



June 4, 2014

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM

. . . while dusting

For all who are interested in the history of our area: on Thursday, Aug. 21st at 6 p.m. the Society will be holding its Annual Dinner at the Forksville U.M. Church with a short meeting at 7 p.m. followed by the guest speaker Bill Kocher of World's End State Park. On Dec. 30th, 1943 in the Sullivan Review was an article submitted by the Dist. Forester from the Pa. Dept. of Forest & Waters to

change the name from Whirl's End to World's End State Park. When the county was first gaining in inhabitants, a trail developed from Muncy to the "Forks", so named because the two branches of the Loyalsock Creek came together at this point. Later on a roadway was developed and passed along the edge of the mountain above the creek with a sheer drop of roughly 500 feet. "To the traveler looking down to the depths below, where the Loyalsock Creek suddenly changed its course and where now the swimming pool is located, it did indeed appear to him that he had reached the end of the world". Old newspaper clippings, the 1872 map and testimony persuaded the department to revert back to the original name: World's End.

Bill Kocher was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and raised in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, Bill graduated from Central Columbia High School in 1989. He went with a Pennsylvania Specialized Forest Fire Crew to Idaho in July of 1989. In October 1989 Bill became a member of the "Smokies of the Sea" by joining the United States Coast Guard. After two years of active duty at Coast Guard Station Eaton's Neck Bill attended Bloomsburg University studying Biology. After two years at Bloomsburg University Bill moved north to study Environmental Science/Conservation Law Enforcement at Unity College in Unity, Maine. Summer work in 1995 found Bill at Poe Valley State Park as an EIT. Bill graduated in December 1995 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science/Conservation Law Enforcement from Unity College. Spring of 1996 Bill worked out of the Locust Valley Fire Station for Weiser Forest District as a Forest Fire Patrolman. Summer of 1996 found Bill at Moraine State Park working as an EIT helping the Moraine Preservation Fund raise Osprey in their Hacking Tower and doing interpretive talks on their pontoon boat. Fall of 1996 Bill went to work for YMCA Camp Speers Eljabar teaching Environmental Education and Outdoor Recreation. In December 1997 Bill started as a Park Manager Trainee as a seasonal Assistant Park Manager at Nockamixon State Park. March of 1998 until May of 2001 Bill was the Assistant Park Manager at the Hickory Run State Park Complex. Bill is currently the Park Manager at Worlds End State Park.

The tidbit we've described and many more details will be featured in Bill's talk which will be accompanied by a power point presentation.