

Scenic Virginia



Assateague Sunset by Robert Burnley

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Scenic Virginia · 4 East Main Street, Suite 2A · Richmond, Virginia 23219
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Potomac Run by Wayne Butler

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A Look Back at 2020

by
Scenic Virginia President
Lisa Dickinson Mountcastle
& Executive Director
Leighton Powell



December 31, 2020

Dear Friends of Scenic Virginia,

As 2020 draws to a close, we wish you and yours a happy holiday season and hope that all have stayed as healthy and safe as possible during uncertain times.

At Scenic Virginia, this year was -- strangely enough -- incredibly uplifting. That is because Virginians expressed to us on a near-daily basis that the Commonwealth's scenic beauty was safeguarding their mental and physical health. Many added a note commending us for our long-time work to preserve these incredible scenic resources that are such a tonic for the mind, body, and soul. Those sentiments kept us focused and motivated, and we thank you right back, by the way!

We're happy to report that despite the limitations imposed on us by the pandemic, we managed to accomplish quite a bit. Below are a handful of highlights:

Virginia Scenic Rivers. During the 2020 Legislative Session in January and February, we succeeded in passing nine bills designating six new stretches of Virginia Scenic Rivers. It was then our honor to serve on the statewide committee established to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Virginia Scenic Rivers program. We are now working toward the designation of several new Scenic Rivers in the 2021 General Assembly, including the Lower Rappahannock.

Vibrant Virginia. In the spring, we were asked to write a chapter about the evolution of scenic resource appreciation in Virginia for a new book called, fittingly enough, Vibrant Virginia. We happily accepted the offer and worked over the summer on our manuscript. Much of it details the founding -- and maturing -- of Scenic Virginia, and we hope you will be pleased with the final product. The book is scheduled to be published in 2021.

[Letter continues on next page]



Rose Mallow Sunrise by Erik Moore

Virginia Vistas Photo Contest. The annual photo contest is always one of our favorite projects, and we are indebted to the hundreds of photographers willing to share their talent and passion for scenic beauty with us.

In 2020, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program, we limited our Rivers & Waterway Category to photos taken along designated Virginia Scenic Rivers. (The entries were stunning, and our efforts had the additional benefit of pointing out that many beautiful Virginia rivers have yet to be designated.)

The above photo is our 2020 Rivers & Waterways Category Winner. It was taken along the designated Virginia Scenic River at North Landing River in Virginia Beach.

Viewshed Project. We continued to make great progress on this first-of-its-kind-in-the-U.S., and we will roll it out in 2021. For now, we ask that you give some serious thought to what are your favorite vistas, viewsheds, and scenic areas in your locality. Please make a list and be prepared to share it when we come to your town.

As 2020 concludes, we thank you again (and again!) for treasuring scenic beauty as much as we do. Unlike so many nonprofits, we have made it through a very difficult time, and for that, we are extremely grateful. We thank you for the warm thoughts and wishes you've shared with us this year. Remember that we're here if you need us, and we love hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Lisa Dickinson Mountcastle

Lisa Dickinson Mountcastle
Board President

Leighton Powell

Leighton Powell
Executive Director

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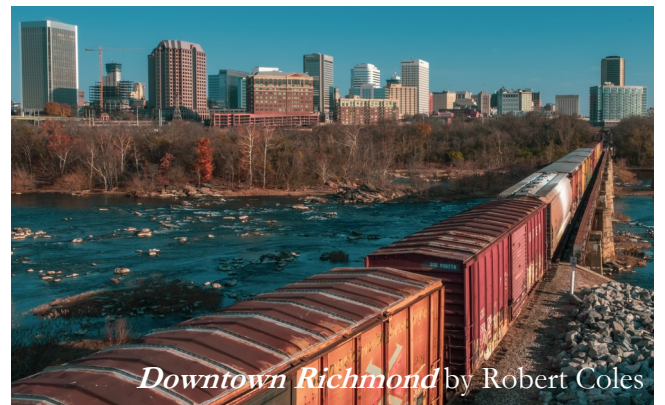
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