



Yes, Virginia!

Issue #19

The Newsletter of Scenic Virginia

Spring 2011

A LETTER FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

"Where has nature spread so rich a mantel under the eye? - mountains, forests, rocks, rivers. With what majesty do we there ride above the storms! How sublime to look down into the workhouse of nature!"

- Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Maria Cosway, October 12, 1786



New president Cessie Howell

Dear friends of Scenic Virginia,

Thomas Jefferson was overwhelmed by Virginia's grandeur as he surveyed her beauty from the heights of Monticello. His words above capture the splendor of our Commonwealth – God's beautiful handiwork displayed repeatedly through a stunning array of breathtaking views.

We at Scenic Virginia share the awe that Jefferson felt, and are passionate in promoting Virginia's beauty and unique history. We offer a grateful "Thank you" to all who have supported this passion through your generous contributions. Without you, our work would not be possible.

Additionally, we applaud those who participate in our yearly photography contest. Our *Virginia Vistas* photographers are terrific ambassadors for Scenic Virginia, and we appreciate their sharing their bounty of beauty with us, and with you. These photos, which so beautifully capture the character and magnificence of our Commonwealth, are featured weekly on the editorial page of Saturday's *Richmond Times Dispatch*. Further, each year's winning photos are available as note cards sets and matted photo prints; and large-scale versions are displayed throughout the year in galleries of the Virginia State Capitol, General Assembly Building and other venues.

In this newsletter we're issuing a call for nomination for our 2011 Scenic Awards. Details are available on page 7 and on our website at www.scenicvirginia.org. You can help us recognize the best of the best by alerting us to worthy projects in your area. Our 2011 Scenic Awards Reception & Ceremony will be held on Friday, October 21 at 6:00 pm, once again at the historic Virginia State Capitol in Richmond.

It is my sincere hope that you will continue to partner with Scenic Virginia in our work to promote and preserve the greatest state in the Union for present and future generations. Please tell your friends about us, share this newsletter with them, and encourage them to join you in supporting us with a generous financial gift. We have created several new giving levels for 2011; you'll hear more about those very soon.

As always, we value your input, and look forward to hearing from you with ideas of how we can better enhance Virginia's Scenic Beauty.

Cessie

"On the whole I find nothing any where else... which Virginia need envy to any part of the world."

- Thomas Jefferson, Letter to Martha Jefferson Randolph, May 31, 1786.

IN THIS ISSUE: A Letter from Cessie Howell... Board Changes at Scenic Virginia... Update on Virginia Viewshed Register and Community Forestry... 2010 Scenic Virginia Report of Gifts... A Recap of the 2010 Scenic Awards Reception & Ceremony... Call for Entries for 2011 Scenic Awards... Our 2010 Viewshed Photo Competition Winners... Upcoming Events...

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- Leighton Powell, *Executive Director*

Scenic Virginia is the only statewide organization dedicated solely to the preservation, protection and enhancement of our Commonwealth's scenic beauty, with a particular focus on the preservation of significant views and vistas.

SCENIC VIRGINIA

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 email@scenicvirginia.org
 www.scenicvirginia.org

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Changes in Scenic Virginia's Board of Directors

Please join us in welcoming energetic and talented new Board members.

New Trustees are as follows:

Sherry Buttrick of Charlottesville is an expert in conservation easements at the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, and a longtime member of Scenic Virginia.

Caroline Coles Merrick of Madison County is an advocate for recycling, a leader in the Friends of the Rappahannock, and a well-known land steward.

Jim Rich of Middleburg is a longtime Advisory Board member who serves as a McDonnell appointee on the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Historic Resources Board.

Barry W. Starke, FASLA of Casanova is a noted landscape architect who has served as president of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), and as a member of the Rappahannock Scenic River Advisory Board.

Ann Laughter Wright of Virginia Beach is a freelance writer whose articles are featured regularly in *Virginia Living* magazine, a member of The Garden Club of Virginia Beach, and a noted nature lover.

Retiring as Trustees but moving to the Advisory Board are **Eugenia Anderson-Ellis, William M. Beck, and Deborah Dull.**

New to our Advisory Board are **Heidi James** of Lynchburg, **Anne Little** of Fredericksburg, **Alexander M. Macaulay** of Richmond, and **Rab Fleming Thompson** of The Plains.

Retiring from the Advisory Board with grateful appreciation for his service is longtime supporter **Capt. Leslie K. Fenlon** of Virginia Beach.

New Honorary Board members are the Honorable **Joe T. May** of Leesburg and the Honorable **R. Lee Ware** of Powhatan. Both men serve in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Please join us in welcoming all of our new Board members and thanking all who have served so diligently.

In other organizational news, Scenic Virginia executive director **Leighton Powell** of Richmond was elected to the Board of Directors of Washington, D.C.-based Scenic America, of which Scenic Virginia is an affiliate.

Information about that national organization is available at www.scenic.org.



Sherry Buttrick



Caroline Merrick



Jim Rich



Barry Starke



Ann Wright

NEWS FROM ACROSS OUR COMMONWEALTH

Virginia Viewshed Register: Full Speed Ahead

For some time now, Scenic Virginia has been developing a Virginia Viewshed Register to document the Commonwealth's most significant views and vistas.

In late January, our Viewshed committee convened a Viewshed Forum in Richmond to hear from noted landscape professionals already using viewshed valuation processes in their work.

Viewshed professionals Carlton Sturges Abbott of Williamsburg, David Hill of Roanoke, Elmer Hodge and

Janet Scheid of Roanoke County, Gary Johnson of the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Patrick Miller of Virginia Tech described their methods for assessing views and vistas. In response to the question "Is there a need for a statewide Register?" all responded with a resounding "YES!"

The group reconvened in late February to begin strategic planning. Three subcommittees were formed, and that work is now progressing. You'll be hearing more about our efforts this summer. In the meantime, start making a list of the vistas you love best in your locality.

Project Plant It! Celebration Recognizes Dominion as a 'Tree Line USA Utility'

Last year we recognized Project Plant It! as the inaugural winner of the newly established Scenic Trees Program. A partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and Dominion, the program educates young students about the important role of trees in the ecosystem and encourages them to improve the environment by planting trees.

As part of the 2011 festivities at Southampton Elementary School in Richmond, the Arbor Day Foundation designated Dominion Virginia Power a Tree Line USA utility for its practices aimed at protecting and enhancing America's urban forests. It is the first year Dominion has earned this national distinction.

To earn the Tree Line USA distinction, Dominion had to meet the following criteria:

- Follow industry standards for pruning, planting, removals, and trenching and tunneling near trees.
- Ensure that its employees and contract workers are trained in best practices.
- Sponsor and participate in tree planting and public education programs that expand tree canopy and educate customers about proper tree planting, replacement and pruning.
- Have in place a formal tree-based energy conservation program that makes special consideration of the value of trees in conserving energy.
- Sponsor and/or participate in annual Arbor Day events, collaborating with community groups where possible.



Southampton Elementary School students celebrate 2011 Arbor Day and Project Plant It!, as Dominion Virginia Power CEO Paul Koonce [left] receives the Tree Line USA Utility designation from Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domenech.

'Lost Communities' Book Now Available



Virginia's back roads and rural areas are dotted with traces of once-thriving communities. General stores, train depots, schools, churches, banks, and post offices provide intriguing details of a way of life now gone.

Lost Communities of Virginia, a new book by Terri Fisher and Kirsten Sparenborg of the Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC) at Virginia Tech, documents stories in 30 such communities of coal towns and grist mills, railroads and steamboats, maple syrup and shad, church meetings and jousting matches, traveling salesmen and springs resort visitors — in all, awakening the bustling past for readers.

Lost Communities of Virginia is available through online booksellers and at local bookstores. For more information, visit <http://cdac.arch.vt.edu/lost.html>.

SCENIC VIRGINIA 2010 REPORT OF GIFTS

Scenic Virginia gratefully acknowledges the generosity of our 2010 donors, whose gifts provide the inspiration and funding for our statewide programs in support of our Commonwealth's extraordinary scenic beauty.

Our 2010 donor levels are **Scenic Stewards** for contributions of \$1,000 or more, and **Friends of Scenic Virginia** for gifts ranging from \$1 - \$999.

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Please report any corrections or omissions to (804) 643-VIEW (8439).

SCENIC VIRGINIA HONORS 2010 SCENIC AWARD WINNERS



[L-R] Senate Clerk Susan Clarke Schaar, Speaker Bill Howell, and House Clerk Bruce F. Jamerson.



Jane Sale Henley, then-president of Scenic Virginia, prepares to welcome guests.



Oh! The unique experience of overseeing the Capitol restoration/expansion project

Last October, Scenic Virginia honored its 2010 Scenic Award winners at a gala reception and ceremony at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond. The Honorable and Mrs. William J. Howell, along with the Board of Scenic Virginia, served as Hosts for the event. Honorary co-hosts were the Honorable Bruce F. Jamerson, then-Clerk of the House of Delegates (he died in April 2011), and the Honorable Susan Clarke Schaar, Clerk of the Senate of Virginia. Together, they oversaw the multi-year expansion and renovation of Thomas Jefferson's historic structure.

In her opening remarks, president Jane Sale Henley noted that our mission is "to promote our Commonwealth's scenic qualities in a way that makes you recognize and appreciate their value. We want you to 'Think scenic' when you look out the window and see a beautiful view, and we want you to 'Act scenic' when you make decisions about your life and community."

Full details about the event, including a photo slide show, are available at www.scenicvirginia.org. Our 2010 Scenic Award winners are as follows:

SCENIC HERO

The Nature Conservancy - Virginia Chapter, which celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2010.

SCENIC VIEWSHED PRESERVATION

The Carter Family Easements in Albemarle County, with recognition to Carter Family Members & the Piedmont Environmental Council

SCENIC WATER CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

Scenic Rivers Easement Program, with recognition to the Virginia Eastern Shore Land Trust

CREATIVE SCENIC ENHANCEMENT

Greening the Virginia State Capitol, with recognition to the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, the Virginia Department of General Services, and the City of Richmond

SCENIC TOURISM

75th Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway, with recognition to Blue Ridge Parkway 75, Inc.

ANTI-LITTER PROGRAM

Volunteer Sign Removal Program, with recognition to Chesterfield County Planning Department and community volunteers

SCENIC TREES PROGRAM

Project Plant It!, with recognition to the partnership of Dominion & Arbor Day Foundation.

Scenic Virginia acknowledges with grateful appreciation the generosity of our **2010 Scenic Sponsors**: **American Society of Landscape Architects - Fellows of the Virginia Chapter** (in honor of The 75th Anniversary of the Blue Ridge Parkway) • **Mr. and Mrs. J. P. McGuire Boyd** (in honor of The Nature Conservancy in Virginia) • **Davenport & Co.** (in honor of Greening the Virginia Capitol) • **Mr. and Mrs. R. Page Henley, Jr.** (in honor of The Carter Family Easements in Albemarle County) • **Mango Salon** • **The Hon. Mary Margaret Whipple** (in honor of Scenic Virginia)

2011 SCENIC AWARDS: A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

It's that time of year! May we count on you to help us identify deserving nominees for our 2011 Scenic Virginia Awards?

Our Scenic Awards recognize projects around the Commonwealth that contribute to the Virginia's beauty. We want to share these successes with others, so we're asking you to alert us to noteworthy projects, particularly if they can be replicated in other areas.

As in prior years, our 2011 Award categories are Scenic Hero, Scenic Viewshed Preservation, Scenic Viewshed Preservation of a Water Corridor, Creative Scenic Enhancement, Local Anti-Litter Efforts, Scenic Tourism, and Scenic Trees.

The 2011 Nomination Form is online at www.scenicvirginia.org/Awards or by calling us at (804) 643-VIEW (8439). The deadline for entries is **August 1, 2011**, after which a statewide committee will review the entries and select a winner in each of the categories. The 2011 Scenic Awards Reception & Ceremony are scheduled for Friday, October 21 at 6:00 pm at the Virginia State Capitol. Please plan to join us.

2010 VIEWSHED PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS

Thanks to the photographers who submitted such beautiful entries in 2010. As in past years, the judges selected an overall Best in Show winner, as well as first-place winners in our five categories, as follows:

- **Best in Show:** *Railroad Bridge at Sunset* by Bill Piper of Richmond
- **Cities and Towns/Urban Landscapes:** *Rainbow over River City* by Jeffrey Ruisi of Richmond
- **Coastal and Chesapeake Bay:** *Workboat in the Marsh, Tangier* by Bill Piper of Richmond
- **Farms and Open Space:** *Brothers in the Hay* by Richard A Koth of Linden
- **Mountains** (limited in 2010 to the Blue Ridge Parkway): *Saddle Overlook* by Tom Saunders of Richmond
- **Rivers and Waterways** (limited in 2010 to designated Virginia State Scenic Rivers): *Rappahannock River in Late February* by Suzanne Miksch of Richmond

Judges for the competition were J. Robert Mooney, chairman of the Richmond CenterStage Foundation and an amateur landscape photographer; Lucile S Miller, an artist/photographer and former Scenic Virginia Board member; and Ken Hopson, a veteran web designer and photographer, as well as a winner in Scenic Virginia's inaugural Viewshed Photo Competition.

Note card sets of the 2010 winners are available for purchase, as are sets featuring 2008 and 2009 winners. A set of six cards (one of each photo) is \$12, with two or more sets discounted at \$10 each. To order, contact Scenic Virginia at (804) 643-VIEW or email@scenicvirginia.org.

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* features a photo each Saturday on the editorial page. We post the weekly link on Facebook, so be sure to "like" us and get a regular dose of Virginia beauty.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!!

Scenic Virginia wants your digital images of the Commonwealth's extraordinarily beautiful scenic vistas for our upcoming 2012 Virginia Vistas photo competition. Full information, including the Rules and Regulations, can be found online at www.scenicvirginia.org/photocontest. Our photo categories for the 2012 contest are as follows:

- **Cities and Towns/Urban Landscapes**
- **Coastal/Chesapeake Bay**
- **Farms and Open Space**
- **Peaks and Valley/Mountains**
- **Rivers/Waterways**
- **Vistas Featuring Wildlife**
- **Youth** (limited to photographers under 18, in any of the above categories)

To receive notifications about the 2012 photo contest, including our call for entries, please email us at email@scenicvirginia.org, and include 2012 Photo Contest in the subject header. We'll be happy to add you!



Scenic Virginia

4 East Main Street, Suite 2A
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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Scenic Virginia is the only statewide conservation nonprofit dedicated solely to preserving, protecting and enhancing the extraordinary beauty of the Commonwealth, with a particular focus on the preservation of significant viewsheds.

Save the date! The 2011 Scenic Awards Ceremony is scheduled for **Friday, October 21 at 6:00 pm** at the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond. Let us know if you'd like an invitation. We'd love for you to be there.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 1, 2011:

Call for Nominations for Scenic Virginia's
2011 Scenic Awards program

June 15, 2011:

2011 *Virginia Vistas* photo contest winners
announced

August 15, 2011 @ 5:00 pm:

Deadline for nominations for our
2011 Scenic Awards

October 21, 2011 at 6:00 pm:

2011 Scenic Awards Reception and Ceremony at
the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond

March 1, 2012:

Call for entries for the 2012 *Virginia Vistas*
photo contest

Weekly on Saturday:

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* features a
beautiful photo — courtesy of Scenic Virginia —
on its Editorial page

Your Support Makes It Possible!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail/Phone/Fax _____

Name for Annual Report (if different from above)

2011 GIVING LEVELS

\$1,000+: *Scenic Virginia Society*

\$500 - \$999: *Overlook Circle*

\$100 - \$499: *Vista Circle*

Up to \$100: *Friend*

To make a contribution by check, please mail this form to:
Scenic Virginia, Inc., 4 East Main Street, Suite 2A
Richmond, Virginia 23219.

To make a secure credit card donation, please visit
www.scenicvirginia.org and click on DONATE NOW!

To obtain information about Planned Giving or to donate
a gift of stock, please call Leighton Powell at Scenic Virginia
at (804) 643-VIEW (804-643-8439).

*Contributions to Scenic Virginia are tax-deductible
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