



Virginia photographer publishes book celebrating the natural landscapes of the Commonwealth

By BRENNAN LONG



Last month Ben Greenberg, a lifelong Virginian, avid environmentalist and an award-winning photographer, published a book of his landscape photography titled, *Natural Virginia*. The book divides Virginia into three regions: Tidewater, Piedmont and Western Virginia. The coffee table size book features 122 panoramic color landscape images from around the state.

"I want people to experience and fall in love with Virginia's natural environment,"

Greenberg said. "I want them to recognize the incredible diversity of that environment, all the way from the Eastern Shore and the Chesapeake Bay to the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains and the Shenandoah Valley."

Greenberg said he has always dreamed of publishing a book that would display the best examples of his photography in a meaningful way and he said that *Natural Virginia* is that book.

"While everyone is taking photographs, not everyone is a photographer," wrote Chuck Epes, the assistant director of media relations at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, in a review of *Natural*



Virginia on his blog. "If you still think just anyone can take compelling photographs, take a look at *Natural Virginia*. Nearly every page prompts a 'wow' or a smile or a memory. Like a fine painting, the images demand that you linger and study their composition, texture, and detail."

Greenberg's panoramic landscape photography inspires his readers to celebrate the Commonwealth's heritage, while simultaneously reminding its viewers of the frailty of many of its natural areas.

"He did not just happen to walk by and snap a picture," writes Tayloe Murphy, a former member of the Virginia House of Delegates and the former secretary of Natural Resources, in the book's foreword. "Like all of his photographs, it represents how important timing and experience are to the creation of a scene worthy of preservation."



Deane Dozier, an outdoor writer and wildlife photographer, wrote the introduction for the book and the introductions for each of the three regions that Greenberg photographed.

"What she says in words is what I feel when I shoot my photographs," Greenberg said.

In the introduction Dozier writes, "Open the pages. Smell the Eastern Shore salt marsh. Breathe in the Virginia mountain air. Feel the swelling of the heart at the expanse of mountain ranges fading to soft blues in the distance...Savor the experience of Virginia's natural beauty. It resides within the images. And once experienced, it resides within the heart."

Greenberg said that he hoped that his book would encourage his readers to do everything that they can to preserve the natural environment in Virginia. He is very proud that he received support

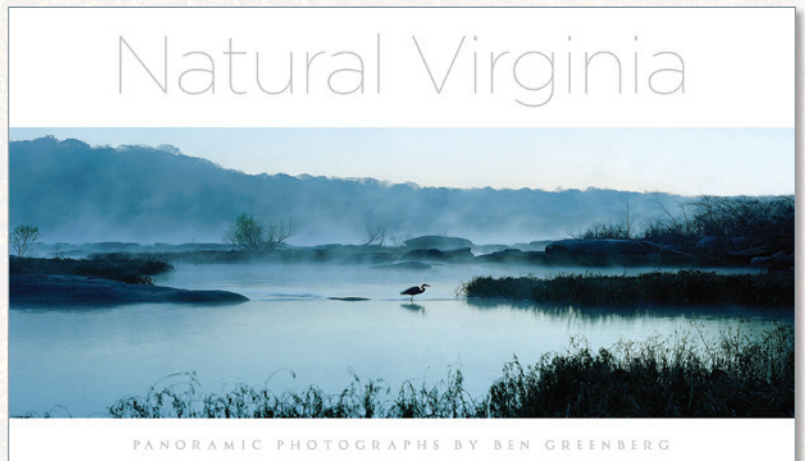
from numerous statewide environmental groups in the publishing of his book, including The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Forever, the Sierra Club, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, League of Conservation Voters, the Virginia Conservation Network, Scenic Virginia and Keep Virginia Beautiful.

"My audience is anyone who has lived in Virginia, anybody who lives in Virginia and anybody who enjoys the natural environment of Virginia and wants us to preserve it," Greenberg said. *Natural Virginia* is dedicated to Greenberg's sons and five grandchildren with the hope that they and future generations will "be able to fully experience and enjoy the environmental treasures" that inspired him to create the book.

Natural Virginia is available for purchase from bookstores throughout Virginia as well as many gift shops and online bookstores.



Natural Virginia is a coffee table size book (10"x17", 240 pages) with 122 panoramic landscape photographs by Ben Greenberg that capture Virginia's varied and breathtaking scenery from the Eastern Shore to the Blue Ridge Mountains. ***Natural Virginia*** divides the state into three regions: Tidewater, Piedmont and Western Virginia. The Foreword written by W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. and the introductory essays to the book and each region written by Deane Dozier offer further insights into Virginia's natural environment. The book is dedicated to the state's individuals and organizations committed to preserving Virginia's fragile but resilient environment.



Natural Virginia is available at bookstores and gift shops throughout Virginia. To purchase online visit www.naturalvirginiabook.com. For additional information contact Ben Greenberg, ben@bengreenberg.com.

Deane wrote: "May these photographs serve as reminder that what we have is part of who we are. Virginia's natural environment has been ingrained in us. We protect it because we love it and because its preservation is key to our own survival."

"With ***Natural Virginia*** Ben Greenberg celebrates the natural beauty of his home state of Virginia and its preservation for our enjoyment and that of our future generations."