



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – Friday, May 13, 2011

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Lecture Series to Host Extreme Kayaker and Environmentalist

Trip Jennings honored by National Geographic as Adventurer of the Year in 2007

Brecksville, Ohio – Cuyahoga Valley National Park is pleased to welcome extreme kayaker and environmentalist, Trip Jennings, at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 20, 2011 at Happy Days Lodge in Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The Lyceum Lecture will highlight his kayaking adventures in remote parts of the world. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. This series is hosted by Cuyahoga Valley National Park and receives support from the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. *Please note: due to large attendance at other Lyceum Lecture Series programs, doors now open at 6 p.m. and advance tickets are now available.*

Admission is \$6 adults and \$3 children ages 3 - 12. General seating. Advance sales are available until 3 p.m. on Friday, May 20, by calling 330-657-2909. For updated ticket availability information, call the Cultural Arts Hotline at 330-650-4636, ext. 228. The hotline is updated at 2 p.m. the day of every concert and lecture and is intended to inform callers of sold out events or weather related cancellations.

Trip Jennings is determined to find and kayak undiscovered spots on the planet. He has led white-water first descents and expeditions in seven countries on three continents. In 2007, Jennings, along with a team of kayakers and scientists, set out for New Britain Island, a 370-mile-long slab of limestone off the coast of Papua, New Guinea. His voyage through Class V waters and down a 55-foot waterfall took place over a four-day, 40-mile journey that he filmed to highlight the fragile nature of these wild areas. His expedition led *National Geographic* to name Trip an adventurer of the year honoree.

Trip Jennings is the owner and founder of the Epicocity Project, a production company consisting of a trio of experienced cameramen, storytellers, filmmakers, conservationists and adventurers based in Portland, Oregon. A four-time *National Geographic* grant recipient, Trip has spent plenty of time in the field.

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In addition to his kayaking adventures, Jennings recently spent more than a month in the Democratic Republic of Congo to begin the Elephant Ivory Project. His expedition had two parts—collect elephant scat samples to help conservation biologist Dr. Sam Wasser pinpoint illegal elephant poaching, and document his adventure to help raise awareness of the rapid decline of wild elephants. Elephant populations are being wiped out at a rate of about 10% a year to fuel the illegal ivory trade, so cracking down on poaching is critically important.

Happy Days Lodge, located at 500 West Streetsboro Road (State Route 303) in Peninsula 44264, 1 mile west of State Route 8, is a restored Civilian Conservation Corps structure that provides a rustic ambiance for folk and traditional concerts, theater, lectures, and special event rentals. For more information on rentals, call CVNPA at 330-657-2909 ext. 119.

The Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park is a nonprofit organization created to engage public support for the park and provide services to enhance public use and enjoyment of the park. For more information about the Conservancy and its membership program, visit www.conservancyforcvnp.org or call 330-657-2909.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit www.nps.gov/cuva or www.dayinthevalley.com or call 330-657-2752 or 800-257-9477.

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