

Evan Gross – Volunteer
Raystown Lake
Baltimore District, CENAB

The Allegrippis Trails are recognized as some of the best mountain biking trails anywhere in the United States, some may argue even the world. That reputation exists due to the hard work and dedication of Evan Gross. Serving as the President of the Raystown Mountain Biking Association (RMBA), Evan coordinates a club approach to regular trail maintenance by coordinating and overseeing a volunteer work force that loves the trails. Evan also serves as a model trail maintenance volunteer by doing much of the tree and debris removal himself.

In addition to the regular club members and trail volunteers, Evan also coordinates special activities that reflect well upon the Allegrippis and the Corps of Engineers. Every fall Evan works with the United Way to organize a “Day of Caring” where kids from the Raystown area visit the Allegrippis to complete a more laborious task along the trails. Coordination of the labor, materials, and supplies needed is a big task and always results in a big reward for the Allegrippis users. Evan also coordinates the annual Dirt Fest mountain biking event, which draws nearly 3,000 biking enthusiasts to the Allegrippis Trails along with industry professionals to show off their wares for a three day weekend of mountain bike and trail advocacy. This year, 2015, will be the first Bicycle Times road biking festival, again coordinated by Evan Gross. Drawing on the success of the Dirt Fest and working with Bicycle Times Magazine, Evan has spent countless hours planning and promoting the upcoming event that will draw bicyclists to the Raystown region for fun and camaraderie, while showcasing the Corps of Engineers and Raystown Lake.

Evan is very involved in community awareness and education. He regularly presents bicycle training events and sessions that teach users proper biking techniques, including sessions at the Raystown Visitors Center and Amphitheater. He also leads the Juniata Sojourn, a kayaking event that promotes the Juniata River and the Raystown region.

This year Evan has been very helpful in planning and coordinating the construction of a mountain biking skills park near the Seven Points Visitors Center at Raystown Lake. As a compliment to the Allegrippis, the skills park will give mountain bike riders the opportunity to practice their riding skills in a much more controlled environment before trekking out into more remote areas along the Allegrippis. Evan has coordinated involvement from as many as seven other partner groups worth an estimated \$40,000 of volunteer and in-kind value.

Volunteers like Evan Gross are hard to come by. Their dedication to a valued project or activity can't be measured in dollars or value, they are the life blood that keeps projects going, and the substance that make things like the Allegrippis Trails, and biking around the Raystown Lake Project grow to be as popular and exciting as they have become. For his continued dedication and support; the Raystown Lake Project proudly presents Evan Gross with The Corps Foundation's Volunteer Coin.



Photo Above: Volunteer Evan Gross at the entrance to the Allegrippis Trails. Evan coordinates the maintenance of the world class mountain biking trails.

Photo Right: Trail improvements along the Allegrippis Trails by volunteer workforce. Tasks like this with groups such as RMBA, United Way, and others are coordinated by Evan Gross.

Photo Below: Evan works with volunteers on the Juniata River cleanup, helping to improve the resources in and around the Raystown Lake Region.



Photo by ADAM WATSON

On behalf of Rothrock Outfitters, Raystown Mountain Biking Association president Evan Gross, left, presented members of the Marklesburg Fire Co. with a terrain master litter wheel system that is connected to a Stokes basket used for rescue purposes. The device, in conjunction with the basket, will assist fire company personnel in rescues on the Allegrippis Trails system. With Gross are, from the left, Loretta Hunsicker, fire chief Marlin Hunsicker, Rich Madden, Jim Defibaugh, ambulance captain Max Garner, Nathan Gill and company president Brian Hunsicker.





Coin and volunteer plaque award presentation to Evan Gross, Raystown Lake.