



The Newsletter of the Friends
of Worlds End State Park

Vol. 4 No. 1
Winter 2022

The Vista

**2022: A Celebration of
Worlds End 90th Anniversary!**

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



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HAPPY 90th BIRTHDAY WORLDS END!

With the arrival of 2022, so arrives Worlds End State Park's 90th anniversary year! In 1932, America was in the third year of the Great Depression, with nearly one out of every 4 workers unemployed. Herbert Hoover was still President, but an election that November would see Franklin Delano Roosevelt swept into office in a landslide. Upon taking office, FDR would implement his New Deal programs intended to restore economic confidence and to put Americans back to work. A key New Deal program was the Civilian Conservation Corps that put young men to work on a variety of public projects – including construction of many of the facilities we still enjoy today here at Worlds End!

We kick off the year-long celebration in this edition of *The Vista* with a look back at some of the history of your favorite park – including the role of the **CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS** in building the park (see pages 14 – 18) ...and how the park got its name (see pages 10 - 13)... some of the people from the past we owe so much to (see pages 6 – 8)... and a history of the park in maps (see pages 4 – 5). We also preview some of the anniversary celebrations planned for this summer – including the return of **WORLDS END DAY** on July 30 (see page 19). And just in time for the anniversary year, we update you on the new **AMPHITHEATER** as it nears completion (see page 3). We also highlight the generosity of **NEW TRAIL BREWING** and their customers (see page 8)...and finally, we celebrate the winter season (see page 20).

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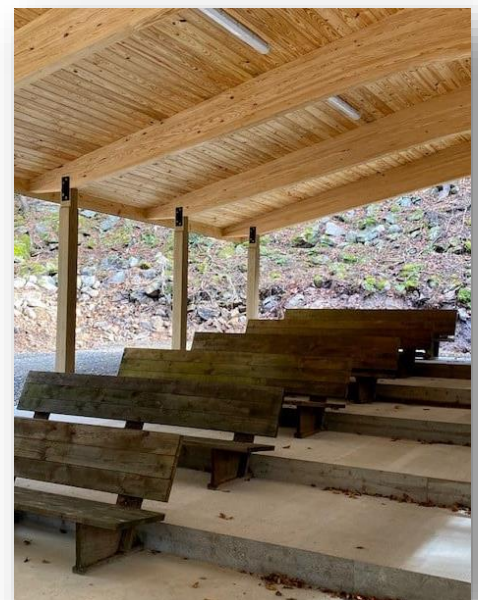
Lisa Wilcox

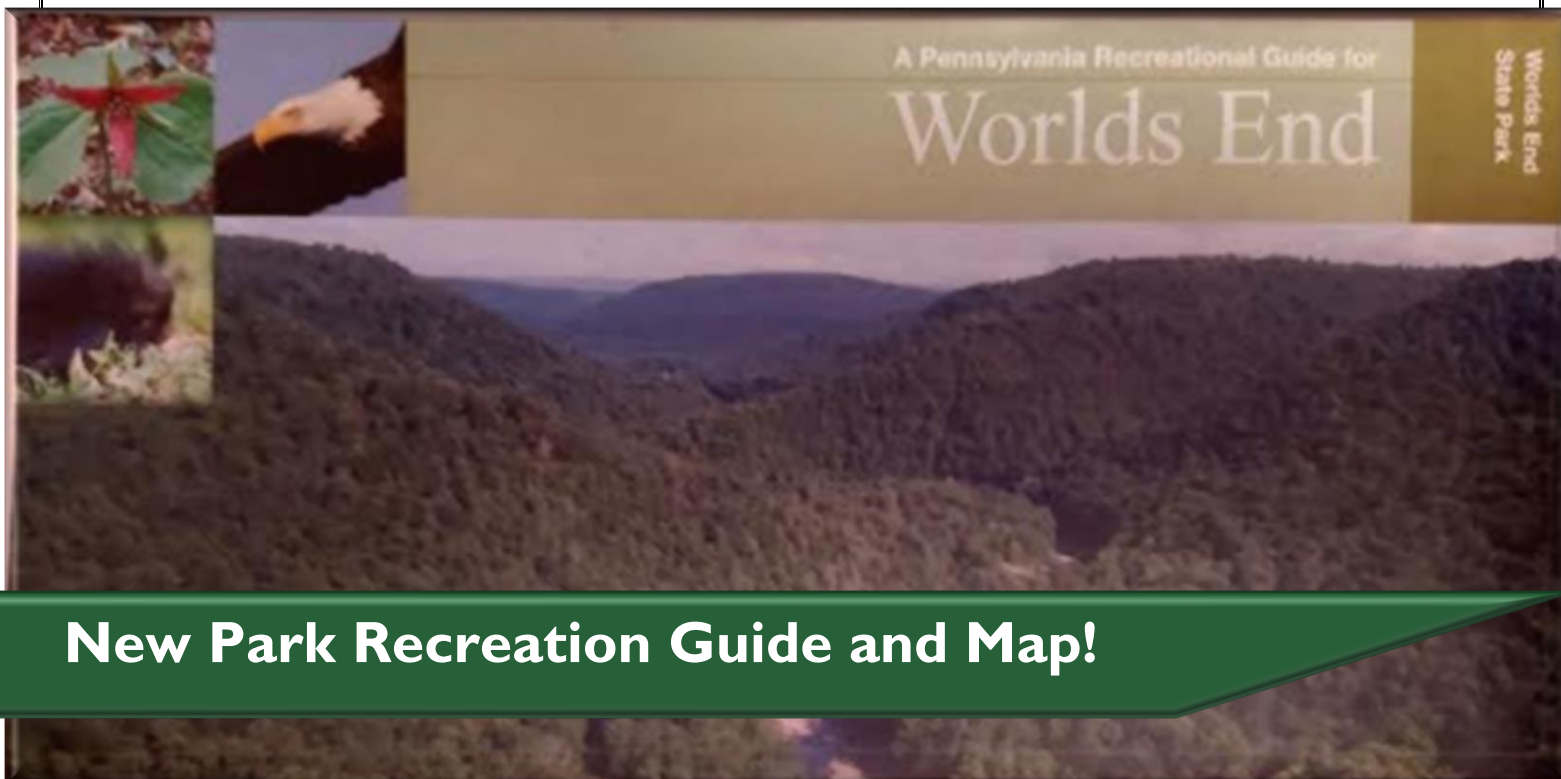
Tom Yarnall

UPDATE: Amphitheater Almost Finished!

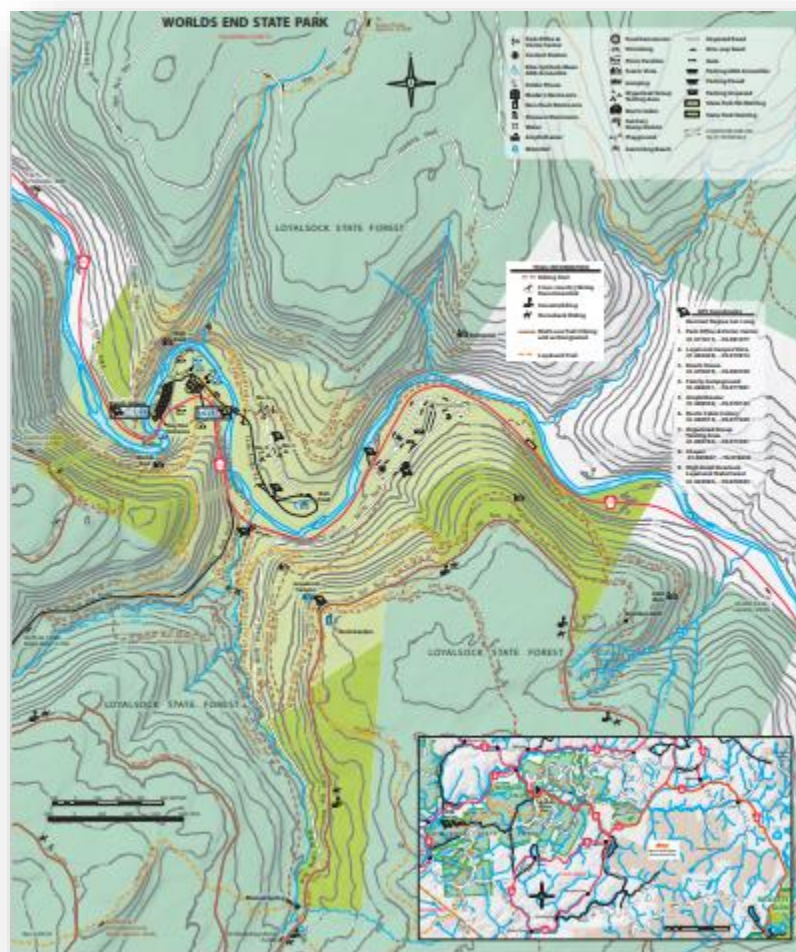


The new campground amphitheater – purchased by the Friends of Worlds End State Park – is nearing completion! Recent work includes five concrete pours to create a tiered, theater-style floor, interior lighting, electrical wiring, gutters, and down-spouting. Work that remains to be done includes new benches, stage, screen, exterior lighting and landscaping. This project is still on track to be completed in time for the park's 90th anniversary celebrations in 2022. We want to thank the park management and staff for their hard work on this project – especially considering the awful weather they have had to contend with! And our thanks also to the generous contributions of our members and firewood and ice patrons for providing the funds for this project.





New Park Recreation Guide and Map!

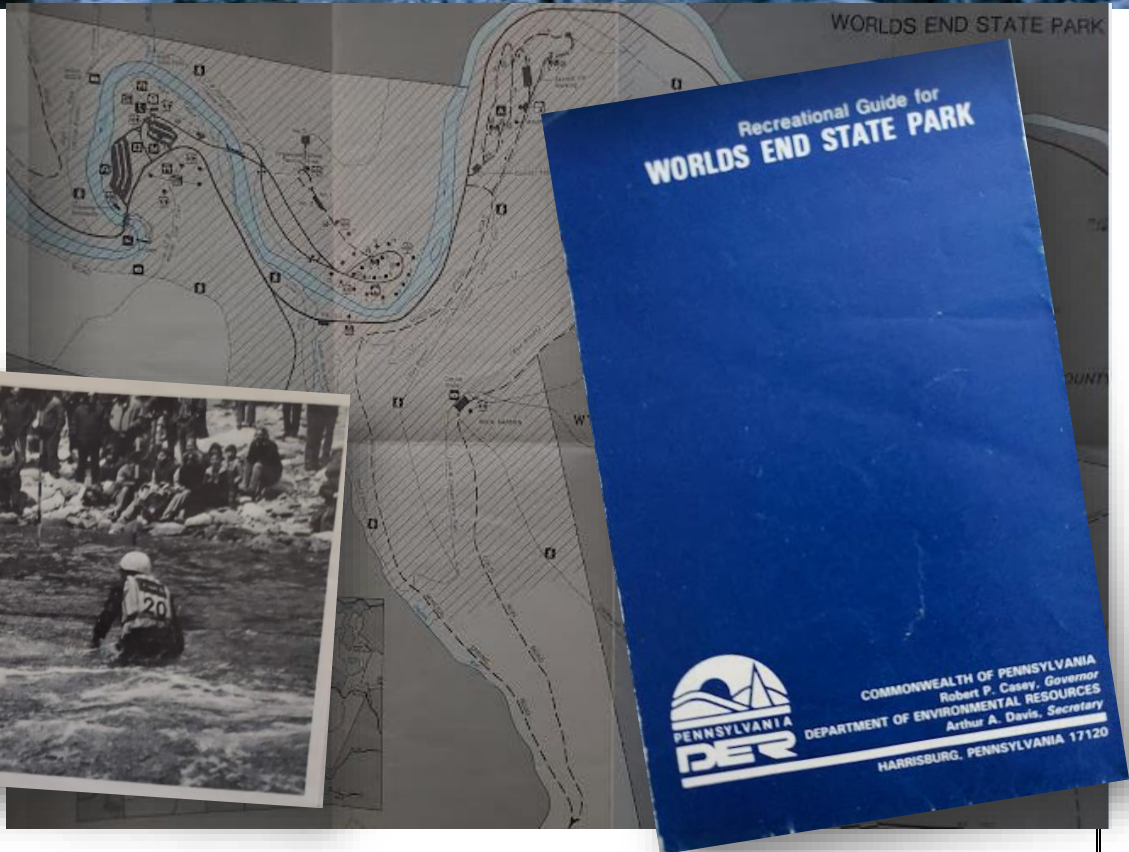


A new, updated official **A Pennsylvania Recreational Guide for Worlds End** is now available.

The 16.5" x 24" guide features information on park history, geology, recreational activities and how to reserve camping, lodging and picnic pavilions on one side. The other side features a large detailed map of the park and surrounding Loyalsock State Forest, with a description of 13 different trails. New in this updated version are the Cold Run Trail (with waterfalls locations marked), Flynn Trail, Red Pine Trail and East Branch Trails.

This new resource is available at the park office for free.

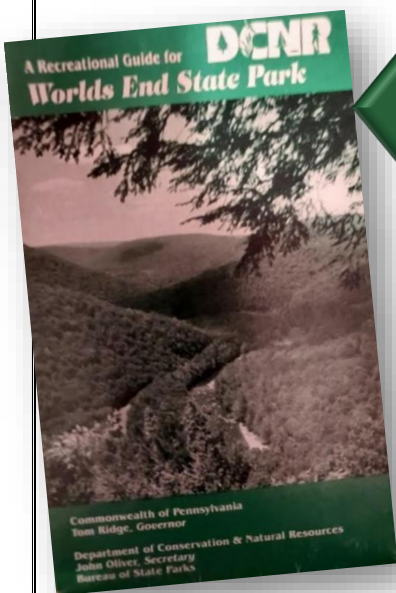
Worlds End HISTORY 1932-2022



Park recreation guides and maps were not always the large, full-color brochures we enjoy today. The above guide from 1990 during the administration of Governor Robert Casey was black and white - except for a blue cover page. It featured only one photo – for some reason a photo of kayakers struggling in the water with an overturned kayak. At that time, the agency overseeing the park was called DER – the Department of Environmental Resources – as seen from their logo on the cover. The map featured a smaller park, surrounded by what was then called the Wyoming State Forest.

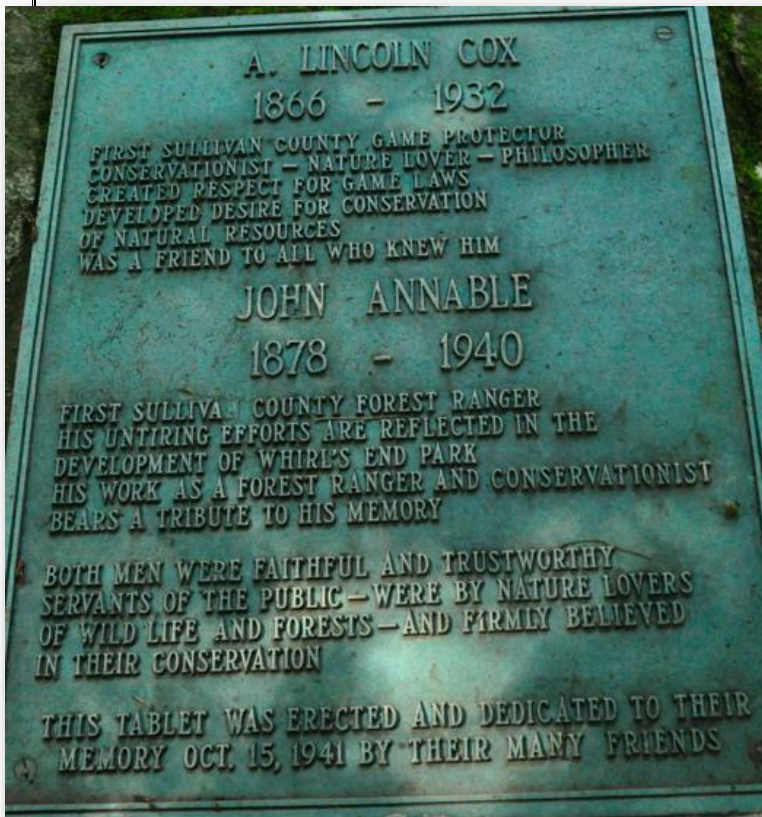
By the administration of Governor Tom Ridge in 1999, the guide was still mostly black and white – but did feature a website address – a sign of the digital age dawning in the 1990s. The guide also featured the logo of the new agency overseeing the park – the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

By 2006, during the administration of Governor Ed Rendell, the guide finally was produced in full color. And the Wyoming State Forest had become the newly organized Loyalsock State Forest.



Worlds End HISTORY 1932-2022

**Remembering Those That Made
What We All Now Enjoy Possible.**



On Saturday, September 18, representatives of the Pa Game Commission, the Department of Forestry, Worlds End State Park, and the Friends of Worlds End State Park gathered to re-dedicate a monument to A. Lincoln Cox, the first Game Protector in Sullivan County and John Annable, the first Forest Ranger in Sullivan County. This monument was originally dedicated in 1941 and placed in a prominent location in the park near the Cliff Pavilion. However, over the years, as foot traffic patterns in the park changed, the monument was rarely noticed in its increasingly obscure location.

Given the upcoming anniversary celebration for the park, and that these two men were instrumental in preserving Sullivan County's natural resources for future generations, Deputy Game Warden (and Vice Chairman of the Friends of Worlds End State Park) Michael Scott worked with park management and staff this past summer to have the monument moved to its new, more prominent location as you enter the parking lot for the park office.

At the rededication ceremony, dressed in authentic 1929 PA Game Commission officer attire, retired Game Warden Bill Bower spoke of the challenges and dangers of the job, both past and present (see picture on previous page).

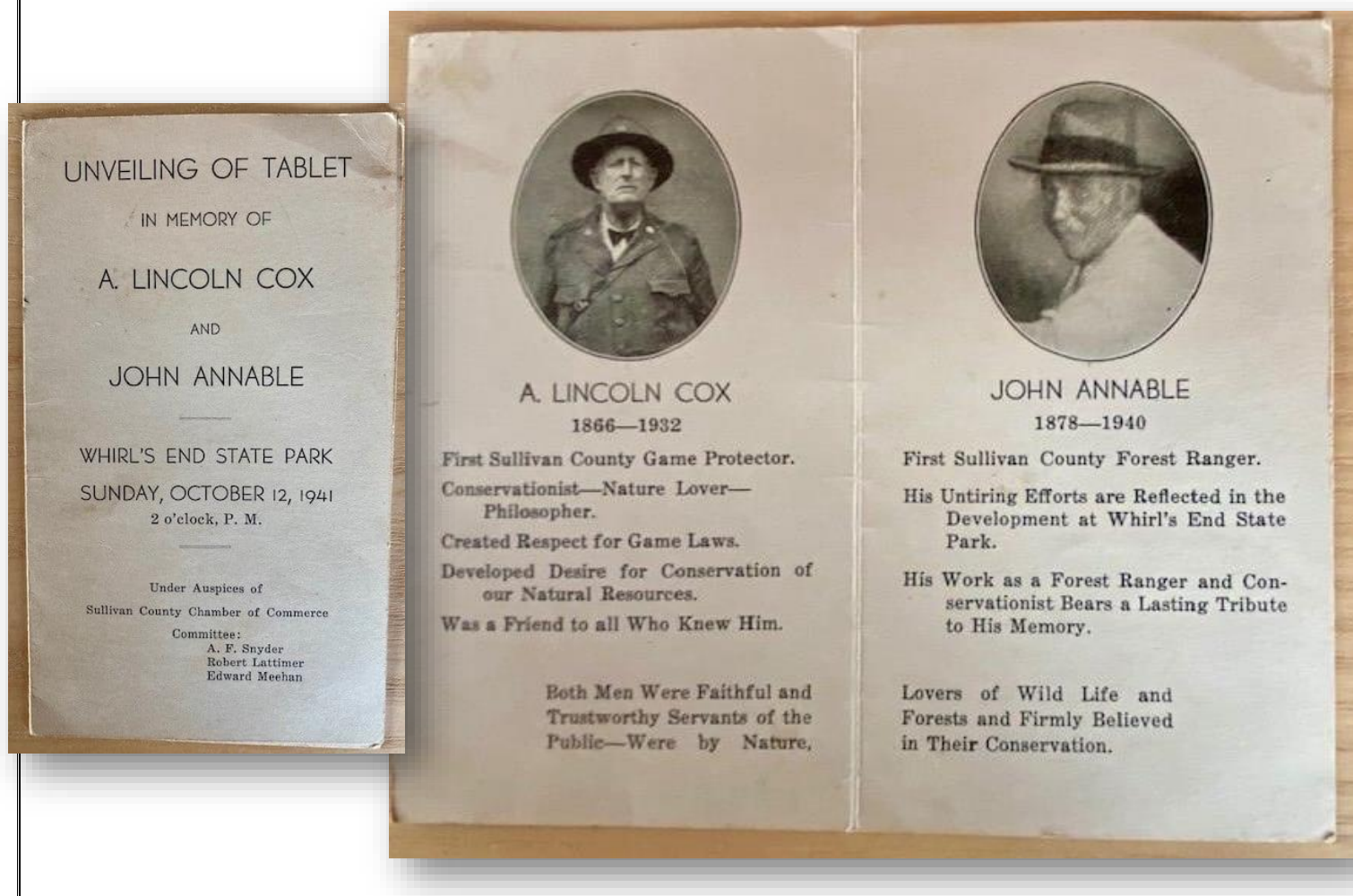
These men were pioneers – who did not have the benefit of following the example of others – they had to blaze their own paths and invent the job as they went along. And they did it without so many of the tools we take for granted today – GPS, cell phones, satellite weather forecasts, thinsulate clothing and boots, etc. In this anniversary year, we should all remember that it was the work of these two men, along with the men and women who succeeded them, that made it possible for us to enjoy what we have here today at Worlds End and Sullivan County.

Below – Representatives of the PA Game Commission, DCNR's Department of Forestry and Worlds End State Park gather around the rededicated monument. Retired Game Warden Bill Bower, in period uniform, is second from the right.

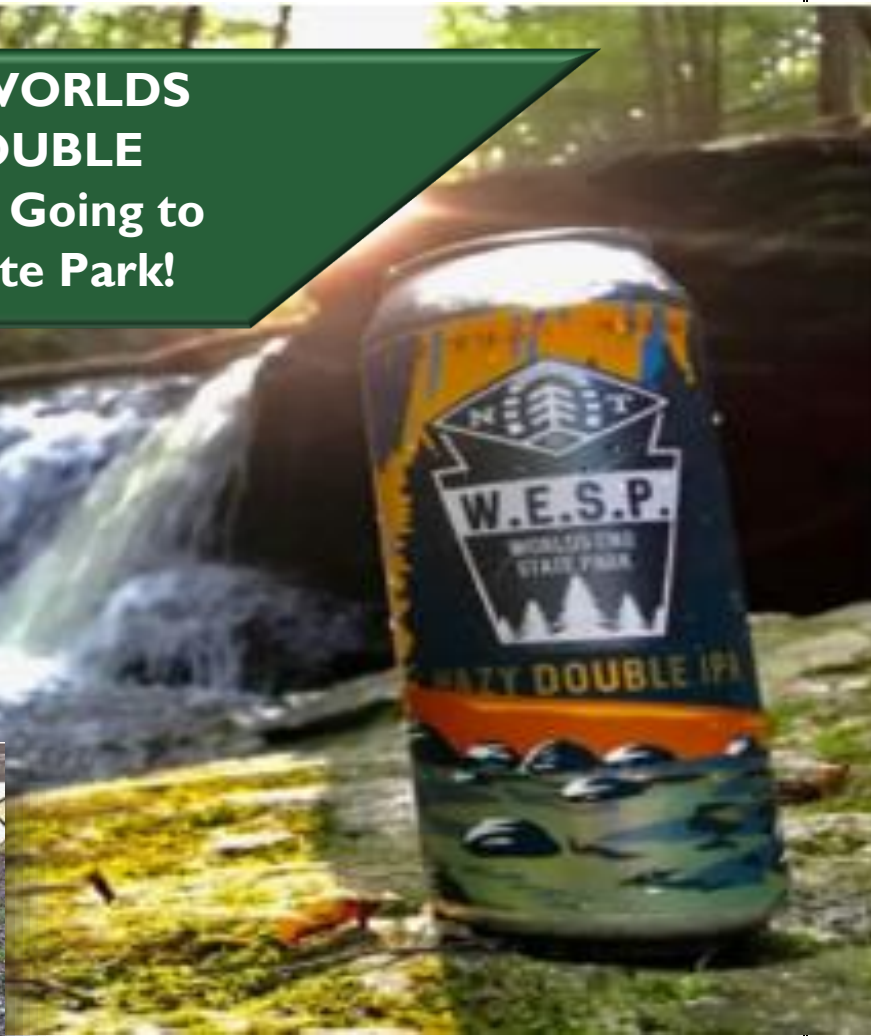


To the right: Deputy Game Warden and Vice Chairman of the Friends of Worlds End Michael Scott addresses the gathering.

Below: The program for the original dedication ceremony on October 12, 1941 – less than 2 months before the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II. Notice the reference to "Whirls End State Park"...a name used at the time for the park. See page 10 for more about the controversies and disputes over the park's name in the 1930's and 1940s.



New Trail Brewing Releases **WORLDS END STATE PARK HAZY DOUBLE IPA** With Portion of Proceeds Going to the Friends of Worlds End State Park!



NEW TRAIL BREWING in Williamsport this past August released the second in their series of State Park Trail products – this one featuring Worlds End State Park!

This is an effort to bring awareness and raise funds for our state parks – with a portion of the proceeds from the sales going to the Friends of Worlds End State Park. To date, New Trail Brewing has contributed over \$1300 to the Friends! Our thanks to New Trail Brewing and their customers for their generosity! *Photo to the left: Friends Vice Chair Michael Scott - on the far left - and President of the Pa Parks and Forest Foundation Marci Mowery – second from the right - at the launch event at New Trail Brewing in August.*





Worlds End HISTORY 1932-2022

WHAT'S IN A NAME??

A question many ask when they first hear of or visit the park is – WHY WORLDS END? Where did that name come from? It does sound rather exotic, even ominous! It is a question without a simple answer, and a surprisingly controversial history.

Whirl's Glen?

Whirls End?

Worlds End?

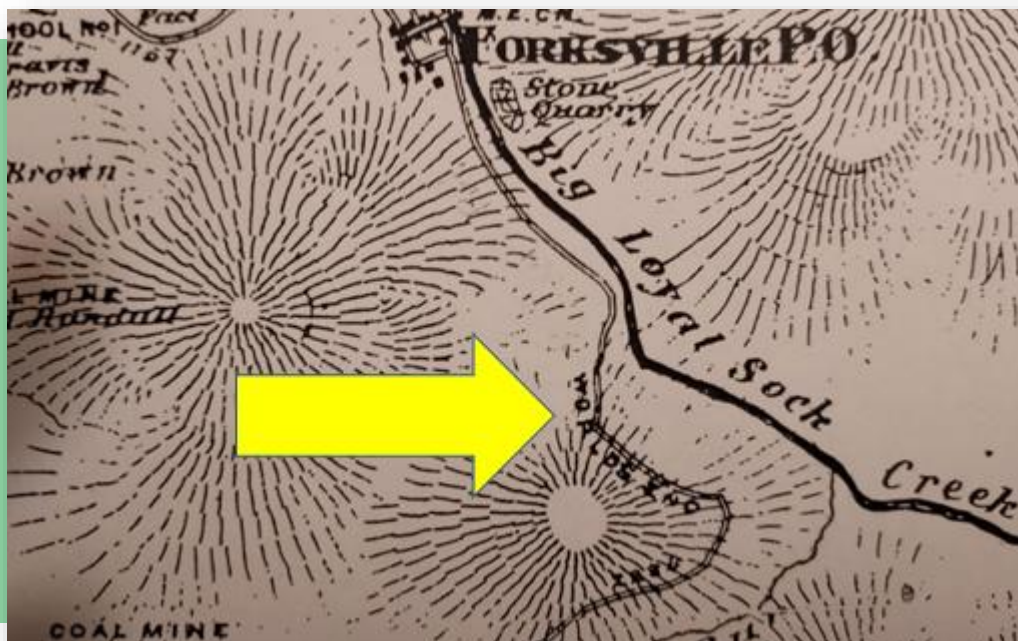
It is generally believed that the name originated with the early pioneers in the region, as they traveled through the area that is now the park. There was no road in the canyon valley – instead the only, perilous wagon road hugged the steep mountainsides above the valley floor. The PIONEER ROAD trail on the park map is this old, narrow, one-lane road (back then it was called the Corson Road – built about 1810 to connect Forksville, home of a woolen mill, to what is now the Glen Mawr/Route 220 area). Even today if you walk this trail clinging to the mountain 300+ feet above the current park swimming area, a dizzying feeling of vertigo can seize you. Imagine navigating this 200 + years ago –

they can be forgiven for thinking they were nearing their end – or the world’s end! The nickname for the area stuck – and appears on maps from the 1800s. A contemporary described it...

“Six miles northwest of Lewis Lake [now known as Eagles Mere Lake] and two miles southeast of Forksville is the ever to be dreaded World’s End. It is grand and picturesque beyond description. Here hills peep o’er hills and alps o’er alps arise. The serpentine course of the Loyalsock is here due south. It then rounds a point or prominence of red shale rocks and scuds away due north for some distance, gradually winding in a northwestern direction till it reaches Forksville where it forms a junction with its more northern branch [the “Little Loyalsock”].

The road passing the Worlds End is on the south side, and, strange as it may seem, is constructed on the narrow gauge principle, without a single turnout for passing vehicles. Three hundred feet below, nearly perpendicular, bubbles and boils the sable waters of the Loyalsock. On the other side are steep banks of earth or solid rock. Happy is he who runs this gauntlet without encountering a traveler going in the opposite direction.”

However, when the park was established in the 1930’s, the name became WHIRLS END instead. Why? One explanation is that the name came from a “whirl” in the Loyalsock Creek in the park. Even today in the swimming area, if you look carefully, you can sometimes see a counter-clockwise whirl in the flow of the water. And supposedly raftsmen navigating the stream referred to this section of creek as whirls end because it was the last of the whirls in the stream. There was even another variation of the name – WHIRLS GLEN – appearing to combine the whirl of the stream along with the canyon the stream flows through (a glen being a narrow valley or gorge).



This map from 1872 shows the area described as **WORLDS END** along what was then called the Corson Road – high on the mountain overlooking **BIG LOYALSOCK CREEK**...the future location of the park.



On the left – this picture apparently was taken some time during the years that the park was known as “Whirls End.”

It did not please the locals to see the name that had been used for generations discarded and replaced by these new variations – as apparent by this letter to the editor of the WILLIAMSPORT SUN from July 1943...

“The question of the name given in recent years to the State Park on Loyalsock Creek, to wit, “Whirls End Park” has resulted in much comment and considerable discussion in Sullivan County and also in this part of the state generally.

The only name by which this beautiful and picturesque place has been known for more than a century is “Worlds End,” not “Whirls End.”

All old maps and ancient records in Sullivan County refer to the spot as “Worlds End.” It is regrettable that an examination was not made locally before the original name was discarded.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce held in Dushore on May 12, 1943, the following resolution, after full consideration, was unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS the State Park located on Loyalsock Creek in Sullivan County, has been arbitrarily named “Whirls End Park.” This name is a rank misnomer and has been given without any historical authority or foundation whatever, and the same is distasteful to all citizens in this section of the State. Therefore, be it RESOLVED, that this Chamber of Commerce, representing in membership the County of Sullivan, respectfully but earnestly urge the proper authorities to restore the original name by which the place has been known for more than a century, to wit, ‘Worlds End.’

The Sullivan County Historical Society, of which the writer is President, has also gone on record in the matter and most emphatically urges the restoration of the original name. Surely the sentiments of citizens who reside in this part of the state, as expressed by the Chamber of Commerce and the County Historical Society, the two best representatives of our citizenry, should receive consideration in this matter.

*Respectfully submitted,
F.W. Meylert
Laporte, PA”*

The adverse public reaction, reflected in many letters to local media and state government officials like the one above, led to the name being officially changed back to WORLDS END STATE PARK in 1943!



FIREWOOD AVAILABLE IN THE CABIN AREA DURING THE WINTER:

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

Sources for the history articles in this issue of THE VISTA includes issues of *The Sullivan Review* from November 21, 1996, August 13, 1981, September 3, 1981, September 17, 1981 and September 24, 1981.

Our thanks also for the information, photos and history provided by Worlds End State Park management and staff, including Manager Bill Kocher and Environmental Educator Jane Swift.

Finally, our thanks to Ruth Rode and her extensive knowledge of Sullivan County history and her historical archives, especially concerning the CCC.

**90th
Anniversary
Worlds End
State Park
1932 – 2022**

Worlds End HISTORY 1932-2022

The CCC in Sullivan County

Worlds End State Park started modestly in 1932 – with \$50 spent on four picnic tables. What was then called the Department of Forest and Waters had purchased the park land and surrounding forest area from the Central Pennsylvania Lumber Company and the Randall family. It was not until the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) got up and running in 1933 that most of the park facilities we continue to use and enjoy today were built. The CCC was a New Deal program initiated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to ease the widespread unemployment of the Great Depression by placing young men at work on forest reclamation and public work projects. Through the course of its nine years in operation, three million men participated in the CCC who were paid a wage of approximately \$30 (the men could keep \$5 for themselves; \$25 was sent back home). The CCC men planted trees, built parks, created roads and trails, and performed other conservation work.



The men were housed in camps that were scattered across the state and the country and that also provided them with food and clothing. The five local camps were:

Camp 95: near Laporte, on Rock Run Road next to Loyalsock Creek. Opened May 30, 1933; closed late 1941.

Camp 96: on Dry Run Road, near where the Hillsgrove Forest Maintenance Headquarters is today. Opened on May 6, 1933; closed January 1936.

Camp 104: Near Elk Grove and Emmons. Opened June 5, 1933; closed December 15, 1937.

Camp 128: On Mill Creek Road, near where it intersects with Bear Wallow Road. Opened on July 10, 1933; closed October 31, 1935.

Camp 145: Sand Spring / Little Bear Road. Opened July 17, 1935; closed October 1, 1937.



It was Camp 95 (pictured above) that built many of the facilities at Worlds End – including the swimming area beach, dam, pavilions, hiking trails, and roads. Probably the most visible works that visitors still use and enjoy today are the 19 rustic cabins found in the park's cabin

community – which are today still numbered in the order in which they were built.

America's entry into the Second World War in late 1941 led to the end of the CCC – as young men were drafted and sent overseas.

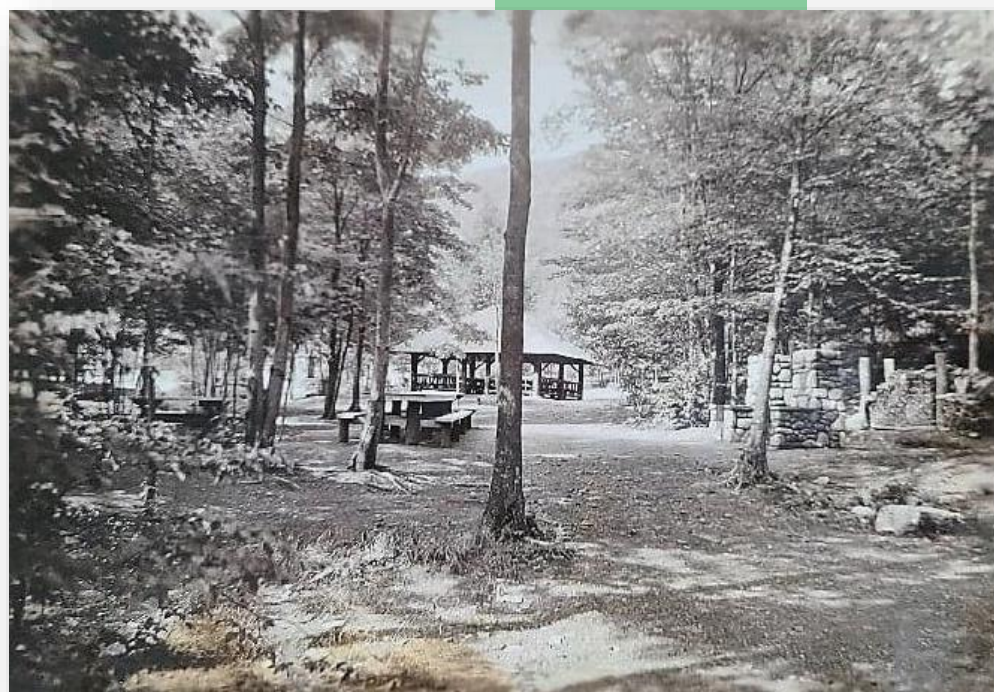
This sign marks the location of CCC Camp 95 on Rock Run Road.

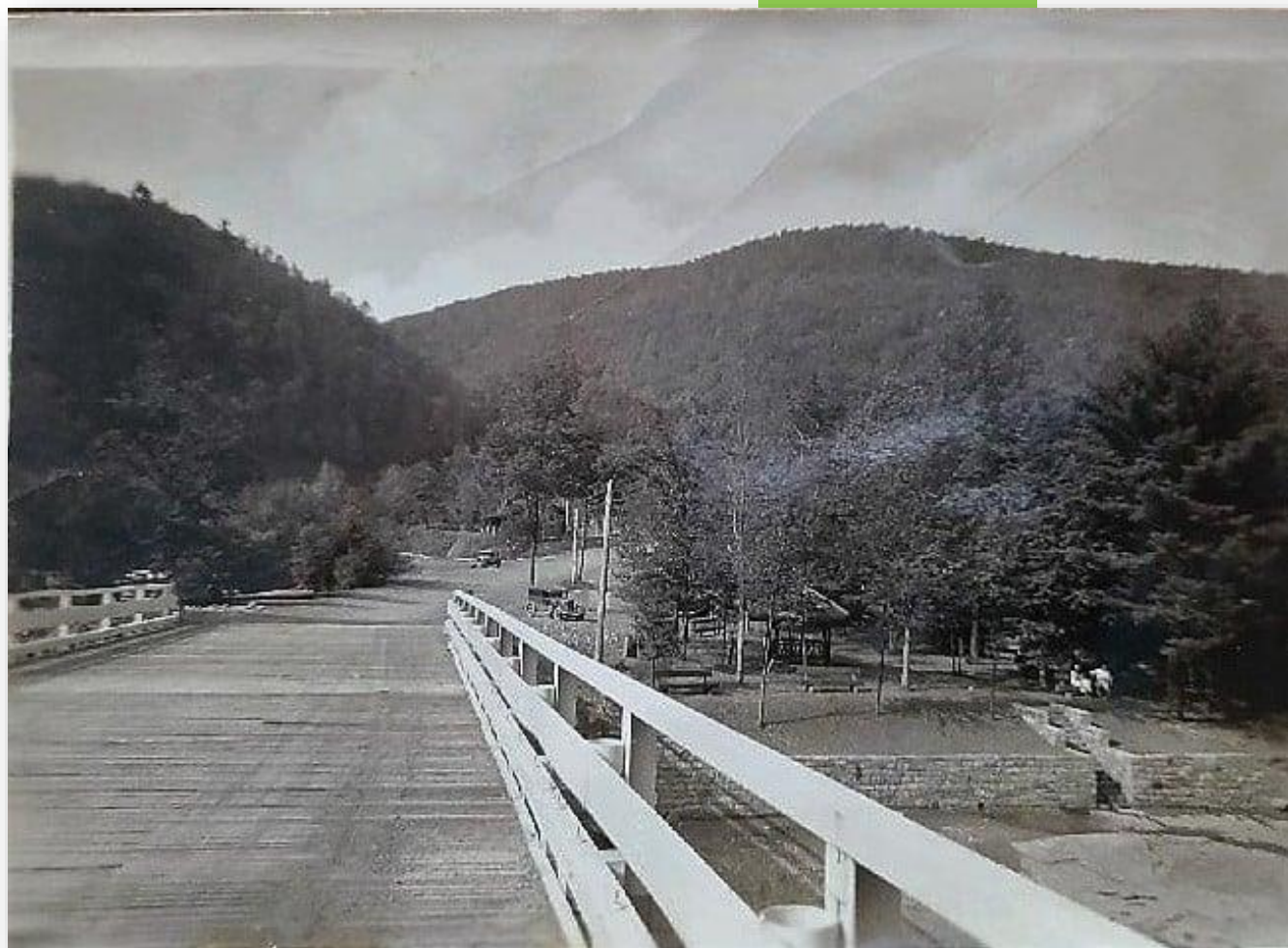




The above photo shows the first cabin built at the park by the men of CCC Camp 95 in 1934. It served as the park headquarters and superintendent's residence. Today, it continues to provide housing for park managers.

Photo from 1935 showing some of the CCC-built facilities – including picnic tables, pavilions and fireplaces. Many of these structures remain in service today.





This picture shows the second bridge across the creek and the early years of the beach area – including the retaining wall built by the CCC.

The picture below shows the gate of Camp 104 near Elk Grove/Emmons. This camp did extensive work on State Game Lands #13 – which occupies a large portion of southeastern Sullivan County.



To the right: This photo shows some of the officers in charge of Camp 95 - with camp Captain Etz on the right. While working in the field, the men were under the authority of the Forestry Department. But the camps themselves were structured along military lines with military-style lines of authority and discipline. This military-style experience would serve the CCC men well years later as they entered the service to fight in the Second World War.



Worlds End HISTORY 1932-2022



Above and to the right: CCC Camp 96, on Dry Run Road near Hills Grove. This camp assisted Camp 95 with projects in Worlds End State Park and also constructed the Dry Run picnic area and the road to the High Knob Overlook. This camp was unusual in that the dormitories were two-story buildings.



COMING SATURDAY JULY 30: **WORLDS END DAY 2022**

Celebrating Worlds End 90th Anniversary!



Franklin Clock of the Carbon County
Environmental Center.



Van Wagner – A Celebration
of Music and History!



Michael Kuriga with FALCONS!

And much
more! A day
full of events and
activities for the
entire family!

Winter Activities

Check out winter activities and conditions at :
<http://maps.dcnr.pa.gov/storymaps/winteractivities/#overview>

The air temperature in the park and the mountains can be significantly colder and windier than in the towns and valleys.

Dress in layers. As you move around, and get warmer, you can always remove a layer – or add additional layers as needed. Warm, sturdy footwear is essential if you are hiking. And wear a hat!

Know the trails you are hiking – have a map (available at the park office). Trails on the north side of mountains or in deep hollows can be snowier and icier than other trails. Hiking or trekking poles can help in such conditions.

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

There is no cell service in the park. Make sure someone knows where you are and when you expect to return.

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.

ALSO COMING IN 2022:

Trailblazers Ruth Rode and Dave Kowalewski are working on a new trail map and guide that will be available later this summer.

Divided into five sections, the unique and challenging 77.81 mile **Falls & Views Loop: Exploring the Wildness of Worlds End State Park and Loyalsock State Forest** starts and ends at Worlds End State Park's Visitors Center. The **Falls & Views Loop** passes more than 90 seasonal falls and 40 views, hence the name. Linking almost two dozen blazed and maintained trails, the **Falls & Views Loop** will challenge the hiker with multiple bushwhacks, numerous stream crossings and steep ascents and descents. Fear not the bushwhacks, as there are alternate routes that utilize established, maintained, and blazed trails. Should you suffer from climacophobia, we've taken that into account too.

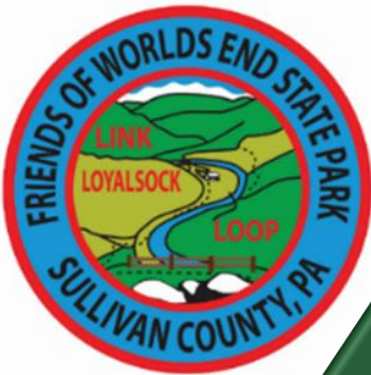
Look for updates in the next issue of *The Vista*!



ANNUAL MEETING:

The Annual Meeting of the **Friends of Worlds End State Park** was held on November 17 via ZOOM. Updates on the amphitheater project and what is still needed to bring this to completion (see page 3) and planning for **Worlds End Day** on July 30 (see page 19) were the primary topics discussed. Finally, with the 3-year term of current officers expiring, nominations and elections were held. The current officers (see bottom of page 2) were re-elected to continue their service for another 3-year term.





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/>

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