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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Events Celebrate New National Park Television Productions

*Enjoy a sneak preview of **Generations: Cuyahoga Valley National Park**
and special viewings of **The National Parks: America's Best Idea***

KENT, Ohio – Aug. 19, 2009 — Lovers of Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the entire national park system can enjoy free events that celebrate new television productions by Western Reserve Public Media and PBS. They include a premiere of **Generations: Cuyahoga Valley National Park** and big-screen viewings of Ken Burns' new six-part documentary, **The National Parks: America's Best Idea**, which premieres nationally on PBS in September.

Generations: Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Wednesday, Sept. 23; doors open at 6 p.m.

Happy Days Lodge, 500 W. Streetsboro Road (S.R. 303), Peninsula

Enjoy a free sneak preview of the first full-length broadcast documentary about the 34-year-old Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The Western Reserve Public Media production captures the park's many facets through the voices of people from all walks of life.

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The story is told through a variety of methods, including archival video footage, recent interviews, oral histories and photographs and memorabilia provided by park visitors. Producer Duilio Mariola will answer audience questions after the presentation.

The event is free, but registration is required by calling Western Reserve Public Media at 1-800-554-4549 or 330-677-4549. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

On television, **Generations: Cuyahoga Valley National Park** will premiere on Western Reserve PBS on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 8 p.m., with encore presentations that evening at 11 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 10 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 1 at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Oct. 4, at 9 p.m.

Big-Screen Viewings: The National Parks: America's Best Idea

Episode One: Dinner and a Movie

Sunday, Sept. 27, at 6:30 p.m.

Happy Days Lodge, 500 W. Streetsboro Road (S.R. 303), Peninsula

Come for dinner and stay to watch "The Scripture of Nature (1851-1890)," the first episode of renowned filmmaker Ken Burns' PBS program **The National Parks: America's Best Idea**. The film will be shown on the big screen concurrent with the national TV premiere on PBS stations. Following the premiere, there will be an optional gathering around the campfire for people to share their national park stories.

Reservations are required in advance by calling Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association at 330-657-2009, ext. 103. Western Reserve PBS and Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association members pay \$12.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 3-12. General admission is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

Episodes Two Through Six

Monday, Sept. 28, through Friday, Oct. 2, at 7:30 p.m.

Happy Days Lodge, 500 W. Streetsboro Road (S.R. 303), Peninsula

The documentary continues on the big screen with one episode airing each evening. The viewings are free and require no reservations. After each episode, there will be an optional gathering around the campfire for people to share their national park stories. On Friday, the program is followed by a short ranger-led hike along Haskell Run. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

About Cuyahoga Valley National Park

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.

About Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association

CVNPA 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 CVNPA and its membership program, visit www.cvnpa.org or call 330-657-2909.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate, and inspire.

Western Reserve PBS, a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. The organization also operates two standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO.2/WEO.2) and MHz Worldview (WNEO.3/WEO.3).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

Funding

Funding for **Generations: Cuyahoga Valley National Park** is provided by The Bokom Foundation, The Cleveland Foundation, FirstEnergy Foundation, The Herbert W. Hoover Foundation, NEOEA, PPG Industries Foundation, and The S. Livingston Mather Charitable Trust.

Local underwriting for **The National Parks: America's Best Idea** is provided by Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association, Benjamin Rose Institute, Appalachian Outfitters, and Old Trail School.

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A consortium of The University of Akron, Kent State University and Youngstown State University.