



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

Mailing Address:
15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville OH 44141
Visitor Center:
1550 Boston Mills Road
Peninsula, OH 44264
www.nps.gov/cuva

Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – Thursday, March 27, 2014

Mary Pat Doorley, CVNP, 440-546-5995, 440-343-7355 (cell), or mary_pat_doorley@nps.gov

Speaker Series Recalls History of CCC in Virginia Kendall Area

Park lecture includes book signing and dessert reception with author and student contributors

Brecksville, Ohio – Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park are pleased to welcome Kenneth J. Bindas for a lecture and book signing highlighting the fall 2013 release of his local history book, *The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Construction of the Virginia Kendall Reserve, 1933–1939*. The program will begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2014. Doors open at 6 p.m. The event is free and a dessert reception will follow the lecture. Copies of Bindas' book will be available for purchase.

The book, published by Kent State University Press and in cooperation with the National Park Service and Eastern National, tells the story of the Civilian Conservation Corps' (CCC) construction of the Virginia Kendall Reserve, which today is part of CVNP. Four hundred and thirty acres of farmland came under the control of the Akron Metropolitan Park District and its director-secretary, Harold Wagner, who immediately applied to the federal government to establish a CCC camp there with the aim of creating a natural recreation landscape open to the public.

Author Kenneth J. Bindas is Professor and Chair of the Department of History at Kent State University. He and seven of his students from Kent State University drew upon a wide variety of government documents, oral histories, and other primary sources to place the construction of the Virginia Kendall Reserve within the larger context of modernism and the emerging 1930s movements whose goals were to protect and open up natural areas. As a case study, the construction of the Virginia Kendall Reserve provides an example of the design, manipulation, and construction used to create so many CCC environments.

Happy Days Lodge is located at 500 West Streetsboro Road (SR 303), 1 mile west of SR 8, Peninsula 44264.

-more-



The Kent State University Press is the publishing arm of Kent State University. As a member of the Association of American University Presses, the Press numbers among the select group of university-sponsored scholarly presses whose outstanding programs make them an important segment of the academic and publishing communities. The Kent State University Press publishes 35 titles a year in history, literature, and regional studies that further knowledge of the humanities and preserve and promote a literate society. Learn more at www.kentstateuniversitypress.com.

Eastern National is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) cooperating association, whose mission is to promote the public's understanding and appreciation of America's national parks and other public trusts. Operating educational and interpretive bookstores in over 150 national parks in the eastern part of the United States, Eastern National donates its profits from these operations to aid the interpretive, scientific, and historical mission of the National Park Service and other public trust partners. Since Eastern National's founding in 1947, it has donated over \$105 million to the National Park Service. Visit www.EasternNational.org for more information on Eastern National's products and services.

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 call 330-657-2752.

-NPS-