

SCENIC VIRGINIA PRESS RELEASE
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VIRGINIA'S BEAUTY... RECOGNIZED, REVERED AND REVEALED

The winning images of Scenic Virginia's 2011 *Virginia Vistas* Photo Competition remind us why the Commonwealth is recognized around the world for its scenic beauty.

Notes Scenic Virginia's new president, Cessie Howell of Falmouth, "Our 2011 photo winners capture the breathtaking depth and breadth of our Commonwealth's views and vistas, and remind us why we are so fortunate to call Virginia 'home.' We are delighted with the judges' selections."

Adds executive director Leighton Powell of Richmond, "These photos communicate without words what Scenic Virginia is about: Promoting appreciation of Virginia's beautiful views and vistas. They are gorgeous."

Judges for the competition were **Page Bond**, owner of Page Bond Gallery in Richmond; **Frazier Millner**, Director of Advancement and Patron Communications at The Richmond Symphony; **J. Robert Mooney**, Chairman of the Richmond CenterStage Foundation and an amateur landscape photographer; and **Gordon Stettinius**, a professional photographer and author based in Richmond.

For the 2011 contest, Scenic Virginia added two new recurring categories: **Youth**, for entrants under the age of 18, and **Vistas Featuring Wildlife**. In addition, special one-time categories were created to celebrate two important milestones in 2011: the **75th Anniversary of Shenandoah National Park** and the **75th Anniversary of Virginia State Parks**.

The 2011 winners will be on display at the Virginia State Capitol in October, at the UNOS Gallery in Richmond in November/December, and at the Virginia General Assembly Building during the 2012 legislative Session, among other venues.

Note card sets of the winning photos are available for purchase. A set of ten cards (one of each photo) is \$20.00 (includes shipping and handling). To order, contact Scenic Virginia at (804) 643-VIEW (643-8439) or email@scenicvirginia.org.

Scenic Virginia is the only statewide conservation group dedicated solely to preserving, protecting and enhancing the scenic beauty of the Commonwealth, with a particular focus on the preservation of significant views and vistas.

To learn more about the organization, visit www.scenicvirginia.org and follow them on Facebook.

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NOTE: The lists of 2011 *Virginia Vistas* Winners and Honorable Mentions follow. To request digital images or obtain additional information, please contact Executive Director Leighton Powell at Scenic Virginia at (804) 363-9453 (cell) or lpowell@scenicvirginia.org.

2011 WINNERS

BEST IN SHOW

Snow Goose Sunset

Photographer: Ron Hugo of Lee Mont

Location: Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Assateague Island

Media for photographer and photo location: *Chincoteague Beacon, Eastern Shore News*

Notes Ron Hugo: “Residents of Chincoteague and visitors to the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge always await the arrival of the Snow Geese in November. Thousands of the magnificent birds visit the island every year, and anyone who has witnessed the grandeur of a huge flock of the geese taking flight nearly in unison will never forget the impression of the sight. This December image is one of my best efforts at capturing that impression with the added delight of sunset lighting.”

Contact Information: Ron Hugo, P.O. Box 414, Chincoteague Island, VA 23336
757.709.0493; ronhugophotography@verizon.net

CITIES AND TOWNS/URBAN LANDSCAPES CATEGORY

Sunset Over Richmond

Photographer: Rick Kidd of Glen Allen

Location: Richmond skyline during sunset shot from an altitude of 1,700 feet

Media: *Richmond Times-Dispatch, Henrico Citizen*

Writes Rick Kidd: “A longtime friend is a Henrico County Police Corporal assigned as an aircraft pilot in the Aviation Unit. Late last year, I requested an evening observation flight, and flew with him while he was on routine patrol over metro Richmond. This photo was shot from an altitude of 1,700 feet as we flew southwest in early December. I knew it would make for a dynamic shot with Richmond’s Grand Illumination in progress, but I did not anticipate the incredible sunset. I never leave home without my Nikons, and was lucky enough to have calm skies -- and a great pilot -- to allow me to hand-hold this shot in unfavorable, low-light conditions which, under normal circumstances and with my feet on the ground, would require the use of a tripod. Can’t really use a tripod in an airplane!!! Ha-ha.”

Contact Information: Rick Kidd Photography, 9705 Kingscroft Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060
804.615.0237; rick@rickkiddphotography.com; www.rickkiddphotography.com

COASTAL/CHESAPEAKE BAY CATEGORY

South Main Pier

Photographer: Ron Hugo of Lee Mont

Location: Overlooking Chincoteague Inlet at Chincoteague Island

Media for photographer and photo location: *Chincoteague Beacon, Eastern Shore News*

Notes Ron Hugo: “This image was captured on South Main Street on Chincoteague Island on one of those September days when the cumulus clouds were spectacular and the air was crisp and clear, resulting in the contrast of the deep blue sky. The leading line of the pier draws the viewer into the image and deep under the clouds. Technically the image was enhanced using a polarizing filter and high dynamic range photography.”

Contact Information: Ron Hugo, P.O. Box 414, Chincoteague Island, VA 23336
757.709.0493; ronhugophotography@verizon.net

FARMS AND OPEN SPACE CATEGORY

Morning Snow

Photographer: Terry Crider of Spotsylvania

Location: 2 miles from the photographer's home in Spotsylvania

Media: *The Free-Lance Star*

Writes Terry Crider: *"I like to ride around after a snowstorm and take pictures. That morning, I saw that the heavy snowfall from the night before made the red barn really 'pop' against the white on the ground. I tried to capture the whole depth of field from the pine trees to the barn. As you can see, the scene was truly breathtaking!"*

Contact Information: Terry Crider, 118 Fawn Hills Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407
540.786.0489; 540.845.9657 cell; terrycrider05@gmail.com

PEAKS AND VALLEYS/MOUNTAINS CATEGORY

Blue Ridge Parkway, Just South of Rockfish Gap

Photographer: Bill Dickinson of Glen Allen

Location: Looking east from the Blue Ridge Parkway just south of Rockfish Gap

Media: *Richmond Times-Dispatch, Waynesboro News Virginian, Daily Progress*

Writes Bill Dickinson: *"The Blue Ridge Parkway runs for 216 miles along the famous Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia and is one of my favorite side trips when traveling to visit my daughter at JMU. On this particular day while stopped at the first of many scenic overlooks I was struck by the early spring beauty of this often overlooked eastern vista. The darker green trees of the valley and foothills contrast the lighter spring leaves of the mountain top trees in the foreground. Shades of blue and green punctuated with patches of white painted this scenic highlands view."*

Contact Information: Bill Dickinson, 10665 Cliffmore Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060
804.775.0320; skynoir@gmail.com

RIVERS AND WATERWAYS CATEGORY

River Fog Rise Above the Smith

Location: Smith River below Philpott Lake in Henry County

Photographer: Brian M. Williams of Martinsville

Media: *Martinsville Bulletin* (Ginny Wray, Editor)

Notes Brian M. Williams: *"I was pleased to capture the mystery and magic of a late summer evening on the beautiful Smith River below Philpott Lake. The famous river fog is created when the 45-degree tailrace water collides with the warm moist air evening air. The Smith is home to a fine population of wild brown trout, and I always have a fly rod and camera on hand. On this beautiful river it is sometimes difficult to decide whether to fly-fish or photograph, so I always try to be prepared to do both."*

Contact Information: Brian M. Williams, Education, Outreach and Conservation Coordinator
Dan River Basin Association, 3300 Kings Mountain Road/PO Box 7, Collinsville, VA 24078;
276.634.2592 (H); 276.618.1457 (C); bwilliams@danriver.org; www.danriver.org

VISTAS FEATURING WILDLIFE

Pony Pasture Geese

Photographer: Scott Adams of Richmond

Location: Taken just west of Pony Pasture along the James River in Richmond

Local Media: *Richmond Times Dispatch, Style Weekly, Richmond Free Press*

Writes Scott Adams: *“This photo was taken at one of my favorite spots just up river from Pony Pasture, close to where we live. I really like this vantage point because the Carillon is visible just above the tree line. I had been on a kick of going down to the James for sunrise, and one cold January morning as the fog was lifting I had just started to snap photos when two flocks of geese flew by and I was lucky enough to capture it. I feel so fortunate to live near so much natural beauty and such a spectacular subject.”*

Contact Information: Scott Adams, 3333 Warner Road, Richmond, VA 23225

804.337.5854; asa1620@gmail.com

YOUTH (UNDER 18)

Traveler

Photographer: Nathaniel Tombes of Midlothian, Virginia

Location: Atlantic Coastline Bridge over the James River in Richmond

Media: *Richmond Times-Dispatch, Style Weekly, Chesterfield Observer, Midlothian Exchange*

Writes Nathaniel Tombes (age 15 when photo was taken): *“Ever since we moved to Richmond several years ago, seeing the trains cross this bridge struck me as an interesting subject. I took this shot as we were driving to the Squirrels’ opening night, crossing the Powhite bridge. Of all the angles possible, a side view seemed to highlight the isolation of the train high above the river. Timing the shot to avoid light poles took some patience, but the charm of the daily freight train still somehow made it onto the film.”*

Contact Information: Nathaniel Tombes, 10910 Ramshorn Road, Midlothian VA 23113

804.523.4953; thnkfst228@gmail.com

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK (Only in 2011)

Fog on Skyline Drive

Photographer: Richard A. Koth of Linden (Warren County)

Location: Skyline Drive at Mile Marker 7

Media: *Northern Virginia Daily, Warren County Report, Winchester Star*

Writes Rick Koth: *“I am fortunate enough to live near Shenandoah National Park. I have the opportunity to visit often. Sunrise and early morning are my favorite times as there are usually no other people there. All four seasons and all types of weather make the scenery ever-changing and always beautiful. This shot was taken looking south on Skyline Drive from Gooney Run Overlook at mile marker 7 near the northern entrance to the Park. It had just stopped raining and the mountains looked rather magical. All should visit Shenandoah National Park.”*

Contact: Richard Koth, 198 Wilderness Road, Linden, Virginia 22642

540.631.8028; rickkoth@comcast.net

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIRGINIA STATE PARKS (Only in 2011)

Lake Anna Autumn

Photographer: Bill Dickinson of Glen Allen

Location: Taken from Lake Anna State Park near Spotsylvania looking south over Lake Anna

Media: *The Free-Lance Star*

Writes Bill Dickinson: “A cool crisp autumn day in early November turned out to be the perfect day to capture the beauty of a land once known for its gold mining. After hiking a short distance from one of the park’s recreation areas I happened upon a beautiful view of the lake meandering through the surrounding woodlands. The colorful fall foliage, gleaming water and striking sky made for a beautiful composition while the resulting photograph is testament that Lake Anna State Park is rich with natural beauty.”

Contact Information: Bill Dickinson, 10665 Cliffmore Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060

804.775.0320; skynoir@gmail.com

2011 HONORABLE MENTIONS

CITIES AND TOWNS/URBAN LANDSCAPES CATEGORY

Sunset at the Manchester Bridge

Photographer: Bill Dickinson of Glen Allen

Location: James River at 9th Street in Richmond

Grand Illumination at Colonial Williamsburg

Photographer: Chuck Durfor of Rockville, Maryland

Location: Governor’s Palace at Colonial Williamsburg

COASTAL/CHESAPEAKE BAY CATEGORY

Guard Shore

Photographer: Ron Hugo of Lee Mont

Location: Bloxom in Accomack County on the Chesapeake Bay

Under the Pier

Photographer: Rick Kidd of Glen Allen

Location: Sandbridge Pier (Little Island Fishing Pier) in Virginia Beach

FARMS AND OPEN SPACE CATEGORY

Caretaker’s Cottage

Photographer: Richard W. Dawson of Woodford (Caroline County)

Location: Pope’s Creek National Park (George Washington’s birthplace) in Westmoreland County

Hanover Barn

Photographer: Rick Kidd of Glen Allen

Location: Off Route 54 in Ashland

PEAKS AND VALLEYS/MOUNTAINS CATEGORY

Raven’s Roost

Photographer: Gina Venn of Henrico

Location: Raven’s Roost Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway

Sunrise on Snowy Ridge

Photographer: Ann Beth Wiegand of Fincastle

Location: Fincastle (Botetourt County)

RIVERS AND WATERWAYS CATEGORY

Snowy River in Suffolk

Photographer: Rebecca Zirk of Suffolk

Location: Driver neighborhood of Suffolk

Taskinas Creek

Photographer: Bill Dickinson of Glen Allen

Location: York River State Park in James City County

VISTAS FEATURING WILDLIFE

A Young Eagle at the Birthplace of Our Country

Photographer: Chuck Durfor of Rockville, Maryland

Location: Historic Fort James in Jamestown

Big Meadows Deer

Photographer: Edward J. Fuhr of Richmond

Location: Big Meadows, Shenandoah National Park in Stanley

YOUTH (UNDER 18)

Geese on a Pond

Photographer: MacKenzie Snellings of Mechanicsville

Location: Hanover County

Green Means "Go"

Photographer: Ryan Uckert of Arlington

Location: Downtown Rosslyn

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK (2011 ONLY)

Autumn Splendor

Location: Skyline Drive just south of Route 33

Photographer: Edward J. Fuhr of Richmond

Shenandoah Tree

Photographer: Deborah Kozura of Charlottesville

Location: Bacon Hollow Overlook on Skyline Drive near Milepost 70 in Shenandoah National Park

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VIRGINIA STATE PARKS (2011 ONLY)

Claytor Sunrise

Photographer: Kimber Simmons of Pulaski

Location: Claytor Lake State Park (Pulaski County)

View of Paris from Sky Meadows State Park

Photographer: Richard A. Koth of Linden

Location: Sky Meadows State Park in Fauquier County