

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 7, 2010

Press Contact:
Leighton Powell, Executive Director
Scenic Virginia
Cell Phone: (804) 363-9453
email@scenicvirginia.org

**SCENIC VIRGINIA SEEKS DIGITAL BEAUTY FOR
ANNUAL VIEWSHED PHOTO COMPETITION**
Theme of 2011 contest is "Celebrating Virginia"

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

"A great way to appreciate Virginia's natural beauty is to see it -- and record it," notes President Jane Henley. "Photographs of beauty are an instant reminder of how lucky we are to live in our Commonwealth."

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

- Farms and Open Space
- Peaks and Valleys/Mountains
- Coastal/Chesapeake Bay
- Rivers and Waterways
- Cities and Towns/Urban Landscapes
- Viewsheds featuring Wildlife.

Two special categories have been added in 2011 to celebrate the following milestones:

- 75th Anniversary of Shenandoah National Park
- 75th Anniversary of Virginia State Parks.

Also new in 2011, Scenic Virginia is including a Youth category. Photographers under 18 years of age can submit a maximum of five photos in any of the above categories. One Youth photo winner will be chosen.

A panel of judges will select a winner in each of the major categories, as well as a Best in Show photograph. The winning photos will be on display at the 2011 Scenic Awards Gala Reception & Ceremony at the Virginia State Capitol in the fall, as well as at the General Assembly during the 2012 legislative session. In addition, photos will be featured on the Scenic Virginia website, included in Scenic Virginia's "Yes, Virginia!" newsletter, and showcased in a note card set available for purchase in Spring 2011.

Complete rules and regulations can be found at www.scenicvirginia.org. There is no charge to enter, and each photographer can submit up to five photographs. **The deadline for submitting entries is Friday April 1, 2011 at 5:00 pm EST.** Winners will be notified by May 1, 2011.

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

###