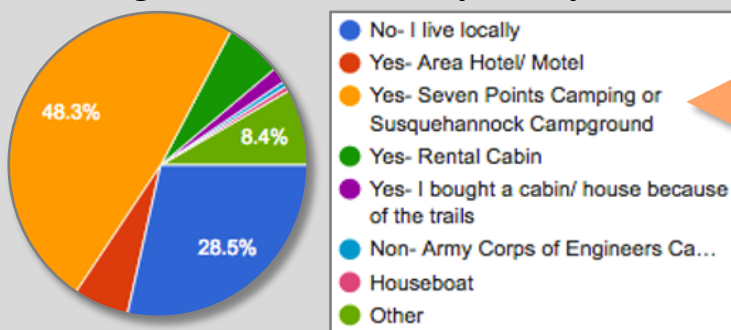
Age.



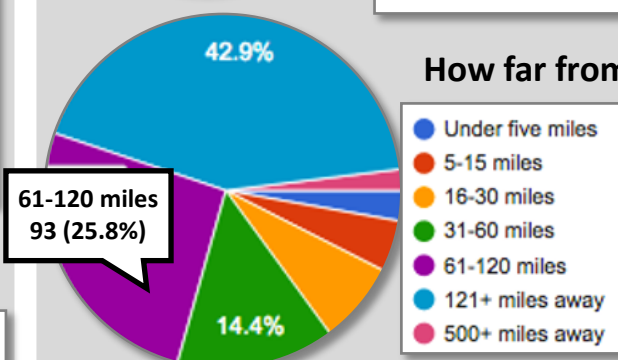
When you ride the trails, how far do you usually ride?



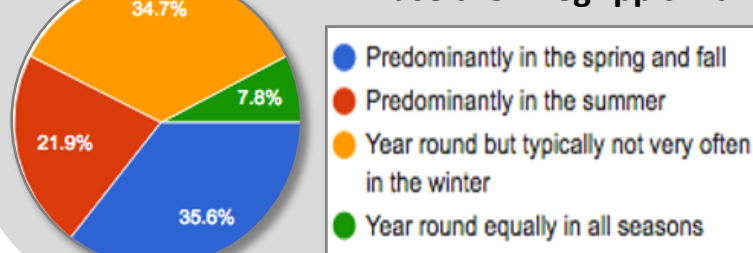
When you visit the Allegrippis Trails do you stay the night? If so, where do you stay?



How far from the Allegrippis trails do you live?....



I use the Allegrippis Trails....



Not familiar with the Allegrippis Trails? Here are a few fast facts:

- The trails are operated by the Friends of Raystown Lake, through a lease from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- The Raystown Mountain Biking Association has an agreement with the Friends of Raystown Lake to maintain the trails (and what an amazing job they do!)
- The trails have been rated 13th in the world!
- There are over 33 miles of trails to ride in a looped system that have been designed and built with the mountain biker in mind.
- The trails are not just for mountain biking, they are great for hiking and cross country skiing in the winter.



DirtFest Celebrates 6 Years with Successful Event

The 6th Annual DirtFest sponsored by DirtRag Magazine was held May 18-21st. This year's event expanded to include an additional day of activities and riding along with an additional expo area at the Pine Shelter. The newly constructed Skills Park, located across from the Visitors Center, was put to the test as hundreds of rides took to the course daily. A "mini" skills course was built for young riders and new bikers to practice bike handling techniques as noted in the picture below. The beautiful weekend weather brought in thousands



of visitors and bikers from across the nation and from other countries that filled Corps campgrounds, area hotels, cabins, and bed and breakfast venues. Thanks again to the Raystown Mountain Biking Association for keeping the trails in top notch condition!

Work Continues at Putts Camp

Boy Scout Troop 31 of Duncansville, PA was one of the first troops to camp at Putt's Camp now under the operation of the Friends of Raystown Lake with assistance from Troop 471 of Saxton. The FRL recently entered into a lease agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers to operate and maintain this primitive non-profit group camping area.

As in the past, when a Boy Scout Troop stays at Putt's Camp, they are often interested in completing a service project to improve the facility. Recently, a number of volunteers cut nearly 25 trees in various locations throughout the camping area. Many of the trees removed were dead ash trees due to the invasive emerald ash borer. One such tree was estimated to be 30 inches in diameter. With a tree this size, surely there could be additional uses for it within the camp for others to enjoy and learn from. Boy Scout Troop 31 decided to make tri-pods to hold tree "cookies" that were cut from the trunk of the tree. These will now be used as axe throwing practice targets to prepare scout troops, including Troop 31, for the Mountain Man Competition at the Boy Scout Summer Camp.



Pictured are the two tripods made by Troop 31. Pictured with the target is left to right: Scoutmaster Rich Chamberlain and Assistant Scoutmaster Joe Tate.

The camp is available for camping by non-profit organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church Young People's Groups, etc. To make reservation contact Wayne Hammond, Camp Ranger at 814-635-3235.

The Emerald Ash Borer



The emerald ash borer is an insect native to north-eastern Asia in which the female lays her eggs in the bark crevasses of an ash tree. The hatching larvae feed under the bark and emerge as adults in one to two years typically resulting in death of the tree.



Upcoming Events

This summer is packed full of great things happening at Raystown Lake and in the surrounding Huntingdon County Region. Here are just a few special programs that the Friends of Raystown Lake help support along with some upcoming events!

- **June 20th-June 25th. Celebrating National Pollinator Week.** To celebrate pollinators and raise awareness of this important conservation issue, Raystown Lake will hold daily activities all week long from June 20th-June 25th for National Pollinator Week. You know you want to “BEE” apart of it!
- **July 7th—8th. Invasive Attack.** There are aliens all around us.....plant and insect invaders that is! Join the Raystown Staff and RayCEP as they work to spread awareness of this growing environmental concern.
- **July 8th. Glow Swim.** Come out and enjoy the 5th Annual Raystown Lake Glow Swim. This event takes place on the beach after hours, in the dark! Decorate your lifejacket (or one of ours) with a bright of array of glow sticks and cool off with an evening swim!
- **July 21st. Bird Watching Paddle Tour.** Raystown Lake is home to year-round raptors and waterfowl! Join a Park Ranger on this kayak birding adventure. We will meet & launch from Snyder’s Run Boat Launch at 6:00pm. This outing is open to experienced swimmers with their own kayak or other non-motorized boat. Participants need to bring their own kayak, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket (properly fitting and serviceable), paddles, and drinking water. *Pre-registration for this event is required and space is limited. Call (814)658-6812.*
- **August 5th. Chalk the Walk.** Join us at the Seven Points Beach for the 6th annual Chalk the Walk. Participants of all ages are encouraged to compete for cash and prizes for the best chalked water safety message. Registration will be open from 11 AM to 6:30 PM and judging will be from 7 PM to 8 PM.



All schedules are subject to change. For more information on any upcoming event, please contact the Raystown Lake Ranger Office at 814-658-3405.

Wait! There is MORE!



- **FRL Meetings:** The Friends of Raystown Lake will hold the monthly board meetings on **Thursday June 8th, Thursday, July 13th, and Thursday, August 17th** (yes, this meeting is on the 3rd Thursday in August). Meetings will begin at 7:00 pm at Hoss’s Steak and Sea House, Huntingdon except for the August meeting which will be a special location. Stay tuned for more information!

- **Wake up Receptions:** FREE Visitor Wake-Up Receptions will be held at the Raystown Lake Visitors Center on Tuesday Mornings from 9:30 -10:30 beginning June 20th.



Celebrating Huntingdon's 250th Birthday

-Article provided by
Ed Stoddard, HCVB

Huntingdon celebrates a big milestone in 2017! Help celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania! The main community festival and birthday party is planned for June 8-9-10-11 in and around historic downtown Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

Huntingdon's history as one of the oldest settlements in Pennsylvania will be honored through a series of events this year; including displays, lectures, gallery exhibits, publications, a parade, community street fairs and walking tours. During the year, notable happenings will be highlighted on the 250 year timeline, stories will be told of the historic figures that played a large role in shaping who we are today; and there will be celebrations around the charm of our small town, our people and our heritage as a community in Pennsylvania.



In 1767, Rev. Dr. William Smith founded Huntingdon at the site of a famous Native American council ground, located near the spot where Standing Stone Creek flows into the Juniata River. The spot was marked by the erection of a "Standing Stone Monument" at the borough centennial. An original monument likely existed before the founding of the original village of Standing Stone.

Located along the picturesque Juniata River, today the borough is home to about 7,000 residents. Juniata College is located in Huntingdon; which is the nearest town to Raystown Dam.

Huntingdon was named by Budget Travel magazine's readers as one of the Coolest Small Towns in the United States. Results were announced on The Early Show on April 15, 2009 by Budget Travel's editor in chief Nina Willdorf and show host Harry Smith. In 2015, Huntingdon was chosen by Niche.com as the 7th Best City to Retire in Pennsylvania.

2017

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.



SAFETY TIPS FOR PADDLERS

1. BE A SWIMMER!

2. Wear Your Lifejacket

Expect to capsize and swim occasionally when paddling a canoe, kayak, SUP or raft.

3. File A Float Plan with someone who will notify others if you don't return on time.

4. Carry a compass and chart or map!



Pictured: Kayaker on the Raystown Branch of the Juniata River

5. Be Prepared for weather pattern changes.

6. Rules of the Road. What paddlers need to know when sharing the waters. Wear bright, noticeable clothing and keep your **WHISTLE** handy!

7. Always Dress for the Unexpected Flip!



The Friends of Raystown Lake wish you a wonderful, SAFE, summer season on Raystown Lake and wherever your travels may take you!

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