



37th Annual Awards

Awarded October 16, 2017 in Banff, Alberta, Canada

This Year's Judges:

Writing Judges:

Larry Blieberg, Freelance Journalist and Author
Dawn Chafe, Executive Editor, Atlantic Business Magazine
Nathan Duel, Writer and Lecturer
Day Helesic, Managing Editor, Canadian Living
Richard Johnson, Writer, Editor, Digital Projects Manager, National Magazine Awards
Conor Mihel, Freelance Magazine Writer
Nikki Murry Berks, Editor-In-Chief, Berks County Living
Amber Nasrulla, Reporter, Yahoo Canada News
Hal Niedzwiecki, Writer and Publisher, Broken Pencil Magazine
Anicka Quin, Editorial Director, Western Living and Vancouver magazine
Ingrid Randoja, Deputy Editor at Cineplex Magazine
Jim Sutherland, Writer
Suzanne Trudel, Executive Director, Alberta Magazine Publishers Association

Design Judges:

Helen Billett, Creative Director, Meringue Inc.
Gary Davidson, Freelance Editorial and Graphic Designer
Emily Kimbro, Art Director, Texas Monthly
Grace Lee, designer and founding partner of Priest+Grace
Matthew Lenning, Creative Director
Brett Martin, Freelance Illustrator
Brett Popplewell, Author, Co-Publisher Feathertale Review
Josef Reyes, Art Director, Bloomberg Markets
David Weaver, Creative Director, Yachting, Sailing World, Cruising World,
and SCUBA magazines

Public Issues

Bronze – Louisiana Life

The State of Women's Health in the State by Sarah Ravits

Silver – Adirondack Life

Aaron Mair by James M. Odat

Kudos to the magazine for a great choice of assignments.

Gold – Arizona Highways

Cutting It Down to Size by Terry Greene Sterling

Such a complex topic, yet so easy to read.

Tie for Gold

Gold – Delaware Beach Life

Tough Start by Lynn R. Parks

Historic Feature 30,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – Alabama Magazine

Alabama Aviators by Todd Keith

A great story, well written - but not nearly enough coverage for a story of this importance. This deserves at least twice the space it was given.

Bronze – Mountain Home

Airplane Wars by Peter Joffre Nye

Fascinating to learn about an aviation pioneer I'm sure many people were not aware of!

Tie for Bronze

Bronze – Kansas!

Buffalo Soldiers by Melinda Briscoe and Bianca Brown

Chilling, thrilling and riveting from beginning to end. And, utterly believable thanks to the copious data that's been so skillfully parsed in the timeline. If you have a heart, it will be outraged at the injustice faced by the Buffalo Soldiers. Once you read it, you can't forget it.

Silver – Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors

Grand, Wild, and Terrific: John James Audubon and his travels through Maine by Rob McCall and Polly Saltonstall

Wonderful package wrapped around a strong historical story. I can easily see how the magazine's readers would be delighted by this.

Gold – Colorado Life Magazine

Otto Mears by Matt Masich

Brilliant introduction, stunning visuals, tons of detail and a scorching narrative - what more could any reader ask for?

Historic Feature 30,000 or more APR

Award of Merit – Down East

Strange Pilgrimage by Virginia M. Wright

Well written; fascinating subject matter; a unique opportunity to learn about an interesting moment in American history.

Award of Merit – Downhome

A Force to Be Reckoned With by Elizabeth Whitten

Enjoyable first person account of a man's fascinating life. The author did the wise thing and let Cyril tell his own life story, and that made it a great read.

Award of Merit – Texas Highways

Hail to the Boys of CCC by Julia Robinson

This is totally my kind of story! I admit it has a touch of a rah-rah narrative, but it is a seamless account of the CCC work, lots of historic context and love the personal stories at the end. Loads of photos as well, and it IS relevant. American bi-partisan behaviour today makes what Roosevelt did during the Great Depression unthinkable today, and that thought sits under the surface here. Unspoken, it speaks volumes about today's America.

Bronze – Arkansas Life

Making History by Mariam Makatsaria and Katie Bridges

I think this is one of the best features I've read. For me it comes down to the writing which is warm and charming, and the writer's decision to make this about her experience meeting and describing -- I love her descriptions -- of the women who play Louise as an entry point is inspired. I thought I could care less for Arkansas architectural history, but I do, and I am pleased to have gotten to know little Louise!

Tie for Bronze

Bronze – Saltscapes

Over the top, b'ys by Bob Wakeham

Excellent storytelling; evocative, heartrending; a well-rounded feature with clear historical significance and a lot of heart.

Silver – New Mexico Magazine

Creator of Creators by Peter BG Shoemaker

Nicely structured feature; lovely writing style; an insightful depiction of not only a legendary personality, but of New Mexico and Taos.

Gold – Arizona Highways

Quite Wright by Matt Jaffe

Impressive writing style; compelling subject matter; I was drawn into the story of the genesis of the home, the home's story across time, and the intended iteration of the property in the future.

Nature and Environment Feature

Award of Merit – British Columbia Magazine

An Old Growth Battlefield by Hans Tammemagi, TJ Watt, Arran Yates, Dale Miller, and David Webb

Excellent reporting -- then and now context. Outstanding.

Bronze – Cottage Life

Forces at Play by Catherine Collins

This is great science writing!

Silver – Arizona Highways

Let Them Bee by Terry Greene Sterling

Excellent! A compelling investigation of apiculture.

Gold – Arkansas Life

Pathfinder by Wyndham Wyeth, Ragan Sutterfield, Paul Chisholm, Jordan P. Hickey, Scotty Lewis, Paul McDonnald, and Heather Steadham

Outstanding collection paints a broad picture. Very engaging.

Travel Feature

Award of Merit – New Mexico Magazine

Neo Santa Fe by John Muller, Kate Russell, Edie Dillman, and Dave Herndon
Specific and lively.

Bronze – Arizona Highways

The Last Trading Posts by Matt Jaffe

In many ways "The Last Trading Post" is much more than a story of commerce. And it does a lovely job of engaging the reader by telling several universal stories: of the tension between generations of family to advance and adapt; of the march of technology.

Silver – British Columbia Magazine

Storm Warning! by Daniel Wood, Arran Yates, Dale Miller, and David Webb

Written with punch and packed with facts, this feature grabs the reader, astonishing you from the start, grabs you and never lets go. Wonderful and unique that storm watching is used as a bridge to discuss two often-conflicted cultural views (in the author's words).

Gold – Adirondack Life

Three Days in the Santanonis by Brian Castner

Loved every word, phrase, sentence, and paragraph of this piece. Heart pounding for those young boys, feeling the hunger in their bellies, and the excitement, terror and pride so beautifully described in this adventure.

Art and Culture Feature

Award of Merit – Arizona Highways

Write and Wrong by Terry Greene Sterling

A fascinating story, and so perfect for the magazine.

Bronze – New Mexico Magazine

Lowriders: Riding High by Don J. Usner, Edie Dillman, and Dave Herndon

This story was great.

Silver – Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors

When Art is a Family Affair by Ann Dodds Costello

Neat story. The concept and execution were strong.

Gold – Missouri Life

Up All Night by Greg Bowers

Already plotting how to get to Kansas City, then to stay up late enough to experience this place. Terrific magazine story.

General Feature

Bronze – Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors

Riding Giants by Paul Molyneaux

Vivid and engaging. Great subject. A tight, simple story told very well.

Silver – Adirondack Life

High Profile by Annie Stoltie

A beautiful example of how to take a commonplace object that people might walk past a hundred times in their life but never really stop to see, and elevate to an object of historical reverence. Nice depth of research as well.

Gold – Arizona Highways

Across the Great Divide by Annette McGivney

An amazing beautiful story, rich in detail and narrative. The author forgets nothing in her story, recounting the unimaginable difficulties encountered in first constructing the pipeline, the heartbreak of its early washout, its importance to the Grand Canyon ecosystem (tourist and otherwise) and the perils of failing to upgrade... it's all here. And even if you know nothing about the Grand Canyon or the water that feeds it, you will be intrigued by this story.

Profiles

Award of Merit – Arizona Highways

Out of the Ordinary by Matt Jaffe

Now this is a profile! The subject is unusual and his life story perfectly suited to the magazine's readership. The story has a nice opening, and the writer spends time with the subject and takes us inside his home and travels, and his backstory was brought to life nicely.

Award of Merit – Kansas!

Young Native Leaders by Lori Hasselman

I loved this. This is really my kind of feature. Culturally sensitive, inspiring without sentimentality, and much needed. It speaks to my liberal viewpoint, and I love the end bit that reminds non-natives how to behave and appreciate a culture different from the white, Christian norm.

Award of Merit – Texas Highways

Extraordinary Texans by Clayton Maxwell

Another strong group profile piece, and while the layout and writing is more traditional, it still works well. I enjoyed the people profiled.

Award of Merit – Yukon, North of Ordinary

Wayne Merry: Finding the Essence of Adventure of El Capitan by Kate Harris, Cathie Archbould, Manu Keggenhoff, and Tara McCarthy

I really liked the details the writer included in a short feature. It captured the scary and at the time ground-breaking climb, and I especially loved that it included the stunned reaction from the students. It was both a strong profile and a fly on the wall piece, I liked that combination, and that feels fresh in this competition.

Bronze – New Mexico Magazine

Old Man River by John Muller, Stefan Wachs, Edie Dillman, and Dave Herndon

Well, to me, this is the profile to beat! For a great profile to work the subject must be multi-sided, Streit, is difficult, sour at times and the writer brings pathos to his tale. It takes us to a place, the NM wilderness, we watch a man at work, the writer is our eyes and ears, and his folly (over the lost fish) is our folly, we would have done that. Awesome writing, a formidable feat to beat!

Silver – Avenue Calgary

The Fight of His Life by Omar Mouallem

Mouallem's *The Fight of his Life* is a skillfully written profile, well researched and imaginatively depicted. I found myself completely drawn into this wrestler's story. This profile has everything one looks for in a compelling piece of writing: conflict, love, family strife, charisma, pain, heart, turmoil, wisdom, humanity. What a story; what a life. I was hooked and I couldn't stop reading.

Gold – Arkansas Life

The First Steps by Mariam Makatsaria

What a compelling story. How these two people connected while on completely different paths was so interesting. I was incredibly moved by Cameron's tragedy while simultaneously invested in and delighted by Ben's crazy adventure.

Makatsaria is an accomplished storyteller. The mix of everyday minutia and larger-than-life grief along with her imaginative writing make this profile unique and memorable.

Reader Service Article

Award of Merit – Acadiana Profile

Best Chefs by Jyl Benson

Nice piece of service writing wrapped into a series of profiles. It made me want to check these places out.

Award of Merit – Texas Highways

Texas Bucket List by Melissa Gaskill

Love list articles, and the numerical break down. Very reader-friendly.

Bronze – Cottage Life

Grill Skills: Her Cred's at Steak by Jackie Davis, Kim Zagar, and Martin Zibauer

Thorough and well done - great sidebars, excellent packaging.

Silver – Avenue Calgary

Haters Guide to Camping by Shelley Arnusch, Kevin Brooker, and Joanne Elves

As a camping "hater" I totally appreciated this piece and its creativity. Great topic!

Gold – Arkansas Life

Day Tripper by Nicholas Hunt

Another strong entry. Love the varied presentation of information: graphs, quizzes, etc. It's all there, interesting, and easy-to-read and easy on the eyes.

Hed & Dek

Award of Merit – Missouri Life

String Beings by Martin Schwartz

Wow! Not only does the headline sell the story, it improves it, likely drawing in readers who would never have thought they'd want to read a puppet story.

Bronze – Louisiana Life

Claws to Celebrate by Stanley Dry

Bravo. Clever, clear writing both draws in the reader and sells the story.

Silver – Arizona Highways

Let Them Bee by Robert Stieve

Loved everything about this.

Gold – Cottage Life

Purple Reign by Tim Tiner, Kim Zagar, and Jackie Davis

Great word play, and perfectly conveys story content.

Essay

Award of Merit – Arkansas Life

Learning Arkansas by Jennifer Case

With her frogs, worms and robins, the writer skillfully equates a three-year-old's discovery of the world with her own discovery of a new and foreign world.

Bronze – Adirondack Life

Valentino and Me by Niki Kourofsky

An intriguing vignette, skillfully presented.

Silver – Avenue Calgary

How to Talk About Death and Dying by Christina Frangou

The writer packs a lot of information and good intention into this, and the piece is, if anything, even for more touching for the effort.

Gold – Arizona Highways

The Sound of Fallen Trees by Craig Childs

If field guides took mushrooms, they might read like this.

Column

Award of Merit – Acadiana Profile

Personnes by Will Kalec

A well written and interesting community-building column that highlights people approaching life in interesting ways.

Award of Merit – Maine, Boats, Homes & Harbors

A Postcard In Time: The Gloriously Stable Flattie Skiff; Going for a Ride; Bravo, Mr. Roosevelt by Peter H. Spectre

Quirky, but certainly on-message. Love the concept/hook for the column (postcards), and the writer's enthusiasm carries the reader.

Bronze – Arizona Highways

Editor's Letter by Robert Stieve

Interesting and informative, this column is a standing invitation to dig into the rest of the magazine.

Silver – Adirondack Life

Short Carries: Piece of the Park, Why They Stay, Seasonal Disorder by Annie Stoltie

Evocative and convincing commentary that entrances a reader into feeling a vested interest in the subject at hand. Even if you know nothing about the park, or were never affected by the flood, you still feel an emotional connection to the writer.

Gold – Delaware Beach Life

Flotsam & Jetsam by Fay Jacobs

A delightful laugh-out-loud experience that captures the reader from beginning to end. The best humour is a lot of work, but sounds effortless and this is the best of that genre. Well argued, makes a point but is never preachy. Fay Jacobs has a new fan for life!

Magazine Writer of the Year 30,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – Missouri Life

Jonas Weir

Jonas is the king of the condensed read. It takes real talent to consistently research and write these types of features (comprised, essentially, of a series of short stories). Mr. Weir does it so well he makes it look easy.

Bronze – Acadiana Profile

Will Kalec for *The Middle of Here; If You Build it They Will Rum; Healthy Outlook; Portraits on All Fours; An Undaunted Spirit*

The writer has a good sense of structure and flow to the stories. Very good reporting and character development.

Silver – Colorado Life

Matt Masich

Matt Masich is the master of the riveting read, combining well researched material with artfully told stories to create must-reads that are rich in detail. His work is consistently delightful, informative and entertaining.

Gold – Delaware Beach Life

Lynn R. Parks for *Blowin' in the Wind; Tough Start; Caution: Heavy Traffic Ahead; A Question of Character*

This is the epitome of magazine feature writing, led by outstanding reporting of important issues from different angles and perspectives. Turning mountains of facts into a solid story is no easy task. The opening scenes are strong, the structure is solid, making for a smooth reading experience. The reader gets a strong, unvarnished sense of the importance of each issue, especially in the wind-power and NAS stories. I've never been to Delaware but I know what I'll read when I go!

Magazine Writer of the Year 30,000 or more APR

Award of Merit – Adirondack Life

Elizabeth Folwell for *Boreas Ponds, Vanishing Acts, Nip Rogers*

Award of Merit – Mississippi Magazine

Boyce Upholt

Folksy writer who doesn't fall into cliches, has a nice flow to his features, uses good quotes, upbeat local stories.

Bronze – Texas Highways

Matt Joyce for *The Journey Abides, Of Pork and Posterity, The Story of Our National Parks, Live From the Hills*

Silver – New Mexico Magazine

David Pike

Pike's subject matter is so interesting. He's skilled at writing imaginative, slice-of-life stories. Pike's articles are extensively researched; he truly seems to be an expert in all things small town New Mexico. He shares his expertise beautifully with readers in stories that are unusually compelling.

Gold – Arizona Highways

Matt Jaffe for *Thick and Thin; Quite Wright; Up for Hours; Out of the Ordinary; The Last Trading Posts*

Jaffe paints an evocative picture of every subject he writes about. The content is compelling, the features are excellently structured and the approach, authentic. I found the subject matter extremely interesting; I was drawn into the stories while always learning something new. Jaffe's work is also exciting to read. He has an ability to set the scene with both concrete detail and a lyrical writing style. He's a lovely storyteller; he digs for great anecdotes from sources and writes excellent kickers.

Tie for Gold

Gold – Arkansas Life

Mariam Makatsaria

What an accomplished, powerful writer. Makatsaria brings her subject matter to life with beautiful descriptive imagery and a whole lot of skill. Her subject matter is compelling; I found myself wanting to read more so that I could know more. Incredibly astute at evoking both feelings and a sense of place, Makatsaria has the ability to get to the heart of the matter. Not only that, she's an inventive and imaginative writer. Such style! With her unique turns of phrase, reading Makatsaria's work keeps me glued to the page.

Single Photo

Bronze – Arizona Highways

Desert View Watchtower by Stephen Wilkes

Silver – albemarle: Living in Jefferson's Virginia

Ferns Ancient and Magical by Robert Llewellyn

Gold – Kansas!

Chicken Dancer by Jason Dailey

Photo Series 30,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – Acadiana Profile

Cool Jobs by Danley Romero

Great moments captured! The propping is nice here--could maybe even use more to set the scene of who these characters are. I like the use of backdrop as well!

Bronze – Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors

It's a Cold Job by Robert F. Bukaty

Beautiful, gritty photos--I'd love to see them even bigger! Love the variety of shots as well.

Silver – Kansas!

Native Life by Mark Mangan and Jason Dailey

Nice moments. The close-ups are particularly beautiful.

Tie for Silver

Silver – Missouri Life

A Stagecoach Comes Home by Dennis Crider

Great range of photos! I love the moments captured. Color is great as well.

Gold – albemarle: Living in Jefferson's Virginia

Ferns Ancient and Magical by Robert Llewellyn

Beautiful! Close-ups are so lovely, and I also appreciate seeing the ferns in the wild.

Tie for Gold

Gold – Yukon, North of Ordinary

Recognizing the Beauty by Tara McCarthy, Jonathan Tucker, and Manu Keggenhoff

Stunning landscapes. Feels otherworldly!

Photo Series 30,000 or more APR

Bronze – Arkansas Life

Right on Cue by Rett Peek

Silver – Cottage Life

Haida Gwaii Scavengers & the Neoprene Handshake by Kamil Bialous

Gold – Arizona Highways

This Land Is Your Land by Nick Berezenko, Larry Lindahl, George H.H. Huey, Elias Butler, Mark Lipczynski, Adam Schallau, George Stocking, Mark Frank, Dave Bly, Davis Muench, Jack Dykinga, Laurence Parent, Robert Jasany, Michael Jennings, Tom Danielsen, and Tom Daniel

Portrait Photo

Bronze – Adirondack Life

Freeze Frames by Yvonne Albinowski

A clean and modern look at ice fishing and the methods used today. This isn't necessarily a subject I would be interested in, but this presentation, the surreal landscape, and personal look at the people involved is hard to pass by at a glance.

Silver – Louisiana Life

Rise and Revel by James Shaw

The photographer captured a moment — the great ones do. Natural, compelling -
- great journalistic image.

Gold – Arizona Highways

Out of the Ordinary by David Zickl

Excellent execution of this offbeat character. Great lines, eyes, lighting.

Portrait Series

Award of Merit – Louisiana Life

The Queen Passed On, But The Queen Lives On by David Joshua Jennings

Vibrant and lively, but very emotionally powerful imagery.

Bronze – New Mexico Magazine

Lowriders: Riding High by Don J. Usner, Edie Dillman, and Dave Herndon

Awesome work with a moody feel and a sense of camaraderie and passion for a craft.

Tie for Bronze

Bronze – Saltscapes

Atlantic Character by Dave Brosha

Fantastic and eerie portraiture!

Silver – Adirondack Life

Freeze Frames by Yvonne Albinowski

I've seen this series in another category, and I still love it.

Gold – Arizona Highways

Getting Your Face Wet by David Zickl

Some intense and powerful moments captured here. Each image is so crisp and detailed despite the surrounding action.

Magazine Photographer of the Year 30,000 or less APR

Bronze – Missouri Life

Notley Hawkins

Clean nice snapshots.

Silver – Colorado Life

Joshua Hardin

This series shows a nice range of styles and subjects. The photos themselves are also really nice, especially the nature shots. Beautiful colours and some really captivating atmospheres being displayed.

Gold – Acadiana Profile

Denny Culbert for *Best New Restaurants, Best Chefs, Boudin*

Top notch work. Excellent. Beautiful portraits and scrumptious food shots.

Magazine Photographer of the Year 30,000 or more APR

Bronze – Arkansas Life

Arshia Khan

Awesome work, great environments and warm, genuine portraits. Looking through this series made me hungry.

Tie for Bronze

Bronze – Louisiana Life

Danley Romero for *Leather Bound; In Stitches; Oh, Shucks!; 5 Course Feast*

The product/food shots are very nice.

Silver – Texas Highways

E. Dan Klepper for *Rambling Spirit, Artist Boyd Eldor, Venice of Texas, 17 Trips for 2017, Light Scapes*

Love this work, great shots complimented with clean design. The "Lightscares" spread is fantastic!

Gold – Arizona Highways

Adam Schallau for *Table of Contents; Something Old, Something New; This Land Is Your Land; Open House*

Amazing photographs complimented with excellent design and type. The atmosphere being created with these landscapes is powerful, eerie, and exciting.

Graphic

Silver – Missouri Life

Stark Brothers Family Tree by Sarah (Herrera) Hackman

Gold – Texas Highways

Hit the Road by Susie Ghahremani

Love this style, love map illustrations! Clear and clean imagery, great, simple colour palette.

Illustration

Bronze – Adirondack Life

Vanishing Acts by Janice Kun

Great vintage feel of illustrations. Really loved the spots of the beaver and moose.

Silver – Arizona Highways

June 30, 1956 by Mark Smith

I like that the story is being told without being overly dramatic. The breadth of the canyon in contrast to the relative smallness of the crash creates its own drama (could have worked without the planes, even). The illustration pulls you in without resorting to shocking the reader.

Silver – Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors

Behind the Scenes by Caroline Magerl

The tone of the illustration harmonizes well with the story and the page. Communicates the idea with Elegance.

Gold – Texas Highways

National Park Perks by Michael Crampton

Beautiful illustrations and layout. Bravo.

Art Direction of a Single Story 30,000 or less APR

Bronze – Kansas!

Raise a Glass by Shelly Bryant, Andrea Etzel, Nathan Pettengill, Nadia Imafidon, and Kelly Gibson

Silver – Yukon, North of Ordinary

The League of Lady Wrestlers by Kayla Callaghan, Manu Keggenhoff, and Tara McCarthy

Gold – Acadiana Profile

Best Boudin in Acadiana by Sarah George

Art Direction of a Single Story 30,000 or more APR

Award of Merit – Adirondack Life

Vanishing Acts by Kelly Hofschneider

Nice, clean layouts and interesting subject matter.

Award of Merit – Arizona Highways

Out of the Ordinary by Barbara Glynn Denney, Keith Whitney, and Jeff Kida

Great content and simple layouts to keep focus on the human interest story. Great photography.

Award of Merit – Nebraska Life

Over the Moon by Tannon Asche and Christopher Amundson

Amazing photography, simple layouts, and a great atmosphere created throughout.

Bronze – Downhome

Our Women of War by Vince Marsh and Cory Way

This is a great article combining more modern styles with old photography to paint an excellent picture.

Silver – Cottage Life

The Ultimate DIYers by Kim Zagar

Awesome story and an amazing cottage! Nice clean layouts that make for a great visual experience with some great photography.

Gold – Louisiana Life

Claws to Celebrate by Sarah George

Awesome story! Great merger of photography and type, beautiful colours.

Overall Art Direction 30,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – Missouri Life

Sarah Hackman

Beautiful photography paired with smart layout design.

Bronze – Alabama Magazine

Bishop Chavers, Lane Gregory, and Susan Dendy

Strong cover imagery and an overall pleasurable reading experience.

Silver – Delaware Beach Life

Terry Plowman, Ashley Dawson, Tessa Lingo, Laura Navarre, Kevin Fleming, Scott Nathan, Carolyn Watson, Rob Waters, and Patti Shreeve

Simple, eye-catching covers. Department design is striking, with nice use of white space.

Gold – Acadiana Profile

Sarah George

Sophisticated design from the detailed covers to the polished features.

Overall Art Direction 30,000 or more APR

Bronze – Adirondack Life

Kelly Hofschneider

Silver – Texas Highways

Mark Mahorsky, Jane Wu, and Brandon Jakobeit

Gold – Cottage Life

Kim Zagar

Department

Award of Merit – Louisiana Life

Louisiana Made by Jeffery Roedel, Danley Romero, Melanie Warner Spencer, and Sarah George

Such a pleasure to look at this. Loved the variety of profiles; the insights; the thoughtfulness of this package; and how the culture and history of a place seeps into the craft these people have chosen.

Bronze – Texas Highways

Drive by Gary Clark, Daniel Blue Tyx, Helen Anders, Clayton Maxwell, Sallie Lewis, Gene Fowler, Michael Corcoran, Heather Brand, Mai Pham, Paula Disbrowe, Cathryn A. Hoyt, Andrea Abel, Melissa Gaskill, Brandon Jakobeit, Kathy Adams Clark, Kevin Stillman, Will van Overbeek, John C. Robinson, E. Dan Klepper, Drue Wagner, Scott Baldwin, WACSO, Kelly Colchin, Mark Mahorsky, Jane Wu, Brandon Jakobeit, Jill Lawless, Lori Moffatt, and Matt Joyce

Strong writing, beautiful package.

Silver – Arkansas Life

First Taste by Bonnie Bauman, Katie Bridges, Arshia Khan, Kelley Lane, and Staci Miller Franklin

A wonderful and diverse package. Solid work from writers, photographers, and editors.

Gold – Arizona Highways

The Journal by Robert Stieve, Kelly Vaughn, Noah Austin, Jeff Kida, Barbara Glynn Denney, and Keith Whitney

What a wonderful mix of history and photographs this package contains! Stories are documented with respect and love while photographs are taken by dedicated photographers going through extraordinary lengths to capture a micro-moment. They witness a place - a plant, an animal, a setting, that perhaps even the State's residents might never have the opportunity to see. These photos are extraordinary.

Food Feature

Award of Merit – Down East

The Definitive Oral History of the Lobster Roll by Brian Kevin, Nina Gallant, and Monica Camariano

An extraordinary reporting effort, and it's impossible to ignore the writer's skill in constructing a narrative arc out of mere quotation blocks.

Bronze – Louisiana Life

Pond to Pot by Denny Culbert

Strong photographically: great images, strong photo editing and careful groupings. Nice.

Bronze – Texas Highways

We Love Our Mudbugs by Robb Walsh, Eric W. Pohl, Mark Mahorsky, Jane Wu, Brandon Jakobeit, Jill Lawless, Lori Moffatt, and Matt Joyce

Great packaging! Photos look fresh and vibrant with lots of action. Love the head line and design.

Silver – Arkansas Life

Worthy Craws by Mariam Makatsaria, Arshia Khan, and Kelley Lane

Writing/photography combo really brings this to life. Lots of foodie smarts, including a true diversity of recipes.

Gold – Acadiana Profile

Best Boudin by Chere Coen and Denny Culbert

Amazingly delicious package. Love the bistro look, typographic style and food photography sing together!

Special Focus

Bronze – Texas Highways

The Story of Our National Parks by Mark Mahorsky, Jane Wu, Brandon Jakobeit, Lori Moffatt, and Matt Joyce

Very nicely done.

Silver – Arizona Highways

Discover Our National Parks: A Guide to Arizona's Parks, Monuments, Historic Sites, Recreation Areas & More

Balanced package, with prose and practical info - and great writing.

Gold – Down East

Acadia: Special Collector's Edition by Mirek Jurek and Brian Kevin

Amazing! Thoughtful content, varied structure, great packaging - a tour de force.

Annual Publication

Bronze – Mountain Home

Pennsylvania Route 6, Teresa Banik Capuzzo

I appreciate the origin story told in the cover letter about the popular desire for the magazine and what the founding mission is.

Silver – Texas Highways

Texas Highways Annual Publication

Love the diverse use of typography and all the colour cues to help the reader navigate such a dense book. The volume of info is absurdly thorough--clearly the service to the reader is being met.

Gold – New Mexico Magazine

True Adventure Guide, Tourism Secretary: Rebecca Latham, Editor in Chief: Dave Herndon, Creative Director: Edie Dillman, Principal Author: Ashley M. Biggers, Senior Editor: Andrew Roush, Graphic Designer: Jazmen Bradford, Ad Production Manager: Terry Smith, Production Manager: Stephen Bohannon, and Circulation Director: Kurt Coey

Love the cover. There is a true sense of understanding the audience and meeting their needs--present on almost every page. The short features are strong, and I like how they're structured around specific themes, rather than just places, which is what so often happens in this type of magazine. Loved the Native American visitor guide tips, and all the focus on chiles. This book is top-notch all around.

Cover 30,000 or less APR

Bronze – albemarle: Living in Jefferson’s Virginia

Ferns Ancient and Magical by Michael Fitts, Alison Dickie, Eden Weathersby, and Robert Llewellyn

Incredible photo! Type is appropriately delicate so as to not overpower the photo.

Silver – Acadiana Profile

Best Boudin by Sarah George

Whoa! Now this is awesome. Love the words and picture integration, very, very crafted and well designed. I want to eat that burger and open this magazine.

Gold – Kansas!

Sip and Savor by Shelly Bryant, Andrea Etzel, Natahan Pettengill, Nadia Imafidon, and Kelly Gibson

Love this cover. Excellent typography and clever use of an otherwise standard looking crafted cappuccino photo. Colours are great, the contrasting warm and cool. Very nice!

Cover 30,000 or more APR

Award of Merit – British Columbia Magazine

Cover Winter 2016 by Steve Ogle, Arran Yates, Dale Miller, and David Webb

Lovely design that’s simultaneously retro and contemporary, and still works as inspiration to travel.

Bronze – Louisiana Life

Weekend Getaways by Sarah George

Great photo, snappy copy, great balance.

Silver – Arizona Highways

The Black & White Issue by Barbara Glynn Denney, Robert Stieve, and Jeff Kida

A stark, gutsy engaging cover.

Gold – Texas Highways

Wild Thing by Sean Fitzgerald, Margaret Kimball, Mark Mahorsky, Jane Wu, Brandon Jakobeit, Jill Lawless, Lori Moffatt, and Matt Joyce

Saturated with color – and personality – this cover makes one want to romp through a meadow filled with flowers. Or, at the very least, grab bright cuttings from the garden and display a bouquet in the kitchen. And, of course, turn the pages of "Texas Highways" to see what adventures and information are inside.

Magazine of the Year

2017 MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 30,000 or less APR

Finalist – Alabama Magazine

Simple, uncluttered design, and nice range of stories.

Finalist – Delaware Beach Life

Cohesiveness to the department pages and features that makes the magazine a pleasurable experience. Cover imagery is striking as well!

Finalist – Yukon, North of Ordinary

Impressive range of stories, and strong photography.

Winner – Missouri Life

Sarah Hackman, Harry Katz, Kath Teoli, Danita Allen Wood, Jonas Weir, and Martin Schwartz
Beautiful covers and ambitious features!

2017 MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 30,000 or more APR

Finalist – Adirondack Life

Lots to love about ADK life: the content is fun and informative, the writing is sound (especially the Fire Tower story and the Smart Lake story), the photography is varied and very high quality, giving a layered visual component. The design has lots of wonderful flairs--the topographic lines on the winter trekking story. Also appreciate the good cover letter--great job telling a short story of the magazine to introduce the judges to it.

Finalist – Arizona Highways

Quite a surprising and inspiring book. The photography is purposeful, powerful, and exquisite--not only the quality but the selection. Design is refreshing and well-paced; the judicious use of negative space is a boon to the reader. Stories are engaging (the Grand Canyon water story especially). Also really loved the cover letter--a wonderful little story of the magazine that provided the perfect entry point for judging. Arizona Highways absolutely sets the standard for road-trip travel magazines.

Winner – British Columbia Magazine

Dale Miller and Mark Yelic

Handsome, sharp design. Well-paced, luxury of not having many ads to disrupt the flow. Amazing paper and printing.