



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Winona LaDuke Joins Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park for Virtual Event on World Water Day**

**PENINSULA, Ohio** – On Monday, March 22, World Water Day, the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park invites the public to participate in a virtual presentation and conversation with renowned author and leading activist Winona LaDuke. The virtual event takes place at 7 p.m. and will be hosted through Zoom.

Northeast Ohio has experienced firsthand the importance of protecting water and the direct impact it has on the community. When the Cuyahoga River caught fire in 1969, it sparked a movement to not only clean up the river, but to actively focus on environmental justice. While the process is ongoing, the recent designation of the Cuyahoga River Water Trail and USA Today naming the Cuyahoga River as the “Best Urban Kayaking Spot” have shown the power of a community coming together for a better tomorrow.

“We’re beyond honored to have Winona LaDuke join us for this critical conversation on World Water Day,” shares Katie Wright, Conservancy Programs and Education Director. “It’s my hope that after this presentation, individuals will step away with a sense of empowerment to improve our world, and as LaDuke teaches, ‘to be the ancestors [our] descendants would be proud of.’”

LaDuke, a Anishinaabekwe (Ojibwe) enrolled member of the Mississippi Band Anishinaabeg, is a leader in cultural-based sustainable development strategies, renewable energy, sustainable food systems and Indigenous rights. During the presentation, she will discuss her new book, *To Be a Water Protector: Rise of the Wiindigoo Slayers*, several elements of a New Green Economy and the lessons we can take from activists outside the US and Canada. Time will be allotted for an interactive discussion as well as a Q&A session with the audience.

The Conservancy welcomes LaDuke as part of their new Crooked River Reads author series. Throughout the year, a diverse group of environmental authors and activists will give presentations and host interactive discussions that the public can join from the comfort of their own homes. Tickets for LaDuke’s presentation are just \$10, \$8.50 for Conservancy members and can be purchased online at [forcvnp.org/crooked-river-reads](https://forcvnp.org/crooked-river-reads).



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**About the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park**

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is the official friends group and philanthropic partner for Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). With a mission to enrich people’s lives and enhance our region by inspiring use, preservation and support of Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the Conservancy offers cultural and educational programming, co-manages the park’s volunteer program, provides venues for weddings, meetings and special events, and operates park retail spaces.