

# CONSERVANCY

SUMMER 2020, VOLUME 5: ISSUE 2

THE PEOPLE ISSUE

read the  
story on  
page 14

## backyard backpacking

HOW A LOCAL BOY SCOUT TROOP  
FINDS ADVENTURE IN CVNP







THE J. M. SMUCKER COMPANY



## Thriving Together with our Communities Since 1897



**At The J.M. Smucker Company, we recognize that being a successful business and a responsible one are not mutually exclusive.**

In the over 120 years we've been in business we've focused on producing the highest quality products for our consumers, and now our products can be found in more than 90 percent of U.S. homes. Our success has positioned us to positively impact the communities in which we live—like our home in Northeast Ohio—and the planet we all share.

To help us ensure we are supporting each of our stakeholders, we focus our “Thriving Together” philosophy across four key areas:

*Sourcing Responsibly*  
*Supporting Employees*  
*Strengthening Communities*  
*Positively Impacting the Environment*

In this same spirit, we're proud to partner with the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park and support the important work they do every day to preserve our area's natural beauty.

After all, we truly believe the best way to help our communities is to ensure that we're all Thriving Together.





## MAGAZINE SUMMER 2020, VOLUME 5: ISSUE 2

# 4

### LETTER FROM THE CEO & SUPERINTENDENT

# 6

### PRELUDE TO A NATIONAL PARK

Sidelights in history from  
an eyewitness account

# 10

### UNSUNG HERO: JANET HUTCHISON

Janet Hutchison is  
remembered as an activist  
for people, but also our  
cherished national park

# 12

### HAPPY TRAILS TO A PARK & CONSERVANCY LEGACY

Celebrating John P. Debo's  
unwavering commitment and  
lifelong dedication to CVNP

# 13

### HELLO TO OUR NEW DEVELOPMENT TEAM

A warm welcome to Sheryl  
Hoffman and Dan Blakemore

# 14

### BACKYARD BACKPACKING

How a local Boy Scout troop  
finds adventure in CVNP

# 17

### SOCIAL CREATURES



COVER PHOTO CREDIT:  
ZAINA SALEM





## OUR MISSION

The Conservancy enriches people's lives and enhances our region by inspiring use, preservation and support of Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

### CONSERVANCY MAGAZINE

Summer 2020, Volume 5: Issue 2

### CONTACT US

1403 W. Hines Hill Road  
Peninsula, Ohio, 44264  
330-657-2909

[forCVNP.org](http://forCVNP.org)

### EDITOR

Zaina Salem

### DESIGN

Agnes Studio



## A LETTER FROM THE CONSERVANCY CEO

These have not been easy months for our world, our country, our communities and our organization. We are sad for human suffering from illness, economic challenge and systemic racism. Our organization has been forced to say good-bye to talented and dedicated employees due to the suspension of our education, event, and retail activities. While our stores are now open and some events are occurring, our income is considerably reduced, like many other organizations and businesses.

As we experience these difficult times, I find it important to look for signs of hope.

Our national park is one of the few that was not forced to close, and we are seeing an interest in the park as never before. It has created crowding and there have been issues around full parking lots, yet we also hear that people are discovering new parts of the park where they haven't been before. There are also many first-time visitors, experiencing and falling in love with our park.

People are discovering that being outdoors in nature is the best antidote in difficult times. Physical and mental health are enhanced by being outside in nature. This gives me hope that the work of the Conservancy will be more important than ever in the future, as we pursue projects to restore trails and maintain park assets.

Our organization has had an active board committee and staff committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for several years. We have been educating ourselves about inequity and injustice, especially as it relates to public lands and the environment. We have worked on our hiring practices, vendor selection, marketing, and programming, to strive to be more diverse as an organization. There is hope that systems can change, that our park, formed in part in response to civil unrest 46 years ago, will better embrace its potential value as public land that welcomes and engages a diversity of people.

This issue celebrates the past in thanking our beloved colleague John Debo and park history as told by Steve Coles, who remains a dear friend. It also looks to the future as the Conservancy renews its focus on conserving land and connecting people with the park and public lands.

We especially cannot achieve our mission these days without your support. Thank you for making the work we do possible.

**Deb Yandala** CONSERVANCY CEO



---

#### CONSERVANCY for CVNP

**Deb Yandala***Chief Executive Officer***Janice Matteucci***Chief Operating Officer***Sheryl L. Hoffman***Chief Development Officer***Dan Blakemore, CFRE***Director of Development***BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dione Alexander, *Board Chair*  
Phillip LiBassi, *Board Vice-Chair*  
Joe Blanda  
Ron Bower  
Christopher Buehler  
Debby Capela  
Deborah Cook  
Matthew Heinle  
Emily Holiday  
Jane Howington  
Montrella Jackson  
Roger Jones  
Sue Klein  
Gary M. Lobaza  
Shawn Lyden  
Stephen Metzler  
Elizabeth Piatt  
Brett W. Reynolds  
Curt Reynolds  
Joan Schaefer  
Lisa Ramirez Shah  
Irving Sugerman  
Karyn Sullivan  
Rick Taylor  
Teleangé Thomas

---

#### CORPORATE FRIENDS



THE J. M. SMUCKER COMPANY



## A LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I truly wish that you, your family, and your loved ones are well. Amid the COVID-19 pandemic and the national Black Lives Matter movement, I hope you have found Cuyahoga Valley National Park to be an inviting place for all to experience equally.

We are seeing a record-breaking number of visitors who are turning to nature and open space for solace, play and exercise during these challenging times. The National Park Service is committed to the health, safety, and well-being of all visitors to the park, and have implemented procedures to ensure safe practices on the trails and in our reopened park facilities. We are happy to welcome people from near and far to enjoy this incredible gem.

As I reflect on the current state of the world and the many unknowns of the future, I know two things to be true: Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a vital asset we must protect for all to enjoy today and forever, and our partnership with the Conservancy is crucial to preserving CVNP and to ensuring you have meaningful park experiences.

I look forward to continuing our strong relationship with the Conservancy and serving our community when it needs our national park the most.

**Craig Kenkel** NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SUPERINTENDENT

## Update:

### CONSERVATION OF THE FORMER BRANDYWINE GOLF COURSE:

While the pandemic has slowed down our work to some extent, we are still on track to purchase the former Brandywine Golf Course property, located on Akron-Peninsula Rd, thanks to the help of several donors, including one who is making a substantial loan to the Conservancy. A steering committee for advising on the future use of the property has been formed, consisting of board members, Village of Peninsula residents, and community leaders, and chaired by Board Vice-Chair and architect Phil LiBassi.



PRELUDE  
TO A

# National Park

*Sidelights in history from  
an eyewitness account*



WRITTEN BY & PHOTO BY Zaina Salem

## It is a very rare thing to be involved with creating a national park. But that's how Steven Coles, fresh out of college, began his career.

**C**oles was a lifelong resident of Ohio until he moved to Colorado in 2003. He grew up in the Cleveland area and had some fond memories of enjoying nature with his parents, notably the Cuyahoga Valley. After graduating from the Ohio State University with a degree in Natural Resources Administration in 1972, he landed an internship with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in Columbus. Soon after, a full-time position became available and he almost immediately began working on the Cuyahoga Valley project.

It was here that he became an eyewitness to the series of events leading up to what we know Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) to be today. In his own words, Coles recounts these memories of his past, calling them “little sidelights in history.”

### **PRESERVING THE PAST**

In 1971, the first bill that attempted to make Cuyahoga Valley a federal park was introduced in Congress. When the bill did not pass, it was realized that a more concentrated local effort would be required. Being too large of an undertaking for either of the two local metropolitan park districts, a third party would need to get involved and make it a three-way partner project.

By 1972, efforts had begun to acquire land to protect the Valley from the change that was happening around it—for instance, rapid development spurred by creation of nearby interstate highways. At the time, the Department of Natural Resources was administering the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, making it available to local jurisdictions and the state to create or improve park land. ODNR partnered with the park districts and began using this fund to identify and acquire land in the Valley, particularly those parcels that were most threatened with development.

“My involvement started with looking at those parcels and helping the Department of Natural Resources create a plan for what was needed in order to purchase the ones that it acquired. Anything that was threatened with development was high on the list for purchase and acquisition by the park districts in the state of Ohio.”

Coles said at the time, there was only a vague notion about what recreational opportunities might someday be there. “The whole project was viewed more as an opportunity to prevent the change from happening within the Valley,” Coles said. “So, the project really took off so as to preserve the view of the past as much as it could, and making sure that it didn’t change in its appearance.”

In his role at the ODNR, Coles had the opportunity to travel to the Valley and try to identify those parcels that were on the list of those to be acquired by the state.

One of these opportunities came when a large subdivision was planned for almost all of the wooded area between Akron Peninsula Road and Blossom Music Center, where hundreds of homes would have been built. Coles was tasked with bringing a check for a couple million dollars up to the Cuyahoga Valley for a local press conference to show there was an effort underway to protect and preserve the area.

“So rather than mailing this check, I was asked to drive it up and deliver it to a person who was going to be helping with the press conference. It was a visible effort to let the community know that there was something going on to try to preserve and protect the Valley,” Coles said.

Another one of these efforts to preserve the Valley came when the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company had begun to try to run a high voltage transmission line down through part of the northern end of the Valley to connect some of its substations. According to Coles, the company actually got as far as filing condemnation court cases against local landowners in The Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas and installing large towers near the Canal Visitor Center. There was much opposition to it locally. The cities of Brecksville and Independence had both decided they didn’t want that line in their part of the community and in the Valley, and soon entered into one of the court cases as a friend of the court. The ODNR also decided to help prevent that from happening and joined as a friend of the court.



CONSERVANCY FOR CVNP

“I ended up being assigned the task of coming to Cleveland and testifying as to the existence of the park project by presenting, for example, the maps that we’d been creating of the parcels,” Coles said.

The court eventually ruled that The Illuminating Company could not continue construction of this line and ordered the removal of the large transmission towers. “So, the Valley no longer looks like it would have with those big towers there,” Coles said.

Years later, Coles said he read an article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer about the judge who presided over that initial court case. Judge Ralph Locher, who ultimately had gone on to become a member of the state Supreme Court, said that the case was the most memorable one in his career because it did so much good for the public.

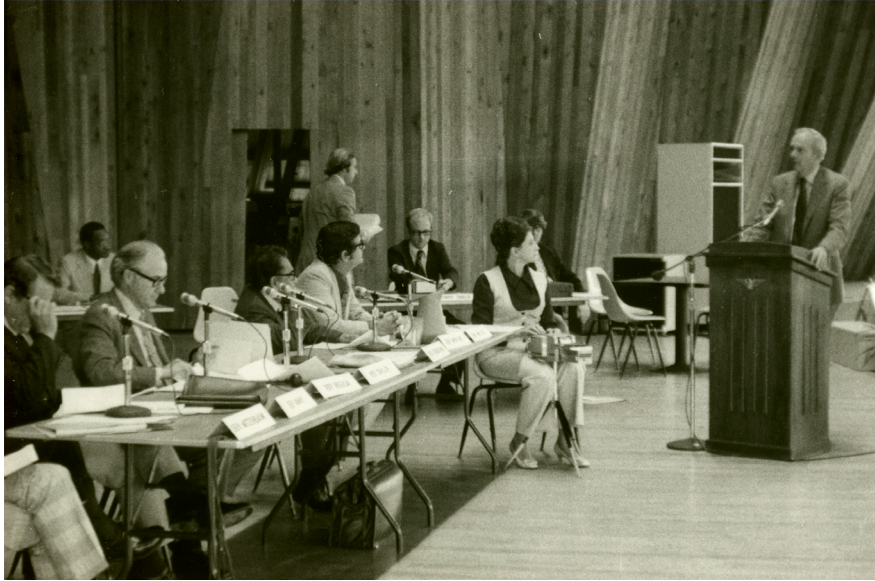
GROWING PAINS

As his career progressed, Coles’s involvement with the park changed from advocacy to a role in helping the relationship between the park and the surrounding communities. Coles started working for the Cleveland Metroparks in 1975, a year after the Cuyahoga Valley became the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (CVNRA). In his new role as Land and Grants Coordinator, his responsibility was to manage land acquisition activities for the Metroparks.

“During that time, I had the opportunity to watch the park grow from nearly nothing,” Coles said.

There were incidents from Coles’s memory that seem to have little significance in retrospect, but nonetheless speak to how far the park has come. Coles calls them “growing pains.”

One day in 1975, Coles received a phone call from William “Bill” Birdsell, the first superintendent



of the park. At the time, the state had acquired a home across the road from Happy Days Shelter—what we now know to be Happy Days Lodge—that it had used as an office for the ODNR land acquisition program. The state turned the office over to the National Park Service (NPS), which then became the first headquarters for the Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area.

“Bill Birdsell moved in there and he had nothing that would show that that was a federal park or had anything federal associated with it,” Coles said. “I got a phone call one day and it was Bill who said that he had heard the Metroparks had a sign shop and wondered if there was any chance that our shop could help create something that would indicate that it was at least a small federal presence in the Valley. The federal signs at that time were all coming from Harpers Ferry in West Virginia, where the exhibit lab and the sign shop for the federal government was. Bill told me it would take six months to get a Park Service arrowhead sign from Harpers Ferry.”

So Birdsell faxed Coles a very small, very disproportionately-sized copy of the NPS arrowhead symbol. Coles took to the sign shop and asked if they could blow it up, transfer it onto wood and make it look like the National Park Service arrowhead sign so it could be put on the door of the building.

“They did their best and created a one-of-a-kind sign for the federal park that doesn’t look exactly like any other sign in the whole federal system,” Coles said. “And Bill put that on his door.”

BRINGING A NATIONAL PARK TO LIFE: THROUGH THE YEARS

1940s

The first citizens groups start speaking up about preserving the Cuyahoga Valley against industrial development

1971

First attempt in Congress by John F. Seiberling to pass National Park legislation

1972

Cuyahoga Valley Association (CVA) leads its first bus tour through the Valley—these tours continue for several more years due to their popularity

1974

CVA establishes itself as the Cuyahoga Valley Park Federation (CVPF)  
Seiberling calls for increased local support as he tries to push the CVNP bill through Congress for the second time  
Cuyahoga Valley becomes Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (CVNRA)

1982

Earthlore Environmental Education Center opens in CVNRA



*“It took a huge amount of people. I was fortunate to get to know them, to be involved and to share that effort and story with a lot of those folks.”*

— STEVEN COLES



## CONSERVANCY TIES

In the project's early days, a group of supporters of the Valley formed the Cuyahoga Valley Association (CVA). Members of the group participated in an active campaign to protect the Valley as a park and when Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area was formed in 1974, they became the first friends group.

Around 1988, Coles met a board member from CVA who invited him to join the Association. Coles served as a board member for a few years before becoming the vice president, and then eventually the president.

“I had the opportunity to work with many influential people that were connected to the board and to the fundraising effort of the community,” Coles said.

In 1994, Coles had the opportunity to meet Mort November, the donor who provided funds to begin the construction and operation of the November Lodge at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC). Coles was asked if he could provide supervision for the project.

So, Coles chaired a committee of NPS employees and others that developed a scope of services that they thought should be provided by a building at the CVEEC. In 1999, November Lodge opened its doors and celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

“I felt very, very fortunate in being able to work with a lot of very talented people whose efforts were timely and needed,” Coles said. “And none of this would have ever happened if they hadn’t been involved. I was lucky enough to be able to be along on that ride, and sometimes it produced something that had great significance. I think that November Lodge was one of those.”

## CVNP'S LEGACY

As Coles reflects on his career, he feels very fortunate to be involved in the creation of a new national park.

“It took a huge amount of effort by a lot of people. I was fortunate to get to know them, to be involved and to share that effort and story with a lot of those folks,” Coles said. “And that’s one of the things I carry with me—the recollection of doing that.”

Today, Cuyahoga Valley National Park welcomes thousands of people from all over the world to experience its unique beauty. At the beginning, it was a preservation project without a clear idea about what recreational opportunities might be there someday. Now, visitors can hike, bike, ride a train, and kayak in Cuyahoga Valley, as well as enjoy a multitude of activities offered by park partners.

Just like those at the inception, Conservancy members, donors, and community supporters are the driving force behind Cuyahoga Valley National Park's success and future.

“Cuyahoga Valley National Park is an expression of the values of the people of the region,” Coles said. “Regardless of whether there was controversy over how it was put together, the people of the region wanted that place to be there in such a way that it could remind them of where they’d come from, what our past was like, and what our future will be.”

**TOP LEFT** Hearings about establishing the Cuyahoga Valley area as a national park were held at the Blossom Music Center in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

**BOTTOM RIGHT** Representative John F. Seiberling speaking at a hearing about establishing the Cuyahoga Valley area as a national park.

Photos courtesy of the John F. Seiberling Collection at the Akron-Summit County Public Library.

1993

Towpath Trail opens

1994

Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC) established; Earthlore closes

2000

CVNRA gets redesignated Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP)

2002

CVEEC and the Cuyahoga Valley Association merge to form the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association—the 501(c)(3) nonprofit now known as the Conservancy for CVNP!

2020

CVNP is still going strong, with over 2.2 million visitors each year. CVNP is one of the top 15 most visited national parks in the U.S.!



# UNSUNG HERO *Janet Hutchison*

WRITTEN BY  
Sam Harsh

FEATURE STORY

**I**n a time when women were fighting for their voices to be heard, it would have been easy for Janet Hutchison to sit back and let others do the talking—but she didn't.

In Northeast Ohio history, Hutchison stands out as someone who was an activist not just for people, but also for Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

Hutchison was born in Buffalo, New York in 1918 and was raised near Boston, Massachusetts. She graduated from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio in 1938.

Once World War II began in the early 1940s, Hutchison traveled overseas to serve her country. She worked in Burma and the European Theater as the Recreation Coordinator for the Red Cross, where she operated two recreation centers for soldiers. After the war, she spent a couple of years working for the Red Cross in Austria before moving back to the United States, where she settled down in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Hutchison's return to the United States did not deter her from continuing to help empower others. She quickly became involved in the Cuyahoga County chapter of the League of Women Voters. The League is a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing participation in

the democratic process, educating communities about public policy issues, and supporting grassroots movements.

One of these grassroots movements happened to be the push to make Cuyahoga Valley a national park site, which really started picking up traction in the late 1960s and early 70s. Hutchison soon became one of Cuyahoga Valley's

most important advocates—she worked with volunteers, led bus tours through the Valley, and gave speeches in support of the park throughout Northeast Ohio. In one of

the hallmark moments of Cuyahoga Valley's history, Hutchison spoke at the Congressional hearings in Washington D.C. in 1974 to advocate for the creation of the park.

Even though Cuyahoga Valley was designated a National Recreation Area that year, Hutchison's work didn't stop there. She continued to work tirelessly to compile legislative records of the park that included records of the Congressional hearings. Hutchison also created maps of the Valley that were extremely detailed, showing trail access, potential picnic areas and soil types of different regions of the park. In a time before computers were common, this project was a huge achievement! Throughout her lifetime, Hutchison would go on to dedicate 22,150 volunteer hours to Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

"Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a gift of enormous significance to future generations," Hutchison said when she received the Presidential Award for her volunteer service in 2008. "It has been a joy for me to volunteer at the Park for the past 40 years."

Hutchison passed away in 2014 in Oberlin, Ohio. Throughout her life, Janet Hutchison not only defended her own passions and ideals, but inspired others to do the same.



*"Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a gift of enormous significance to future generations... It has been a joy to volunteer at the Park for the past 40 years."*

— JANET HUTCHISON



# WRITE THE NATIONAL PARK INTO YOUR LIFE STORY

*Do good forever by making a bequest to the Conservancy to protect and preserve Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Including the Conservancy in your estate plans ensures that future generations can enjoy the park you love.*

For more information about Legacy Giving, or to learn about other ways to give to CVNP, contact Development Director Dan Blakemore at 330-657-2909 ext. 133 or [dblakemore@forcvnp.org](mailto:dblakemore@forcvnp.org)



HAPPY TRAILS TO A

# Park & Conservancy *Legacy*

WRITTEN BY Zaina Salem



**The Conservancy celebrates John P. Debo's unwavering commitment and lifelong dedication to Cuyahoga Valley National Park.**

**W**hen John Debo was asked to be the superintendent of Acadia National Park, he turned it down.

At the time, he had served as superintendent of Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area (CVNRA) for six years. In these early days of the Park, controversy surrounding land acquisition was still raw in the public mind, and Debo had already conceived a clear vision for what CVNRA could become. For these reasons, Debo just couldn't bring himself to leave.

"It would have been a kind of a treachery at that point in the Park's history for me to pack up and leave. I knew this decision

meant that Cuyahoga Valley was likely going to be the last stop in my NPS career," Debo said. "I have never regretted that decision."

In all, Debo worked for the National Park Service for 33 years, the last 21 being at Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). Those 21 years saw the development of the Towpath Trail, the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, the Countryside Conservancy, the Ohio & Erie Canalway, over 90 historic building rehabilitations, and countless other park preservation and conservation achievements. After retiring, he was given the opportunity to serve CVNP in a new capacity, accepting the position of Development Director of the Conservancy in 2009. In his new fundraising role, Debo learned an entire new trade, and "loved every minute of this challenging work."

Over the course of 10 years, Debo collaborated with Conservancy CEO Deb Yandala to grow the Conservancy's philanthropic base as well as raise funds for many successful capital projects. He emphasized that this work was heavily

**ABOVE** Debo guided the Conservancy's \$7.1 million fundraising campaign for the Boston Mill Visitor Center project by securing two \$1 million donations to supplement corporate and community support.

supported by board and staff members, or as he often would exclaim, “development is a team contact sport!” Perhaps the peak of his career was the campaign to raise funding for the new \$7 million Boston Mill Visitor Center—but also near and dear to his heart is the continuing TRAILS FOREVER endowment campaign. “Whether you are a walker, hiker, runner, biker, skier or birder” Debo says, “this park is all about trails.”

Yandala shared that Debo’s 31 years at the Park helped CVNP become one of the region’s premier assets.

“Park visitors benefit every day from his accomplishments,” Yandala said.

Debo’s hope for the Conservancy and CVNP is that they will both continue to grow in recognition and stature. He predicts they will achieve much success in their combined effort to make the park more accessible to the Northeast Ohio community.

“I hope more and more people in Northeast Ohio will learn the value the Conservancy brings to supporting CVNP, because our park simply cannot survive without

**“A dynamic and healthy Conservancy is vitally important to the future of our beautiful National Park.”**

— JOHN P. DEBO, JR.

the tremendous network of people the Conservancy draws in—park advocates, volunteers, and donors. A dynamic and healthy Conservancy is vitally important to the future of our beautiful National Park.”

As he reflects on his time with the Conservancy, Debo says what he will cherish most are the relationships he has developed within the organization and the community at-large.

“I have forged relationships with so many wonderful people,” Debo said. “And those relationships are good for life.”

## & A Warm Welcome!

### SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW DEVELOPMENT TEAM



#### Chief Development Officer

### Sheryl Hoffman

Sheryl has more than 25 years of employment and volunteer service in the nonprofit sector. She previously worked at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in several roles, including director of individual philanthropy and planned giving. Prior to her long stint at the museum, Hoffman was founding executive director of Art House, a nonprofit arts center in Cleveland. “I have enjoyed my first nine months with the Conservancy and have been very impressed with the work we do on behalf of Cuyahoga Valley National Park,” Sheryl said. “I look forward to our future commitment to CVNP and the opportunity to be a part of its amazing legacy.”

#### Director of Development

### Dan Blakemore, CFRE

Dan Blakemore, CFRE has spent his 13-year fundraising career in support of historic organizations including The Jewish Museum, International House and most recently Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens. He participated in the residential program at the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center in sixth grade and is excited to be part of the Conservancy team.

#### TWO TRUTHS & A LIE



Can you guess which statement is a lie?

#### SHERYL

Sheryl is an enthusiastic hiker and has explored trails in North and Central America, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

She is an avid skydiver.

She is passionate about sailing and exploring the US and Canadian ports of Lake Erie. Someday she hopes to sail away on a grand adventure to faraway ports.

#### DAN

Dan has worked for President Bill Clinton.

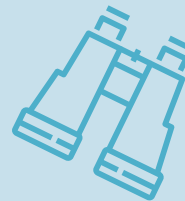
He has researched his family history for more than 25 years.

He enjoys skiing and snowboarding.

SEE IF YOU GUESSED RIGHT IN THE KEY BELOW!

KEY  
SHERYL'S LIE Sheryl has only experienced the thrill of skydiving once.  
DAN'S LIE Dan is not too fond of winter activities.



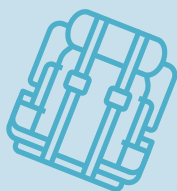


# backyard

HOW A LOCAL BOY SCOUT TROOP  
FINDS ADVENTURE IN CVNP

# backpacking

WRITTEN BY Zaina Salem



DONOR FEATURE

**WHEN TROOP 778 IS** preparing for a two-week, high-adventure backpacking trip, they take to Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

On the surface, they may seem like an ordinary Boy Scouts troop, but their origins are unique. Andrew Paisley's idea to form a Boy Scout troop in the eclectic North Hill community of Akron was almost unheard of. A retired attorney, his love for serving children began when he realized the impact Boys Scouts had on his three boys throughout their youth, and piqued when he joined their backpacking trip to New Mexico.

"I loved what I saw, and what that trip did with the boys. They came back from that adventure standing taller. They were stronger, more confident," Paisley said. "It just opened my eyes, and I found something that I truly loved."

Thus hatched Troop 778. Starting with modest beginnings in 2013, the troop now consists of 33 fifth- to twelfth-grade boys.

Paisley recruited Doug MacKay, a longtime nature-lover and Eagle Scout, to work with the new troop. MacKay, also passionate about working with children, jumped at the opportunity to assist with the troop a couple of







years ago. “The troop represented a unique opportunity to give my time, talents and treasures,” MacKay said. “Each time we meet, camp or go for a hike, the blessing is returned many fold. The kids are just great and have adopted me like their long lost grandpa.”

**“...No matter what we do or how hard it is, we seem to find the joy in it.”**

— HAE THAW, SENIOR PATROL LEADER

Both Paisley and MacKay agree that CVNP plays an important role in the troop’s success.

“Cuyahoga Valley National Park is our playground to get ready,” Paisley said. “We are so fortunate here in Northeast Ohio to have the park. It really plays an integral part and serves as a great partner for us for Troop 778

in terms of giving us an outlet, a place where we can prepare for our hiking or backpacking adventures. We’re so blessed to have this gem in our backyard.”

As a Conservancy member, MacKay believes CVNP is a lifelong asset for everyone to enjoy.

“I think it’s great that the utilization of parks have picked up remarkably,” MacKay said. “I’ve supported the Conservancy for a few years and it’s great to know that it is helping to support the resources of the national park and also the environment.”

The resources of CVNP help Paisley and MacKay prepare for adventures in places like Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, where altitudes reach 12,441 feet high.

“We train the boys for 10 months to become both physically and mentally strong, and the trails in CVNP provide the perfect opportunity for us to do that,” Paisley said. “It also helps us to



Three scouts training for Philmont on Salt Run Trail in the winter of 2017.







Troop 778 at Kendall Lake for an orienteering course where the scouts learned how to read a map and navigate by compass.



On top of Mount Baldy at Philmont Scout Ranch—12,441 feet high!

recreate elevation gain and loss and getting used to walking down steep inclines with weight. It has a way of training the mind, too, and growing the person. It's like taking a pill for character development."

Senior Patrol Leader Hae Thaw, 17, said the thing he likes most about being part of Troop 778 is how the Scouts work together as a team. "I love how we bond on campouts and meetings. No matter what we do or how hard it is, we seem to find the joy in it," Hae said.

Some of Paisley and MacKay's favorite trails to train the Scouts on are Pine Lane, Plateau Trail, and Salt Run, often hiking up to 20 miles in a single day.

"The great thing about those trails is you get to see all the wildlife—everything you could possibly imagine. All this life that surrounds you. It's just beautiful year-round," Paisley said. "I think that scouting really gives you an opportunity to teach an ethic of lifelong learning. CVNP is a wonderful classroom that not only allows us to do our job as scouts in developing the character of these young boys, but it's also a place where our relationship with the scouts can flourish, and it enriches our lives too."



"This is a picture of my scouts in front of the sign at Philmont Scout Ranch which is in Cimarron, New Mexico. We hiked for 12 days in the backcountry reaching an altitude of 12,441 feet on top of Mount Baldy" —Andrew Paisley

#### RECOGNIZING

Andrew Paisley

SILVER BEAVER  
AWARD RECIPIENT



Paisley is receiving adult scouting's highest honor, the Silver Beaver Award, a very rare and unique accomplishment and testament to his lifelong commitment to scouting. The Silver Beaver award recognizes outstanding service to scouting in the Great Trail Council. Only five to 10 scouts have the honor of receiving the Silver Beaver Award every year.

"It's very humbling to receive this award and it's a great honor," Paisley said. "CVNP plays a big part in the troop's success. We're in the park all the time. It's like a tool that I have in my back pocket—like your favorite hammer or your favorite screwdriver. It's something you can pull out and use all the time."



# SUBARU OWNERS LOVE Cuyahoga Valley National Park!

**EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE**, a company finds a nonprofit organization that's easy to support, usually because of an uncanny alignment of vision and values. Such is the case with Cascade Subaru's support of the Conservancy for CVNP, an organization committed to "enriching people's lives and enhancing our region by inspiring use, preservation and support of Cuyahoga Valley National Park."

Subaru owners LOVE Cuyahoga Valley National Park. That's why on any given day, you'll find the trailhead parking lots full of Subarus. Subaru owners are adventurers, explorers, nature lovers and fresh air fanatics—what corporate marketing folks call "experiencers."

"Subaru owners don't like to sit at home watching sports on TV," said Pat Primm, Internet manager at the Cascade Auto Group. "They're out hiking, photographing herons, running, bicycling or canoeing. Their cars are equipped with bike racks, ski racks, and any number of other gadgets to help them experience the outdoors in any weather. And for them, the park is nature at its best."

Subaru offers several models tailor made for such adventurers. The Forester and ever-popular Outback models have fold down seats that expand the cargo area to handle all your fishing and camping gear, and even your Golden Retriever! And the 8-passenger Ascent—Subaru's largest SUV—is perfect for families on the go. All Subaru models have all-wheel drive, so getting to the next adventure is rarely a problem. The cars also offer durability and long-term value. A full 97 percent of Subaru vehicles built in the last ten years are still on the road today.

Every year, Subaru of America launches its Share the Love event that runs from mid-November to January. During this time, Subaru donates \$250 for every car sold to one of five charities. Four of



the charities are national, and one is a local charity chosen by the local Subaru dealer. For years Cascade Subaru has designated the Conservancy for CVNP as the charity of choice. This year, the Share the Love event at Cascade Subaru raised \$30,875 dollars for the Conservancy.

Cascade Subaru is one of three dealerships in the Cascade Auto Group family. The company has a long history of philanthropy. "We have partnered with the Conservancy in other fundraising efforts," said Michelle Primm, managing partner. "We firmly believe in supporting organizations that make this community a better place to live."

So the next time you're parking at Furnace Run, Virginia Kendall, the Ira Trailhead, or Deep Lock Quarry, take note of how many Subarus you see. Those drivers are probably your kindred spirits!

**Enjoy your next adventure!**

**ABOVE:** Sheryl Hoffman, chief development officer of the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park (left), receives the Subaru Share the Love check for \$30,875 from Michelle Primm, managing partner of Cascade Auto Group. Normally, this check presentation involves the entire staff at the dealership. This year, however, the presentation was done outdoors in order to maintain social distance guidelines.

**CASCADE**  
AUTO GROUP





POSTED BY **Colleen Bowers**



POSTED BY **@hale.on.a.trail**



POSTED BY **Fred Russell**

# social creatures

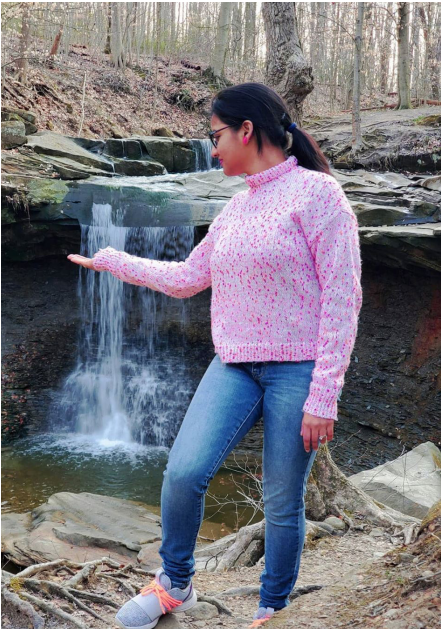
There are so many different experiences you can have in Cuyahoga Valley National Park—from kayaking the Cuyahoga River to watching the sun set at the Ledges. No matter how you choose to experience CVNP, we hope your summer is filled with adventure!



POSTED BY **@leewersk**



POSTED BY **Matt Cross**



POSTED BY **Ankita Gupta**



POSTED BY **Keerthi Pattenm**

WE LOVE SEEING ALL THE FUN YOU'RE HAVING!

Keep tagging your photos with **#forcvnp** for a chance to be featured in upcoming issues!



# PLAN THE ULTIMATE STAYCATION

with Appalachian Outfitters



Whether it's hiking, climbing, or kayaking, Appalachian Outfitters carries an extensive line of top-name products for all of your outdoor needs. Our goal is to educate our patrons with the knowledge they need to feel confident on all their outdoor adventures, as well as provide them with a quality shopping experience. When you shop local with us, we are able to support various organizations in our area like the Conservancy for CVNP.

Conservancy members receive 10% off purchases of in-stock, regularly priced items! We will contribute 5% of member sales to the Conservancy.



60 KENDALL PARK RD, PENINSULA, OH 44264  
330.655.5444

[WWW.APPALACHIANOUTFITTERS.COM](http://WWW.APPALACHIANOUTFITTERS.COM)





1403 West Hines Hill Road  
Peninsula, Ohio 44264  
[forCVNP.org](http://forCVNP.org)



Printed with solar power on paper from responsible sources.



# SHOP ONLINE WITH US!

[WWW.FORCVNP.ORG/SHOP](http://WWW.FORCVNP.ORG/SHOP)

You can now shop for your favorite Cuyahoga Valley National Park gear and much more from the comfort of your home!

*Members: don't forget to use your discount code to receive 15% off most items!*