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**Press Contact (or to obtain an electronic version):**  
Leighton Powell (Executive Director, Scenic Virginia)  
804.282.5522 (phone); 804.282.5506 (fax)  
804.363.9453 (cell)  
[email@scenicvirginia.org](mailto:email@scenicvirginia.org)

## **SCENIC VIRGINIA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR ANNUAL SCENIC AWARDS**

*Theme of 2007 event is "Open Your Eyes"*

*Richmond, Va.* Scenic Virginia wants you to pause, breathe, and take a look around. And if what you see is deserving of recognition, nominate it for a 2007 Scenic Award!

"Virginia is one of the most beautiful places in the world, and we need to ensure that steps are taken to preserve, protect and enhance extraordinary scenic assets," says Scenic Virginia president Eugenia Anderson-Ellis of Richmond. "Our annual Scenic Awards program is the Commonwealth's premier event for recognizing achievement in the scenic conservation movement. To be truly representative, we need Virginia's citizens to 'open their eyes' and alert us to noteworthy projects in their localities."

That said, the Awards are more than just a pat on the back for a job well done. Says executive director Leighton Powell, "Our Scenic Award winners represent projects that can – and should – be replicated in other parts of the Commonwealth. We use our Awards to publicize the good work that can be accomplished when resourceful Virginians put their minds to it."

The organization is seeking nominations in the following six categories:

- Best Preservation of a Scenic Viewshed
- Best Preservation of a Scenic River Corridor
- Best Creative Scenic Improvement
- Best Local Anti-Litter Practices
- Best Implementation of VDOT Tree-Trimming Policy (given to a VDOT district)
- Scenic Hero (given to an elected official, private citizen, or organization for particular achievement in scenic conservation or for lifetime achievement).

Last year's honored projects and organizations included the *Preservation of Tinker Mountain*, the *City of Fredericksburg's Rappahannock-Rapidan Conservation Easement*, the *Captain John Smith Trail*, the *Assign-A-Highway* litter abatement program that originated in southwest Virginia, the *Fredericksburg VDOT district* for its performance-based tree-trimming program, and the *Friends of the Rappahannock* for 20+ years of environmental education and advocacy.

The Nomination Form for the 2007 Awards is available at Scenic Virginia's website at **[www.scenicvirginia.org/Awards](http://www.scenicvirginia.org/Awards)** or by calling the Scenic Virginia office at 804.282.5522. Nominations must be received by the close of business on Friday, September 14, 2007, after which a statewide committee will review the entries and select a winner in each of the six categories. The 2007 Scenic Awards will be presented at a luncheon on Friday, October 26, 2007 at the Kent-Valentine House in Richmond.

Scenic Virginia is a statewide nonprofit whose mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the scenic beauty and community character of the Commonwealth. Membership is open to all. Persons interested in joining or those wanting additional information about the nominating process should contact Scenic Virginia Executive Director Leighton Powell at 804.282.5522 or at [email@scenicvirginia.org](mailto:email@scenicvirginia.org).