

FALL 2016 / WINTER 2017 • VOLUME 2 / ISSUE 1

CONSERVANCY

for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

HIKING THROUGH HISTORY

Trails of the Cuyahoga Valley

Life and Times of Stanford House
Portal to Ohio's pastoral roots

Your Impact
Successes in 2016

BioBlitz '16
Tracking our ecosystem

CONSERVANCY

for CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

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CONTACT US

1403 West Hines Hill Road
Peninsula Ohio 44264
330-657-2909
conservancyforcvnp.org

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Deb Yandala
Chief Executive Officer
Janice Matteucci
Chief Operating Officer
John P. Debo, Jr.
Chief Development Officer
Katie Wright
Director of CVEEC
Katrina Haas
Chief of External Affairs

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Teleangé Thomas

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DESIGN: Christopher Hixson / Incite Creative
EDITOR: Emily Heninger, Grants &
Communications Manager

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FALL LEAVES, PHOTO: NICOLE NIGH

2016

National Park Service
CENTENNIAL

A LETTER FROM THE CEO & PARK SUPERINTENDENT

As colder weather comes to the valley, we're wrapping up the centennial year of the National Park Service (NPS). It was an extraordinary year of celebration, from the National Parks BioBlitz to NPS Founders Day and beyond. Now, as the dust settles, our work on behalf of Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) continues—with your help.

The past 100 years have marked decades of preservation, restoration, and growth. We've seen countless natural and historic sites across the country come under NPS protection, including our own national park right here in Ohio.

Now, we enter the next century for national parks. Even as we celebrate and learn from the past, we must focus on the future and the next generation of park stewards.

Here in CVNP, we're taking part in the national *Every Kid in a Park* initiative to bring 8,000 Cleveland fourth graders to their national park, at no cost to them or their schools. For many of these children, visiting the Cuyahoga Valley may be their first time in a national park.

The children of today will be the environmental leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow. By giving urban youth an opportunity to explore CVNP and the great outdoors, we hope to inspire a lasting connection to national parks and natural spaces.

The Conservancy continues to partner with CVNP on a number of key TRAILS FOREVER initiatives, including the expansion of the East Rim mountain bike trail. We're also working together to create more sustainable trails in the park, so our 100+ miles of trails can stand the test of time.

Through co-management of the park's volunteer program, environmental education, fundraising, cultural arts, and more, the Conservancy continually strives to connect you to your national park and preserve it for future generations.

We're tremendously grateful for your role in protecting the Cuyahoga Valley. Here's to the next 100 years of national parks!

Deb Yandala
Conservancy CEO

Craig Kenkel
CVNP Superintendent

THE CONSERVANCY'S PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- > Teaching children about nature at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center.
- > Co-managing the park's award-winning volunteer program.
- > Fostering a rich cultural arts program through music, art, adult education, & more.
- > Providing visitor services including event facilities, lodging, and stores.
- > Raising money for national park projects and programs.

Our Vision

Connecting you to
your national park.
Preserving it for
future generations.



BEAVER MARSH. PHOTO: RICK MCMEECHAN

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Each year we accomplish big things *together*.

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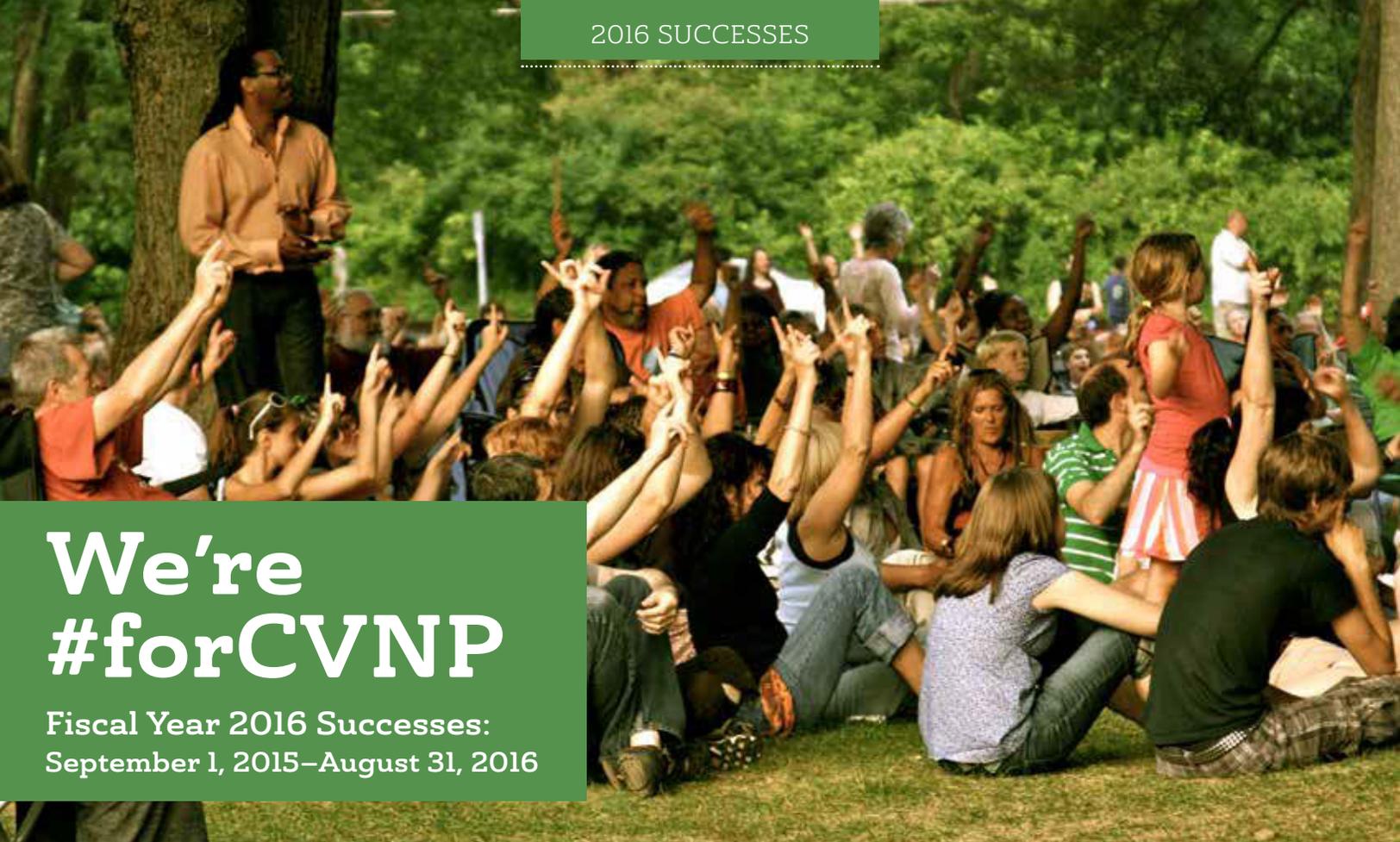
The Conservancy gratefully acknowledges the generous individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations who made gifts during the Conservancy's Fiscal Year 2016.

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We're #forCVNP

Fiscal Year 2016 Successes:
September 1, 2015–August 31, 2016

With your generosity, the Conservancy's mission comes alive:

Engaging public support for key national park programs and...

Taught

10,392 children & adults about nature, sustainability, science, & more at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC)

Gave

2,243 scholarships to CVEEC students so they could see, hear, smell, and touch their national park—maybe for the first time

Educated

2,174 students at All the Rivers Run, the CVEEC's flagship residential program for 4th – 8th graders

Welcomed

1,300 Cleveland & Akron students to their national park through Every Kid in a Park, a national initiative to bring 4th graders to public lands for free

Partnered

with NPS staff to welcome 1,305 volunteers at six Days of Service—building trails, restoring native habitat, & more

Planted

900 native trees & 3,800 native wildflowers with volunteers

Jump-started

50 high school careers at the Summer Environmental Education Academy for rising ninth graders

Thank you to all who make our work for



PHOTOS: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) JACOB PETRY, CONSERVANCY, NPS/DJ REISER, JACOB PETRY, MELANIE NESTERUK, NPS/DJ REISER

... providing services to enhance public use & enjoyment of the park.

Welcomed

62,095 visitors to Trail Mix stores for park information, snacks, & more

Connected

13,655 music-lovers with concerts in CVNP, including the Heritage Series, House Concert series, & Music in the Meadow

Educated

1,026 adult learners at Cuyahoga Valley Institute programs, including Lyceum lectures

Feasted

on fresh, local food with 646 foodies at Dinner in the Valley events

Provided

a quiet space to think for 142 meetings & retreats

Hosted

100 weddings in historic park spaces

Constructed

2.3 miles on the East Rim mountain biking trail (with 4.5 additional miles in the works), funded by Conservancy-secured grants

Celebrated

the National Park Service Centennial with nearly 15,000 visitors at special centennial events, including BioBlitz & Celebrate100!

Cuyahoga Valley National Park possible.

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SPOT?**

**The
Ledges?**



**Beaver
Marsh?**



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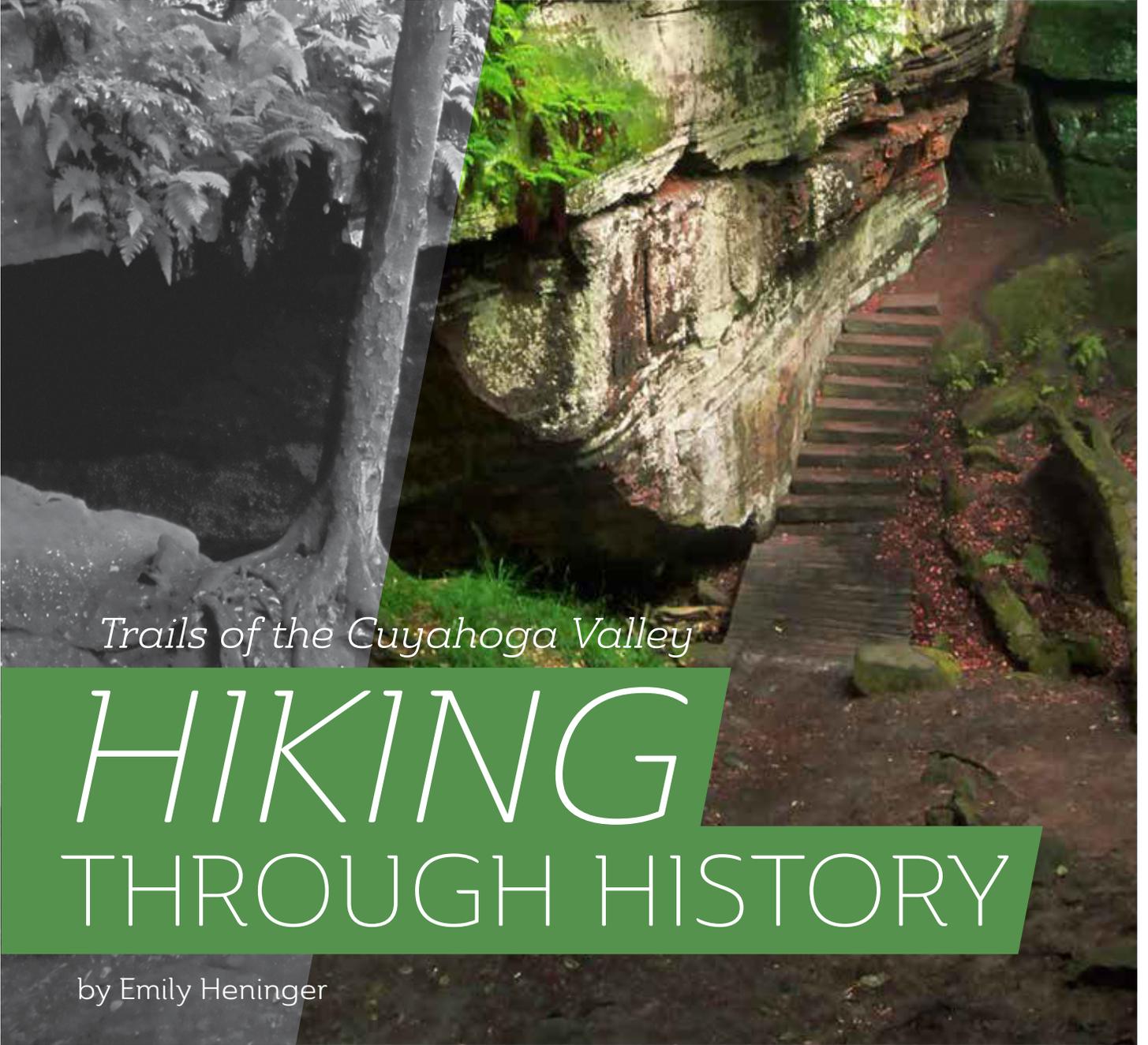
**Blue Hen
Falls?**



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PHOTOS: (TOP TO BOTTOM) NP/STIM FENNER, JEFFREY GIBSON, JEFFREY GIBSON



Trails of the Cuyahoga Valley

HIKING THROUGH HISTORY

by Emily Heninger

THE LEDGES TRAIL, PHOTO: TOM JONES

Crunch. Crunch. Swish. Crunch.

The sound of people walking on trails has echoed through the Cuyahoga Valley for thousands of years.

First, it was mammoths and ancient people on the hunt. Then, the footfalls of early American Indians and pioneers resounded. Today, visitors to the national park walk the same paths to get fit, explore nature, and see the valley from a new perspective.

From the by-ways of prehistoric animals, early American Indians, and settlers, the trails of the Cuyahoga Valley have evolved into top-notch recreational paths for hikers, bikers, runners, and more.



Early Trails

Centuries ago, trails were the roads and highways of their time. The traffic was slower, with travelers walking, riding, or paddling through the wilderness, but these paths were just as essential to the people who lived there as our concrete roads are to us today.

American Indians were the first humans to use trails through the Cuyahoga Valley—but not the first animals. According to historians Jean and Robert Kainsinger, “The Indians didn’t have to cut many of their own trails; they were tramped down years beforehand by the bison who traveled on high ground in single file.”

Having a trail on high ground was important: Snow didn’t drift and pile on a ridge as it did in valleys, making winter trekking easier. Plus, lower trails in river valleys were often prone to flooding or infested with mosquitoes. Although early inhabitants of the Cuyahoga Valley certainly used the river for travel, most major walking or riding routes stuck to higher ground.

PHOTO: NPS



Civilian Conservation Corps workers on snowy bridge, c.1930s

Following ridgelines above streams and rivers—and sometimes dipping down near water when necessary—the valley’s original inhabitants and travelers created a network of trails. While many of these lesser trails have disappeared, there are still places where you can travel where generations of early American Indians and settlers once walked.

Muskingum Trail

The Muskingum Trail was a north-south route stretching from Marietta in southern Ohio all the way up to Lake Erie, traversing the southern reach of the Cuyahoga Valley on the way. It’s named after the Muskingum River,

a tributary emptying into the Ohio River where the trail begins in the south.

While many nomadic groups and travelers used waterways to get north to Lake Erie, it was nonetheless important to have a land route as well. The Muskingum Trail provided that route, following waterways but staying along higher ground when possible.

In the Cuyahoga Valley, the trail led north from Akron through Botzum, following the western bank of the Cuyahoga close to what’s now Riverview Road. Near the modern Ira Trailhead, it swung by an Indian village on the dividing ridge of the valley, then traveled up the east side of the Furnace Run tributary. Once out of the valley, it met up with another trail, the Cuyahoga Trail, which led along the far western edge of the valley to the lake.

If you were traveling north through the valley on the same route today, you’d first pass near the heronry on Bath Road, where dozens of great blue herons now nest each year. Continuing north, you’d see the Conrad Botzum Farmstead, then swing by Hale Farm & Village before following the stream northwest.

As you approached Everett Road, you’d walk by Perkins Trail, then Everett Covered Bridge, Furnace Run Trail, and Riding Run Trail. Following the stream and dodging deep ravines, you’d continue north into Summit Metro Parks, coming out of the valley at Brecksville Road.

Bath, Ghent, and Richfield, all reported as former Indian villages, were easy stopping points for travelers. Smaller off-shoots of the main Muskingum Trail would have led you there for a quick rest or stopping point.

Mahoning Trail & Sagamore Path

The Mahoning Trail was one of the most well-traveled American Indian trails in the area. For the most part, the path stuck to the eastern edge of the Cuyahoga Valley. However, it stretched far beyond the valley to the east and west, and it played a key role leading early Indians and pioneers into the rugged wilderness of this area.

The full length of the trail connected Pittsburgh with Detroit. Indians traveled the route to reach a salt lick near Niles, Ohio, for the then-precious commodity. Later, early settlers used it to travel to the seat of government in Warren, Ohio. Explorers, fur trappers, traders, and soldiers also used the trail to travel between Fort Pitt in

Pittsburgh and Fort Detroit, stopping at trading posts along the way.

Fort Pitt in particular was a key destination. In *Ohio Indian Trails*, Frank Wilcox and William McGill describe Pittsburgh as a “point of departure for all ventures into the unknown Indian Country” for early settlers, as well as “a logical rallying place [for the Indians] on account of its position at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela [rivers].”

As it approached the Cuyahoga Valley from the west, the Mahoning Trail crossed the Cuyahoga River in Kent, then followed the line of the old Akron, Bedford & Cleveland Electric Line north on the eastern ridgeline of the park.

The trail passed east of the Ritchie Ledges and former Boston Ledges, leading north past Brandywine Falls toward Northfield. To walk it today, you’d follow Olde 8 Road, then turn on Dunham Road to cross Tinkers Creek, leading up and out of the valley.

Sagamore Path was a well-used branch of the Mahoning Trail leading through the upper reaches of today’s park boundary. At Dunham and Alexander roads, it turned off the main trail to the west, following the northern ridge of Sagamore Creek and today’s Sagamore Creek Loop Trail in Bedford Reservation. Eventually, it swung north, continuing on the west side of the Cuyahoga until it met the Lake Shore Trail on Lake Erie.

Sagamore Path became a major supply route for western outposts, with trading posts and provisions set up along the way. It wasn’t uncommon to see enormous pack trains with 90 horses bringing flour, bacon, and other supplies north to the lake, where they could be shipped to Sandusky and Detroit.

Portage Path

Although not strictly within the current national park boundaries, you can’t talk about historic trails in the Cuyahoga Valley without talking about the Portage Path.

With roots in the French word “to carry,” the Portage Path was used by Indians to carry canoes from the south-running Tuscarawas River, over the Ohio Divide in Akron, to the north-running section of the Cuyahoga (and vice versa). By making this short portage, you could travel all the way from Lake Erie to the Gulf of Mexico by water.

Although there were other places to cross the divide, the Portage Path to the Cuyahoga was the driest and shortest of these. The Cuyahoga River was also a relatively calm waterway, without big rapids or other major obstacles. As a result, the eight-mile path between the watersheds was used extensively from the first appearance of humans in Ohio.

Once described by the Akron Beacon Journal as “the superhighway of its day,” the Portage Path also marked

PHOTO: NPS/TED TOTTH



Horseback Riding in the Cuyahoga Valley

HISTORIC TRAIL ROUTES

SOURCE: 1985 CVNRA TRAIN PLAN



- 1 *Cuyahoga Trail*
- 2 *Chippewa Trail*
- 3 *Sagamore Path*
- 4 *Mahoning Trail*
- 5 *David Hudson Trail, c.1799*
- 6 *Columbia Road Trail*
- 7 *Lake Erie-Muskingum Trail*



To Portage Path
↓



Civilian Conservation Corps stone masons work at Virginia Kendall Park, c. 1930s

PHOTO: NPS

a significant boundary line between Indian and U.S. territory.

In 1785, the Treaty of Fort McIntosh marked the Portage Path as the westernmost boundary of the United States. As historian P.P. Cherry puts it, "To walk across this boundary meant leaving the United States and entering Indian Territory!" This dividing line would remain in place for 20 years.

Today, Portage Path and Manchester Roads in Akron follow the approximate route of the original trail toward the Cuyahoga Valley. In some places, signs and markers show where thousands of Indians once walked, canoes hoisted high on their shoulders.

David Hudson Trail

Eventually, as European settlers arrived in the area, they began creating their own trails instead of following ancient Indian routes. The David Hudson Trail is one of the major trail routes established by a settler.

In the spring of 1799, Deacon David Hudson traveled from Connecticut to find the land he had recently

purchased in the Western Reserve. He traveled by boat through Lake Ontario and Lake Erie, then up the Cuyahoga River until he hit shallow rapids. This area, where Brandywine Creek meets the Cuyahoga, is now known as "Hudson's Landing."

Traveling southeast, Hudson made his way through the dense woodlands across what is now Stanford Road, then up through ravines and wetlands to a higher ridgeline heading out of the valley—today's Hines Hill Road. He followed the higher ground east until he found the land he had purchased in present-day Hudson, putting up a "bark shanty" and a nine-acre field of wheat. Today, he is known as one of the founders of the city of Hudson.

Although he returned to Connecticut that winter, Hudson came back the following summer with his wife and nine children to settle in to their new home in the Western Reserve. According to historian Samuel A. Lane, "Hudson... was not only an extensive farmer but largely interested in many of the earlier mercantile and manufacturing enterprises of his township and village, and especially active in the promotion of its religious and educational interests."



PHOTO: NPS

L-R: Karl Robert Rohrer, Jr., Laura DeYoung on the Nth Degree, Ranger Bob Martin, Lynne Harvey Mount on Little Scopa

Walking the David Hudson Trail today, you would begin at the mouth of Brandywine Creek and head southeast. You'd first cross the Towpath Trail, then pass south of Brandywine Ski Resort. As you climbed up to higher ground, you'd traverse Stanford Road, then walk just north of the Stanford House and onto the Stanford Trail. Sticking to high, dry ground as much as possible, you'd navigate the restored areas of the Krejci Dump—now a system of rehabilitated wetlands. Finally, you'd run into Hines Hill Road, which you'd follow east into the city of Hudson.

Although Hudson undoubtedly used some smaller Indian paths when he first made his way east, he is credited for making the David Hudson Trail one of the first official roads into the Cuyahoga Valley. In this way, settlers began to make inroads into the rugged beauty of the valley.

Creation of a National Park

In the early 1900s, people began to see the valley (and its trails) less as a means for transportation and more as a place for recreation.

The creation of metropolitan park systems in Cleveland (1917) and Summit County (1921) spoke to public interest in preserving natural spaces and using trails for outdoor fun instead of solely travel. Hiking trails were cleared in Brecksville and Bedford reservations, giving visitors a new way to explore.

In 1929, a Cleveland businessman's estate donated 430 acres around the Ritchie Ledges to the state of

Ohio, creating Virginia Kendall Park. A few years later, the Civilian Conservation Corps arrived to design the landscape of Virginia Kendall Park, constructing trails, sledding hills, and park buildings like Happy Days Lodge, the Octagon Shelter, and the Kendall Lake shelter.

In the late 1950s, a naturalist named Merrill Gilfillan wrote an article for the Columbus Dispatch proposing a statewide trail leading from Cincinnati to Lake Erie. The Buckeye Trail Association (BTA) was soon born, and the first 20 miles of Ohio's Buckeye Trail were dedicated a year later in Hocking County.

The creation of the Buckeye Trail, although initially far from the Cuyahoga Valley, was an important part of the park's preservation and trail plan. BTA members advocated for routing the trail through the heart of the Cuyahoga Valley, instead of along busy highways and paved roads. Their advocacy helped lay the foundation for the park and, later, its trail plan.

In 1974, President Gerald Ford signed the bill creating Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area—later renamed Cuyahoga Valley National Park. This remarkable success was due largely to years of passionate support from the community, trail enthusiasts, and the leadership of Ohio congressmen John Seiberling and Ralph Regula.

A decade later, the park's first trail plan was created. The 1985 Trail Plan was the first guiding document to recreational trails in the Cuyahoga Valley and outlined much of the work that would follow.

In the early 1980s, the park wanted to make trails a priority, but they were also busy with land acquisition, cleaning up the toxic Krejci Dump, and more. So they turned to volunteers to begin the process of trail surveying.

Peg and Rob Bobel were part of the original Ad Hoc Trails Committee tasked with making recommendations for trail routes in the valley.

"At the time, we loved to go hiking and backpacking in other states," said Peg. "It was amazing to think of creating trails just 15 minutes from our house!"

In 1982-83, the committee split into groups for hiking, skiing, biking, and horseback riding trails. Each group would walk the valley in search of good routes, using existing trails as guides or connectors, and sometimes blazing new paths.

"We wanted the trails to go places people couldn't already reach," said Rob. The Oak Hill area was a great example—a trackless area of dense woodlands and small ponds, perfect for remote hiking or skiing. Peg and Rob remember spending countless hours there, finding good loops and routes for today's beloved trails.

After two years of surveying, the committee put together their final recommendations for the park, which were then formally compiled into the 1985 Trail Plan.

After the Trail Plan was published, the trails committee split into several volunteer nonprofit organizations, including the Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council (CVTC) and the Medina chapter of the Ohio Horseman's Council (MOHC). These groups were instrumental to surveying, flagging, and building many of the trails you still see in the park, including Oak Hill, Plateau, Tree Farm, and Stanford trails.

PHOTO: SUMMIT METRO PARKS VOLUNTEER ROB VAUGHN



Portage Path monument

1985 Trail Plan

After Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area was established in 1974, a plan for a trail system began to take shape with support from volunteers. The 1985 Trail Plan included proposals for the following trails, as well as many others:

➔ **Towpath Trail:** The 20-mile section of the Towpath Trail within the Cuyahoga Valley would follow the route of the historic Ohio & Erie Canal, becoming "the 'spine' of the recreation area, linking together 9 trailheads which also give access to most of the area's other loop and connector trails." Learn more about the history of the Towpath in the Spring-Summer 2016 edition of the Conservancy Magazine at forcvnp.org/annualreports.

➔ **Plateau Trail:** As one of the least traveled areas in the valley, the Oak Hill area provided ample opportunity for gorgeous, remote trails. According to the Trail Plan, "The potential exists here for a top-quality... cross-country ski course capitalizing on the rolling topography and scenic views of the plateau." In the coming years, the Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council played a vital role building trails in the area.

➔ **Brandywine Falls Trail:** Taking advantage of one of the most dramatic features in the valley, Brandywine Falls Trail (later Brandywine Gorge Trail) offered gorgeous views of the valley's geology. A loose plan for creating a boardwalk system and the trail leading away from the falls was outlined in the 1985 Trail Plan.

➔ **Wetmore Trail System:** A loose network of horseback-riding trails already existed in the Wetmore area, so it was a natural step to pull them into the park's formal trail system. The Trail Plan outlined a plan to simplify the existing trail network, "taking advantage of the various overlooks, and the complex terrain of ridges and ravines so characteristic of the Cuyahoga Valley."

Today, CVTC and MOHC volunteers continue the work of preserving, maintain, and enhancing trails in partnership with the National Park Service and the Conservancy.

“Without volunteers and the partnership of the park service—and without the Conservancy raising money for the trails—our trails wouldn’t be what they are,” said Mike Kosmyna, president of CVTC.

CVNP Trails Today & in the Future

Today, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) is home to over 100 miles of trails. Any day of the year, visitors can hike, cycle, ride, mountain bike, or ski the trails to enjoy the beauty of the Cuyahoga Valley.

In 2013, the park created a new, second-generation Trail Plan to envision the future of park trails. The new plan will have a 15- to 20-year lifespan and is now beginning to be realized.

Mountain Bike Trails

One of the goals of the park’s 2013 Trail Plan was to give visitors new ways to experience the park. A new off-

road bike trail provides just that for adventurous trail enthusiasts.

In November 2015, the first section of CVNP’s first mountain biking trail opened: the 2.3-mile East Rim Trail. Traversing woodlands and meadows on the eastern slope edge of the park, it’s one of only a handful of mountain bike trails in any U.S. national park.

The next section of the trail is currently under construction, with nearly seven more miles for bikers planned. In addition, a short expert section is in the works, which will take experienced mountain bikers through a rocky, bouldering section. The full East Rim Trail will eventually offer nearly 10 miles of top-tier mountain biking.

Funding for the East Rim Trail project came from grants the Conservancy secured from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Knight Foundation, as well as NPS centennial funds. Volunteer groups from the Cleveland Area Mountain Biking Association (CAMBA) have been instrumental to the construction and ongoing maintenance of the trail.

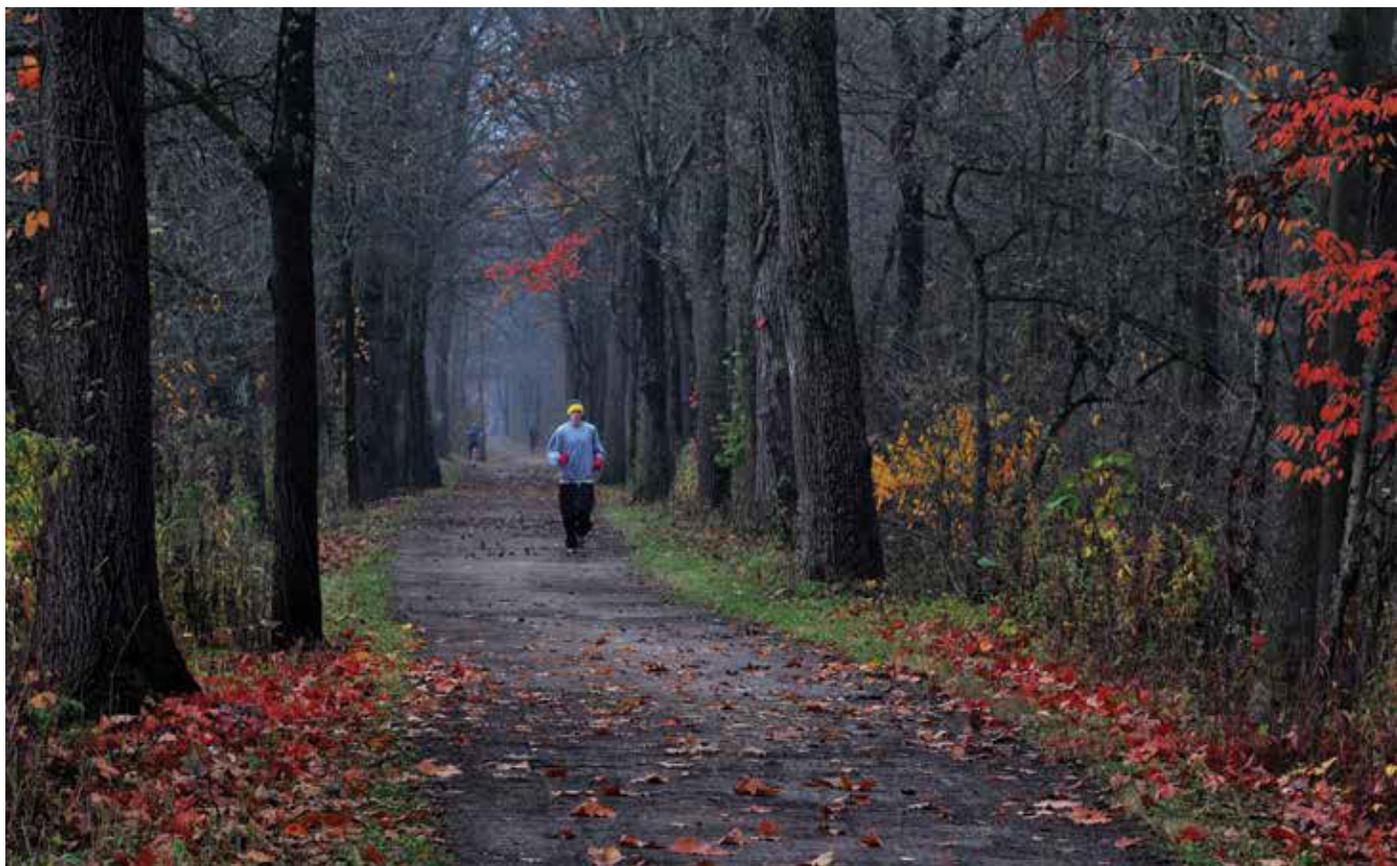


PHOTO: TOWPATH TRAIL, TOM JONES

Water Trail

The centerpiece of the Cuyahoga Valley has always been the Cuyahoga River. Centuries ago, it was the lifeline connecting Lake Erie with southern watersheds. Today, it's a reminder of the power of restoration and a symbol of hope.

In 2019, the 50th anniversary of the burning of the Cuyahoga River, the park will be highlighting the river's cleanup and restoration. A "water trail" is being planned, which will give visitors a chance to explore the Cuyahoga by kayak and canoe. Possible new amenities like boat put-ins and campsites would let visitors more easily access and experience the river.

Although there is still work to be done to clean up the Cuyahoga, the community narrative can be changed to one of celebration, hope, and success. Plans for the new water trail through CVNP will develop over the next several years.

Sustainable Trails

With over 100 miles of trails in CVNP, it takes a village to keep them open every day of the year. To make trail maintenance easier, sustainable trail design, construction, and restoration is a major focus of the 2013 Trail Plan.

Sustainable trails emphasize low-maintenance design. With narrower trails and better erosion and flooding control, sustainable trails require fewer repairs and don't have as big of a footprint. Ultimately, a sustainably designed trail will have a smaller impact on the land and its plants and animals.

In the coming years, the park will focus heavily on restoring existing trails to meet sustainable trail guidelines. By creating a system of sustainable trails, the park will have more resources to fix issues faster and build a world-class national park trail system.



We know generally how Cuyahoga Valley trails looked thousands of years ago. Can you imagine what they will be even 100 years in the future?

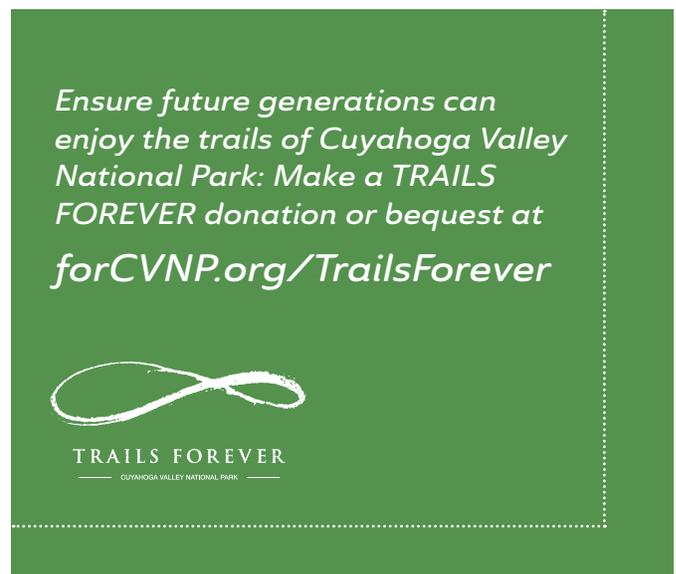
The Conservancy partners with the National Park Service and volunteers to sustain our national park's

trails through the TRAILS FOREVER initiative. One of the key aspects of the initiative is the TRAILS FOREVER Legacy Fund, an endowment fund dedicated solely to the ongoing preservation and maintenance of CVNP's trail system.

Each year, distributions from the Legacy Fund help repair damage from flooding, erosion, and overuse, so visitors can enjoy a world-class experience on CVNP trails. When the Conservancy reaches its \$10 million goal for the Fund, annual distributions of \$500,000 will protect the trails forever—for all people, for all time.

By preserving Cuyahoga Valley trails, the park is protecting the legacy of generations past—and giving future generations a chance to experience the wonder of the trails.

The next time you walk a trail in the valley, pause for a moment in a secluded spot. If you close your eyes, listen carefully, and let your mind wander back in time, you can still hear the ancient footsteps of the people who walked here before you. ■



Research Sources: A Green Shrouded Miracle (Ron Cockrell), Indians of the Cuyahoga Valley and Vicinity (Virginia Chase Bloetscher), Ohio Indian Trails (Frank N. Wilcox, William A McGill), David Hudson's Trail (Waldo L. Semon, Joseph D. Jesensky), The Portage Path (P. P. Cherry). Additional historic resource files and photos from CVNP Hawkins Archives.

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Stanford House, c.1800s

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE STANFORD HOUSE

PORTAL TO OHIO'S PASTORAL ROOTS

By Jennifer Wenger



Rena Hatch Fiedler likes to reminisce about her time spent as a child in the Stanford House, a Greek Revival structure just north of the village of Boston in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). Every memory is a good one—the farm animals she played with; the abundance of food, expertly prepared by her grandmother; and, perhaps most enjoyable of all, her grandfather, an affable man who joked with her relentlessly. She was welcomed into this world in the front, ground-floor bedroom in 1926, and 20 years later, she and her husband traded wedding vows in the living room, just across the hallway.

That's a lot of history for one building to lay claim to. For roughly 135 years, the Stanford House and its surrounding farmland played the role of strong, silent provider to the people who lived there, keeping them nourished, grounded, and—for the most part—safe from harm. After the National Park Service purchased the property in 1978, the Stanford House would receive new life, offering a peaceful retreat for travelers, students, and others who wished to develop a more personal bond with the region and its beginnings.



The story of the Stanford House can be pieced together with help from books on the early years of Summit County, oral histories, and historic structure summaries, among other resources. It begins with James Stanford, one of the original settlers to the Cuyahoga Valley. James, who was born in Ireland in 1775, was living in Trumbull County, Ohio, in 1805, the year he signed on with the Connecticut Land Company to help survey a portion of the Connecticut Western Reserve. The following year, he returned to the newly charted territory with his wife and growing family to establish their lifelong home.



Rena Hatch Fiedler

Two tales about James Stanford bear retelling. First, he's credited with giving Boston Township its name by resolving a minor power struggle between two fellow settlers. Whereas Alfred Wolcott liked the sound of Wolcottsburg and Samuel Ewart preferred Ewartsville, Stanford proposed the name of Boston, giving homage to the town in Massachusetts that was so pivotal to America's roots. (Some historians, after discovering that the Irish township in which James was born was also named Boston, wonder if he might have been secretly honoring his own roots as well.)

The second tale has to do with his sheer luck. Originally, the Stanford property had been located on a swath of high ground in the northeast part of the township, while Alfred Wolcott's property was located in the valley, on the east side of the Cuyahoga River. When Wolcott's new bride told her husband that she feared the vapors given off by a nearby swamp were unhealthy and she wished to move, Wolcott asked Stanford to swap properties, and he agreed.

Stanford's new property proved wonderfully fertile for growing wheat, hay, and other crops, and, as a bonus, it possessed a natural spring. Furthermore, James had no way of knowing then that, in two decades, the Ohio and Erie Canal would be constructed alongside the river, connecting Boston Township to markets in Cleveland,



George and Catherine Stanford

Akron, and points beyond. His neighborly gesture ensured that the Stanfords would become one of the more prosperous families in the region.

James Stanford died at the age of 52 in 1827, the same year in which the first section of the canal opened, and he willed the farm to his eldest son, George. Sixteen years later, in roughly 1843, George would build the stately

RESTORING HISTORY

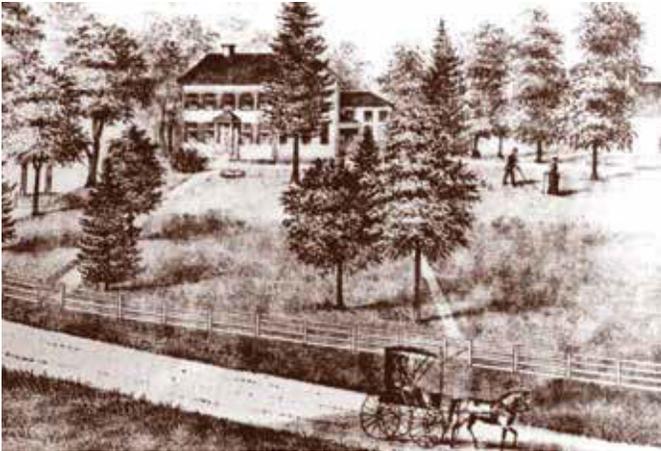
In 2011, the Conservancy led a campaign to restore the Stanford House in keeping with its historic roots. The project funded structural rehabilitation, new furnishings and lighting, fire safety features, and a renovated kitchen. All told, the Conservancy raised \$192,500 from 68 generous donors to ensure future generations could experience the history of the Stanford House in their national park.

Today, the Conservancy operates the Stanford House as a rental and educational facility. The historic home and its location along the Towpath and Stanford trails offer a unique "home base" for groups hoping to make an excursion in the national park. Youth groups, photo clubs, school children, or other community groups can rent the entire house year-round.

Visit forcvnp.org/lodging for more information.



PHOTO: NPS/TED TOTTH



Historic illustration of Stanford House

home on Stanford Road. Over time, he would add several outbuildings, including a barn, smokehouse, springhouse, and granary.

George and his wife Catherine had eight children, though sadly, only one—George Carter (George C.)—outlived his parents. According to Rebecca Jones Macko, a ranger and cultural resources expert in CVNP's Division of Interpretation, Education and Visitor Services, one son died near the end of the Civil War in Andersonville Prison, Georgia. As for the others, no one knows the causes, although it's conceivable that disease brought on by the canal, a veritable open sewer flowing past the family's property, could have played a role.

Born in 1839, George C. Stanford is one of the best known of the early Stanfords, thanks to the diary he kept for most of his adult years. George C.'s day-to-day entries offer a glimpse into the life of a farmer-businessman at a time when he and his fellow Bostonians were transitioning from horses and canal boats to the trains that would begin rumbling through the area in 1880. He dabbled in a little bit of everything—from lumber to dairy to hay and corn, to apple cider, and even lightning rods.

George C. was a "less is more" type of journal writer, describing actions over feelings and sometimes leaving out the most important parts.

"At some point, (George) loses a hand to a hay knife in chopping silage for his cattle," says Jones Macko. "Loses his hand. He continues to keep the diary, but he never mentions losing the hand."

At age 30, George C. married Lida Wetmore, and together they had three children: Ellen, Perkins, and Clayton. Although Perkins and Clayton would inherit other property, Ellen was the heir of the Stanford House and part of its acreage. (Clayton and his family moved into the granary, which had been converted into a house and pulled—by horses—up the hill next door.) After her father died in 1921, Ellen decided to give the house and land to Earnest Dickinson, a farmer who lived on Stanford Road and whose grandfather was Lida's brother. Ellen told Dickinson that the property could be his as long as he and his wife Mary would allow Lida and Ellen to live there and be cared for, and they dutifully complied.

Earnest and Mary Dickinson were Rena Fiedler's grandparents on her mother's side. In 1954, they sold the property to Roy H. Clark, who sold it to the National Park Service in 1978. From the late 1980s until 2008, the Stanford House was operated as a youth hostel, providing low-cost accommodations to area visitors. After receiving a \$300,000 facelift, funded by Conservancy donors and the National Park Service, the Stanford House was reopened in 2011 and is now available for rental by environmental education classes as well as for family reunions, business retreats, and other uses.

Even now, the stories live on.

"To step into the Stanford House is to step back in history," says Jones Macko. "Yes, the furniture is a little more modern and there's a modern feel to it. And yet walking through, you can almost hear the echoes of the farm that was there in the past."

She adds, "George C. lived through tumultuous times. And yet, you can't see that looking at the house. The house still stands. Things will last long beyond us. Listen to the stories." ■

For more information about visiting or renting the Stanford House for yourself or a group, visit forCVNP.org/lodging



PHOTOS: @SUE SIMENC

BIOBLITZ 2016

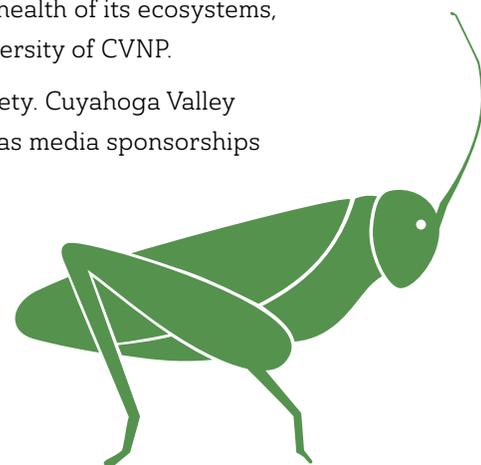
RESULTS: Cuyahoga Valley ranks second for number of species counted across the country!

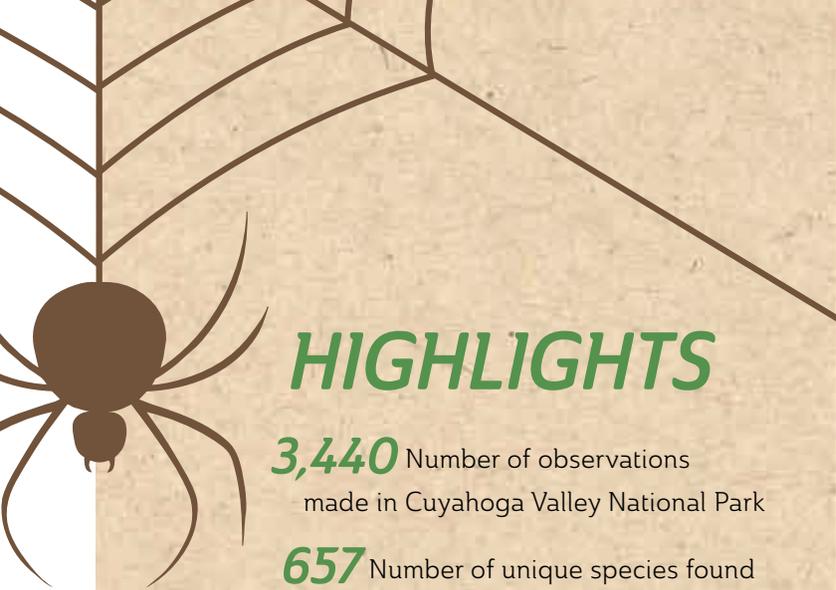
In May 2016, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) hosted the National Parks BioBlitz, a 24-hour event where scientists and volunteers found and identified as many species as possible. This signature NPS Centennial event took place in 126 national parks around the country.

CVNP was the “showcase park” for the NPS Midwest region. Local scientists and volunteers recorded thousands of observations and the second-most number of unique species in any participating national park.

From birds to bats, from fish to fungi, citizen scientists helped create a comprehensive inventory of life in the Cuyahoga Valley. With this information, the park can better track the health of its ecosystems, protect uncommon species, and connect people with the beauty and biodiversity of CVNP.

The National Parks BioBlitz was co-hosted by the National Geographic Society. Cuyahoga Valley National Park received generous local support from EnviroScience, as well as media sponsorships from Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com and WKSU. ■





HIGHLIGHTS

3,440 Number of observations made in Cuyahoga Valley National Park

657 Number of unique species found in Cuyahoga Valley National Park—the second most among all participating national parks

RITCHIE LEDGES Location where a rare species of lichen was found. Because lichens are sensitive to air pollution, a healthy population is a sign of improved air quality.

66 Number of unique bird species found in CVNP, including the less-common black-billed cuckoo.

BLACK BULLHEAD CATFISH

Uncommon fish species found in Indigo Lake. Fish inventories used electric shocks to quickly find fish without harming them.

BIG BROWN BAT

Species of bat doing better than others in the face of white-nose syndrome, a disease that is devastating bat populations.

105 big brown bats were found in CVNP.

EYE SHINE How citizen scientists found **24** species of spiders in CVNP—with flashlights in the dark.

39,950 Number of observations found in national parks nationwide

5,477 Total number of unique species found nationwide





Thank You

Since 2004, Cascade Auto Group has donated \$83,000 to the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park – funding experiences for youth to experience our national park, and the preservation of the park's 106+ miles of trails.

CONSERVANCY
for CUYAHOVA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK



CASCADE
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PHOTO: JERRY JELINEK

REMEMBERING STANLEY & HOPE ADELSTEIN

BY DEB YANDALA, CONSERVANCY CEO

Stanley Adelstein first learned to love nature when he discovered the parks in Washington state while serving there during World War II. For the rest of his life, he and his wife Hope understood that appreciating nature is one thing; working to protect it for future generations is what's really needed.

Stanley and Hope were among the early advocates for protecting the Cuyahoga Valley. I first met them when they stepped in to support our fledgling Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC) in the mid-90s. I'll never forget Hope's pleasure in visiting with the children and observing classes. She and Stanley were passionate about environmental education and inspiring future generations to love nature and take action to protect it.

Every year in their honor, we offer the Stanley and Hope Adelstein award to a school and teacher who has followed up their week at the CVEEC with innovative classroom projects related to the environment.

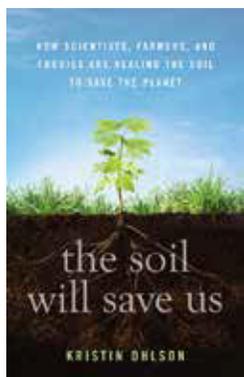
The Adelsteins made a lasting impact on our education program by remembering us in their wills. They wanted to leave a legacy that would ensure our programs would remain funded, even after their death. Stanley and Hope believed strongly in estate planning and even hosted a dinner for many of our supporters to launch our planned giving program. Thanks to their encouragement in establishing the Legacy Society, the Conservancy's work—including environmental education and Cuyahoga Valley National Park trails—will benefit from many pledged gifts.

Stanley and Hope were two of the most delightful people I've had the pleasure of knowing. Stanley regularly sent me articles he thought would be of interest. Hope had a kind, gentle heart alongside a wonderfully feisty spirit, and she loved hearing stories about the children we serve. Because the Adelsteins cared about the future of our planet and its people, the Cuyahoga Valley will echo for years to come with the voices of children. ■

Good Reads for Nature-Lovers

Bookworms and nature enthusiasts unite! We've put together a reading list for you—perfect for when the weather turns cooler and you're drawn to cozy fires and hot chocolate after winter hikes in CVNP.

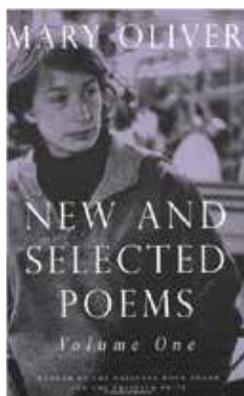
Get in touch with the natural world with a few of these nature-inspired reads.



The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers, and Foodies Are Healing the Soil to Save the Planet
 Kristin Ohlson
 Rodale Books, 256 pages, \$23.99

Former Clevelander Kristin Ohlson knows a thing or two about dirt. In this book, she

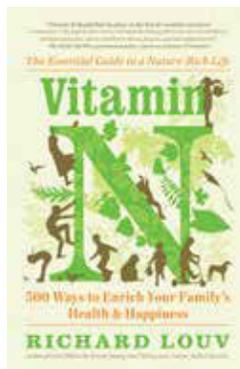
writes about an idea to reverse global warming by turning atmospheric carbon into beneficial soil carbon. Ohlson makes a compelling case for the healing of the planet with exceptional literary skill.



New and Selected Poems: Volume One
 Mary Oliver
 Beacon Press, 272 pages, \$18.00

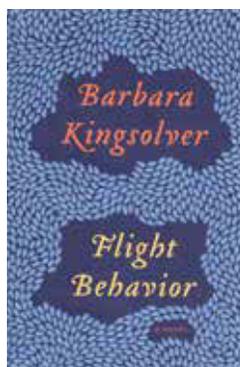
A native of Maple Heights, Ohio, poet Mary Oliver grew up exploring the landscapes of

northeast Ohio. Her collection of poems captures the magic and wonder of the natural world in a way that will leave you breathless. Our favorites: "Wild Geese" and "The Summer Day."



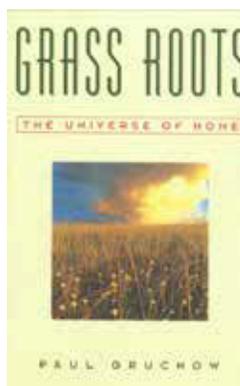
Vitamin N: The Essential Guide to a Nature-Rich Life
 Richard Louv
 Algonquin Books, 304 pages, \$15.95

An inspiring prescription for "Vitamin N" (for nature), Richard Louv's new book offers real-world advice for adding more nature to your life. It includes 500 outdoor activities for kids and adults—like picking a "sit spot" or creating a long-term family photo scavenger hunt—as well as essays and helpful websites.



Flight Behavior: A Novel
 Barbara Kingsolver
 HarperCollins, 448 pages, \$28.99

In Barbara Kingsolver's latest novel, the discovery of an unexpected and miraculous congregation of monarch butterflies leads to a national sensation and biological mystery. Kingsolver's writing is top-notch, as always—get ready to explore the intersection of science, religion, nature, and wonder.



Grass Roots: The Universe of Home
 Paul Gruchow
 Milkweed Editions, 250 pages, \$13.95

Sink deep into Paul Gruchow's prose with Grass Roots, an exceptional and sometimes bittersweet book about rural America from a "contemporary Thoreau." Gruchow writes about finding his own roots and discovering "untamed places" in the heartland.

"I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT NATIONAL PARKS AND CUYAHOGA VALLEY NATIONAL PARK IS MY NATIONAL PARK."

After moving to Ohio in 1998, I fell in love with this place. My family and I love hiking the trails and visiting Brandywine Falls. In the summer, we're regulars at Music in the Meadow concerts. I've been a member of the Conservancy since 2010, and I'm so grateful to be a part of such a strong community of park supporters.

Now, I've found a way to put my lifelong love for CVNP to work after I'm gone: I've included the Conservancy in my will. I want to instill a love of nature in my children. When they think of me, I want them to think of national parks and CVNP.

Making a bequest is an easy thing to do. This is just one more way I can make an impact for future generations. I hope you'll consider joining me in making a lasting impact in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

—Gwen Tomasko,
Legacy Society member

For more information about including the Conservancy in your will, call John Debo, Chief Development Officer, at 330-657-2909 ext. 122, or visit forCVNP.org/bequests





PHOTO: THE LEDGES, JEFF PICOLIT

Thank you to our Conservancy Donors for 2016

The Conservancy gratefully acknowledges the generous individuals, organizations, corporations, and foundations who made gifts during the Conservancy's **Fiscal Year 2016 (9/1/2015–8/31/2016)**.

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We thank the following individuals who have remembered the Conservancy through a bequest or other planned gift:

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Gorgeous fall color brings a dramatic show to the Cuyahoga Valley.

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SERVED 10,392 youth & adults at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center

WELCOMED 1,305 park volunteers at six days of service

PLANTED 900 native trees and **3,800** native wildflowers with volunteers

CONNECTED 13,655 music-lovers with concerts in CVNP

BUILT 2.3 miles on the East Rim mountain biking trail

... and so much more (see page 2).

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