



Environmental Partnership receives award from Scenic Virginia

(Left to right) Scenic Virginia Trustee Lucille Miller, Roanoke City Attorney Bill Hackworth, Virginia Outdoors Foundation Trustee Rupert Cutler, Western Virginia Land Trust Executive Director Roger Holnback, Roanoke City Superintendent of Parks Gary Hegner, Western Virginia Land Trust Project Manager David Perry, Western Virginia Land Trust President Janet Scheid, Virginia Outdoors Foundation Communications and Outreach Manager Jason McGarvey. (photo by Jack Beilhart)

Scenic Virginia gave its annual watershed protection award to the City of Roanoke, the Western Virginia Land Trust, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation on Thursday for their joint effort in protecting Carvins Cove Natural Reserve.

Scenic Virginia Trustee Lucille Miller presented the partnership with the organization's "Scenic Water Corridor Preservation Award" for the group's record-setting conservation easement in Carvins Cove, which permanently protects 6,185 acres of land from development, as well as 14 miles of scenic views from the Appalachian Trail. The easement, recorded in April, protects the largest tract of land ever placed under easement in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

While a private landowner could have received millions of dollars in tax benefits for protecting a property of this size, "the City of Roanoke didn't place this easement on the Cove for any financial gain," said Western Virginia Land Trust Executive Director Roger Holnback during the award presentation. "They did it because it was the right thing to do for future citizens of the City of Roanoke. We hope the City will protect the remainder of the Cove's 12,000-plus acres in the near future with a second conservation easement."

Scenic Virginia chose the Carvins Cove partnership from among a group of more than 150 nominees from across the state. The award was presented at Scenic Virginia's 2008 Scenic Awards luncheon, held at the Kent-Valentine House in downtown Richmond.