

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 28, 2005**

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## **GOVERNOR CAPTURES SCENIC ORGANIZATION'S TOP AWARD**

Other winners recognized from around the state

*Richmond, Va.* Governor Mark R. Warner's support of the successful effort to bring the National Scenic Byways program to Virginia has earned him Scenic Virginia's highest honor for the year. The statewide nonprofit organization will recognize Virginia's top elected official as its **Scenic Hero** at their 2005 Scenic Awards program on Tuesday in Richmond.

"This was an easy decision for our Awards Selection Committee," says Scenic Virginia president Eugenia Anderson-Ellis. "The *America's Byways*<sup>™</sup> program was established in 1996, but this is the first time Virginia has been included. Because of Governor Warner, Virginia now has four new National Scenic Byways in the Blue Ridge Parkway, Skyline Drive, George Washington Memorial Parkway, and Colonial Parkway. Governor Warner understands the value of the Byways program to the Commonwealth's tourism, and he provided support at every level of his administration. We are delighted to present him with this honor."

The other 2005 winners are as follows:

**Best Preservation of a Scenic Viewshed:** The Clarkton Bridge Alliance for rallying a coalition to save the historic Clarkton Bridge spanning the Scenic Staunton River between Charlotte and Halifax counties, and for celebrating its importance as a regional resource for heritage tourism, nature tourism, and outdoor recreation.

**Honorable Mention:** Save Our Gateway in Front Royal, Virginia for their successful opposition to the location of a Wal-Mart on the south fork of the Shenandoah River.

**Best Preservation of a Scenic River Corridor:** The RappFLOW project for developing a county-wide watershed management plan for the people, land and streams of the Upper Thornton River in Rappahannock County, and for subscribing to the belief that "where there is health, there is beauty."

**Honorable Mention:** The Grassroots Conservancy, Marion Civitan Club, and Town of Marion for the Marion Riverwalk Project.

**Most Creative Scenic Improvement:** The Friends of the Rockfish Watershed and the Lynchburg VDOT District for for the two-mile restoration of the South Fork of the Rockfish River in Nelson County that enhances the beauty of the Rockfish Valley as seen from several Virginia Byways, and that has made the river a candidate for Virginia's Scenic River designation.

**Best Local Anti-Litter Practices:** The Keep Henrico Beautiful Committee for its "Because We Care" program, which recruits dedicated citizens to be proactive about litter in order to make Henrico County's roads, parks, schools and communities a more beautiful place to live, work and play.

*Honorable Mention:* Giles County for its School Anti-Litter program.

***Best Implementation of VDOT Tree-Trimming Policy:*** The Staunton VDOT District in recognition of its efforts to enhance the Avenue of Trees entrance into the Village of Brownsburg, a National- and State-Registered Historic District, along Route 252 in the Walkers Creek Magisterial District of Rockbridge County.

Scenic Virginia's 2005 Scenic Awards program will take place on Tuesday, November 1, 2005 at noon at the Kent-Valentine House in Richmond. The public is invited. Tickets are \$30.

Established in 1998, Scenic Virginia is a statewide private nonprofit whose mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the scenic beauty and community character of the Commonwealth. To obtain high-resolution photographs of the award-winning, please contact Executive Director Leighton Powell at 804.363.9453 or [email@scenicvirginia.org](mailto:email@scenicvirginia.org).

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