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**SCENIC VIRGINIA SEEKS DIGITAL BEAUTY FOR
SECOND ANNUAL VIEWSHED PHOTO COMPETITION**

Theme of 2009 contest is "Celebrate Virginia"

Richmond, Va. Scenic Virginia is sponsoring its second annual Viewshed Photo Competition.

"The best way to appreciate our Commonwealth's natural beauty is to see it," says president Jane Henley.

To accomplish this goal, Scenic Virginia is calling upon all photographers -- professional and amateur -- to submit their digital photographs of the Commonwealth's breathtaking views and vistas in the following five categories:

Open Space/Farmland
Rivers/Waterways
Coastal/Chesapeake Bay
Mountains
Urban Landscapes.

A panel of judges will select a winner in each of the five categories and a grand prize winner. Each of the winners will receive recognition at Scenic Virginia's 2009 Scenic Awards ceremony in October, special acknowledgment in Scenic Virginia's "Yes, Virginia!" newsletter, and featured space on the Scenic Virginia website. In addition, the winning viewshed photographs will be featured on Scenic Virginia's 2009 note card set.

Complete rules and regulations are online at www.scenicvirginia.org. There is no charge to enter, and each entrant can submit up to five photographs. The deadline for submitting entries is 5:00 pm EST on September 7, 2009 (Labor Day).

Winners will be notified by October 1, 2009. The winning images will be displayed at Scenic Virginia's 2009 Scenic Awards Luncheon, scheduled for October at the historic Kent-Valentine House in Richmond, and at the Virginia General Assembly during the 2010 Legislative Session.

Scenic Virginia is a statewide conservation nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and enhancing the scenic beauty and community character of the Commonwealth, with a particular focus on the preservation of Virginia's most significant viewsheds and vistas. Membership is open to all.

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