



The DAM Newsletter

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Friends of Raystown Lake
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Founded in 1988

Raystown Lake Master Plan Revision

Friends of Raystown Lake
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The Corps of Engineers initiated a revision to the Raystown Lake Master Plan this past fall with it's first stakeholder meeting held on February 8th, 2018. The current Master Plan was approved in 1994. All projects operated by the Corps are required to develop and keep current a master plan to guide the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural, and cultural resources through the life of the project. The primary goals of a master plan are to prescribe an overall land use management plan, resources objectives, and associated design and management concepts. A master plan deals in concepts, not in details of design or administration. It is a vital tool for the responsible stewardship and sustainability of project resources for the benefit of present and future generations. All input is needed and welcomed! You can review the 1994 master plan and provide input by going to: bit.ly/RaystownMPrevision

***There will be several public meetings scheduled this spring and summer. The first spring meeting is scheduled for April 25th in Saxton (TBD) and April 26th in Huntingdon (TBD)**

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Captain's Quarters

Although the groundhog said six more weeks of winter, the end of February has been spring like. The Friends of Raystown Lake is gearing up for another busy season. The annual lake cleanup is May 5th at Tatman Run. Fish Structure building will be the end of April and of course Dirt Fest will be May 18-20. Workers will soon be preparing the ATS skills park for opening the beginning of April. Pipeline construction is underway again with the rest of the ATS trails to be ready for Dirt Fest. Revision of the Raystown Lake Master Plan is beginning. The plan will be a vision of what the lake will look like for the next 15-25 years. Comments are welcome and links are on the FRL website. Memberships are due and all money goes to projects at the lake. Enjoy the Spring!

Ron

The Mission: Restore Power to the People of Puerto Rico

-Article provided by Park Ranger Jude Harrington



Photo: Linemen repairing a damaged transmission tower.

Hola Amigos de Raystown desde sunny Puerto Rico! On Sept 19, 2017 Hurricane Maria, a category 5 storm, struck the island of Puerto Rico dropping over 20" of rain and battering critical infrastructure with sustained winds over 175 mph. When natural disasters strike the U.S. mainland or its territories the Corps of Engineers responds by providing contract support for FEMA to restore essential services. I believe that the Friends of Raystown members would be pleased to see that past and present Raystown Lake staff have stepped up to assist the various recovery missions. Park Ranger Alicia Palmer recently served on the Debris Removal Team after the California fires. Former Raystown Lake Park Rangers Brian Holtzinger (2014-2015), and George Harchack (2014-2015) are finishing Debris Removal Teams in Puerto Rico and I am serving on the Power Restored Mission in Puerto Rico. Board member Wayne Hearn's son, John Hearn who also was a former Park Ranger (2001-2002) is currently in St. Thomas as a Quality Assurance Supervisor for debris removal.

Hurricane Maria is the strongest storm ever recorded in Puerto Rico causing an estimated 91 billion dollars in damage. Upon leaving the San Juan Airport I was shocked at the level of devastation that is still evident 5 months after the storm. Highway directional signs and billboards are just bent metal frames, roofs from commercial and residential homes are torn off and traffic lights at most intersections are not working. One of the major challenges to repairing the country's infrastructure is getting materials and construction equipment to the island.

My assignment has been a humbling experience. The Corps is managing a \$1.9 billion contract to restore the island's power grid system. It was determined that 80% of the 32,400 miles of transmission and distribution lines were damaged. I have worked with contractors that were involved in rerouting a primary electric line through the mountain country that served a community water pump. This line also provided electricity to over 740 homes that have been without power for 5 months.



Photo: A young Puerto Rican wearing the Corps hat hard. His family cooked a Puerto Rican meal for the linemen.



Shopping on Amazon? Donate to FRL at the same time!

FRL is a donation recipient at AmazonSmile, meaning .05% of your purchase is donated to the charity of your choice at no cost to you. To shop at AmazonSmile go to smile.amazon.com. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, wish list, registries and other account settings are also the same. On your first visit to AmazonSmile select FRL to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation to FRL by the Amazon Smile Foundation. Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations as is annotated on their product detail pages. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Every Kid in a Park Pass Program

Now is the time so start planning summer vacations! As part of the nation's commitment to protect our nation's unique outdoor spaces and ensure that every American has the opportunity to visit and enjoy them, a multi-agency team launched the "Every Kid in a Park" program to provide all fourth grade students and their families with free admission to national parks and other federal lands and waters for a full year starting every September 1. The pass is valid from **September 1 to August 31** of the following year and grants **FREE** entry for fourth graders and three accompanying adults (or an entire car for drive-in parks) at more than 2,000 federally managed sites. Stop by the Raystown Lake Visitor Center to get your free pass today!



Fourth graders and their guests can visit:

- Battlefields
- Historic Landmarks
- Islands and Seashores
- Lakes and Rivers
- Mountains and Prairies
- National Forests
- National Parks
- Marine Sanctuaries



Upcoming Events

CAMPGROUND OPENING: Select campgrounds in the Seven Points Recreation Area will be open beginning Friday, April 6th. All campsites will be available on a first come –first serve basis until reservations begin on Thursday, May 17th. The Susquehannock Campground will be open beginning on Thursday, May 24th.

■ **FISH STRUCTURE BUILDING:** Fish Structure Building Days will be held on Sunday, April 29th and Monday April 30th beginning at 8:00am at the Snyder's Run Boat Launch. Volunteers are needed! Please contact (814)658-6812.

■ **FRL ANNUAL LAKE CLEANUP:** The Annual FRL Cleanup Day will be held on Saturday, May 5th at the Tatman Run Boat Launch. Volunteer support is needed! Including boat operators. Please call (814)658-6812. Free breakfast & lunch!!



■ **DIRTFEST:** The Annual DirtFest sponsored by DirtRag Magazine is scheduled to be held on the Allegrippis Trails beginning on Thursday, May 17th through Sunday, May 20th.

■ **FRL Meetings:** The Friends of Raystown Lake will hold the monthly board meetings on Thursdays March 8th, April 12th, and May 10th. 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

Dedicated to the Cause

-Article provided by Nelson Wert, PSBA

In the midst of the wind driven snow storm last Saturday, 2 PSBA members and 2 friends drove more than an hour to spend the day at the hatchery installing the two white water-chilling units in the picture. These units are critical in helping us maintain water temps below 50 degrees over the next 2 months for the fish in the hatchery. The chillers were donated to the PSBA after they were removed from another facility. These volunteers, PSBA members Ron Sasse and Dale Hickey and friends Paul Cypher Jr and Josh Van-tine reconditioned the chillers, purchased plumbing and electrical supplies, and donated their time and expertise in setting up the system. Blowing snow obscures this picture but not the dedication of these gentlemen to the cause of maintaining a healthy Striped Bass fishery for public enjoyment at Raystown Lake.



Wrapping Up!



Photo Above: Participants celebrate after the 16th Annual Wheelin' Sportsman Hunt! Photo Right: Hunters celebrate after harvesting a deer in Ridge Camp.



The *16th Annual Chris Bowser Wheelin' Sportsman Hunt* was held on December 9, 2017. This year there were **30** hunters, of which **11** were successful in harvesting deer. A total of **12** deer were harvested. An estimated **80+** volunteers served as guides and drivers which greatly contributed to the hunt's success. After the hunt, everyone gathered at the Raystown maintenance building to partake in a delicious pork barbeque meal, but more importantly to foster existing friendships and to create new ones. Special thanks go out to all the Corps partners who made this hunt possible especially Sunoco, Michel's Corporation, Juniata College and the National Wild Turkey Federation.



Action on the Allegrippis

-Article provided by Brent Rader, RMBA

The damp, dreary winter weather has limited our opportunities to enjoy the trails on two wheels this winter. We have seen an increase in trail runners using the trails, though. During a few snow periods, folks broke out their fat tire bikes and enjoyed snow riding on the trails. There's nothing quite like a view from atop Allegrippis Ridge in the snow!



The opportunities to ride have been limited otherwise. While there have been nice days with good attendance and user ship, the oscillating temperatures and frequent precipitation have made the trail surface somewhat soft when it's not frozen. We've encouraged folks to stay off the trails when they're wet to reduce damage. The freezing and thawing this year has also caused frost heave, some of which will need to be dealt with during spring work sessions.

We have seen quite a bit of wildlife this winter. Along with the usual deer and turkey sightings, a large black bear has taken up residence in the Bowser's Orchard area, and sightings of him have been frequent.

RMBA (Raystown Mountain Bike Association) members plan to hold several work days this spring to get the trails back in top shape. Check the Allegrippis Facebook page for works days! Volunteers plan to clear the trails of leaves and debris from the winter. FRL members, and the general public, are welcome and encouraged to attend our workdays and see what we're up to at the trails!

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 2018 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.

Cold Water Immersion

Cold water immersion is almost always the result of a capsize or swamping of, or fall overboard from, a boat under 26 feet.



Shocks associated with cold water includes three distinct phases:

In each phase, without a lifejacket, a person faces a much higher risk of drowning.

Cold shock response
(gasping, hyperventilation)

Cold incapacitation
(swim failure, loss of function)

Immersion hypothermia (eventually resulting in loss of useful consciousness)

WITH THAT IN MIND...WHEN BOATING IN COLD WATER:

- 1 Always wear a lifejacket when in an open boat or on deck, ESPECIALLY if operating solo
- 2 At least the operator, and ESPECIALLY solo operators, should carry emergency communication devices (VHF radio, cell phone in waterproof bag) and signaling devices (visual distress signals) on their person
- 3 Make sure the boat has a re-boarding device (swim steep, or ladder) that can be used by a person overboard
- 4 Solo operators should ALWAYS attach an engine cutoff device when underway
- 5 Cold water boaters should consider carrying a small inflatable life raft and immersion suit
- 6 File a float plan