This year, in an effort to further involve the conservation community in the crafting of the publication, VCN held a contest to select the cover photo. With more than 400 submissions, the competition generated spectacular images from across the Commonwealth. This year's contest winner is Sarah Kohrs, of Mt. Jackson, Va. for her photo *Along the James*. The picture was taken near Rockbridge County and highlights the reflection of the sky in the James River as it meanders along the Blue Ridges.

Kohrs hails from Shenandoah County and leads community work days at a burial ground that honors African Americans formerly enslaved on a plantation in Quicksburg. For the winning photo, She and her family were on a camping excursion to the Crabtree Falls area. "Driving along the Blue Ridge, we came to a place where the sunlight’s strobe through tree canopies opened onto a clear view of the James River as it threaded toward the mountains," she said. "I never tire of seeing mountain and valley landscapes. They seem to make my soul sigh and leap at the same time." The photo was taken with a Fujifilm X-T10 digital camera.

"When we preserve, protect, and restore nature, we do the same for ourselves," said Kohrs, talking about the importance of conservation. "It’s a life-practice, a habit, that guides the way we see the world and the way we see one another. If we are willing to conserve the people we love, we should be willing to conserve the natural places we love, too."