

The Newsletter of the Friends of Worlds End State Park.



Autumn 2020

Vol. 2 Issue 4

The Vista

Comet Neowise
over Worlds End
July 2020

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



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The summer of 2020 saw a new visitor to Worlds End – Comet Neowise spent the second half of July in the skies over the park – clearly visible from the Loyalsock Canyon Vista (see cover and page 5). The comet wasn't the only new visitor to the park this summer. Pennsylvania State Park attendance numbers swelled as families across the Commonwealth sought healthy and local vacation alternatives during the pandemic. The parks system experienced an increase of over 1.5 million visitors; a 36 percent increase compared to last year. This increase was apparent in Worlds End and reflected in a campground that was almost always booked full the entire summer and parking lots full of cars with license plates from many different states as people discovered and explored our favorite park. In this issue of *The Vista*, we will look back at the Summer of 2020 and look forward to the coming autumn with a special feature on some favorite fall foliage locations in Sullivan County.

Given the pandemic, we suggest keeping updated on park activities and any restrictions by using these weblinks:

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

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

DCNR- WORLDS END STATE PARK:

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

UPDATE: AMPHITHEATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

| GOAL | |
|-----------|--|
| \$30,000! | |
| \$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 | |
| \$0.00 | |



Planning continues for 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 2022 for this project – as part of Worlds End 90th birthday

celebration! This project 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 \$18,000 in the special fund for this project – leaving \$12,000 to be raised. Strong firewood and ice sales this summer have helped make this possible and we thank our customers for their generous support. Contributions, including donations of materials and equipment, would also be appreciated. Look for updates, and more about Worlds End upcoming 90th anniversary celebration in future issues of THE VISTA.

ANNUAL MEETING CANCELED: The Friends of Worlds End State Park annual meeting is usually held in November – but given the current pandemic restrictions prohibiting indoor gatherings exceeding 25 people, the board has decided to cancel this year’s annual meeting. However, anyone with any questions, comments or suggestions is invited to contact us – see our contact information on page 2. And look for our future plans for 2021 and 2022 in upcoming editions of The Vista.

FIREWOOD SALES: We continue to sell firewood in the campground near the Loop A (lower loop) bathrooms and also in the cabin area near the trash/recycling area. Price is \$8.00 per bundle. Money raised from these sales goes to fund the park-improvement projects planned by the Friends of Worlds End State Park.

Summer 2020 at Worlds End!!



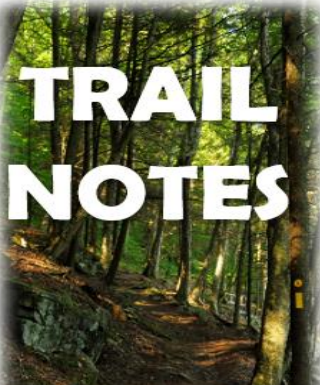
In May and July, our local Pennsylvania Game Commission Game Wardens stopped by the park with black bears they had just trapped and sedated (the one on the left above weighed 575 pounds!). Crowds gathered as the Wardens processed the bears as they discussed and answered questions about black bears in Pennsylvania. The bears were then relocated to new, remote locations.





The Comet Neowise over Worlds End State Park viewed from the Loyalsock Canyon Vista on July 15th, 2020. The lights in the foreground are from vehicle headlights on route 154 in the park. The lights in the distant valley are from Forksville. If you missed the comet this time, it will be back – in approximately 7,000 years. Photograph by Kyle Fawcett.



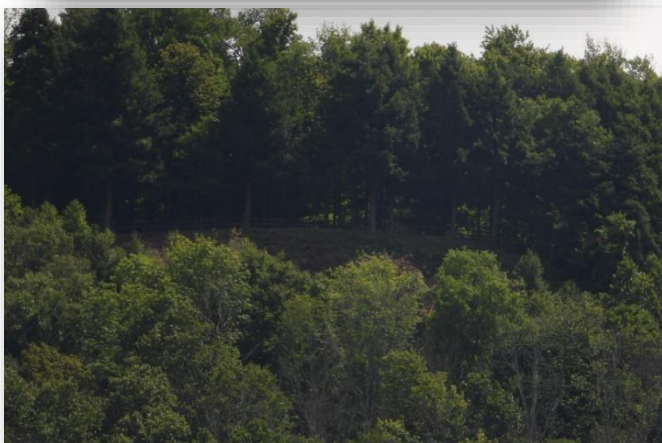


NEW AND IMPROVED VISTAS

Thanks to the recent hard work of park staff, hikers now have some new and expanded vistas to enjoy. A new vista has been cleared along the Canyon Vista Trail that allows a nice view of the Loyalsock Creek as it flows into the park from the east (see picture below on the left). This new vista can be reached along the Canyon Vista Trail going northeast from the Loyalsock Canyon Vista (see map below).



Speaking of the iconic Loyalsock Canyon Vista...park staff have cleared a larger “window” by cutting down brush and trees to the right of the vista (this larger window is visible in the pictures to the left). This allows greater access, and provides more photo opportunities from different angles – such as the sunset seen below.



Autumn in Sullivan County – *Photo Destinations*

Last autumn in The Vista, we featured the Loyalsock Canyon Vista as a photo destination. This year, given social distancing, we are featuring several autumn photo destinations that are in the Loyalsock State Forest, near the park, but are more remote and less visited. Sullivan County has an abundance of beautiful autumn sights – here are some of our favorites – all easily accessible and ideal for photographers wanting to capture the splendor of the season!



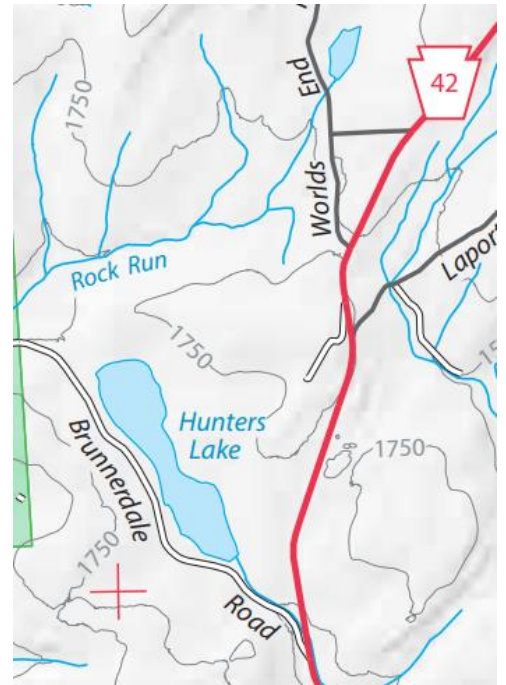
Hunters Lake

In addition to being a great place to boat and fish, Hunters Lake was made to be photographed! There are walkways at each end of the lake – ideal platforms for you and your camera. In the morning the action is at the end of the lake – as the sun rises to your left (see picture at the right) it lights up the foliage on the right shore (see above). Getting there early in the morning allows you to capture that golden morning light, and also increases the chances that the lake will be still enough to reflect the foliage. Check the forecast for clear, sunny mornings.



In the late afternoon, the action moves to the front of the lake from the big dam. The setting sun to your left lights up the tree line to your right (see below). A zoom telephoto lens may be useful in this location since the shoreline to your right can be a ways away.

Hunters Lake is reached by taking route 42. As you go up or down the hill to Muncy Valley, look for Brunnerdale Road. Drive back Brunnerdale Road a mile or so. There are plenty of parking and access spots at the front of the lake, at the halfway point, and at the end of the lake – with the lake a very short walk away. There is also a hiking trail that circles the lake.



Above – the eastern shore photographed in the late afternoon from the dam at the head of the lake. Check the local weather forecast for days with light winds to increase the chances of the lake being still enough to photograph reflections in the water.



As large as Hunters Lake is...

It is hard to believe that Hunters Lake is entirely spring-fed – there is no stream flowing into it. And the “dam” at the end of the lake is actually a spill-way. In times of high-water, the lake flows over this spill-way and into Rock Run. This makes this lake a rarity – with a spill-way not at the front of the lake at the dam – but at the back of the lake.

People assume, seeing the dam, that this is an artificial lake. But that is only partly true. There was a smaller, natural lake before the dam was ever built. Maps from the 1800’s display this smaller Hunters Lake – a name it received because of the hunters who lined its shores and waters with their shanties and boats.

It was not until the turn of the 20th century that the first dam was constructed – for generating hydroelectricity! In the early days of electrification, before the days of big power plants and cross-county transmission lines, electricity had to be generated locally – and Hunters Lake was one of those local generation sources.

Hunters Lake and the 2,000 surrounding acres was acquired by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in 1961. More information can be found on the Commission’s website at:

<https://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/Lakes/Pages/HuntersLake.aspx>



Sones Pond

Sones Pond is a large pond – or a small lake – depending upon how you look at it. Its small size increases the chances that the water will be still enough to capture a nice reflection, and its compact, circular shape allows you to photograph much of the pond from one or two locations. Foliage surrounds the lake, so this is a location where there is always something to photograph anytime of the day. In the mornings, the west shore will be lit up - in the late afternoon, the east shore. Sones Pond can be reached from route 154 between Laporte and Worlds End – turn onto Rock Run Road, cross Loyalsock Creek on an old truss bridge, and after a steep drive up the mountain, turn left onto the Loyalsock Road. Sones Pond will be on your right, and a parking area on your left. There is a picnic pavilion, rest rooms and a boat ramp – so bring your lunch and a kayak along with your camera to enjoy this beautiful spot to the fullest.

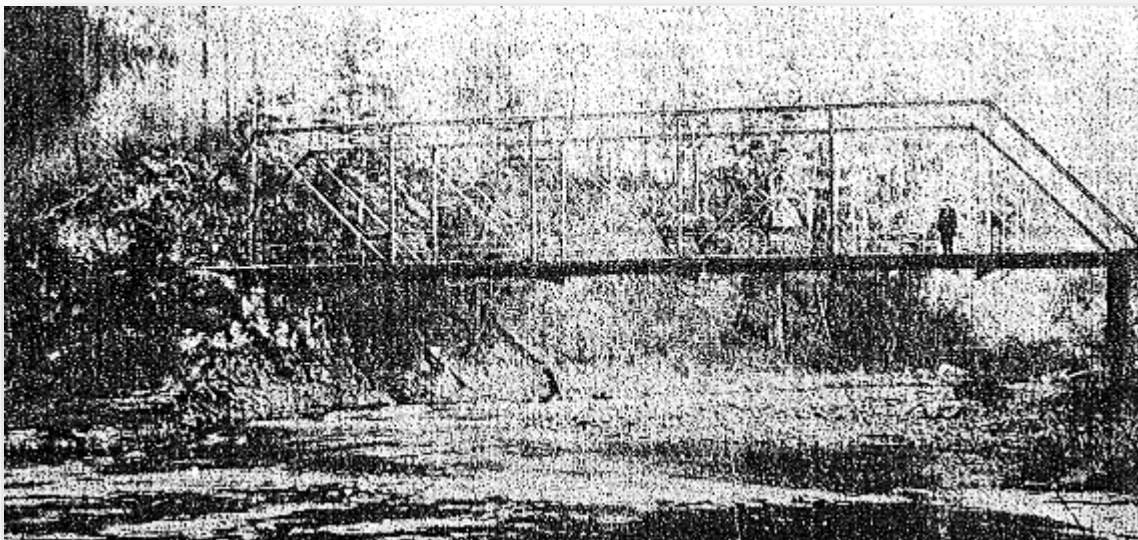




On your way to Sones Pond...

As noted on the directions on the previous page, you will cross over Loyalsock Creek on an old iron truss bridge. This old bridge has a connection to Worlds End State Park. This bridge's original location was in the park – the first highway bridge (now route 154) to cross Loyalsock Creek near the park's swimming area. Built in 1897, this was the first bridge to connect the park to Forksville.

When the bridge was replaced in 1932, it was dismantled and relocated to its current location on Rock Run Road. And across this bridge, to the left, was the location of Civilian Conservation Corps Camp # 95 between 1933 and 1941. The men of this camp built many of the facilities found and still used by visitors in Worlds End State Park and the surrounding Loyalsock State Forest – including Sones Pond.

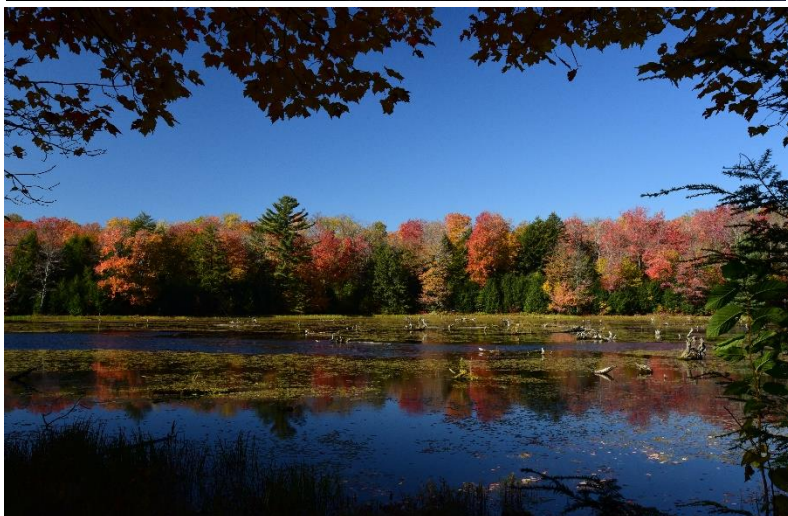


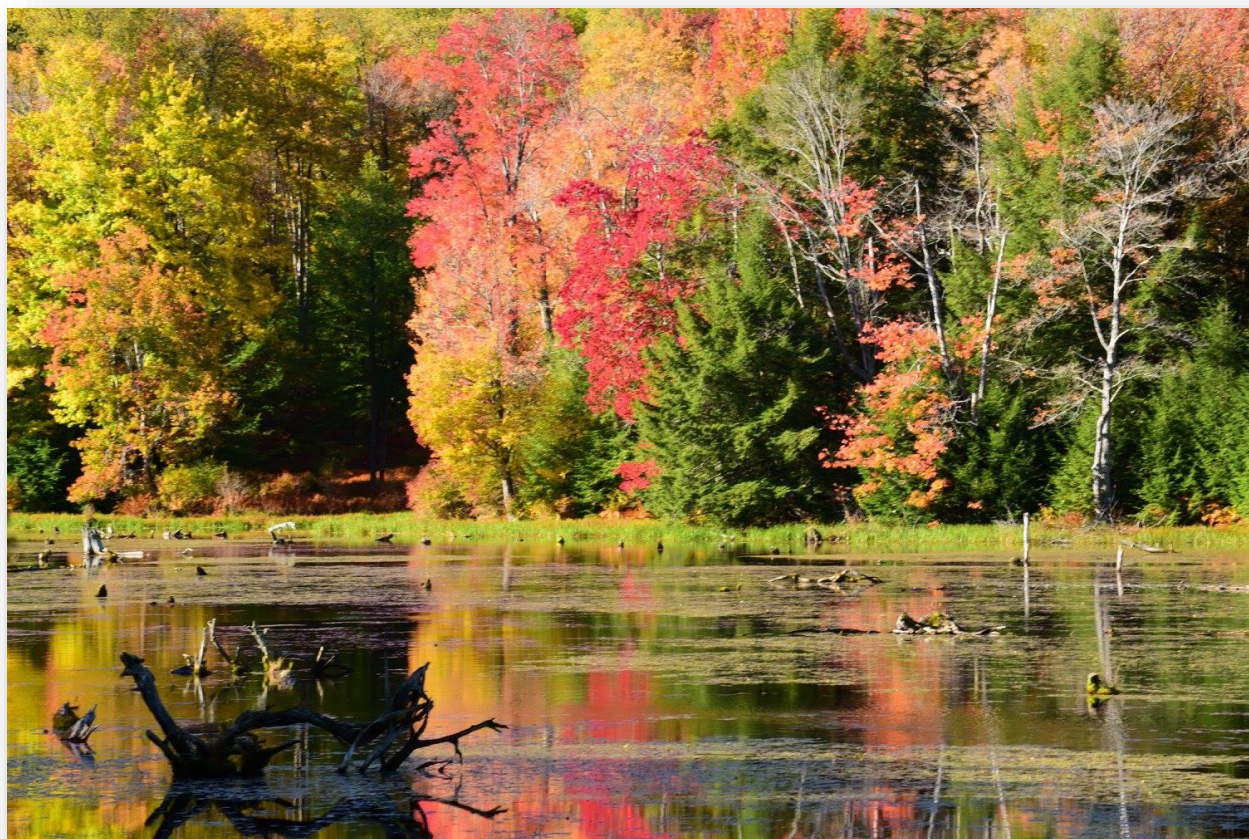
This old photograph (circa 1900) shows the bridge at its previous location across Loyalsock Creek at Worlds End State Park – just upstream from the swimming area – where the current route 154 bridge is now located.



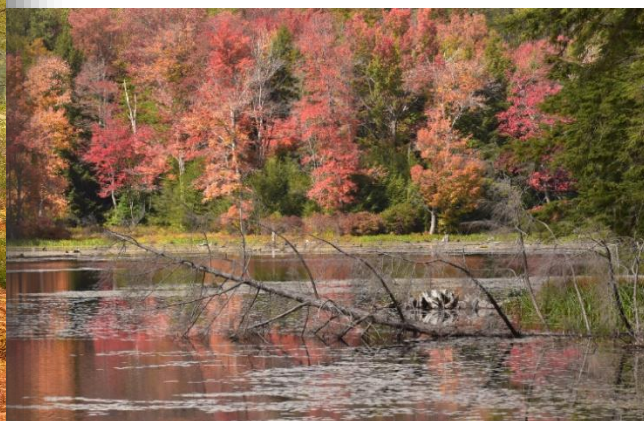
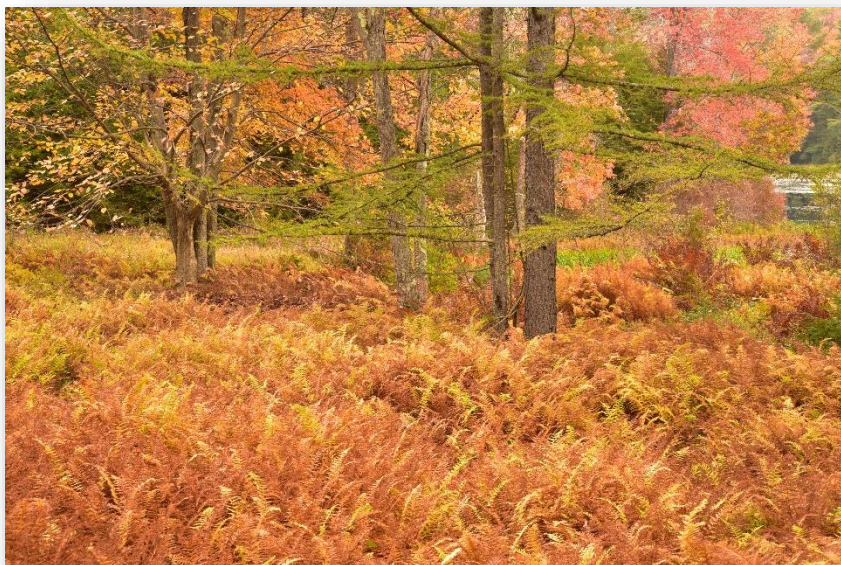
Bear Wallow Pond

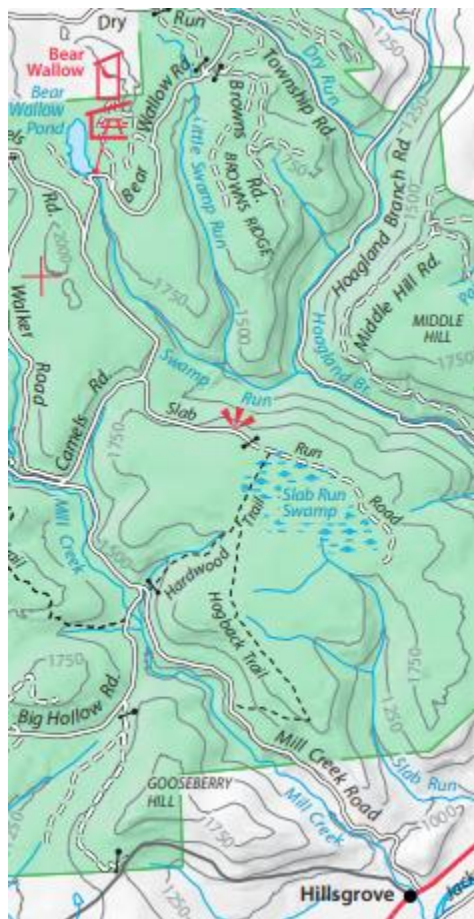
A 1986 issue of *Pennsylvania Angler* magazine declares “Secluded and small, Bear Wallow Pond looks like it should be 1,000 miles north of Sullivan County in the Canadian wilderness.” Indeed, standing on its shore, you do feel that you have been transported elsewhere – if not to the Canadian wilderness, at least to the Adirondacks or Maine. Parts of it are very boggy and swamp-like – and while small – it is large enough that to photograph you should have your zoom telephoto lens with you. There is plenty to photograph from the front of the lake at the parking area and road. To explore further, there are unblazed, informal, “fishermen” trails bordering the lake to your right and left.



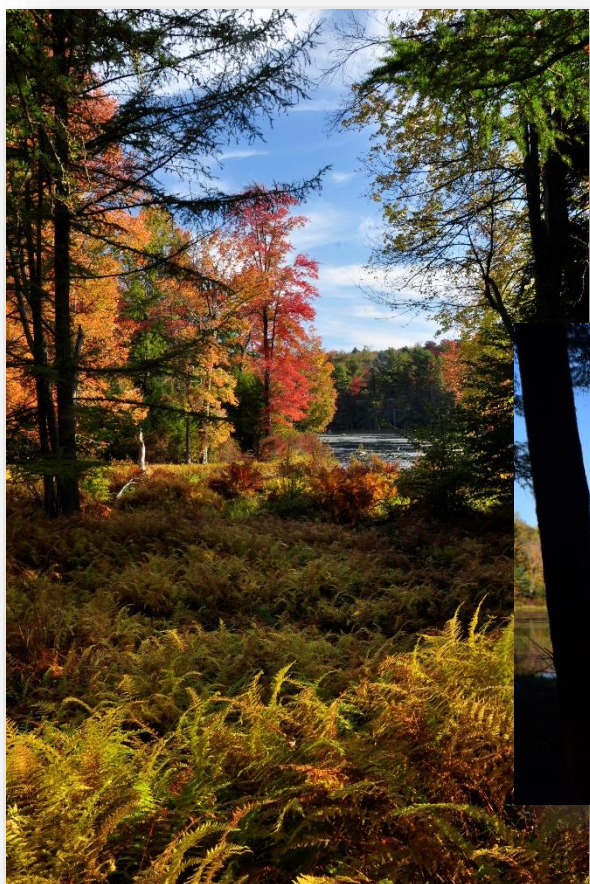
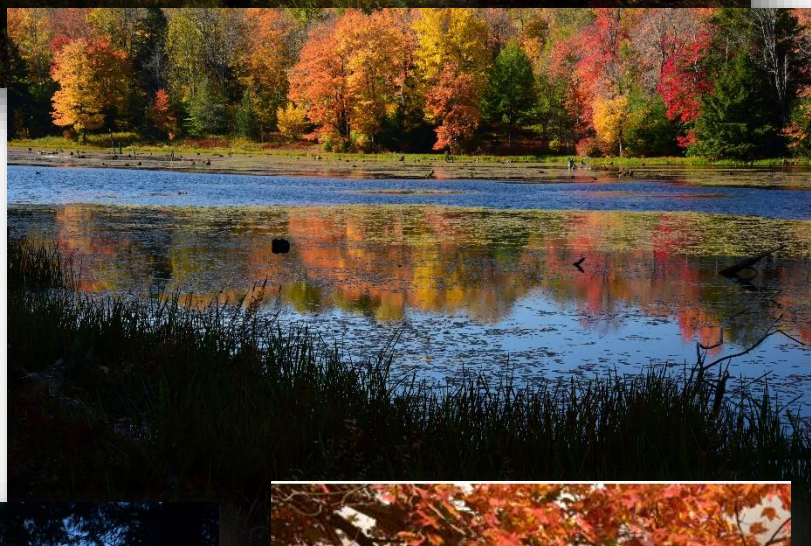
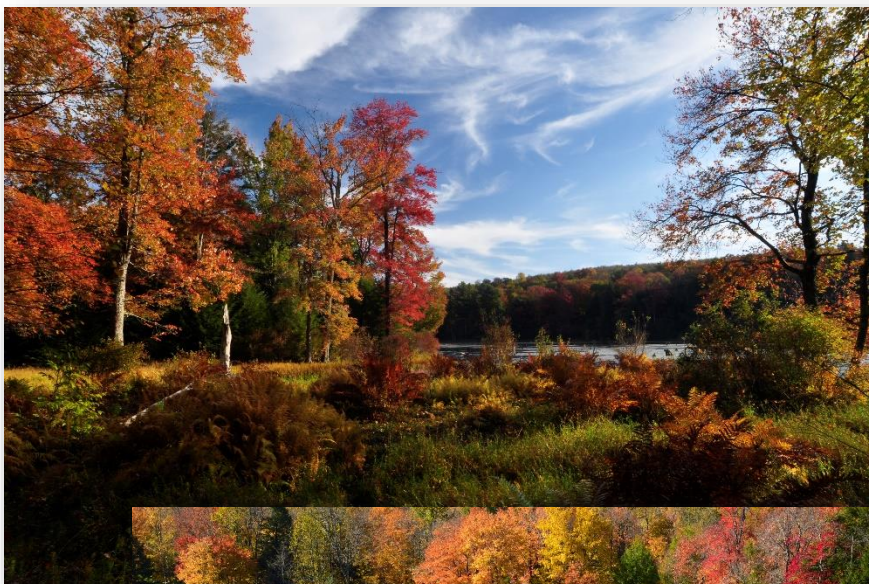


Bear Wallow Pond is best photographed in the morning to mid-day. Walking along the lake to the right of the parking area allows you to shoot across the pond (see above) – although you may have to “poke-through” some of the pines that line much of the shore. Walking to the left of the parking area, the shore of the lake is more open with beautiful glades filled with ferns and even some rare Tamarack trees (below left).





Bear Wallow Pond is reached by taking route 87 to Hillsgrove, and turning onto Mill Creek Road. Then turn right when you reach Camels Road. Drive straight onto Bear Wallow Road – you will soon reach the pond with the parking area on the left. There are picnic tables, a boat launch and a rest room.



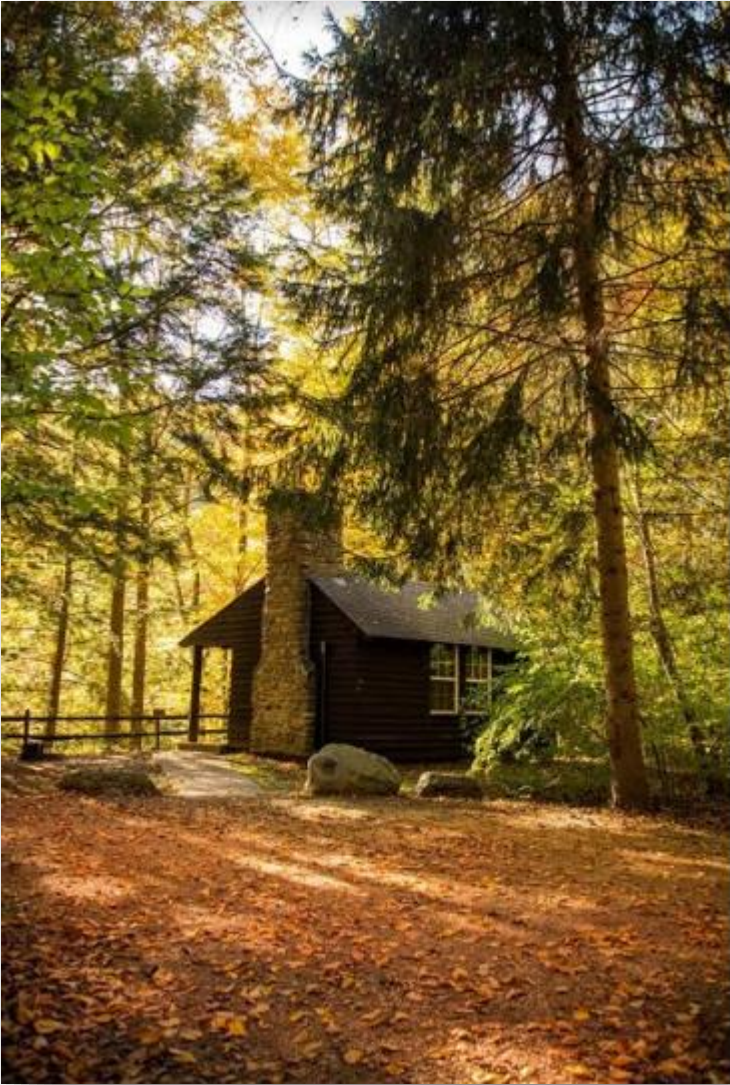


Loyalsock Creek

The Loyalsock Creek, as it winds through Worlds End and the surrounding state forest, provides numerous photo opportunities. The rocky stream bed can provide an interesting foreground with the foliage as a background.



This article was written by Dan Mumford with an assist on the history from Ruth Rode. Photography by Dan Mumford and Kyle Fawcett.



Make your camping and cabin reservations for this autumn and 2021:

<https://www.reserveamerica.com/>

Become a conservation volunteer:

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

General Firewood Quarantine:

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has enacted a quarantine order for untreated firewood of any kind coming into the state. Any firewood brought into the state must be kiln dried, heat treated, fumigated, and/or USDA Certified. To protect the high quality and native character of our State Parks from exotic invasive species DCNR highly encourages all visitors to:

- burn/buy locally cut firewood (within 25 miles)
- BURN ALL firewood brought from another area. Do not leave it. Do not take it with you.
- Encourage friends and neighbors not to move firewood.
- Do not remove firewood from a Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine Area.

PHOTO CREDITS: Cover: Kyle Fawcett. Page 2: Dan Mumford. Page 3: Kyle Fawcett. Page 4: Jane Swift. Page 5: Kyle Fawcett and Dan Mumford. Page 6: Jane Swift and Dan Mumford. Pages 7-14: Dan Mumford. Page 15: Kyle Fawcett. Page 16: Donna Papke

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<https://ppff.z2systems.com/np/clients/ppff/donation.jsp?test=true&campaign=75&>

<https://paparksandforests.org/support/ways-to-give/>

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