

The Newsletter of the Friends  
of Worlds End State Park

Vol. 5 No. 2  
Spring 2023

# *The Vista*

## ***The Hidden Waterfalls of Sullivan County***

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





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## CELEBRATE SPRING!

Spring is waterfall season at Worlds End and the Loyalsock State Forest. The spring rains, along with melting snow and ice, enhances even the smaller streams – turning many into beautiful and roaring brooks of cascades and waterfalls. Every spring in *The Vista*, we have highlighted many of these waterfalls – especially the larger, easily- accessible ones. This year, however, we feature some of the lesser-known cascades – some of them “hidden” and more challenging to access and find – see page 13. But to help in this waterfall hunt, we now have available our new hiking guide, ***Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest*** - our new guide can help lead you to these hidden gems. Speaking of our new guide, we talked with the authors about the process of creating this guide and what was involved in this multi-year effort. See starting on page 8 for this behind-the-scenes look at creating a hiking guide.

If you plan on visiting the park this spring, there is important information about the closure of route 154 to update you about – see page 3. And see some updates on upcoming spring and summer events in the park and Sullivan County – see starting on page 5. And find out what nearby river is the 2023 River of the Year – see page 7.

Stay updated on news from the Friends of Worlds End State Park via our Facebook page and our website – [www.friendsofworldsendsp.org](http://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org).

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## Route 154 Construction Closure Update



*Top of Page: the construction zone along Rt. 154.*

*Above: the construction zone looking from below along the Loyalsock Creek.*

During recent visits to the park, you may have noticed some problems with Route 154 near the visitor's center and the Point Pavilion – the road has been slipping down the hill toward the creek. On September 19, PennDOT closed the road to begin a major construction project to stabilize the highway. This unfortunately resulted in the closure of the highway in both directions for several months – possibly until May 2023 - effectively cutting the park in half. (See the section of the road that is closed highlighted in yellow on the map to the above left). Worlds End Road will be open – but where it meets Route 154 in the park, only a right turn will be possible – you cannot turn left to reach the cabins, park office, or day use area.



**VISITORS TO THE DAY USE AREA, PARK OFFICE AND THE CABINS:** coming from Route 220 north and south: take Route 87 south in Dushore to Route 154 east from Forksville to the park.

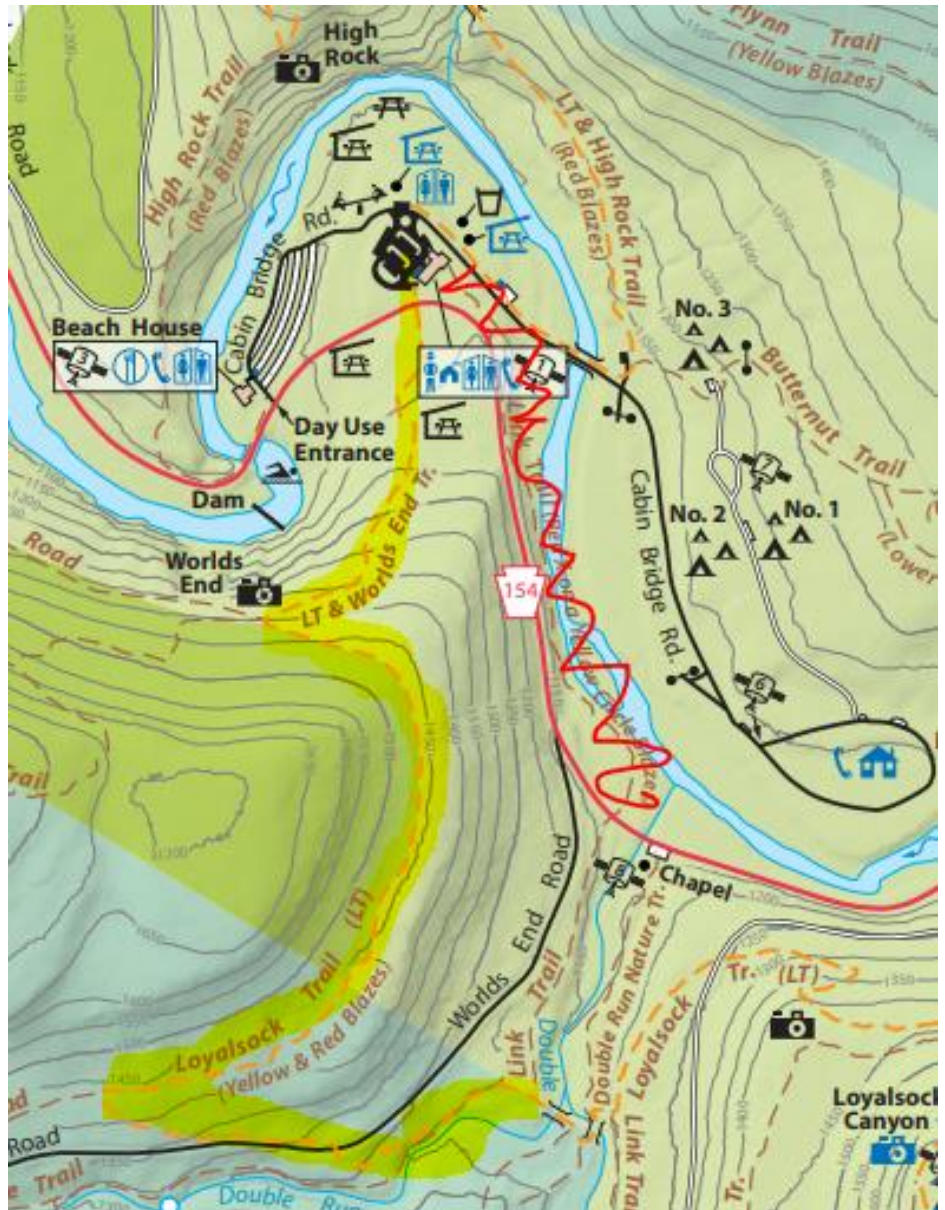
**CAMPGROUND VISITORS:** For those with reservations at the Family Campground, report to the campground and not the park office for your reservation. Any campers coming to the campground by Route 154 east or Route 87 north will need to detour around the closure by taking Route 87 north to Dushore, Route 220 south to Laporte, and Route 154 west to the campground. Campers coming from Route 220 north or south should take Route 154 west in Laporte to the campground.

**HIKING IMPACT:** the Link Trail that connects the park office to the Double Run trail head is closed between the park office and Route 154 during this project (see the red squiggly line on the map to the right).

Look for a detour that follows the Loyalsock Trail from the park office, across the highway and up the mountain to the Pioneer Road then to Double Run (see the trails highlighted in yellow on the map to the right).

Please call the park office at 570-924-3287, or via email at [worldsendsp@pa.gov](mailto:worldsendsp@pa.gov), if you have questions.

**Monitor the park’s website, social media and future issues of *The Vista* for updates on this project over the months to come.**



Information is available on the Friends of Worlds End State Park website:

<https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/detour154>

Information about this project is also available on PennDOT's website at:

<https://www.penndot.pa.gov/regionaloffices/district-3/pages/details.aspx?newsid=4308>

## FIREWOOD AVAILABLE THIS SPRING:

Firewood is available for sale in the camping and cabin areas this spring; - \$8.00 per bundle. Look for the self-serve kiosk in the cabin area near the trash dumpsters on the right as you enter the cabin community on Cabin Bridge Road. In the family camping area, the kiosks are located near both shower-houses on loop A and loop B. Money from these sales funds the park improvement projects of the Friends of Worlds End State Park.



## 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/Conservation/GetInvolved/Pages/default.aspx>  
<https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/VolunteerApplication.aspx>

## WORLDS END ULTRAMARATHON:

One of the country's premier trail racing events, the Worlds End 50k/100k UltraMarathon is on Saturday June 3, 2023. The 100k event starts at 5:00AM with the 50k event starting at 7:00AM. For more information, including how to register and volunteer, see the race website:  
<https://worldsendultra.com/>



## GRINDURO International Cycling Event Returns to Sullivan County – Weekend of June 16-18!

The **Grinduro** returns to the Sullivan County this summer – at Elk Creek Escape in Hillsgrove – and features a 70-mile cycling route highlighting the best of the Endless Mountains - pioneer roads, historic logging towns, covered bridges, scenic vistas and logging trails deep into the forests that combines the elements of a mountain bike enduro with a gravel grinder- style road race. Festivities include displays of art and music, food, people and camping. To find out more, see the Grinduro website:

<https://grinduro.com/pennsylvania.php>



## TROUT SEASON OPENS SATURDAY APRIL 1.

Spring means the return of fishing season – with the single, statewide opening day – April 1. The statewide Mentored Youth Trout Day is Saturday, March 25.

For details on the season and the rules, check out the PA Fish and Boat Commission's 2023 Fishing Summary:

<https://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/FishingRegulations/Documents/2023summarybook.pdf>

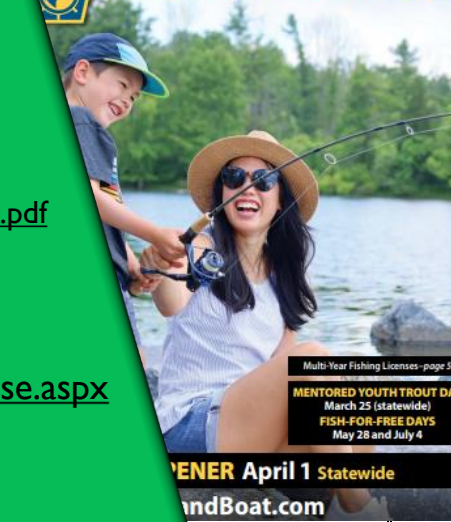
... and get your license...

<https://www.fishandboat.com/Fish/FishingLicense/Pages/BuyAFishingLicense.aspx>

...and stocking schedules...

[https://fbweb.pa.gov/stocking/troutstockingdetails\\_gis.aspx](https://fbweb.pa.gov/stocking/troutstockingdetails_gis.aspx)

## 2023 Pennsylvania Fishing Summary



## ARCHERY CLASSES RETURN THIS SUMMER:

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.

Ages: 9 – 90      Location: Point Pavilion.

**DATES:** All classes 9:30 – 10:30:

Tuesday, June 13

Saturday, July 1

Tuesday, July 11

Tuesday, July 25

Tuesday, August 8

Tuesday, August 22

Check out the summer edition of THE VISTA and the park's social media for possible additional dates this summer and early autumn.



## 2023 River of the Year

The **North Branch of the Susquehanna River** has been selected by a public vote as the state's 2023 River of the Year, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn and Janet Sweeney of the Pennsylvania Organization for Waterways and Rivers (POWR) announced on January 25.

“Through planned River of the Year celebrations, public awareness of the value of the North Branch of the Susquehanna River will be increased and major initiatives along this section of the river will be underscored,” Dunn said. “Economic revitalization of river-town communities will enhance access to the river; increase tourism; and provide additional land and water-based recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors alike.”

Flowing from the New York state line to Sunbury near Shikellamy State Park at the confluence with the Susquehanna River West Branch, the Susquehanna River North Branch meanders through eight Pennsylvania counties, including Susquehanna, Bradford, Wyoming, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Columbia, Montour, and Northumberland.

A water trail, the Susquehanna River North Branch is widely used by paddlers, anglers, recreational boaters, and wildlife enthusiasts. In addition to the paddling opportunities, visitors are surrounded by abundant history. The public was invited to vote online for the River of the Year, choosing from among four waterways nominated.

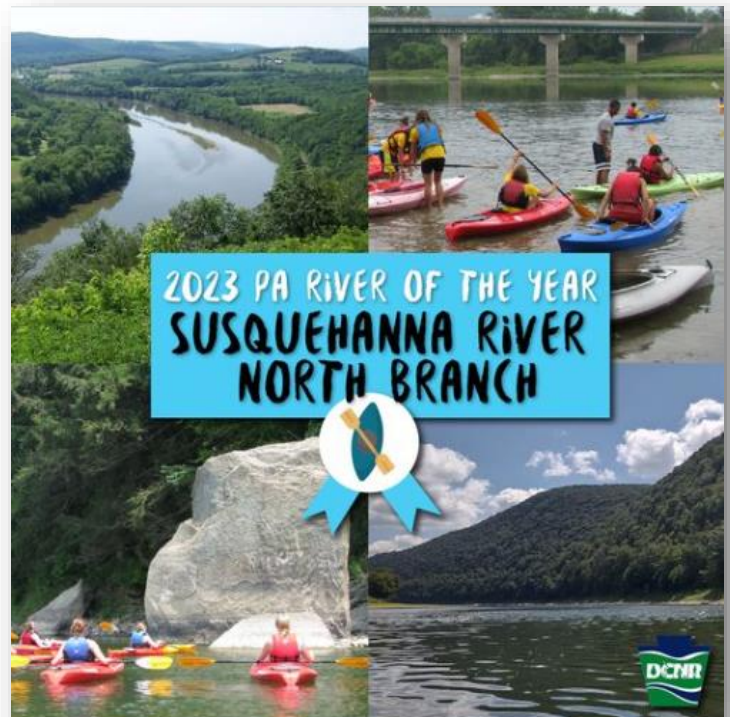
The Endless Mountains Heritage Region, which nominated the North Branch of the Susquehanna River, will receive a \$10,000 Leadership Grant to help fund a slate of year-long 2023 River of the Year activities.

See these weblinks for more information:

[https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/DCNR\\_details.aspx?newsid=959](https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/DCNR_details.aspx?newsid=959)

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiversConservation/RiverOfTheYearandSojourns/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://emheritage.org/north-branch-susquehanna-river-water-trail/>





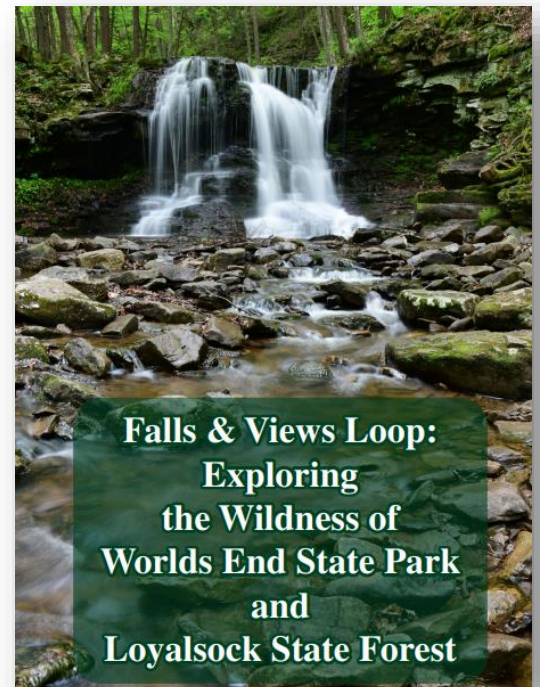
# Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest

Spring is the start of the hiking season – and new for the 2023 season, well-known Friends of Worlds End State Park and local trailblazing legends Dave Kowalewski and Ruth Rode have used their combined decades of local trailblazing experience on the new **Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest**. This 70-page guide includes 3 maps detailing over 77 miles of trails at Worlds End State Park and the Loyalsock State Forest. The **Falls & Views Loop** guides you to more than 90 seasonal waterfalls and 40 views.

The first 18 pages provide general reference information concerning the park and forest – followed by over 50 pages of detailed turn-by-turn directions highlighting waterfalls, views, geological features, trail registers, water sources, and alternate routes. Shorter loop options are also provided for those unable to complete the entire trail in one outing – including day-hike and 2-day hiking options – or even an afternoon outing. Local history is also highlighted – learn about the history of coal mining, logging railroads and the Civilian Conservation Corps here in Sullivan County among many other things.

The vistas that you will be guided to include:

- Upper and Lower Alpine Views





- High Knob Overlook
- Kettle Creek Vista
- Worlds End Vista
- Loyalsock Canyon Vista
- Warrens Window
- Cold Run Vista
- High Rock Vista

And waterfalls include:

- Double Run Falls
- Ketchum Run Falls
- Cape Run Falls
- Dry Run Falls
- Angel Falls
- Dutters Run Falls
- Neeneha Falls
- Cold Run Falls
- Rusty Run Falls
- Brook Kedron Falls
- Coal Run Falls
- Tamarack Run Falls
- Alpine Falls
- Butternut Falls
- High Rock Falls
- Dutchman Falls

Other sights the hiker is guided to include:

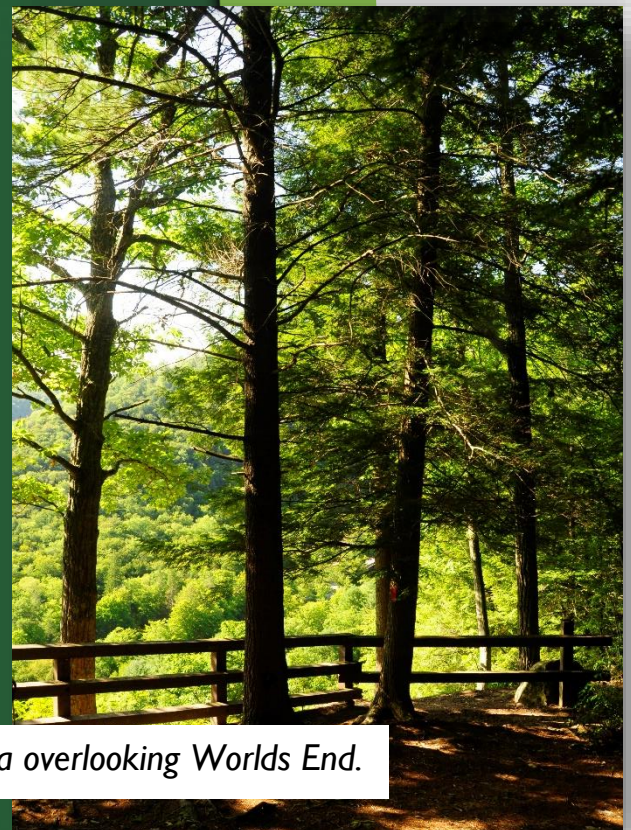
- Sones Pond
- Kettle Creek Gorge
- Split Rock
- Mineral Spring
- Boulders Arch
- Cooper's Spring
- Haystack Rapids



*The Lower Alpine Vista along the Loyalsock Trail – looking south down the Loyalsock Valley south of Forksville.*



*The Link Trail along Loyalsock Creek.*



*High Rock Vista overlooking Worlds End.*

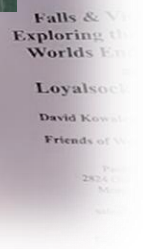
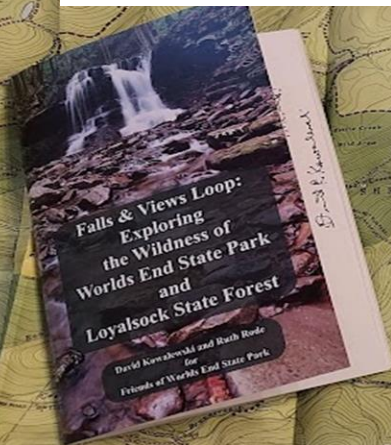
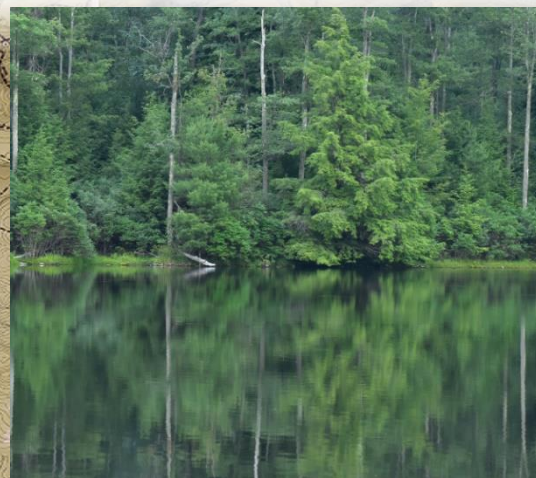


We discussed with the authors, Dave Kowalewski and Ruth Rode, the guide and the process in creating it...starting with how did they get the idea to do this?

This all started about five years ago as Dave and Ruth wrapped up their previous project “Trails in and around Worlds End State Park” that included hiking loops in the vicinity of the park. With the success of that previous effort, thoughts turned to something much bigger and ambitious – basically expanding beyond the park and into the surrounding Loyalsock State Forest and including longer loops – some long enough for overnight backpacking. Dave started by hiking and exploring some of the lesser-known and remote trails, while Ruth dug through her extensive archive accumulated over a lifetime of exploring the Loyalsock State Forest.

Dave and Ruth spent a lot of time considering what trails and loops to include, wanting to highlight waterfalls and vistas – knowing that most hikers want a “destination” as an objective as to reward their hiking efforts. They wanted a mix of well-known and easily accessible destinations, such as Dry Run Falls, High Knob Overlook, Angel Falls, and Double Run. But they also wanted to include in the mix some lesser-known, more challenging destinations, like the falls along Coal Run, Cape Run, Dutters Run and Scar Run. And the guide would use well-established trails like the Loyalsock Trail and the Link Trail, but also lesser-known trails like Brook Kedron and the Old Bark Trail (the guide uses 21 different trails). Sometimes you are guided through historic paths, like the Pioneer Road and the Williamsport & North Branch Railroad Grade.

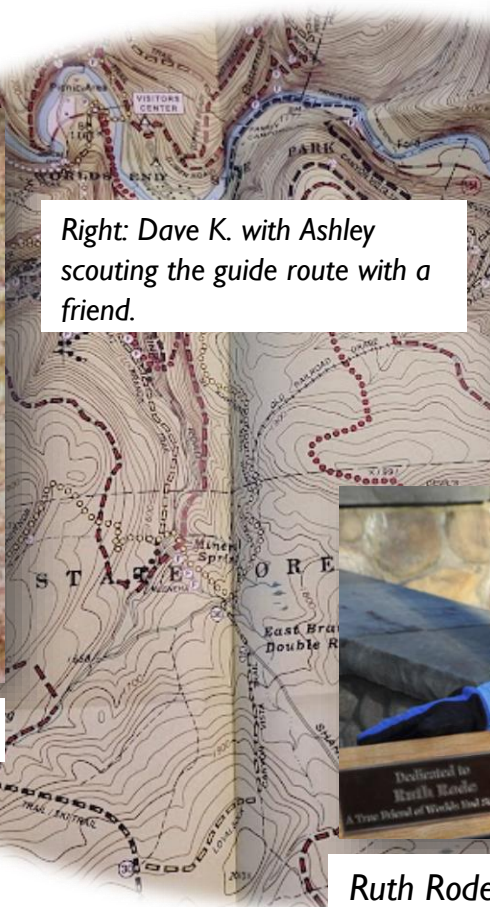
*Sones Pond is one of the sites found in Section 5 of the guide.*







Dave Kowalewski



Right: Dave K. with Ashley scouting the guide route with a friend.



Ruth Rode

They also had to consider what direction to guide hikers - they decided to route hikers in a counterclockwise loop that will, in most cases, lead hikers to ascend streams so the falls and cascades are in front on you, not behind.

There was a lot of discussion on the layout of the guide – and in the end they decided on a table-format rather than paragraphs that you see in most guide books. Size was an issue - too small and the print would be hard to read - in the end, they wanted a size that fits into the pocket of cargo pants. Photos and relevant, thought provoking and inspirational quotes were added to fill in negative space on the pages and to give the backpacker something to ponder. The three USGS topographic maps used were outdated and needed updated – and sometimes required Dave to make on the ground verification trips for some locations - finding and getting directions for the bushwhacks to both Lower and Upper Kettle Creek Falls is but one example.

After nearly five years (over 600 hours for Ruth, with Dave spending 4 plus hours daily on the project), and proofing over 50 draft versions, it became time for printing with Ruth working with the printer, Paulhamus Litho of Montoursville. Towards the end, it was a race to have the project completed in time for the 90th anniversary celebration of Worlds End State Park in 2022. The publisher's folding machine broke and they needed to hand fold enough maps for Worlds End Day on July 25 - a tedious process that required them to work into the night.



It was a Friends of Worlds End State Park group effort to put the guide and maps in the plastic zip lock bags on the morning of Worlds End Day on July 25 – when the guide was to debut and made available for sale. We were very pleased with how the guide was received by the public that day!

So what do Dave and Ruth think the most challenging hikes in the guide? They both agree that the bushwhacking sections of Scar Run, Coal Run and Dutters Run - this is why the guide warns hikers to carefully consider undertaking these formidable bushwhacks. For safety reasons, all bushwhacks have an alternate route that utilize a marked and maintained trail. And what is a favorite day-hike? Ruth suggests the loop including the Haystacks and Brook Kedron Trail. Dave suggests hiking the Double Run Nature Trail to the East Branch Trail and ascend the Loyalsock Trail to Loyalsock Canyon Vista – then descend using the Link Trail back to the Double Run Trail.

The Friends of Worlds End State Park thank Dave and Ruth for their years of work on this project. We agree that if someone is looking for a new and challenging backpacking loop, the *Falls & Views Loop* should be on the top of their list. No other trail, to our knowledge, links so many falls, cascades, views, and unique features in a loop under 80 miles. Check out the article starting on the next page for more of the things you will see using this guide.

And their next project? They are already working on *50 Hikes in and Around Worlds End* – stay tuned!

***Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest*** is available from:

- The Worlds End Park Office for \$20.00.
- *The Sullivan Review* (<https://thesullivanreview.com/maps/>)
- McCarty Mercantile in Hillsgrove.
- Otto's Bookstore in Williamsport.
- Keystone Trails Association (<https://www.kta-hike.org/> )



High Knob Overlook



High Knob Overlook



Upper Alpine Vista

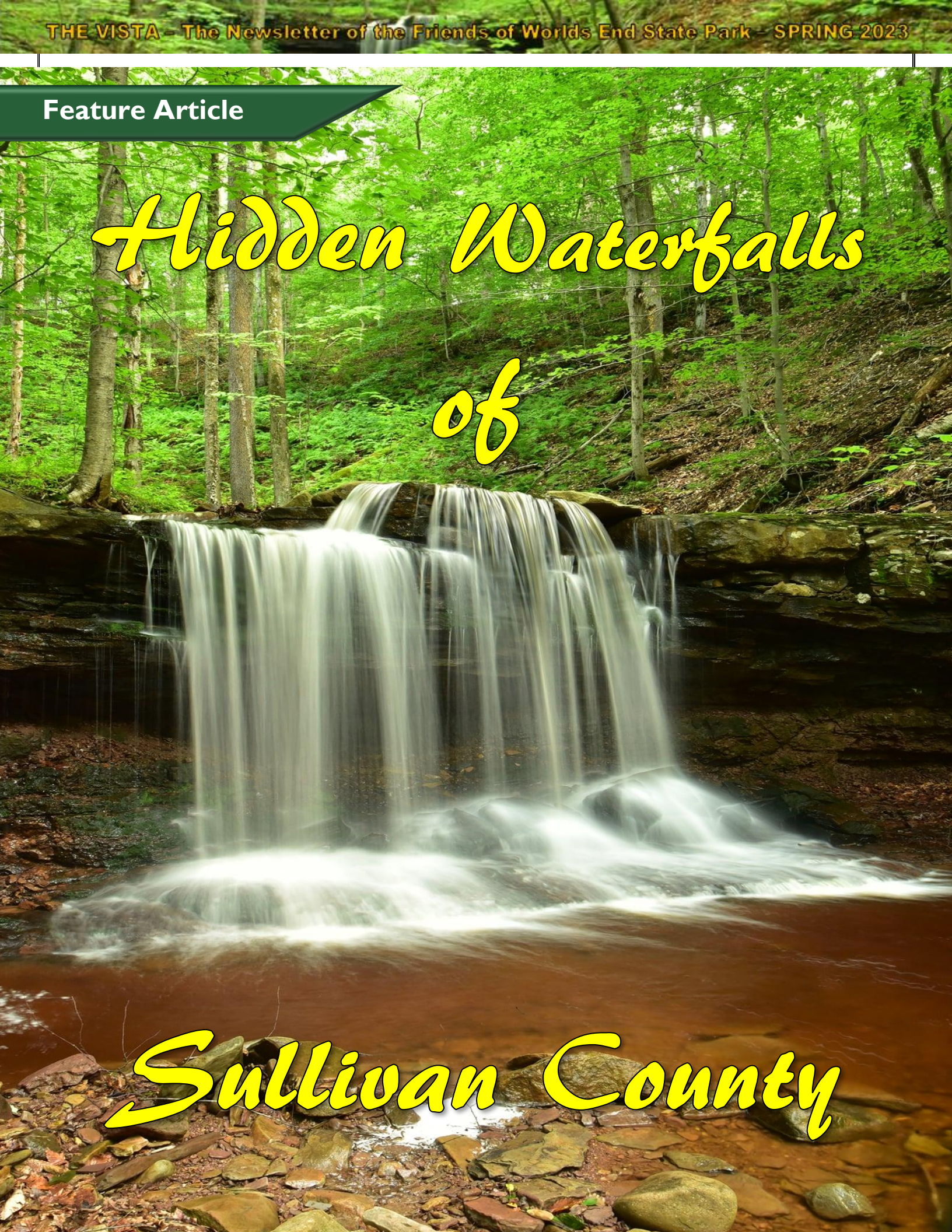




Feature Article

# Hidden Waterfalls of

# Sullivan County

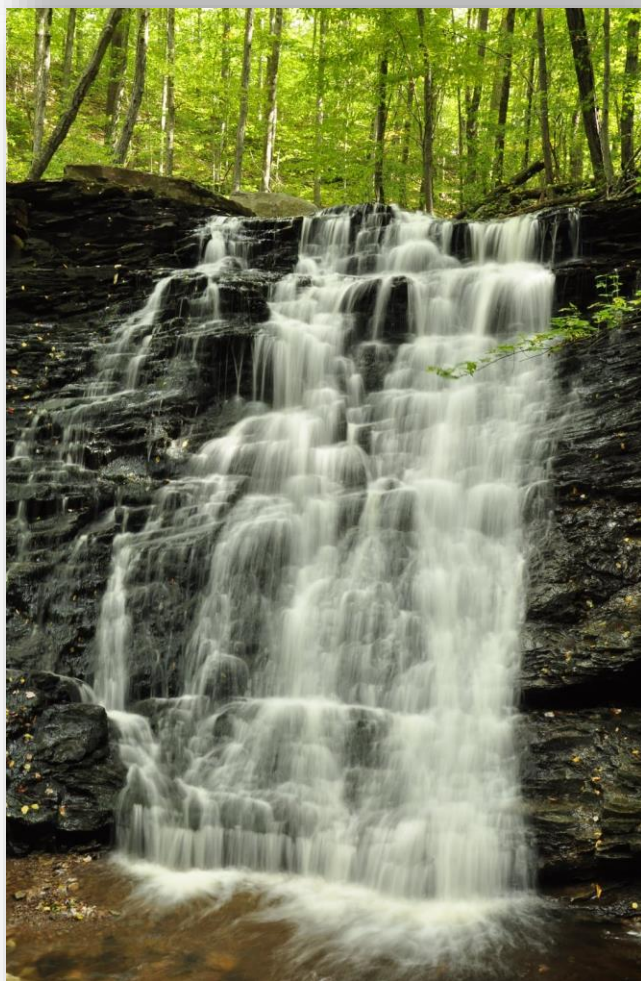






# The Falls of Dutters Run

Dutter's Run is a scenic tributary of Dry Run that features numerous cascades and waterfalls – all of which can only be reached and viewed on foot. While there is a DUTTERS RUN TRAIL that starts along Dry Run Road just above Dry Run Falls that parallels the stream, this trail is high on the hillside above the stream – and you cannot see the waterfalls from this trail. Instead, you have to use a segment of the LOYALSOCK TRAIL and/or bushwhack up or down the stream. The falls on the upper part of the run can be seen using the Loyalsock Trail (fair warning though – even using the Loyalsock Trail to view these falls requires numerous stream crossings. Use waterproof footwear or be prepared for wet feet!). The falls on the lower part of Dutters Run can only be viewed by bushwhacking – there is no established trail.



*On the cover and the previous page:*

This impressive 15 foot falls on Dutters Run can be viewed from along the Loyalsock Trail.

*Above left:* this falls can be found along the Loyalsock Trail.

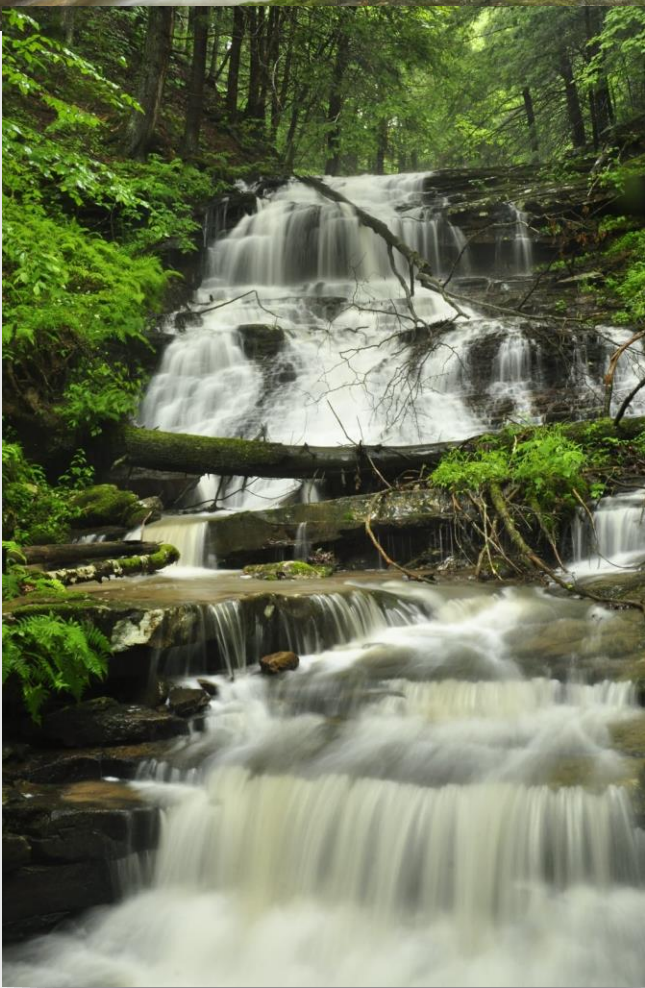
*Below left:* this falls on the lower part of Dutters Run can be seen only by bushwhacking.





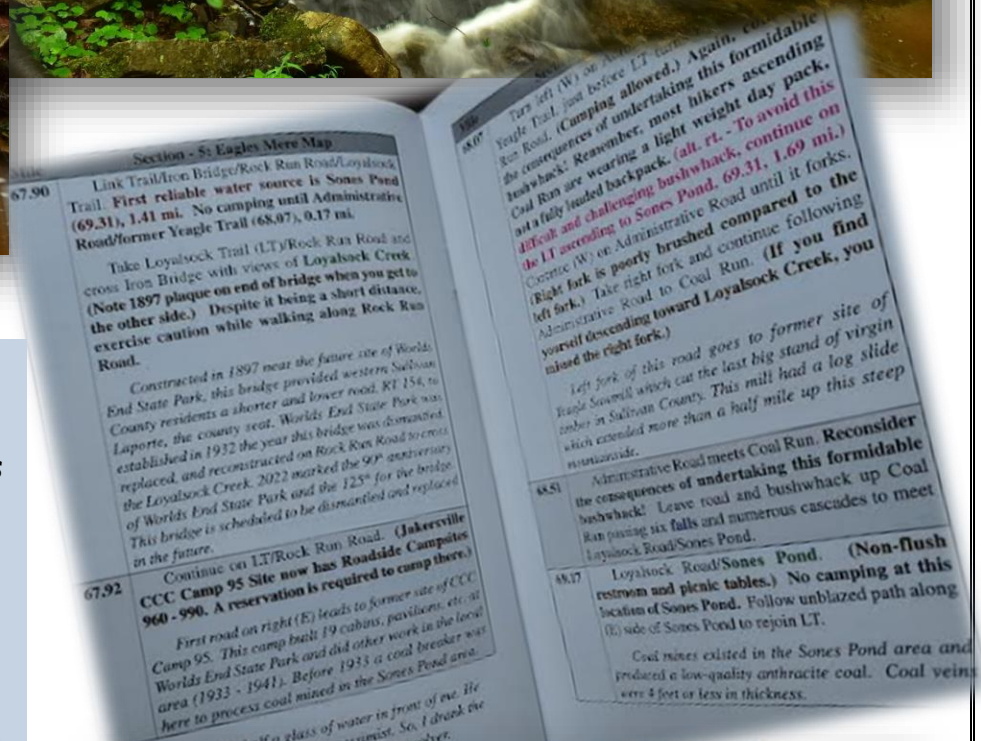
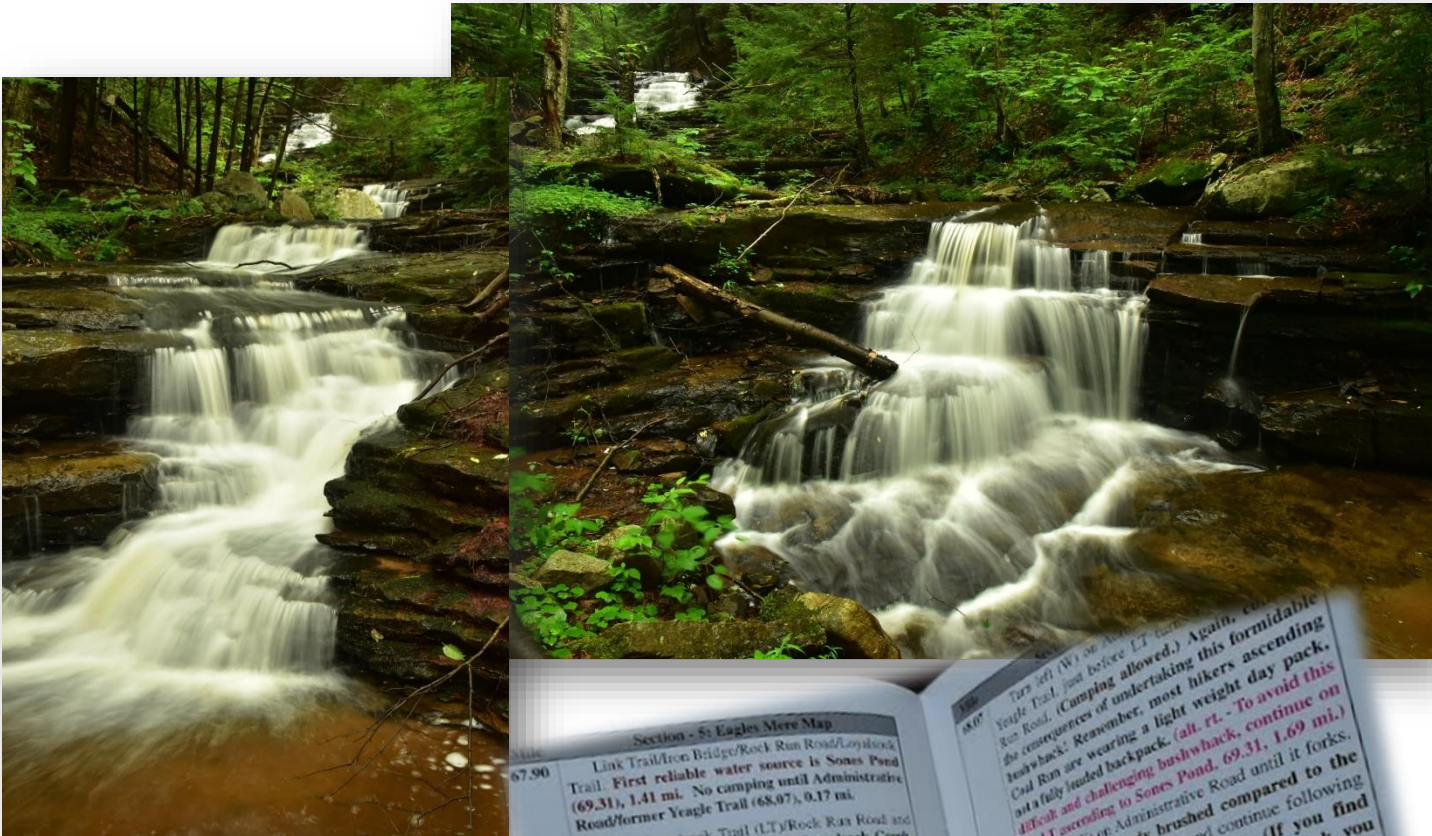


# The Falls of Coal Run



Coal Run is a scenic, though steep, stream that is home to a dozen or so waterfalls and cascades – ranging from 4 – 70 feet in height. Coal Run is the stream that flows out of the south end of Sones Pond, atop the mountains to the north of Worlds End. While Rock Run Road parallels Coal Run, you cannot see the stream from this road. However, you can use Rock Run Road to reach the parking area at Sones Pond – a convenient parking place (with restrooms) to use to hike to the falls. There is no trail to the falls on Coal Run – you must carefully bushwack and navigate around the numerous falls. The falls pictured on this page are the falls nearest to Sones Pond and the easiest and quickest to reach.





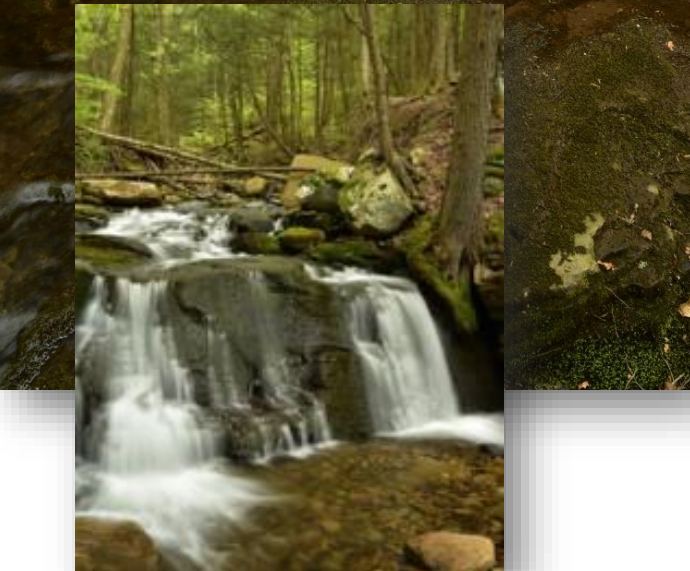
Hiking to the waterfalls of Coal Run is described on pages 59 – 60 of *Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest* and are marked on the guide's accompanying map. If water levels are high, it can be difficult to keep one's feet dry on this hike. And given that the ascent or descent of Coal Run is very challenging, regardless of the stream level, the guide also provides an alternative hiking route to go up or down the same mountain.







As seen to the left and below, Coal Run also features large boulders and rock formations.



## *The Falls of Scar Run*

On the left: Scar Run empties into the Loyalsock Creek just below Forksville and features several cascades and waterfalls. The challenging bushwhack to see these falls is described on pages 23 – 25 of ***Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest*** and are marked on the guide's accompanying map. An alternative hiking path is provided if one wants to bypass the bushwhacking.



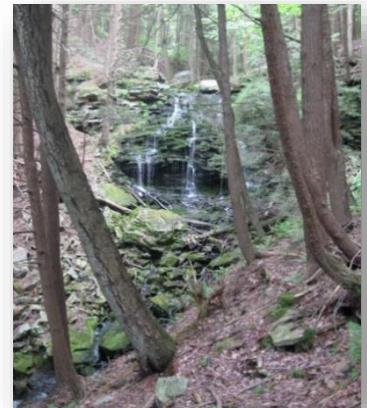


## *The Falls of Kettle Creek*

Kettle Creek has a number of falls and cascades – pictured here is what is usually called the lower falls. The Kettle Creek Gorge Natural Area is a remote, wild area accessible only by foot. The hike to see these falls is described on pages 37 – 38 of *Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest*.

## *The Falls of Tamarack Run*

Tamarack Run flows down the mountain to the north of Worlds End. The falls along this steep gorge can only be reached on foot – although it is not a long hike if you park and access this stream from the Loyalsock Road. The hike to see these falls is described on pages 61 – 62 of *Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest*.



## *Exploring Waterfalls...*

- The terrain around waterfalls is often steep and wet. Sturdy, water-resistant footwear is essential – and hiking poles can help on the steep hillsides.
- The challenging mountainous terrain, especially the steep grades around waterfalls, requires a certain level of fitness and ability. Know and respect your limits – and use common sense. Going off-trail (bushwhacking) is not for everyone – if you do not feel comfortable doing it – don't do it.
- Know where you are and where you are going. Use guide books, maps and/or personal GPS. Do not rely on cell phone service – this is often not available in the park and the surrounding forest – especially in the deep ravines you find most waterfalls in.
- Let someone know where you are and when you expect to return.
- Make sure you time your outings so that you are out of the forest before sunset.
- Overnight camping is generally prohibited near waterfalls in the Loyalsock State Forest and Worlds End State Park.
- For tips on photographing waterfalls – and a list of waterfall guidebooks – see the Spring 2021 edition of THE VISTA available on our website - <https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/the-vista>.



## Join the Friends of Worlds End State Park

for **FREE!**



As of 2023, membership is FREE! All we need is your email address so that we can email you the **THE VISTA** four times a year!

To get on our email list, see our website:  
<https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/mailling-list>

Of course we always welcome contributions! To contribute, see our website:  
<https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/donate>

If you prefer to donate by mail, please make checks payable to the PPF and include Friends of Worlds End on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

Michelene Scott, Treasurer  
Friends of Worlds End State Park  
PO Box 62  
Forksville, PA 18616



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PHOTO CREDITS: Cover: Falls along Dutters Run by Dan Mumford. Page 3: Dan Mumford. Page 8: Dan Mumford. Page 9: Dave Koweleski, Dan Mumford. Page 10: Dan Mumford. Page 11: Dave Koweleski. Pages 12-18: Dan Mumford. Page 19: Dave Koweleski. Page 20: Dan Mumford.