

The Vista

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



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A YEAR TO CELEBRATE!

This busy Worlds End State Park 90th anniversary year was concluded at the Friends of Worlds End State Park annual meeting on November 16 where the many accomplishments of the year were reviewed and plans for 2023 discussed – including the elimination of membership fees - see page 3. We thank our membership, sponsors, and park management and staff for making this anniversary year such a success.

If you plan on visiting the park this winter or spring, there is important information about the closure of route 154 you need to know – see pages 5 - 6. If you camp in the Loyalsock State Forest, there are important recent changes to the reservation process you need to be aware of – see page 8. There is also a lot of information available online about winter recreation in state parks and forests – see page 9... and safety information to keep in mind – see pages 10 - 11.

If you are looking for a Christmas gift for a local hiking enthusiast – check out our new hiking guide and map, **Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest** - now on sale - see page 7.

Finally, we conclude our year-long series of park history articles celebrating the park's 90th anniversary by sharing history of a more personal nature – a **Worlds End Love Story** – see pages 12 - 13. Have a great holiday season and a happy and successful 2023!

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2022 Annual Meeting

The 2022 annual meeting of the Friends of Worlds End State Park was held on Wednesday, November 16 at the park office. The board reviewed the many accomplishments of this very busy park anniversary year – including:

Completion of the new campground amphitheater – ahead of schedule and in time for the park’s anniversary year!



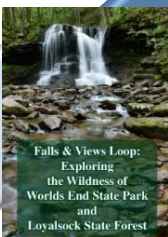
Successful launch of our new website:
<https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/>



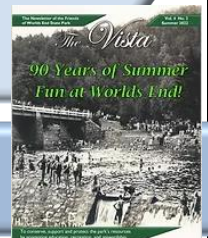
The return of WORLDS END DAY on July 30, celebrating the park’s 90th anniversary.



Release of Dave Kowalewski and Ruth Rode’s new hiking guide, “*Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest*” – on sale now (see page 6).



Four regular editions of THE VISTA newsletter and two special anniversary editions - all available on our new website.



Continued strong sales of firewood and ice – our thanks to our many customers. These sales make projects, such as the amphitheater, possible!



Our social media outreach and email distribution lists grew by 24% in 2022 – now totaling over 13,000.



The board thanks our members and sponsors for their contributions and support. We are also grateful for the generous backing from our fellow community organizations and local media. We thank the management and staff at the park for their work and assistance – including park Manager Chad McKenrick and Environmental



Educator Jane Swift. It was all this support that made the park's anniversary year such a success! Moving forward in 2023, the Friends will be:



Eliminating membership fees in 2023. While we always welcome contributions (see page 14), such contributions will not be required to be a Friend of Worlds End! From now on, if you want to join the Friends, all we need from you is your email address so that we may send you THE VISTA!



Expanding availability of the new hiking guide *Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest*.



Nominating the Loyalsock Trail as DCNR's "Trail of the Year" for 2024 – see future issues of THE VISTA for more about this initiative.



Providing funding to the park's environmental educator for events this summer – especially using the new amphitheater.



Purchasing supplies for the park's popular summer archery program, including new bows and arrows.

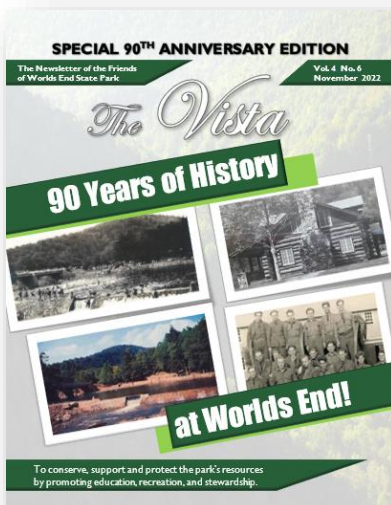


Amphitheater improvements – including additional lighting, a new projection screen, and other upgrades to make it a multi-purpose venue.



Assisting the park by helping fund various things intended to improve the visitor experience.

Look for details in future issues of THE VISTA as we move forward through 2023.



COMING SOON:

Keep an eye on your email inbox, our Facebook page and website for a special anniversary edition of THE VISTA – featuring 90 years of history at Worlds End!

90th
Anniversary
Worlds End
State Park
1932 – 2022

Route 154 Construction Closure Update



Above top: view of the project area from the Loyalsock Canyon Vista.



During recent visits to the park, you may have noticed some problems with Route 154 near the visitors 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 will result in the closure of the highway in both directions for several months – at least until May 2023 - effectively cutting the park in half. (See the section of the road to be 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.

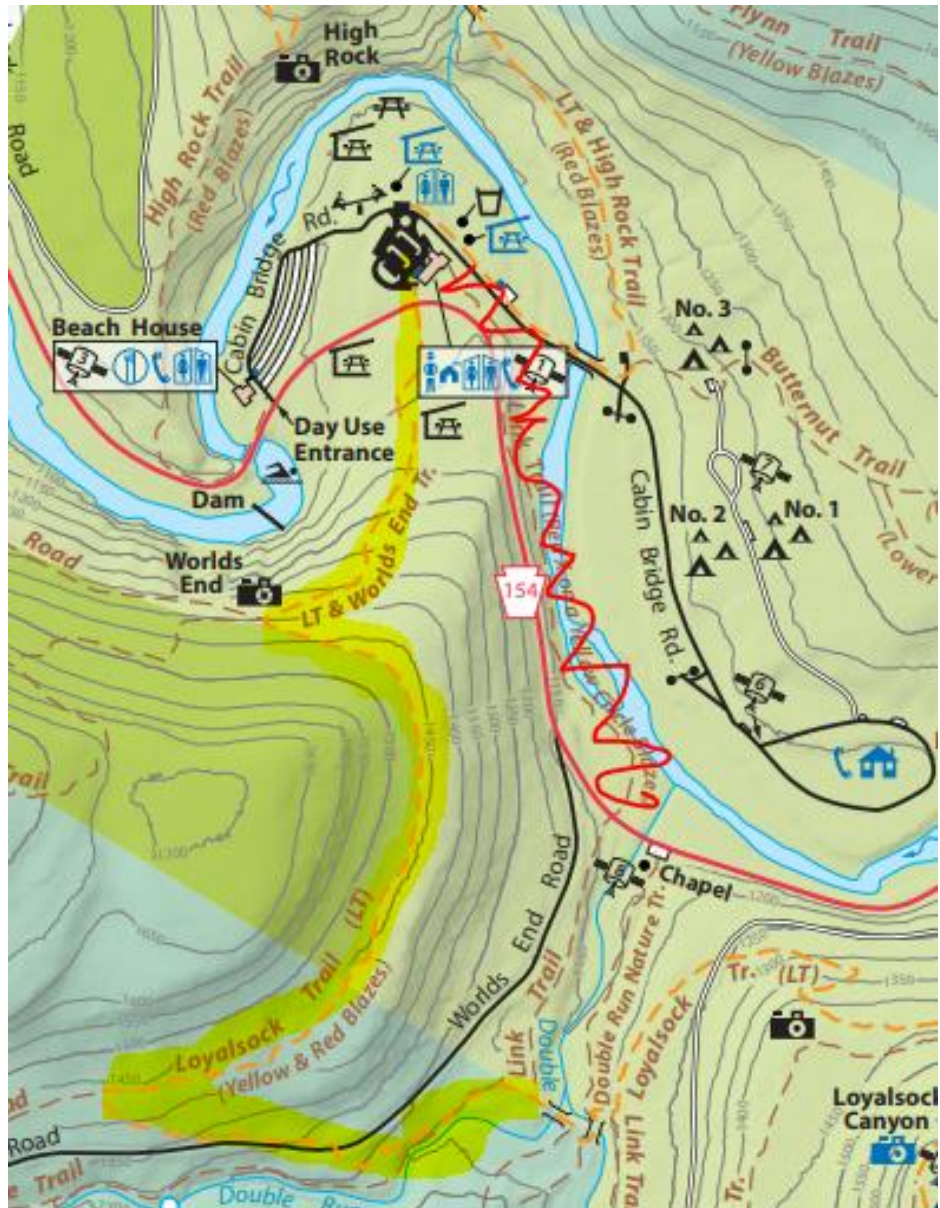
VISITORS TO THE DAY USE AREA, PARK OFFICE AND THE CABINS: coming from Route 220 north and south: take Route 87 south in Dushore to Route 154 east from Forksville to the park.

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, 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.

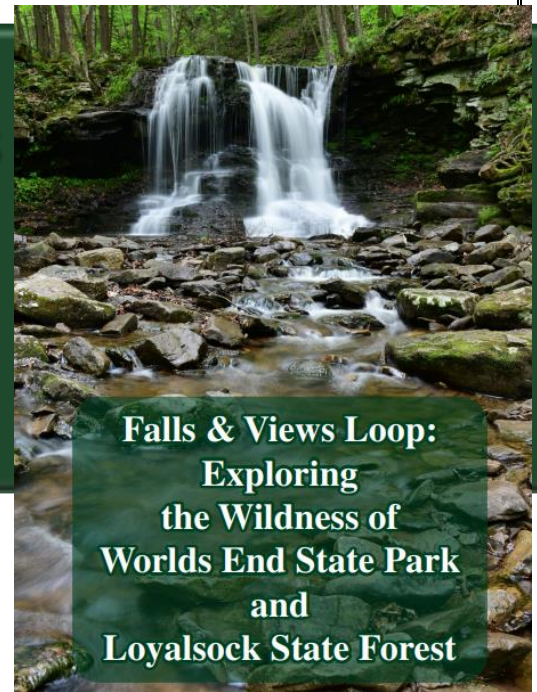
Information about this project is also available on PennDOT's website at:

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

FALLS & VIEWS LOOP: EXPLORING THE WILDNESS OF WORLDS END STATE PARK AND LOYALSOCK STATE FOREST Now Available!

Looking for a Christmas gift for a local hiking enthusiast? The newest and most comprehensive hiking guide featuring Worlds End and the surrounding Loyalsock State Forest ***Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest*** is now available! Authors Dave Kowalewski and Ruth Rode used their combined decades of local trailblazing experience on the 70-page guide and 3 maps detailing over 77 miles of trails. The ***Falls & Views Loop*** passes more than 90 seasonal falls 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! Local history is also highlighted – learn about the history of coal mining, railroading and the Civilian Conservation Corps here in Sullivan County among many other things.

Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest is available from *The Sullivan Review* (<https://thesullivanreview.com/maps/>), McCarty Mercantile and the park office. Check out future issues of THE VISTA for additional locations that will be selling this guide.



FIREWOOD AVAILABLE THIS WINTER:

Firewood is available for sale in the cabin area this winter - \$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. Money from these sales funds the park improvement projects of the Friends of Worlds End State Park.





NOTE: This article concerns the camping reservation changes for the Loyalsock State Forest – NOT for Worlds End State Park. The reservation system for Worlds End is not affected by the changes discussed in this article and remain unchanged.

State Forests, including the Loyalsock State Forest, have camping sites that, in the past, were reserved by visiting or calling a state forest district office and requesting a permit from district forest staff. This will now be changing. As of November 3, 2022, all designated roadside campsites, camping areas, and equestrian camping areas will be available through a new reservation system. Non-designated motorized camping will no longer be permitted.

Designated campsites will be made available through the ReserveAmerica Call Center, from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday to Saturday (888-PA-PARKS (888-727-2757); or online at <https://pennsylvaniastateparks.reserveamerica.com/welcome.do>. Those looking to make reservations will be able to view campsite information, location, and photos online and reserve a campsite. You can also continue to make reservations by contacting the forest district office in which you wish to camp. Reservations can be made up to 11 months in advance up to noon the day of arrival, depending on availability of the campsite.

There will be nightly fees of \$10 for Pennsylvania residents and \$15 for non-residents, with a \$6.50 transaction fee to cover costs of operating the systems. The new system will allow use of credit cards for camping and other permits, such as fuelwood and ATVs.

There will continue to be no fee for trailside, backpack camping and water trail camping.

Revenue generated from the fees will be directed towards maintenance, improvement, and conservation of sites and associated recreation opportunities. Fees may be waived for volunteers during work projects.

When announcing these changes, DCNR noted that the number of camping permits issued has doubled in the past five years, creating a need for electronic records and reporting to help district forest staff effectively manage campsite conditions, perform necessary maintenance, and provide site alerts about site specific conditions that may arise, including road closures, flooding and other emergencies.

Winter Recreation

Recreation opportunities don't end when the weather turns cold. Getting outside can help beat those "cabin fever" blues – and there is plenty of info available online about winter recreation in our state parks and forests.

The Pennsylvania state parks Winter Report allows winter outdoor recreation enthusiasts to monitor snow and ice conditions in state parks. The Winter Report is updated weekly (at a minimum) by state parks during the winter season. The report lists the ice thickness and what ice activities are available at that park. Sometimes a park can have ice, but if it is not thick enough, then the activities are not available. The report also lists the snow thickness and what snow activities are available at that park. Sometimes a park can have snow, but if it is not thick enough, then the activities are not available. The report is searchable by park and by winter outdoor recreation activity:

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

Check out winter activities and conditions at :

<http://maps.dcnr.pa.gov/storymaps/winteractivities/#overview>

Cross-country skiing information can also be found:

<https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/Cross-CountrySkiing/Pages/default.aspx>

Information on the Double Run Ski Trail:

<http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1738814&DocName=Double%20Run%20Ski%20Trail%20-%20Forestry%20Trail%20Guide%208-5x14%20Portrait.pdf>

...and the Old Loggers Path Trail...

http://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1741648&DocName=sf-OldLoggersPathTrail_fd20.pdf

...and Loyalsock State Forest & Worlds End State Park Snowmobile Trails:

<https://trails.dcnr.pa.gov/trails/trail/trailview?trailkey=678>



Winter Recreation Safety

The winter days are not only cooler – but also shorter. Make sure you plan your outings so that you are out of the woods well before the early sunsets.

There is no cell service in the park nor in most of the surrounding forest. Make sure someone knows where you are and when you expect to return.

The air temperature in the park and the mountains can be significantly colder and windier than in the towns and valleys. Check the local weather forecast before you head outside.

Dress in layers. As you move around and get warmer, you can always remove a layer – or add additional layers as needed. And wear a hat!

Warm, sturdy footwear is essential if you are hiking.

Winter air can not only be cold – but also very dry. Stay hydrated!

Know the trails you are hiking – have a map (available at the park office) and/or a GPS device.

Trails on the north side of mountains or in deep hollows can be snowier and icier than other trails.

On snow and ice, boot spikes or crampons may be necessary. Hiking, trekking poles or ice axes can also help in such conditions. **However, sometimes such trails are impassable even with special equipment and need to be avoided.** Check with the park or forest office about trail conditions.



When setting out on your winter adventures, take some thought about how you are going to get to your destination and road conditions. Monitor local weather forecasts to ensure you do not end up driving in bad weather. Also, many state forest and game land roads are not maintained in the winter – meaning that they are not plowed, salted or treated. These roads can be impassable in snow and ice conditions, even for trucks and 4-wheel drive vehicles. Many of these roads are also used by snowmobiles – which can pack any snow so solid that other vehicles may not be able to safely use the road. In recent years, a number of vehicles have been stranded on such roads. Many towing operators will not take their tow trucks on such roads, out of fear of being stuck. As a result, your vehicle could be stranded until the next thaw! For the condition of state forest roads, contact the office for the state forest you plan on visiting. The Loyalsock State Forest office can be called at 570-946-4049 during their office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.



A Worlds End Love Story

Worlds End
HISTORY
1932-2022

Throughout this anniversary year, we have featured in THE VISTA a series of articles about the park's history. However, each of us have our own personal history with the park, and what this park means to each of us and the role this park plays in our lives can vary widely. For some, this park has played a key role in their lives. To conclude this anniversary year, we want to share a letter we received from a contributor who speaks of the importance of Worlds End to them and their family. With the kind permission of the contributor, we present this letter...

Friends of World's End State Park
82 Cabin Bridge Road
Forksville, PA 18616

Dear Friends,

It was the summer of 1942. Twenty-two-year-old Glenn W. Steward, a native of Berwick, PA, had just enlisted in the U. S. Navy. He and a buddy were spending the week at World's End State Park before leaving for basic training. It was a beautiful late afternoon, with swimmers in the "pool" area, when Glenn decided to jump from the bridge into the pool. After his first jump, as he went back up on the bridge to jump again, he was approached by a young lifeguard who advised him that jumping from the bridge was not allowed.

Albert "Bud" Snyder of Dushore, PA was the lifeguard on duty. Bud and Glenn struck up a conversation and spent a considerable amount of time standing and talking on the bridge.

Lesalee Jeanne Snyder, also of Dushore, was Bud's nineteen-year-old sister. She was spending a week with Bud before returning to her studies at Mansfield State Teachers College. She was swimming in the pool when she noticed a very attractive young man above her on the bridge talking with her brother. Normally she would have gone up to the bridge to join the conversation and meet the handsome stranger, but she had a problem. She owned two bathing suits, a newer one that she was saving to wear on the upcoming weekend, and an older suit that she was wearing that day. She didn't want to meet this cute guy while wearing her older swimsuit! So she stayed in the water. The hour got later, her brother and the stranger kept talking, and finally her brother called her to come in. However, she insisted on remaining in the water until the attractive man went back to his campsite.

As it turns out, Bud had invited Glenn to come and share their campfire later that evening, so Glenn and Jeanne, as she was usually called, finally got a chance to meet. Apparently the sparks that flew that night came from more than just the campfire! The couple spent the rest of the week getting to know one another. They wrote to each other faithfully during the remainder of WWII and, when Glenn finally returned home from the Navy in 1945, he went to the Sullivan County school where Jeanne was teaching and asked her to marry him.

Glenn and Jeanne were my parents. They were married in 1946 and lived in Berwick throughout their marriage. Glenn and his brother owned Steward Sound Systems and Jeanne was a homemaker. They had four children, sons Gale and Steve and daughters Penny and Connie.

Jeanne's maternal grandparents owned the Little farm in Forksville, so there were many happy family trips to the area over the years. Glenn and his sons hunted on the family farm, and the entire family spent wonderful days on the Loyalsock. Every trip to "The Farm" (now in family trust) from Berwick took us through World's End, and the story of how my parents met was told many times. In later years, after my father had died, we would take my mother to World's End just to sit at a picnic table and enjoy some lunch while remembering the important role that World's End played in all our lives.

My parents are buried together in Roselawn Cemetery in Berwick. On their memorial stone under their names are chiseled the words – "A World's End Love Story."

They both had birthdays in July. In memory of Glenn and Jeanne Steward and of the importance of World's End in their lives and mine, I am enclosing a contribution to the Friends of World's End State Park. Thank you for helping people to continue to make wonderful and lasting memories!

Sincerely,

Connie Steward Webb



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://paparksandforests.org/friends-groups/donate-to-a-chapter/>

Or go to our website:
<https://www.friendsofworldsendsp.org/join-or-donate>

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.