

Scenic Virginia

2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS

Founded in 1998, Scenic Virginia is the only statewide non-profit conservation organization dedicated exclusively to preserving, protecting and enhancing the scenic beauty of our Commonwealth, with a particular focus on the preservation of significant views and vistas.

We believe that beauty is good for business and essential for the soul, and our scenic assets are critical to the cultural, emotional and economic health of our Commonwealth.

Scenic Virginia acknowledges with gratitude the generosity of our 2016 donors, whose gifts provide the funding for our statewide programs in support of our Commonwealth's extraordinary scenic beauty. Thank you for honoring us with your contributions.

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Preserve. Protect. Enhance.



A Letter from Scenic Virginia's Board Chair and President

Dear Friend of Scenic Virginia,

November 18, 2016

There is no better time to talk about the spectacular and diverse beauty of Virginia than this season. Whether you are walking along the beach on the Eastern Shore, viewing birds making their annual migration to Tidewater, or experiencing the splendor of the Piedmont, Valley and Mountains -- Virginia in autumn is simply a glorious wonder to behold.

It has been another eventful year for Scenic Virginia. We continue to work in a variety of ways to enhance and sustain our incredible natural resources. The Annual Scenic Awards, Virginia Viewshed Register & Virginia ViewFinders, Virginia Outdoors Plan, Virginia Byways Program, State Scenic Rivers Program are just some of our programs and partnerships that move forward Scenic Virginia's mission.

Yet despite our efforts to remind Virginians of the exquisite value of the beauty that surrounds us, threats are ever-present. A sharp rise in population, and the accompanying demand for increased development, puts a terrible strain on our Commonwealth's already fragile scenic resources. Scenic Virginia must remain vigilant to monitor and identify local and state actions that could seriously threaten significant scenic assets.

We exist to preserve, protect, and enhance important scenic vistas; and our work can take many forms. Right now we are working tirelessly to protect numerous significant views from inappropriate (and in some cases, unnecessary) large-scale projects that would devastate the surrounding beauty. These include:

- The historic and cultural viewsheds at our Nation's birthplace in Jamestown
- The View That Named Richmond and the Richmond Riverfront east of Downtown
- The Rappahannock River near the Norris Bridge
- The Historic Route 5 Corridor between Williamsburg and our Capital City.

These are just a few. And thanks to the generous gifts of donors like you, we are having success throughout the Commonwealth.

Your financial support is vital to our work, of course. When it is increased, it empowers us to engage in additional strategic advocacy and education. For example, we're delighted to announce that we have just hired Anne Weidhaas, a recent UVA graduate, as our new Outreach & Program Coordinator. She's terrific, and we are thrilled to have her on board to assist longtime Executive Director Leighton Powell.

Sincerely,



Cecelia Howell

Cecelia S. Howell
Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Starke".

Barry W. Starke, FASLA AIPC
President





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Rappahannock River Shad Run by Edward Episcopo

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Cold Winter Road by Terri Puffenbarger

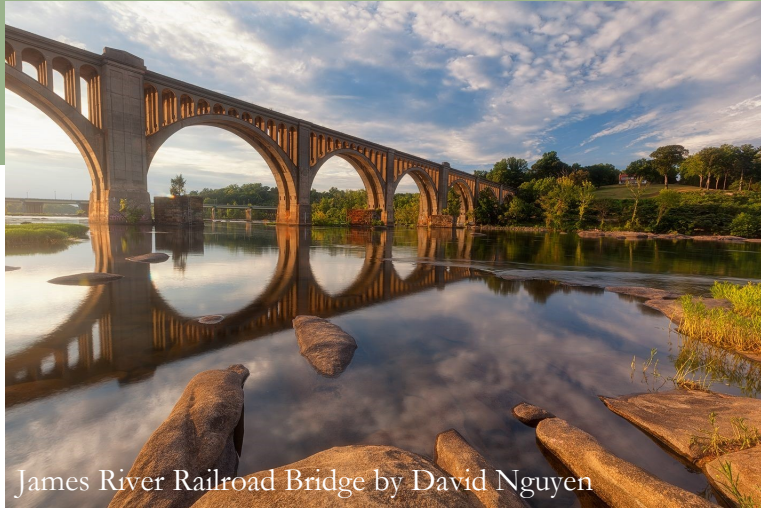
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James River Railroad Bridge by David Nguyen

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Chickahominy Sunset by Shannon Schojan

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The photographs featured throughout our 2016 Annual Report are Winners and Honorable Mentions from our 2016 Virginia Vistas Photo Contest. To view more, visit www.ScenicVirginia.org/Gallery.

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