



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

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Bill Jamerson: Civilian Conservation Corps

Brecksville, Ohio - Michigan-based filmmaker, songwriter, and author Bill Jamerson will present a music and storytelling program about the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as the final presentation of the Lyceum Distinguished Speaker Series, at 7 p.m. on **Friday, May 9** at Happy Days Lodge in Cuyahoga Valley National Park.

The Civilian Conservation Corps planted hundreds of millions of trees across the upper Midwest during The Great Depression. The 17-21 year old youth who joined the CCC also fought forest fires, restored damaged riverbanks, cut truck trails, and built airports. The federal works program created under President Roosevelt not only restored damaged wilderness but help the men grow in discipline and self-confidence.

Jamerson is a noted historian who has presented at numerous CCC reunions around the country. Bill believes that history is not just about the past, but something that helps us understand *who* we are and *how* we got to where we are. His program includes a short clip from his PBS film, *Camp Forgotten — The Civilian Conservation Corps in Michigan*; excerpts from his new novel, *Big Shoulder*; and original songs on guitar that celebrate the CCC life changing experience for many of our grandfathers and uncles.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the CCC. CVNPA joins the national celebration in recognition of the CCC's contribution to building many familiar Virginia Kendall structures, including Happy Days Lodge.

Admission: \$10 adults, \$8 CVNPA members, and \$5 children ages 3 - 12. General seating. Advance sales are available by calling (330) 657-2909. Happy Days Lodge, 7 - 9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The National Park Service and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association (CVNPA) are pleased to revive the Lyceum Distinguished Speaker Series in 2008. The word "lyceum" has

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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. The full series will begin in September 2008 and run through May 2009, on the first Thursday of the month.

Happy Days Lodge, located at 500 West Streetsboro Road (State Route 303) in Peninsula, 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.

CVNPA, in partnership with the National Park Service and CVNP, provides innovative education programs and fosters community support and enjoyment of the park. For more information about CVNPA and its membership program, visit www.cvnpa.org or call (330) 657-2909.

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/ or www.dayinthevalley.com/ or call (216) 524-1497 or (800) 445-9667.

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