



The Vista

The Newsletter of the Friends of Worlds End State Park

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

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WELCOME...

...to THE VISTA...the newsletter of the Friends of Worlds End State Park! With this, our second issue, we have given the newsletter a new name. We wanted to give our newsletter a unique name that reflects the park - and what better represents Worlds End than the iconic view from the Loyalsock Canyon Vista – one of the most famous views of Sullivan County's endless mountains. We hope you enjoy THE VISTA ...your view of Worlds End!

Look inside for more about the Loyalsock Canyon Vista and how to get there. Also inside this edition of The Vista, we want to share with you what we are planning this spring and summer at your favorite park and how you can join in the fun – and assist us with these events if you are interested in getting more involved, including:

- Worlds End Day 2019
- Archery Class Schedule
- 2019 Trail Race Events
- What is a Hellbender?



Mark your calendar for SATURDAY, JULY 27.

Worlds End Day 2018 last August featured workshops, music, and children's activities with many local organizations and community groups participating. With the success and popularity of this event, the Friends of Worlds End State Park is sponsoring a similar event in 2019. So far, the following activities and programs are scheduled:

- Family and children activities with Worlds End Environmental Educator Jane Swift.
- Pennsylvania Game Commission: Wildlife C.S.I. - Help game wardens solve a wildlife crime.
- Pennsylvania Game Commission: Bear Education Display.
- Carbon County Environmental Education Center: Come see and learn all about Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles.
- Pennsylvania Amphibian & Reptile Survey.
- Sullivan County Conservation District.
- Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association.
- Middle Susquehanna Riverkeepers.
- Clean Water Institute - Science on the Sock.
- Lycoming Audubon Society.
- DCNR – Bureau of Forestry.
- Music.
- Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy.
- And more to be announced!

These activities are free and will start around mid-day and will run throughout the day until the evening in the park's day-use area. We invite any individual or organization interested in participating in this event as an exhibitor or presenter, to contact us. We also welcome any individuals interested in assisting us with the day's events to contact us. See the contact information on the first page for how to reach us.

Please look for updates on our social media and the next edition of The Vista for more details as planning for this event continues.

ARCHERY COURSES TO BE OFFERED.

If you have ever wanted to explore archery – here is your opportunity. Certified Archery Instructors Jane Swift and Mike Scott will be offering archery instruction at the park this summer with an emphasis on safe archery practices. The park will provide the equipment you need. No registration is required – but we ask that participants please arrive by the start time of 10:00.

- Wednesday June 26, 10:00 am – 11:30 am.
- Wednesday July 10, 10:00 am – 11:30 am.
- Wednesday July 24, 10:00 am – 11:30 am.
- Wednesday August 14, 10:00 am – 11:30 am.
- Wednesday August 28, 10:00 am – 11:30 am.
- Ages: 9 - 90
- Location: Point Pavilion.
- Check our social media for weekend schedules.



FIRE and ICE!

Firewood is now available for sale in the cabin area. Look for the self-serve kiosk located near the trash/recycling area. Price is \$8.00 per bundle. We are pleased to announce that sales have been strong and we thank our customers for their generous support. This success has led us to next make firewood also available in the campground starting this April – look for the self-serve kiosk near the loop A (lower loop) bathrooms. Also coming this summer – bags of ice will be available for sale in the campground – also located near the loop A bathroom. Money raised from these sales goes to fund the park-improvement projects planned by the Friends of Worlds End State Park.



INTERNATIONAL MUD DAY 2019!

Saturday June 29, at 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

Location: picnic area near the beach.

Children and adults all over the world are celebrating 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.



DRIVING TO LOYALSOCK CANYON VISTA:

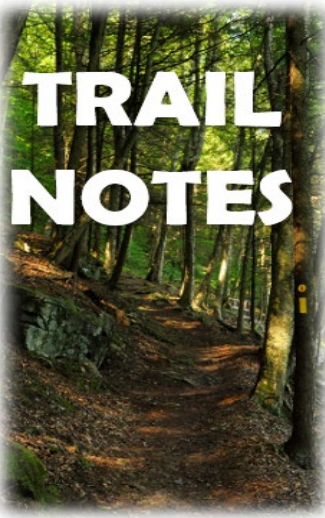
The classic view of the endless mountains, the Loyalsock Canyon Vista at Worlds End, which we have named our newsletter for, is accessible by car. Unfortunately, the heavy rains of 2018 damaged the most direct road from the park - Mineral Spring Road. This road is now closed until repairs are completed. However, you can still drive to the vista. From the park, go up Worlds End Road (sometimes called Double Run Road) and at the top of the mountain, take a left onto Shanerburg Road to Cold Run Road – and follow the signs to the Loyalsock Canyon Vista. See the route highlighted in purple on the map to the left.

2019 TRAIL RACING EVENTS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Worlds End is an increasingly popular trail-racing destination – attracting hundreds of racers every year. Volunteers help make these exciting events possible and are needed to assist the race organizers and help staff aid stations.

- **Worlds End Ultramarathon 50/100K: Saturday, June 1.**
<https://worldsendultra.com/>
This is an all-day event (beginning before sunrise and ending after sunset).
- **Worlds End Fall Classic Half Marathon: Saturday, September 28.**
<https://worldsendfallclassic.com/>

Volunteers can contact the organizers directly via the websites noted above. The Friends of Worlds End will also be staffing an information and assistance booth – please contact us if you are interested in assisting us (see our contact information on page one).



- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are planning trail maintenance days once the weather warms up and are looking for volunteers to join us for this work. Please check out our social media for more information – including work dates and locations.
- **NEW TRAIL MAP:** Dave Kowalewski and Ruth Rode continue their work creating a new map of popular hiking trails in the park and in the surrounding Loyalsock State Forest. The map will include both short day-hikes and longer backpacking loops - and old favorites and new paths like the East Branch Trail and the Cold Run Trail! Look for this new map for sale in the park office this summer, and for more details in the next edition of The Vista. Map sales benefit the Friends of Worlds End State Park projects.

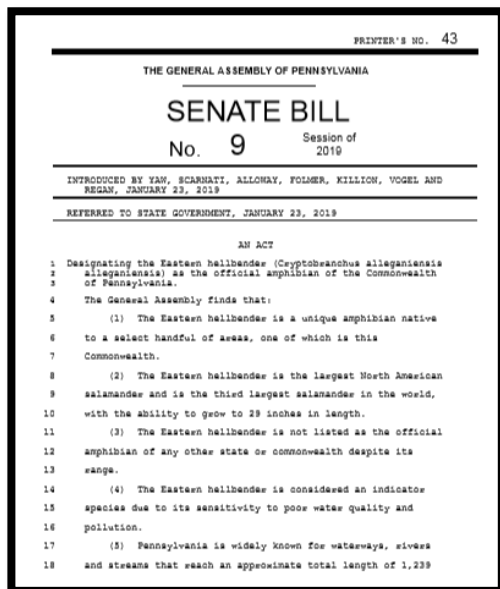
What is a HELLBENDER...and why is it in the news?

The HELLBENDER is Americas' largest salamander. It can reach 12-29 inches in length and weigh as much as 5 pounds at maturity. This unique creature is only found in clean, mountain streams, such as the Loyalsock that flows through Worlds End. Hellbenders have been in the news recently because of proposed legislation in Harrisburg to name it the official state amphibian.

On February 4, the Pennsylvania Senate approved Senate Bill 9 of 2019 - introduced by Senator Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming). To become law, the legislation will now need to be approved by the Pennsylvania House and obtain Governor Wolf's signature.

The hellbender has a large, flattened body with thick folds of skin running along its sides, a single open gill slit on each side, short legs with 4 toes on the front legs and 5 on the back. It is thought that the hellbender was named for its appearance with early settlers thinking the it was "a creature from hell." While hellbenders have lungs, they are mostly non-functional, vestigial organs and absorb most of the oxygen they need through their skin. This means that hellbenders require clean, fast-moving streams and rivers to live in. If the legislation is approved, designation as the state amphibian would not bring additional protections – but would raise public awareness of this unique creature. With Senate Bill 9, the General Assembly finds that:

- (1) The eastern hellbender is a unique amphibian native to a select handful of areas, one of which is this Commonwealth.
- (2) The eastern hellbender is the largest North American salamander and is the third largest salamander in the world, with the ability to grow to 29 inches in length.
- (3) The eastern hellbender is not listed as the official amphibian of any other state or commonwealth despite its range.
- (4) The eastern hellbender is considered an indicator species due to its sensitivity to poor water quality and pollution.
- (5) Pennsylvania is widely known for waterways, rivers and streams that reach an approximate total length of 1,239 square miles and have a great value to Pennsylvania's economy and environment.
- (6) Pennsylvania has had a history of poor water quality due to pollution and other elements.



- (7) The eastern hellbender is considered a species of special concern in this Commonwealth and in New York.
- (8) The eastern hellbender is listed as endangered in Maryland, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana and is considered threatened in Alabama.
- (9) The eastern hellbender population is drastically declining due to poor water quality in Pennsylvania's rivers and streams.
- (10) The eastern hellbender has been historically found in nearly every western county in Pennsylvania; however, recent studies show approximately half of those counties no longer support the species.
- (11) Due to the eastern hellbender's sensitivity and status as an indicator species, it proves to be a positive symbol for water quality efforts in Pennsylvania.

Link to Senate Bill :

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?year=2019&sind=0&body=S&type=B&bn=0009>

SOURCE: www.pennlive.com





NEWS

<https://paparksandforests.org/>

PPFF LAUNCHES PRESERVING THE LEGACY CAMPAIGN:

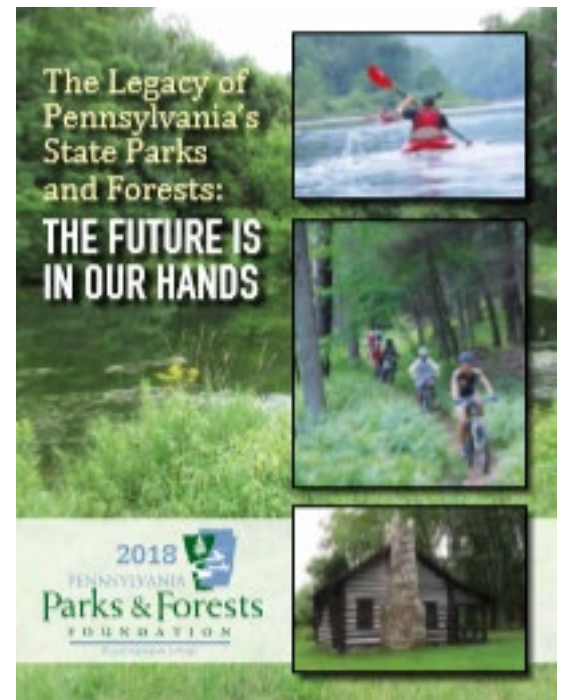
In 2018, Pennsylvania's state parks and forests celebrated their 125th anniversary. Founded and developed through visionary leadership, our parks and forests have provided great benefits to Pennsylvania's natural resources and its citizenry. Today, state elected officials and government administrators again have the extraordinary opportunity to provide needed and overdue resources to address the more than \$1 billion in state park and forest infrastructure and maintenance needs. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) manages more infrastructure than most state agencies. Maintaining and repairing that infrastructure requires resources — staff, funding, and materials — that have fallen increasingly short over the past decade. Investment in Pennsylvania state parks and forests has resulted in an unprecedented tally of needed investments: from bridges to wastewater treatment facilities, from dams to invasive plant removal, and from roads to trails. This report examines the story behind the creation of Pennsylvania's state park and forest system, and explores the needs that must be addressed to assure that what we pass on to our children and grandchildren is a legacy in which we can all be proud.

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.



The full report "The Legacy of Pennsylvania's State Parks and Forests: The Future is in Our Hands" is available on PPFF's website:

<https://31bfea33km482lswmk36ltp-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/final-report-reduced-size.pdf>

PPFF April Regional Meeting Cancelled:

The PPFF regional meeting scheduled for April 13 at Worlds End has been cancelled. Please look in future newsletters and the PPFF website for possible regional meeting dates later this year.

HELPFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES:

- Book your camping 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>
- Alpine Club of Williamsport – Loyalsock Trail: <https://alpineclubofwilliamsport.com/>
- Sullivan County Conservation District: <https://www.sullcon.com/>
- Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce: <https://sullivancountypachamber.com/>
- Sullivan County - Endless Mountains Tourism: www.endlessmountains.org/sullivan-county
- Loyalsock Creek Watershed Association: <https://www.facebook.com/LoyalsockCreekWatershedAssociation/>
- The Sullivan Review: <https://www.thesullivanreview.com/>

BECOME A DCNR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER:

We encourage everyone interested in assisting the Friends of Worlds End State Park and/or volunteering at the park to register as a DCNR Conservation Volunteer. Registering makes it easier to track your volunteer hours, and also provides insurance coverage while working on volunteer projects. To learn more about volunteering and to apply:

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

<https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/index.aspx>

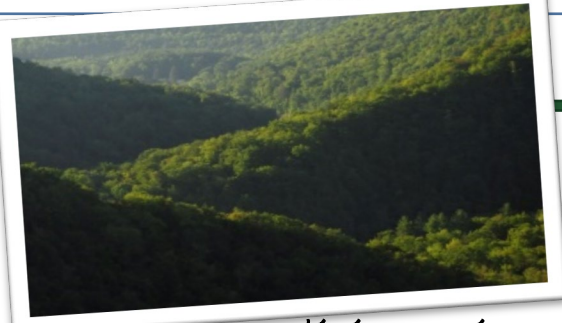
To support the Friends of Worlds End State Park, check out the SUPPORT section of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation website and designate your gift to the FRIENDS OF WORLDS END STATE PARK!

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

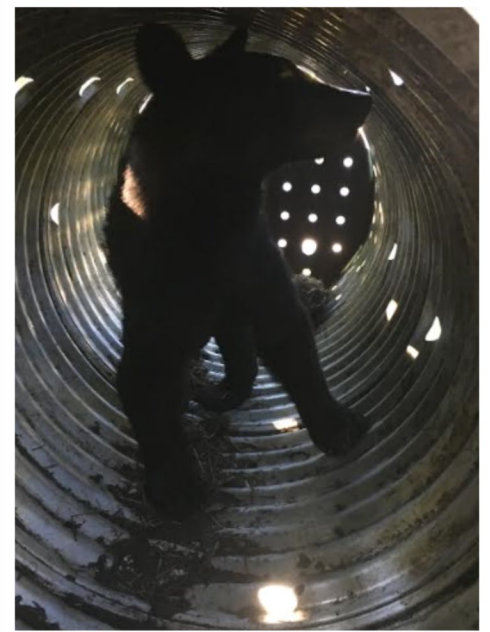
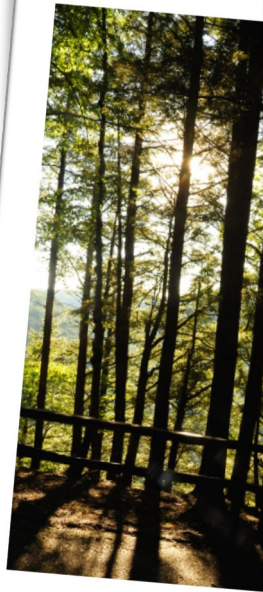
The Friends of Worlds End State Park is a Chapter of the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization—contributions to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution. The official registration of the Pennsylvania Parks & Forests Foundation may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Summer Is Coming!!

Look for the next issue of The Vista – the Summer Edition – in June for a calendar of summer events at the park and more details about Worlds End Day 2019!



PGC Deputy Game Warden Michael Scott shared this photo of 4 bear cubs who scooted up a tree when mama bear was caught in a trap. The cubs were soon reunited with their mother and safely relocated.



This dumpster-diving young bear above was trapped in the park last summer and was transported to a new location. Photo – courtesy PGC Game Deputy Warden Michael Scott.

