



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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Then followed that beautiful season... Summer.... Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood.

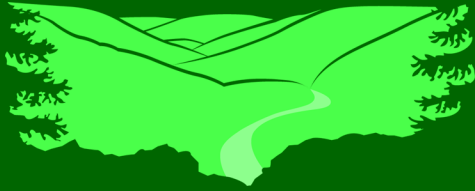
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Summer brings picnics, swimming, camping, and countless other activities to your favorite park—and in this issue of THE VISTA we highlight some of the special activities you can place on your calendar—see starting on page 4.

The Friends have been busy supporting the park with various projects and purchases, all made possible by the generous support of our contributors and patrons—see starting on page 8.

For those planning to visit and stay at the park this autumn, there is important news about the Cabin Bridge Road project you need to be aware of—see page 3.

Finally, we celebrate the season by looking at the mountain flowers that grace our hills every summer—see starting on page 10.



Cabin Bridge Road Closure Coming Later This Year

The bridge spanning Loyalsock Creek, which provides access to the cabin colony at the park (pictured above and to the right) will be undergoing a full super-structure replacement in late 2024. As a result, reservations for the cabin colony and group tenting sites at the Park will be unavailable during October and November of 2024.

The closure of Cabin Bridge Road will also result in the rerouting of the Loyalsock Trail. Affected hikers should contact the park for more information. The park campground, located along Route 154, will not be impacted and will be open for its normal operating season dates.

For more information, contact Worlds Ends State Park at 570-924-3287 or by email at worldsendsp@pa.gov.

Project dates are subject to change, so monitor the park's social media and future issues of THE VISTA for updates.



The bridge has taken several hits from various flooding events over the years - above from the September 2011 flood and below from January 2010.





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:

JUNE: Tuesday 18th.

JULY: Wednesday 3rd; Tuesday 16th; Tuesday 30th.

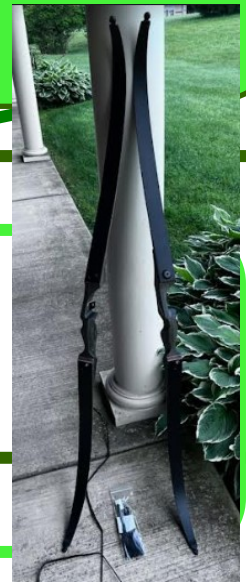
AUGUST: Tuesday 13th; Tuesday 27th.

SEPTEMBER: Tuesday 3rd.



YOUR FRIENDS CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK!

New for the summer 2024 archery program, the Friends of Worlds End State Park have purchased new equipment, including bows and arrows. Thanks to our contributors and patrons for making this equipment purchase possible!



NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS COMING SOON

DCNR is putting the finishing touches on new mountain bike trails on top of the mountain outside Worlds End off of Coal Mine Road. Parking lots, some small bridges, and maps still need to be completed— with work expected to be finished this summer. Check out future issues of THE VISTA for more about these exciting new trails for cyclists.

Worlds End Award Winning Syrup!

Congratulations to Worlds End's Environmental Educator Jane Swift (on the right) for once again winning BEST MAPLE SYRUP in this year's DCNR competition!



INTERNATIONAL MUD DAY

Saturday, June 29

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.



FIREWOOD AVAILABLE THIS SUMMER:

Firewood is available for sale in the cabin area and campground this summer - \$8.00 per bundle. Look for the self-serve kiosk near the trash dumpsters on the right as you enter the cabin area and near the two shower houses in the campground. Money from these sales funds the park improvement projects of the Friends of Worlds End State Park.

DON'T FORGET THE KINDLING OR FIRESTARTER STICKS!

Campers sometimes forget that it takes more than just the firewood to get a good fire going. Don't forget to bring dry small branches and twigs—you can sometimes scavenge around your campsite to find some—but sometimes the camping area is picked pretty clean. You can also buy commercial firestarter sticks or bricks at most home, outdoors, or grocery stores.



On May 3 and 4 Worlds End hosted a group of youth from the Harrisburg area who camped overnight in the park's group camping area. Pictured here, they are learning about wildlife and the history of game conservation from park Environmental Educator Jane Swift and Vice Chairman of the Friends of Worlds End State Park Michael Scott.



The PA Department of Health has a new online dashboard to provides information about tickborne diseases. The dashboard was designed for Pennsylvanians to use themselves, so they can see where ticks are prevalent and be prepared to take appropriate precautions while enjoying outdoor activities. The dashboard allows visitors the opportunity to review the latest state data on tickborne disease activity, such as Lyme disease and also information on how to prevent tick bites.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Vectorborne%20Diseases/Pages/Tick%20Diseases.aspx>



FOREST THERAPY WALK

on Sunday, July 21 at 2:00 pm with Beth Jones, Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide. Starting at the LT Pavilion and hosted by Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, Loyalsock Foundation and Friends of Worlds End State Park.

Have you ever bathed in a forest? We're talking about forest bathing to relieve stress and anxiety. Spend some time away from the fast-paced world we live in and immerse yourself in a place with trees, taking in the scents, feelings, sights and sounds to improve your quality of life and lift your mood! Studies show us that spending just a couple of hours a week in the forest can have a lasting effect on your immune system. Join Beth Jones, a certified nature and forest therapy guide, for a gentle walk in our forest setting and discover extraordinary possibilities through a restorative connection with the natural world.

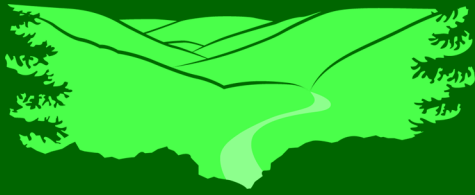
For more information:

<https://npcweb.org/forest-bathing-at-worlds-end-state-park-2024/>

On Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1012996920561772>





Your Contributions to the Friends at Work!

The Friends of Worlds End State Park recently purchased a specially crafted fire ring for the park's campground amphitheater (*photo on right*). Ideal for campfire story telling and roasting marshmallows during the upcoming summer evenings! Check out bulletin boards around the park for weekend evening programs at the amphitheater and its new fire ring!



This spring the Friends purchased a motorized wheelbarrow / cart for the park's hard-working, talented maintenance crew. The cart is ideal for maintaining park trails and allows this work to be done easier and faster.

Pictures of the new motorized cart being used to do repair work on a park trail.

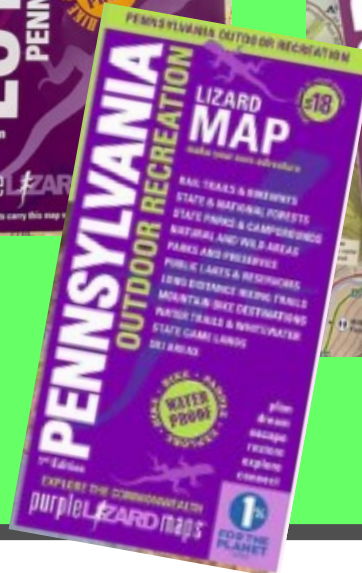


The beach at the swimming area is ready for summer—with the Friends of Worlds End State Park purchasing the sand—and with the park's busy maintenance staff putting it in place and grooming it.



The Friends have purchased new swings for the park's campground playground that will be installed sometime in June—just in time for summer!

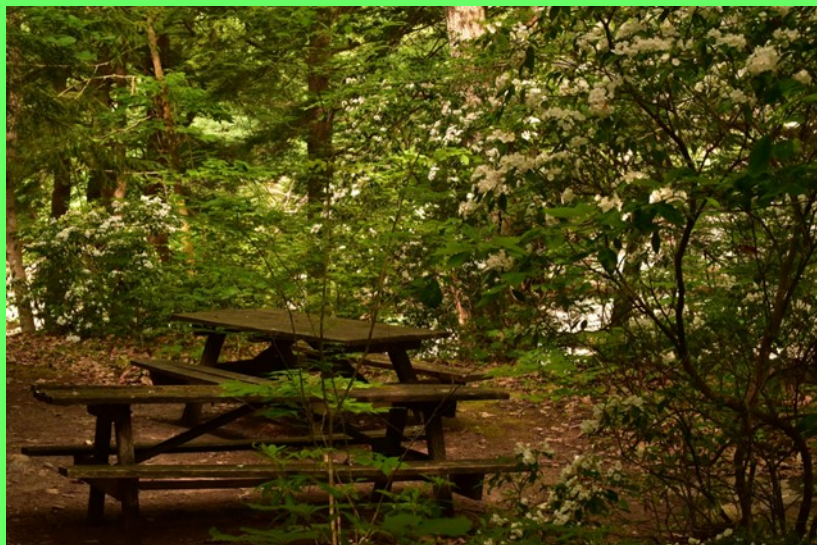
The Friends are now selling **PURPLE LIZARD** maps at the park office! In addition to the popular **LOYALSOCK STATE FOREST** map, we are now also selling the new **PENNSYLVANIA OUTDOOR RECREATION** map featuring parks, forests, trails and recreation areas across the entire state. Also available is the **PINE CREEK** map, highlighting all the recreation opportunities of the nearby Pine Creek Valley.



Summer Mountain Flowers

Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) blooms in June covering the northern mountains of the Commonwealth with its 5-sided white and pink blooms. This evergreen was chosen by Governor Gifford Pinchot in May 1933 as the official state flower. Mountain laurel varies from four to ten feet in height and is commonly found growing on rocky mountaintops. Its leaves are lance-shaped, glossy and dark green in color, three to four inches long, and are leather-like in texture. Being evergreen, its leaves do not fall to the ground during the winter months.






Mountain Laurel can be found at Worlds End in several locations.

On the left: While more often found on ridge and mountain tops, it can be found in other areas, such as the picnic area near the Cliff Pavilion.

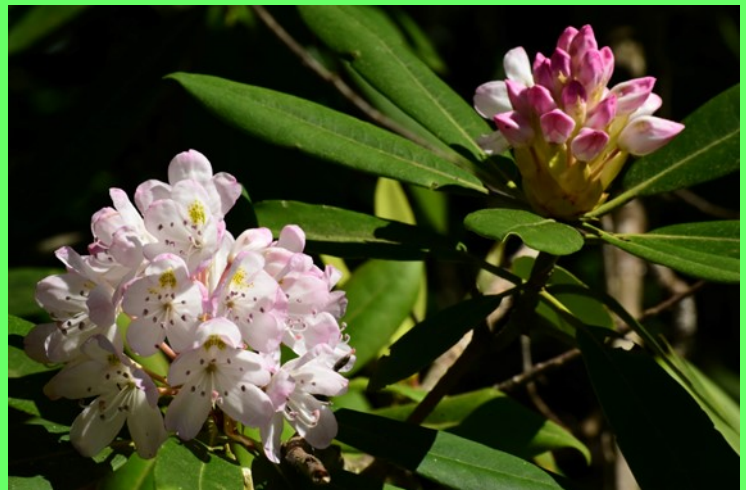
On the right: A bush of Mountain Laurel clings to the top of the cliff across the creek from the park's picnic area.

Mountain Laurel can be found in these other state parks and forests across Pennsylvania:

- ◆ Along the road leading to the High Knob Overlook in the Loyalsock State Forest.
 - ◆ Along the Laurel View trail at Ricketts Glen State Park.
 - ◆ Along the Quehanna Highway in the Moshannon and Elk State Forests in Clearfield, Elk and Cameron counties.
 - ◆ Colton Point State Park in Tioga County.
- 
- ◆ Along Ridge Road in the Elk State Forest in Cameron and Potter counties.
 - ◆ Along Route 144 in the Sproul State Forest in Centre and Clinton counties.
 - ◆ Along Route 44 in the Tioga, Tiadaghton, and Susquehannock State Forests in Lycoming,



As the Mountain Laurel fades, in early July another evergreen, the Rhododendron, takes over. However, unlike the Mountain Laurel, Rhododendron shuns the sunny mountain and ridge tops and instead prefers the shade found in deep hollows and the north sides of mountains. The blooms are white to various shades of light pink, with broad, flat green leaves.





Dames Rocket (above) blooms in shades of white to deep purple in mid-May through early June along hillsides and embankments. It has four petals, and is often confused with wild Phlox, which has five petals.



Day Lillies (right) bloom throughout summer, especially later in the summer.

Bee Balm (below) with their square stems, blooms later in the summer and prefers wet areas.





Above: Cinnamon-colored Black Bear to the left, Barred Owl in the middle, Bobcat on the right.

“OH, wow!”

The first thing that grabs a visitor’s attention upon entering the education room in the park’s visitors center is the taxidermy displayed throughout. Both young and old have a chance to see and learn about wildlife that they may rarely, if at all, observe in the wild. Over the years, many of these taxidermy specimens were generously donated to the park by Nancy Craft, owner and operator of Rock Run Taxidermy. Nancy was a teacher, taxidermist, and conservationist who devoted much of her lifetime to the youth of our community. She was a certified shooting coach and taught hunter safety education for many

years. She gave many wildlife presentations in our campground amphitheater.

Nancy would be pleased to know that her grandson, Ethan Craft, is employed as a maintenance repairman here at Worlds End (*photo on left*). Ethan certainly takes pride in his grandmother’s work and in her legacy.



*On the right: Coyote
Below: Beaver*





If you have stayed recently in one of the park cabins, you may recognize this not-terribly-shy red squirrel who stalks the cabin colony! Red squirrels are typically smaller than their cousin, the more common grey squirrel, and are generally considered more aggressive than the greys. Another difference are the tufts of hair on the ears of the red squirrel—as seen on the picture above left.



BECOME A DCNR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER:

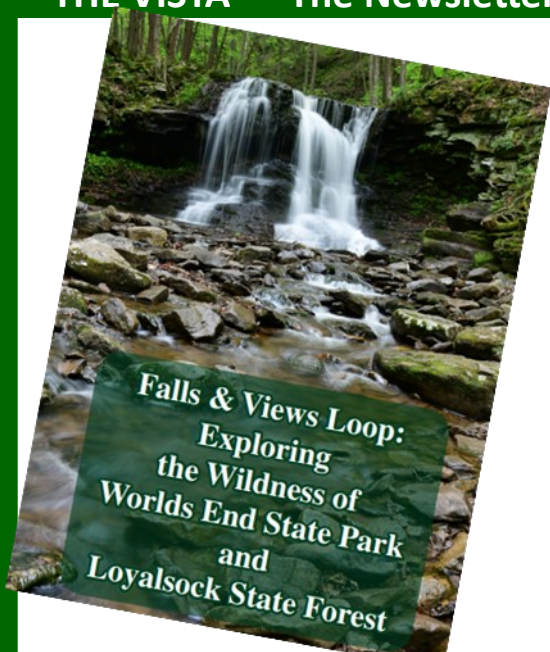
If you are interested in volunteering at the park, we encourage you to register. Registering brings you insurance coverage and the ability to track your volunteer hours. See more on DCNR's website:

[https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/](https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/GetInvolved/Pages/default.aspx)

[GetInvolved/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/GetInvolved/Pages/default.aspx)

[https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/](https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/VolunteerApplication.aspx)

[VolunteerApplication.aspx](https://www.volunteers.dcnr.state.pa.us/VolunteerApplication.aspx)



For your summer hiking and exploring... taking you to over 90 waterfalls and 40 vistas — in our newest and most comprehensive hiking guide that features Worlds End and the surrounding Loyalsock State Forest ***Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest.*** This is a 70-page guide with 3 maps detailing over 77 miles of trails. Also available is the smaller ***Trails in and Around Worlds End State Park*** that features shorter hikes centered on the park and the forest immediately surrounding the park. These maps and guides are available from:

- ***The Worlds End State Park Office***

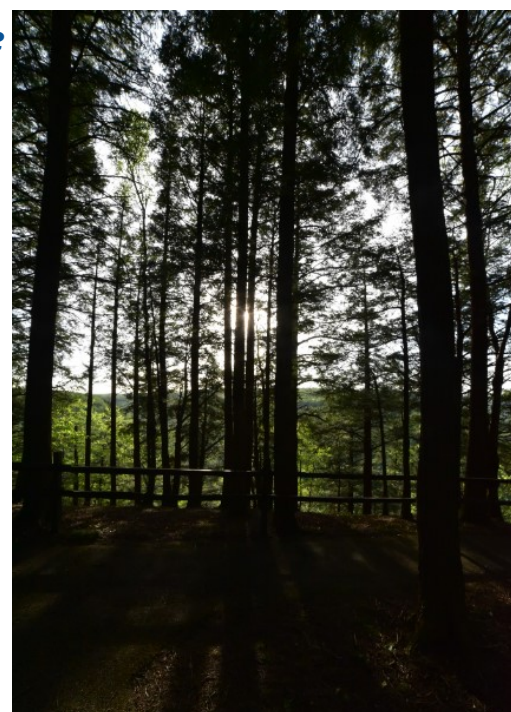
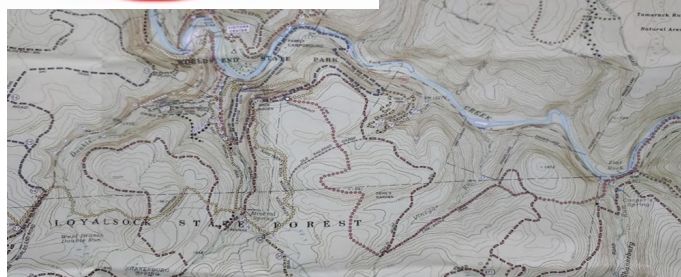
- ***The Sullivan Review***

(<https://thesullivanreview.com/maps/>)

- ***Otto's Bookstore in Williamsport.***

- ***Keystone Trails Association***

(<https://www.kta-hike.org/>)



NEW GUIDE AND MAP PROJECT UNDERWAY:

Trailblazers Dave Kowalewski and Ruth Rode are hard at work on their next project, which will be a map and guide of approximately 50 different hikes in and around Worlds End. Target timeframe for the release of this guide is later in 2025.

Join the
**Friends of Worlds
End State Park**

for **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 PPFF and include Friends of Worlds End on the memo line. Checks should be mailed to:

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



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.

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