



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley  
National Park

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Brecksville OH 44141

[www.nps.gov/cuva](http://www.nps.gov/cuva)  
[www.dayinthevalley.com](http://www.dayinthevalley.com)

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## Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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### Lyceum Distinguished Speaker Series

**Brecksville, Ohio** - The National Park Service is pleased to announce the presenters for this season's Lyceum Distinguished Speaker Series. The word "lyceum" has roots in ancient Greek, and became the name of the school where Aristotle taught. At Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP), we use it to describe our lecture series featuring national speakers who stimulate the heart and mind with compelling stories of our natural and cultural world.

Admission: \$8 adults, \$6 CVNPA members, and \$3 children ages 3 - 12. Attend any three for the subscription price of \$20 adults, \$15 CVNPA members. General seating. Advance sales are available by calling (330) 657-2909. Lectures occur at Happy Days Lodge. Program time is 7 - 9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

*Friday, January 8*

#### **Jerry Potter: The Sultana Sinking**

April 1865 was a busy month and the headlines of newspapers brought this home. While large print exclaimed "Lee Surrendered!", "Lincoln was Shot!" and "The War is Over", news of the worst maritime disaster in U.S. history was relegated to the back page, if it was mentioned at all. On April 27, the *Sultana*, a wooden-hulled steamboat carrying six times the legal capacity, exploded on the Mississippi River, killing more than 1,800 men, mostly soldiers just released from southern prison camps when the war ended. Join author, Jerry Potter to explore this amazing but little-known story.

*Tuesday, January 12*

#### **Andrew Skurka: "Short" Trips (2,500 Miles and Counting)**

Andrew Skurka returns to the Lyceum Series, this time exploring four of his recent "short" trips, which totaled 2,500 miles. Skurka is best known for his two epic long distance firsts: hiking the 6,875-mile Great Western Loop and the 7,778-mile Sea-to-Sea Route. In this presentation, he will follow up these adventures with some of his more recent quests. At 28 years of age, Mr. Skurka has travelled more miles than most seasoned backpackers and adventurers do in a lifetime. Join Andrew as he shares stories and

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adventures from the Alaska Four-Range, the Hayduke Trail & Grand Canyon Traverse, the Sierra High Route, and the Iceland Traverse.

*Friday, January 22*

**Joy Medley Lyons: Making Their Mark**

Join Mammoth Cave Park Ranger Joy Medley Lyons to discuss the lives and loves of slaves who served the Mammoth Cave Estate during more than 125 years of private ownership. By 1840, the most affluent of travelers ventured into the cave's darkness, following young men who were bound by slavery, a conflicted institution struggling to continue in Kentucky and Southern states. The era left a legacy forged by men like Stephen Bishop and Mat and Nick Bransford. Lyons is an author recipient of the Award of Merit from the Kentucky Historical Society.

*Friday, February 12*

**Deborah Madison: Growing Food, Culture, Community, Wellness and Pleasure**

The foods that please us with their goodness can also solve some of the environmental problems created by agriculture, and enrich our bodies and minds. From backyards to farmers markets, deeply nourishing food benefits the human environment and the Earth. It is within our grasp to use and enjoy such food, whether we eat alone or with others, from clearly rooted ethnic traditions or a willingness to try new flavors. Join Deborah Madison, author of *Local Flavors* and *What We Eat When We Eat Alone*, to discuss the need to learn the names of our foods and farmers, and how the new agrarian model can affect us all. *This lecture is supported by the Cuyahoga Valley Countryside Conservancy.*

*Friday, February 26*

**Geoff York: Polar Bears, Storytellers of a Changing Arctic**

Not only are large carnivores fascinating in their own right, they are often indicators of ecosystem health. In the arctic, the polar bear is a key species. Their amazing adaptations to life in their harsh environment and their dependence on sea ice make them impressive, yet vulnerable. Declines in polar bear numbers or health can be a sign of something wrong in the greater arctic marine ecosystem. Join Geoff York, senior program officer for polar bear conservation with the World Wildlife Fund, for an inside look at the issues facing the great white bears.

*Friday, March 12*

**Dr. Amy Pokempner: In Search of Gorillas**

The world's population of critically endangered western lowland gorillas received a huge boost last year when a new census released by the Wildlife Conservation Society showed more than 125,000 of these secretive great apes alive and well in the Republic of the Congo. Estimates from the 1980s placed the entire population of western lowland gorillas at fewer than 100,000. Until recently, scientists believed that

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this number had subsequently been cut in half due to hunting and disease. In this presentation, Dr. Amy Pokempner of the Wildlife Conservation Society talks about this unique discovery and how her organization is working to protect all four subspecies of gorillas across Africa.

*Friday, March 26*

**Pam Reed: Ultramarathoner**

Consider running a race five times the distance of a marathon ... in Death Valley ... where the temperature can reach more than 130 degrees! The Badwater Ultramarathon is a 135-mile run from Badwater, the lowest point in the country, to the slopes of Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states. In 2002, Pam Reed won the race in 27 hours and 56 minutes, shattering the women's course record and beating the closest male competitor by nearly five hours. Reed has gone on to other racing success. She was honored by *Competitor Magazine* as "Runner of the Year." This mother and author of *The Extra Mile*, shows others that you can be a winner at any age if you strive to improve continuously.

**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.

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information about the park, visit [www.nps.gov/cuva/](http://www.nps.gov/cuva/) or [www.dayinthevalley.com/](http://www.dayinthevalley.com/) or call (330) 657-2752 or (800) 445-9667.

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