

The Newsletter of the Friends of Worlds End State Park.



The Vista

Spring 2020

Vol. 2 Issue 2

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To conserve, support and protect the park's resources by promoting education, recreation, and stewardship.



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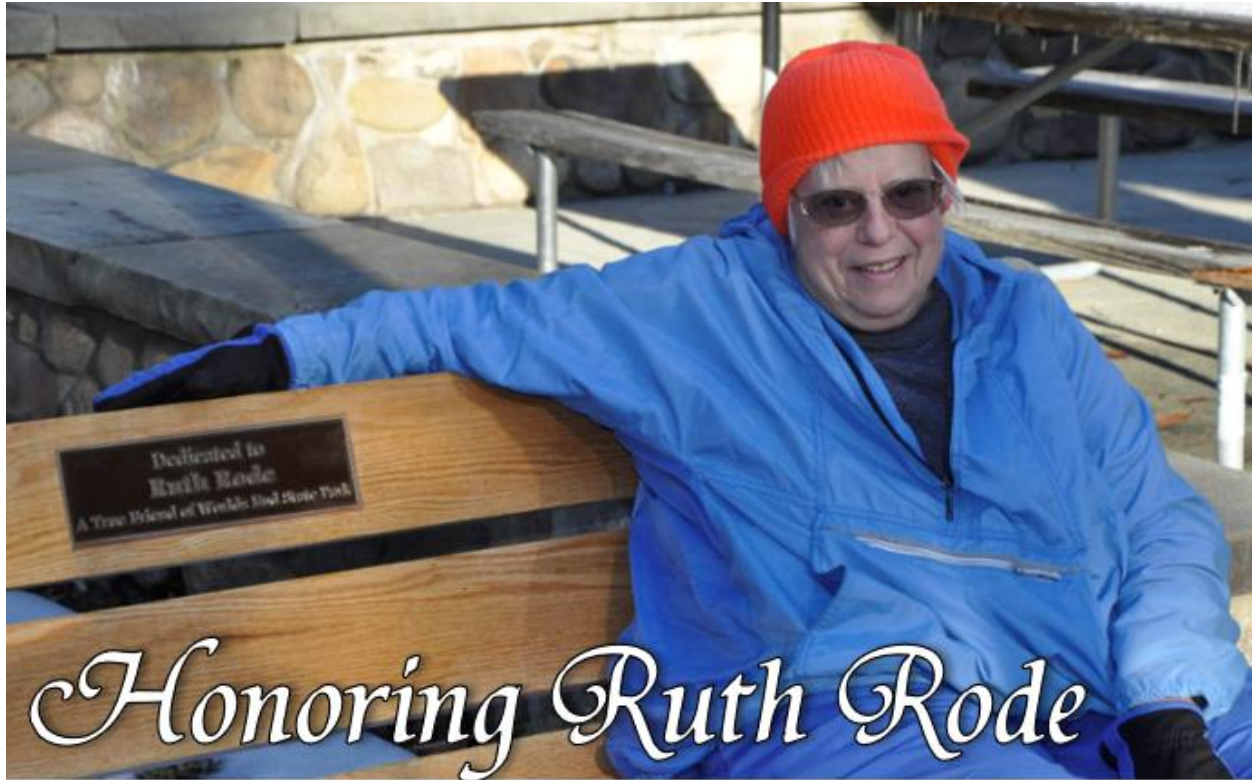


Celebrate Spring!

What better way to celebrate spring than to take a hike through the greening forest and by a tumbling mountain stream along the new Cold Run hiking trail – featured on pages 6 - 8. As everyone's thoughts turn to warm spring days, flowers blooming and the mountains once again becoming an ocean of green – the Board has been busy working with Worlds End park management and planning for the coming months at your favorite park!

In this issue of *The Vista*, we want to share with you our plans for the approaching spring and summer. This includes a trail work Saturday in April as part of the statewide celebration of the 50th anniversary of the first **Earth Day** (page 12). We are lining up presentations and exhibits for **Worlds End Day** on July 25 (page 9). **International Mud Day** returns on June 20 (page 10) and the popular **Archery Program** resumes this summer (page 9). Building on our success last year, we will be expanding our firewood sales to Loop B of the campground this summer (page 11). The Board has also recently obtained revised cost estimates for the new campground amphitheater project (page 5).

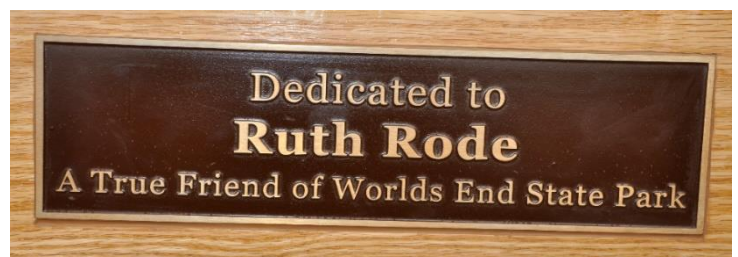
And finally, people are what makes so much of this possible. In this issue, we highlight four remarkable people who have done so much for Worlds End. See page 3 about honoring trailblazing legend **Ruth Rode**, and retiring **Ranger Bob Sabol** on page 4. See pages 6 – 8 about the Cold Run Trail, the result of the efforts of **Warren Renninger**, and page 10 about this year's trail races, brought to us by **David Walker**. And as always, if you have any suggestions, please contact us to let us know your thoughts – see the contact information on the left. Keep updated via our Facebook and Instagram pages, and thank you everyone for your continued interest and support!



Prior to the start of the *Friends of Worlds End State Park* Board meeting on a sunny February 19, the Friends and Worlds End park management gathered to surprise and to present to Ruth Rode a new park bench dedicated to her – in honor of her lifetime of public service and conservation work on behalf of Worlds End and the surrounding Loyalsock State Forest. The bench, beautifully crafted by park staff and made of polished ash with a plaque mounted noting – ***Dedicated to Ruth Rode – A True Friend of Worlds End State Park.***

Ruth's name is forever associated with the Loyalsock Trail – considered by many as the best backpacking destination in Pennsylvania. Ruth's vast knowledge of the park and the state forest and its history is legendary – she appears to know almost every tree, rock, stream, and waterfall! She can not only describe in detail the numerous hiking trails criss-crossing the area – but the history of the trail and its origins. But what truly impresses the people fortunate to have met and talked with her is her generosity in sharing this knowledge and history with anyone.

One of her more recent projects was partnering with Dave Kowalewski to develop the new map *Trails in and around Worlds End State Park* – which was also made possible by her generous financial support in getting the map printed. We look forward to working with Ruth on many future projects to the benefit of all park visitors – and be sure to check out the new bench – located outside the park's Office and Visitor's Center.



Farewell and Happy Retirement to Ranger Bob Sabol!

On a chilly December 19, 2020 afternoon, friends, park management, and colleagues gathered at the park office to wish Ranger Bob Sabol a happy and well-earned retirement! After over 38 years of service to the public and the park, Bob was leaving us. For many of us, Bob has been as much a part of Worlds End as our favorite picnic or camping spot or hiking trail.

We asked Bob to share with us his thoughts as he looked back on his long career of public service...

I started in 1981 at Frances Slocum State Park as a Ranger One - basically watching the pool area for food violations and locked the gates - sometimes picked up garbage and cut grass! Which led to young boy asking why should he listen to the garbage man - I had asked him not run in the pool area.

Humble beginnings, but I loved the hikes and at times the park was all mine in the evenings with the deer and gorgeous sunsets. Then in 1988 I became a DCNR Ranger (law enforcement Ranger). Oh boy! Now the kid asked why he should listen to the guy with the funny hat - oh well. Then in the spring of 1993 I was sent to the police academy along with many friends to be properly trained. Back at the park it was a lot easier to keep law, order and safety! Worlds End happened in 2015 when they allowed me to be their Ranger. Best crew of park employees ever!

Oh yeah - about the kid - he became a productive member of society. It gives me great pleasure, along with the parks, to be a great influence on his life!

I know that for many campers like me, the evening was not complete without Bob driving by on patrol with a friendly wave “good night” as we sat gathered around a crackling fire. We could all then end the day by retreating to our tents and campers - with the night feeling less dark – and this peaceful park all the more tranquil. Thank you Bob – and enjoy everything in retirement!



UPDATE: AMPHITHEATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

\$30,000	
GOAL!	
\$28,000	
\$26,000	
\$24,000	
\$22,000	
\$20,000	
\$18,000	
\$16,000	
\$14,000	
\$12,000	
\$10,000	
\$8,000	
\$6,000	
\$4,000	
\$2,000	
\$0	



At the January 15 Board Meeting, the Board received an updated estimate of the cost of the amphitheater improvement project. For a 38' X 52' structure, the estimated cost is \$30,000. This estimate is for the structure only – it does not include other “add-ons” we may want such as electric, a new screen, lighting, etc. We are targeting 2021 for this project – which is intended to make the amphitheater an all-weather venue and to increase its versatility for new events, like family movie nights. We currently have \$12,000 in the special fund for this project – leaving \$18,000 to be raised. Contributions, including donations of materials and equipment, would also be appreciated. Look for updates in future issues of THE VISTA.

TRAIL MAP AND PATCH FOR SALE.



Prepare your spring-time hiking with our new map, *Trails in and around Worlds End State Park*. The map is for sale at the park office for \$10.00, and is also available from *The Sullivan Review*, *McCarty Mercantile* and online from the *Keystone Trails Association* (<https://www.kta-hike.org/>). The Friends of Worlds End State Park trail patch, designed by Ruth Rode, is also on sale at the park office for \$ 5.00. Money raised from these sales fund the park-improvement projects planned by the Friends of Worlds End State Park.





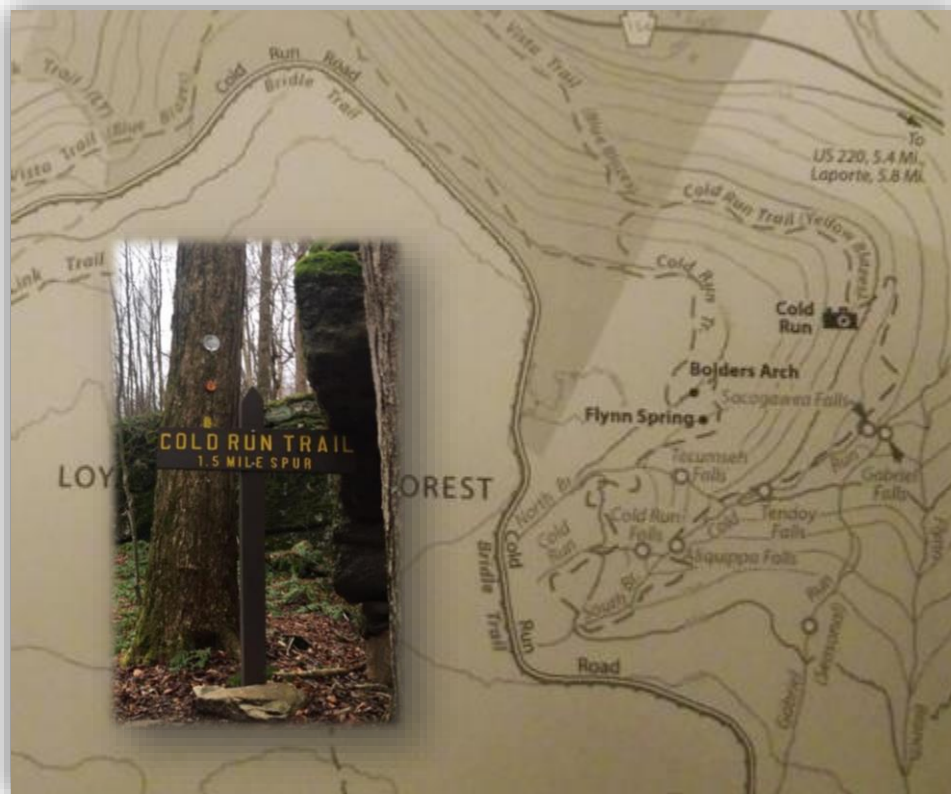
Hiking The New Cold Run Trail.

Looking for a new hiking adventure at Worlds End that the entire family can enjoy? Then check out the new Cold Run Trail! This recently constructed trail is a 1.5 mile loop off of, and accessed from, the popular Canyon Vista Trail. What makes this trail unique is that it includes waterfalls, cascades, vistas and interesting rock formations – all within a relatively short 1.5 miles! Few trails pack in so much scenery and interesting highlights in such a compact distance.

Start your exploration of this trail by picking up a free trail map – available at the park office. The trail is also included in the *Friends of Worlds End State Park Trails in and around Worlds End State Park Map* – also available at the park office for \$10.00. Spring-time is the ideal time to hike this trail as to see the waterfalls at their best (or any time after a good rainfall). And the autumn forest here can be kaleidoscope of colors as you stroll along. As always, make sure you have sturdy footwear, and a hiking pole can come in handy on the steeper sections of the trail.

Being a loop-trail off of the Canyon Vista Trail, it really doesn't matter which direction you go – both ends of the trail connect back to the Canyon Vista Trail. The trail is clearly and well-marked with frequent yellow blazes. Some parts of the trail are winding and serpentine, with double blazes in these locations as to alert hikers to pay careful attention to the direction of the path.

If you go clockwise, the trail will wind down the mountain a brief distance to the *Cold Run Vista* – looking up the Loyalsock valley to the east. As you continue your descent through the forest, you will hear Cold Run as it nears. The three forks of Cold Run you will see consists of a series of cascades and falls - some small but also some substantial dropping over steep precipices. The trail guides you safely around and above the falls – it is best to stay on the trail because the terrain off the trail and around the falls can be very steep.



Aliquippa Falls

The first falls you will encounter are *Sacagawea Falls* and *Gabriel Falls*. The trail will then take you up the stream as you pass *Tendoy Falls*, *Tecumseh Falls*, and *Aliquippa Falls*. To your right, looking uphill, you will see *Cold Run Falls* as two other forks of the stream join Cold Run. As you approach the top of the glen, you will cross the stream and will also soon cross two other forks of Cold Run. The trail will then take you through *Boulders Arch* and other rock formations before ending your loop back on the Canyon Vista Trail.



Tecumseh Falls



Sacagawea Falls



Tendoy Falls



Gabriel Falls

Last summer I had the pleasure of hiking the trail with Worlds End Environmental Educator Jane Swift and Warren Renninger – the man whose vision and months of labor made this trail possible. Warren described the challenges and effort that goes into planning, and then building, a hiking trail. Routing a new trail involves finding that right balance between providing access to beautiful and interesting natural features that people want to see, while being careful not to trample on or degrade the scenery you are trying to highlight. The flow of water, and preventing erosion, has to always be considered – you do not want a trail that will be washed out or become a mud pit or an unintended culvert when it rains. Stream crossings have to be carefully planned for locations that are safe and easy enough for casual hikers to cross, while minimizing the impact on the stream itself. And any trail in the mountains has to take into account the elevation change and grade – trails too steep may discourage the up-hill hiker – and pose falling hazards to those going down-hill.

After the route of the new trail was determined, park maintenance crews walked the proposed route removing fallen trees to clear the way for trail construction. Warren then divided the planned path into fifteen 1/10th mile segments, with work proceeding one segment at a time. After 424 hours of work, the last two segments connecting the path to the Canyon Vista Trail were completed. Among the first to use the new trail were runners racing in the Worlds End Fall Classic half-marathon.

After my hike with Warren and Jane, I gained a greater appreciation of the thought and effort that goes into building and maintaining a hiking trail. Now when I am out hiking, I not only pay attention to the scenery and the wildlife, but I also examine how the trail is routed and constructed. Many thanks to Warren for his months of labor in creating this new gem for Worlds End – opening up the more remote areas of the park for visitors to explore. Enjoy your hike!

- *By Dan Mumford*
- *Photography: Warren Renninger*



WORLDS END DAY 2020 – SATURDAY JULY 25!

Join us around mid-day on Saturday, July 25 for the third annual *Worlds End Day*, featuring environmental exhibits from many community organizations and wildlife presentations. Organizations tentatively planning on participating include the Sullivan County Conservation District, the Northcentral PA Conservancy, the Audubon Society of Lycoming County, Trout Unlimited and the Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association, and the Pennsylvania Game Commission. We are also working on lining up a presentation on raptors and also reptiles. This free, family-friendly event, in the park's day-use area, will have activities for all ages. We are also looking for sponsors to support this event – if you are interested, please contact us (see contact info on page 2).

**worlds
end day
2020**

Please check out our social media for updates – and the next issue of THE VISTA for more details and a schedule of events.



ARCHERY CLASSES RETURN.

Last year's popular archery course returns this summer! If you have ever wanted to explore archery – here is your opportunity. Certified Archery Instructors Jane Swift and Mike Scott will once again be offering archery instruction at the park this summer with an emphasis on safe archery practices. The park will provide the equipment you need. Check out the summer edition of THE VISTA and our social media for dates and times of this summer's classes.

Ages: 9 - 90

Location: Point Pavilion.

SUMMER 2020 AT WORLDS END PREVIEW

TRAIL RACES AT WORLDS END!

Summer 2020 at Worlds End starts with the exciting annual Ultramarathon on Saturday, May 30th! Trail racing is an increasingly popular sport – with Worlds End and the surrounding Loyalsock State Forest becoming a well-known racing destination. This day-long event features 100K and 50K races – with the 100K race starting before sunrise – with many runners not finishing until after sunset.

For more information on this race, including how to volunteer, check out their website: <https://worldsendultra.com/>

...and don't forget about the September 26 Worlds End Fall Classic half-marathon... for more information: <https://worldsendfallclassic.com/>



Runners gather in the pre-dawn darkness near the cliff pavilion before last year's ultramarathon.



And they're off!! Spectators cheer on the runners as they pass the starting line and sprint off into the dark forest!



In January, Worlds End State Park Manager Bill Kocher accepted, on behalf of the Friends of Worlds End State Park, a generous donation from David Walker. David is the organizer of both the Worlds End ultramarathon in May and the Worlds End Fall Classic half-marathon in September.

SUMMER 2020 AT WORLDS END PREVIEW

International Mud Day 2020 – Saturday, June 20, 2020

Children and adults all over the world celebrate the glorious benefits of mud, so come join the fun! You'll be able to frolic in our Mud Pit, make mud pies in our Mud Pie Kitchen, paint with mud, search for fossils, and more! And, don't worry about the mess - a quick dip in the Loyalsock Creek will wash it away! This event is free and open to the public. Location: Picnic area near the beach. Look for more details in the next issue of THE VISTA.

- Book your camping or cabin reservation at Worlds End for this summer:
<https://pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com/welcome.do>
- DCNR – Worlds End:
<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/WorldsEndStatePark/Pages/default.aspx>
- DCNR – Loyalsock State Forest:
<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateForests/FindAForest/Loyalsock/Pages/default.aspx>

ENROLL TO BECOME A DCNR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in volunteering at the park, we encourage you to register. Registering brings you insurance coverage and the ability to track your volunteer hours. See more on DCNR's website:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/GetInvolved/Pages/default.aspx>

FIREWOOD SALES TO EXPAND IN SUMMER 2020!

For Summer 2020, we are expanding our firewood sales to now include a self-serve kiosk in Loop B of the campground – look for it near the bathrooms. We will continue to sell firewood near the Loop A (lower loop) bathrooms and also in the cabin area near the trash/recycling area. Price is \$8.00 per bundle. Also this summer – bags of ice will be for sale in the campground –located near the Loop A bathroom. Price is \$6.00 for a large bag and \$3.00 for a small bag. Money raised from these sales goes to fund the park-improvement projects planned by the Friends of Worlds End State Park.



PHOTO CREDITS: Cover: Double Run along the Link Trail – Dan Mumford. Page 2 – Kyle Fawcett. Page 3 – Dan Mumford and Jane Swift. Page 4 – Jane Swift. Page 5 – Kyle Fawcett. Pages 7-8 – Warren Renninger. Page 9 – Dan Mumford. Page 10 – Dan Mumford, Ken Jones. Page 13 – Kyle Fawcett



NEWS

<https://paparksandforests.org/>

Trail Work Planned to Celebrate the 50th Annual EARTH DAY!

This April marks the 50th anniversary of the very first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. The first Earth Day in 1970 is credited with launching the modern environmental movement. To mark the occasion, volunteer public-service activities will be taking place across the state throughout the month of April. Here at Worlds End State Park, we will be contributing to this celebration with a day of trail maintenance on Saturday, April 4 (rain date Saturday April 11) on the East Branch Trail. Please check out our social media for details as the date approaches. For more on the statewide celebration, check out these websites:

<https://www.earthday50pa.org/>

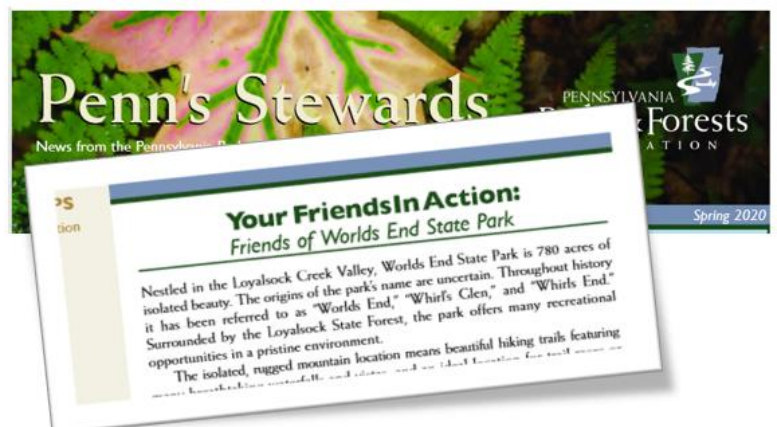
<https://paparksandforests.org/get-involved/earth-day-50/>



FRIENDS OF WORLDS END STATE PARK featured in current PPFF Newsletter.

Check out the spring edition of the *Pennsylvania Parks & Forest Foundation* newsletter "Penn's Stewards"... that features an article on the *Friends of Worlds End State Park*. See it on the PPFF website:

<https://3lbfea33km482lswmk36ltep-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/PPFF-Spring2020.pdf>



VISION

Building the voice for Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.

MISSION

PPFF's mission is to inspire stewardship of Pennsylvania's state parks and forests through public engagement in volunteerism, education, and recreation.



NEENEHA FALLS: A easily accessible falls within sight off of **Cold Run Road** on the way to Canyon Vista. This falls was a well-known location even before Worlds End was established as a park – references to it date back to the late 1800s. The name is reportedly from a Winnebago Indian term for waterfall. The falls is also known as **MINERAL SPRINGS FALLS** on some maps – it is just upstream from the mineral springs on the **East Branch of Double Run**.



To support the Friends of Worlds End State Park, check out the **SUPPORT** section of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation website and designate your gift to the **FRIENDS OF WORLDS END STATE PARK!**

<https://ppff.z2systems.com/np/clients/ppff/donation.jsp?campaign=348&https://paparksandforests.org/support/ways-to-give/>

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