40th Annual Awards

This Year’s Judges:

Writing Judges:
John Andrews, Managing Editor, South Dakota Magazine
Deborah Baldwin, Former Editor of This Old House, Real Simple, and Common Cause
Arjun Basu, Freelance Writer
Al Bonowitz, Editor in Chief, AAA Hawai‘i, Editor in Chief, Northern New England Journey
Melissa Chessher, Professor & Chair, Syracuse University
Deb Cummings, publications editor at the University of Calgary, Veteran Journalist
Ian Doig, edits and contributes to GrainsWest magazine
Patti Edgar, instructor at MRU
Stacey May Fowles, multiple award-winning journalist
Aileen Gallagher, Associate Professor | Magazine, News and Digital Journalism
Elizabeth Hudson, Editor in Chief, Our State Magazine
Lisa Kennedy, Editor, SVP, Serendipity magazine
Joseph O’Donnell, Editor/Publisher, B-Metro and BHM Biz magazines
Amy Rosen, James Beard nominated, award-winning freelance journalist
Sara Samson, Editor at Westjet magazine
Jim Sutherland, Freelance Writer
Jennifer Tormo, Editor 225 Magazine
Stephen Vest, Editor & Publisher, Kentucky Monthly
Lisa Whittington-Hill, Publisher, This Magazine

Design Judges:
DeAnne Bedier, Creative Director / Designer at her own studio, DeAnne Bedier Design.
Anne-Marie Boissonnault, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Solisco
Natalie Gagnon, art director, publication designer, brand strategist and design educator
Sarah Hackman, Designer
Kelly Hartman, Hartman Design Studio
Dave McKenna, Art Director, 5280
Melissa Newman, Art Director, Yoga Journal
Public Issues

Award of Merit – Great research and lots to think about in this thoughtfully written piece.
Adirondack Life
Kate Smith Today by Luke Cyphers

Bronze – A well told story that sadly, holds extra weight this year. We would be wise to learn from histories such as this.
Mountain Home
The Basket Babies by Carrie Hagen

Silver – I really loved everything about this. The writing is so smooth and weaves in a ton of well-researched information.
Texas Highways
The Stars at Night by Rachel Monroe

Gold – A beautifully told narrative about an aspect of cottaging I hadn’t thought about. It made me think about my own privilege and how it may look to others.
Cottage Life
Breaking the colour code by Elamin Abdelmahmoud

Historic Feature 35,000 or less APR

Bronze – The story elicited several laughs.
Nebraska Life
The Carson Effect by Alan J. Bartels

Silver - Uses historical resources to create vivid portraits of these women.
Kansas!
100 Years of the 19th Amendment by Beccy Tanner & Patricia E. Ackerman

Gold – A moving, devastating and affecting piece about a tragedy that should never be forgotten.
Oklahoma Today
City on a Hill by Sam Anderson
Historic Feature 35,000 or more APR

Bronze
Downhome
Little Girl Lost by Kim Ploughman

Silver – The writing is lively, unabashedly self-congratulatory and sprinkled with sly inside jokes.
Arizona Highways
The Early Photographers by Robert Stieve

Gold – A fascinating portrait of manmade disasters--one after another, impossible to look away from.
Texas Highways
Nevertheless, Caddo Lake Persisted by S.C. Gynne

Nature and Environment Feature 35,000 or less APR

Bronze
Wyoming Wildlife
Just Keep Swimming by Nick Scribner and Christina Schmidt

Silver – Well written by an expert on the subject.
Adirondack Life
A Blue Lining by Bill McKibben

Tie for Silver

Silver – Comprehensive and informative.
The Bermudian
For the Love of Lobsters by Peter Backeberg

Gold
Saltscapes
A toxic legacy by Jim Gourlay

Nature and Environment Feature 35,000 or more APR

Bronze – Photos of bee keepers in action lend to the story’s playful, contemplative tone and attention to illuminating detail.
Cottage Life
Waiting for a Queen to Fly by Sasha Chapman
Silver – This very well crafted and researched story asks readers to shake their antipathy and learn to value the snakes of Texas.

Texas Highways
The Wild Snakes of Texas by George Getschow

Gold – Engaging story telling had me worrying about the fate of a squirrel I had never previously heard of right from the first page.

Arizona Highways
Hanging on for Dear Life by Annette McGivney

Travel Feature

Bronze – This story made my palms sweat. The tension of the journey is reflected in the landscape and leveraged for great impact.

Arizona Highways
No Exit Route by Morgan Sjogren

Silver – Kept me hooked and taught me a great deal. I wanted more.

Texas Highways
On Getting Lost by Edward Carey

Gold – Well-reported narrative that pulled me in and revealed a distinctively unique place.

Adirondack Life
Island Getaway by Luke Cyphers

Art and Culture Feature

Award of Merit – Nice interweaving of histories while letting us tag along on this journey.

The Bermudian
A Walk on the Railway Trail by Elizabeth Jones

Bronze – Sweet. A very touching story.

Adirondack Life
Ben & Helen by Zohar Gitlis

Silver – Literally everything you ever wanted to know about cracklings. And now we know. And are also very hungry.

Acadiana Profile
Best of Cracklins by Cheré Coen
Gold – Informative, moving, lovely story with some fabric woven in.
Arizona Highways
These Generations of Weaving by Danielle Geller

Tie for Gold

Gold – I like easily digestible (heh heh) food stories like this that focus on one place that has become a de-facto hub of something great.
Texas Highways
Welcome to the Taco Capital of Texas by José Ralat

Recreation Feature

Award of Merit – Robust, well-reported package that is of interest to a range of hunters, and even non-hunters.
Louisiana Life
Best Hunting in the State by Chris Holmes

Bronze – Good mix of history and service.
Adirondack Life
Routes Revival by Phil Brown

Silver – Design boosts this entry’s score above the others.
Acadiana Profile
Best Bars by Cheré Coen

Texas Highways
Frio 101 by Joe Nick Patoski

General Feature 35,000 or less APR

Bronze – Such a wonderful story idea to profile chefs who are keeping the classics alive in Louisiana.
Louisiana Life
Classically Louisiana by Jyl Benson

Silver – Great overview of how a 40 year old event continues to shape and influence Lake Placid and Essex County. Nicely written.
Adirondack Life
Saved by a Miracle by Luke Cyphers
Tie for Silver

Silver – Wow. I could not stop reading this story.
Saltscapes
Iron men and all that by Bill Coultas

Gold – Stories like this are a shining example of what regional magazine journalism can be.
Kansas!
After the Flames by Michael Pearce

General Feature 35,000 or more APR

Bronze – The combination of great writers, quirky subjects and expansive layout makes for a great story.
Cottage Life
Ready, Set, Let go! by Elamin Abdelmahmoud, Andrew Pyper, Clive Thompson, Heather O’Neill, and Lisa Moore

Silver – The attention to detail and obvious affection for the flea market experience makes this story very well done.
Texas Highways
Stuff. by Sarah Hepola

Gold – A long-ago murder comes to life with good writing and design.
Arizona Highways
The Unsettling Story of Ken Patrick by Robert Stieve

Profiles 35,000 or less APR

Bronze – Strong opening.
Acadiana Profile
Keep on Truckin’ by Will Kalec

Silver – Detail rich. Well reported
Delaware Beach Life
They Put the ’Craft’ in Watercraft by Bill Newcott

Gold – Celebratory profile of a happy, inviting family and their annual party. Makes me want to go.
Adirondack Life
Kindervolk by Lisa Bramen
Profiles 35,000 or more APR

Bronze – Creative concept beautifully written and photographed.
Down East
Every Lobster Must Get Stoned by Will Grunewald

Silver – A deep dive into fascinating lives, well written and very nicely designed.
Arizona Highways
Esther Henderson & Chuck Abbott by Matt Jaffe

Gold – Really well done profile with equal measures of drama and examination of what makes an extraordinary person tick.
Texas Highways
The Fate of Flight 1380 by Michael J. Mooney

Reader Service Article

Bronze – Interesting topic and a great look at the history of lean-tos.
Adirondack Life
Open All Night by Annie Stoltie

Silver – This piece is packed with plenty of practical tips and tricks. It's a very thorough service piece
Cottage Life
An outside job by Martin Zibauer

Gold – This is a very robust feature that offers plenty of value to the reader! Nice, consistent writing throughout.
Texas Highways
Small Towns to Visit Now by Dan Oko, June Naylor, Pam LeBlanc, Cynthia J. Drake, Veronica Meewes, Kimya Kavehkar, Susan L. Ebert, Melissa Gaskill, Clayton Maxwell, Daniel Blue Tyx, Jason Boyett, and Dave Wilson

Hed & Dek

Silver – Playful and concise with not a wasted word.
Texas Highways
Hairy, Very; Capture a little Bigfoot in Jefferson by Clayton Maxwell
Gold – The tone of the hed and dek well match the author’s spicy, colourfully detailed prose.
Arizona Highways
Great Balls of Fire by Robert Stieve

Essay

Bronze – Sweet, heartfelt, well written. A sad story with a happy ending, perhaps. Or at least, a sad story with a happy lesson for everyone.
Adirondack Life
Rebel Love by Kristin van Ogtrop

Silver – A lifelong passion brought to life, my heart was racing along with the author’s.
Texas Highways
Have Board, Will Travel by Bret Anthony Johnston

Gold – Hard to imagine the reader who won't finish this piece.
Arizona Highways
Prayers for Snow by Craig Childs

Column

Award of Merit – Self-deprecation in one of the columns provided an out-loud laugh.
Louisiana Life
From the Editor by Errol Laborde

Bronze
Arizona Highways
Editor’s Letter by Robert Stieve

Silver – Entertaining, warm columns that give readers a sense of community.
Delaware Beach Life
Treasure Hunting by Bill Newcott

Gold – Beautiful, impactful writing that somehow manages to be both concise and lyrical, friendly and authoritative.
Texas Highways
Editor's Note by Emily Roberts Stone
Writer of the Year 35,000 or less APR

**Bronze** – Bartels particularly excels at scene building, with descriptive, illustrative language that jumps off the page.
*Nebraska Life*  
Alan J. Bartels

**Silver** – Kourofsky’s journalism is the kind that makes you feel like you’re talking with an old friend.
*Adirondack Life*  
Niki Kourofsky

**Gold** – His stories have a smooth rhythm that make them easy to read, and his first-person perspectives build rapport with readers.
*Delaware Beach Life*  
Bill Newcott

Writer of the Year 35,000 or more APR

**Bronze** – The writing is complete and compelling, interesting and entertaining.
*Cottage Life*  
Martin Zibauer

**Silver** – Extraordinary range of subject matter beautifully rendered.
*Arizona Highways*  
Matt Jaffe

**Gold** – Well written travel pieces showing a great range of style.
*Texas Highways*  
Clayton Maxwell

Single Photo

**Award of Merit** – Spectacular to capture all of the details.
*Mountain Home*  
*Sleepy Screecher* by Sarah Wagaman

**Bronze**
*Texas Highways*  
*Stardust to Starlight* by Jason Weingart
Silver – This picture makes you want to touch the ice. It actually makes you realize how small we are compared to the nature. Great work!
Cottage Life
Hang on to your toque by Bee Chalmers

Gold – Timing is everything, you got it perfectly!
Kansas!
A Rodeo that has a Reputation by Jason Dailey

Photo Series 35,000 or less APR

Bronze – Great use of natural light.
Adirondack Life
Camp Sweet Camp by Carrie Marie Burr

Silver – These provide the reader with just what they need—portraits with a wonderful sense of light and candor, and dishes they'd love to eat.
Louisiana Life
Classically Louisiana by Danley Romero

Gold – This photo series masterfully allows the objects to speak their truth. It's simple, direct, and powerful.
Oklahoma Today
What Remains by Lori Duckworth

Photo Series 35,000 or more APR

Bronze – The Grand Canyon is a living thing, and this photo series captures its many moods. What a dynamic series of images.
Arizona Highways
Not Just Any Old Place by Adam Schallau

Silver – This is a true visual showcase of the area--regional magazine at its finest!
Texas Highways
Peeking Through the Pines by Dave Shafer

Gold – Absolutely stunning. Great composition and color.
Cottage Life
At the End of the Highway by Grant Harder
**Portrait Photo**

**Award of Merit** – I love the charm of this photo.  
*albemarle Magazine*
*Albemarle County Fair* by Rick Stillings

**Award of Merit** – I feel like I’m standing right beside the man in this photo. I know that face, and I can see him searching for something--I can feel it.  
*Saltscapes*
*HIKING WITH ARMED LOOKOUTS - IN CANADA* by Dave Brosha

**Bronze** – The deep tones and sharp detail capture the strength and reverence of the subject.  
*Arizona Highways*
*The Medicine Man* by Mylo Fowler

**Silver** – This captures the importance of the bee and the role beekeepers play in sustaining them. Excellent environmental portrait.  
*Kansas!*
*Creating the Next Generation of Beekeepers* by Justin Lister

**Gold** – There is so much detail in this photo--the foliage, the wood, the textiles, the clouds and Willie’s skin. All together these textural elements make for a stunning portrait.  
*Texas Highways*
*Long Live Willie* by Sam Jones

**Portrait Series**

**Bronze** – The pictures inspire the readers to think about each artist and how they could sound.  
*Texas Highways*
*All About That Bass* by Bill Sallans

**Silver** – Great way of putting each individual on their own context, helps the reader.  
*Louisiana Life*
*Louisianians of the Year* by Danley Romero

**Gold** – Drama, intensity, confidence, emotion....these portraits are fantastic.  
*Kansas!*
*The Return of a World Dreamed* by BriJoRae Pusch-Zuniga
Photographer of the Year 35,000 or less APR

Silver – Very special moments captured by a dedicated, smart, and patient photographer. The love for what he does comes through in each photograph.

Arizona Wildlife Views
George Andrejko

Gold – Really enjoyed the personality and quirkiness of these entries. The photographer has a special talent for capturing the uniqueness of her subjects in a most compelling way.

Oklahoma Today
Lori Duckworth

Photographer of the Year 35,000 or more APR

Silver – Jack has a solid range as a photographer: wildlife, detail, landscape, light. Excellent composition on each piece.

Arizona Highways
Jack Dykinga

Gold – Each of Dave's photos conveys emotions like a magician doing close up magic. You see the scene, but you don't really see it--Dave _shows_ you what you didn't see before.

Texas Highways
Dave Shafer

Illustration

Bronze – Great looking, very well executed, we see a different side of the flowers.

Arizona Highways
Wildflowers of the Sonoran Desert by Dyana Hesson

Silver – I know how hard merging (photoshopping) different pictures together can be so this is very well executed. Looking great!

Texas Highways
Small Towns to Visit Now by Judy Paul

Gold – Fun, vibrant, compelling, humorous... plays off the editorial and adds entry points. Fantastic work!

Cottage Life
Read this and sleep...by Jochen Schievink
Art Direction of a Single Story 35,000 or less APR

**Award of Merit** – Fun, fun, FUN! Love the watercolor elements and graphics and how they're used throughout.
*The Bermudian*
*How Bermy Are You?* by Linda Weinraub

**Bronze** – Colourful photography and strong typography make this feature impactful.
*Acadiana Profile*
*Light Recipes* by Sarah George

**Silver** – Wow, what an impact this feature has!
*Louisiana Life*
*King Cakes* by Sarah George

**Gold** – Overall the impact is great in this package! It's light and fun.
*Adirondack Life*
*The Great Adirondack Life Challenge* by Mark Mahorsky

Art Direction of a Single Story 35,000 or more APR

**Silver** – This feature truly made me smile. Great story concept playfully designed.
*Arizona Highways*
*The Arizona Highways Sandwich Tour* by Keith Whitney

**Gold** – I want to frame that opening spread and hang it on my wall. This is a stunning feature.
*Texas Highways*
*All About That Bass* by Mark Mahorsky

Overall Art Direction 35,000 or less APR

**Bronze** – Sophisticated layouts with a perfect amount of playfulness - combined with high-quality photography and illustration - make this magazine incredibly impactful!
*Oklahoma Today*
Steven Walker
Silver – Features shine with imagery that stands out within a well-paced publication with lyrical flow from front to back cover.

*Louisiana Life*
Sarah George

**Gold** – I really like this magazine. The art direction is clean and beautiful and the main feature is well always well done.

*Acadiana Profile*
Sarah George

**Overall Art Direction 35,000 or more APR**

Silver – Large images which really engage the reader are followed up nicely with strong content. It's well done.

*Arizona Highways*
Keith Whitney, Barbara Denney

**Gold** – The magazine stays true to its goals of inspiring travel and showcasing Texas' diverse ecology and culture.

*Texas Highways*
Mark Mahorsky, Ashley Burch, Chris Linnen

**Department**

Bronze – I appreciate the true documentary nature of the photography—and readers especially will!

*Wyoming Wildlife*
*In the Field* by Sara DiRienzo, Rene Schell, Tara Hodges, Justin Joiner, Patrick Owen, Tracie Binkerd, and Robert Gagliardi

Silver – I _really_ like this department. There's something about the single large image that has a Texas-size impact.

*Texas Highways*
*My Hometown* by Matt Joyce

Silver – Strong wildlife photography and people portraits. Nice mix of scale on photos with strong opener pages.

*Arizona Highways*
*Journal* by Keith Whitney, Barbara Denney, and Robert Stieve
**Gold** – Visually appealing department with interesting use of graphics, headlines and decks to draw the reader in.

*Cottage Life*

*Waterfront* by Jackie Davis and Sandi Pilon

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**Food Feature**

**Award of Merit** – I really love this feature. It's beautiful to look at. I love the chefs' photography in black and white in contrast with the meals in color.

*Louisiana Life*

*Classically Louisiana* by Jyl Benson, Danley Romero, Sarah George, and Melanie Spencer

**Bronze** – What a compelling deep dive on this iconic food! Great characters fuel the telling and great detail help illuminate this classic.

*Acadiana Profile*

*Cracklins* by Cheré Coen, Sara Essex Bradley, Sarah George, and Melanie Spencer

**Silver** – It's a smart lens with which to illuminate the classic foods of Oklahoma -- chicken fried steak, fry bread, etc. -- through an ambitious competitive-eating competition.

*Oklahoma Today*

*Greg vs. Food* by Greg Elwell, Lori Duckworth, Steven Walker, and Nathan Gunter

**Gold** – What an enjoyable and surprising journey informed by food and by a sense of place. Powerful imagery, palpable scenes, and a character who guides our understanding of both place and plate.

*Cottage Life*

*Fantastic Feasts and Where to Find Them* by Ann Vanderhoof, Kamil Bialous, Kim Zagar, and Alysha Vandertogt

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**Special Focus**

**Award of Merit** – Impressive! The emphasis on historical information and material is completely appropriate given the centenary.

*Arizona Highways*

*Grand Canyon Centennial* by Keith Whitney, Barbara Denney, and Robert Stieve
Bronze – It's the 35 Mainiest Foods cover story that put this over the top. Amazing research and terrific writing.

Down East
_The Maine Food Issue_ by Mark Fleming, Benjamin Williamson, Mirek Jurek, Mike O'Leary, Sam Sifton, Brian Kevin, Will Grunewald, Virginia M. Wright, and Jennifer Van Allen

Silver – The striking cover of this issue grabbed my attention right away and I was further impressed with the cohesion of the entire issue.

Texas Highways
_Unplugged_ by Mark Mahorsky, Ashley Burch, Chris Linnen, Emily Stone, Michael Hoinski, Matt Joyce, and Kimya Kavehkar

Gold – This is a powerfully well-made book, complete, with strong photography to boot.

Oklahoma Today
_The Oklahoma City Issue_ by Steven Walker and Oklahoma Today staff

Travel Package

Silver – It's an artful and engrossing example of what magazine travel features can aspire to.

Texas Highways
_The Big Bend_ by Emily Stone, Matt Joyce, Kimya Kavehkar, Wes Ferguson, Mark Mahorsky, Ashley Burch, Christopher Linnen, and Brandon Jakobeit

Gold – This is the kind of travel package that I would save and physically take with me on my vacation. It's colourful and practical.

Down East
_The Big Wet Summertime Southern Maine Beach Guide_ by Bridget M. Burns, Jennifer Hazard, Brian Kevin, Michael D. Wilson, Benjamin Williamson, Frederick Bloy, Seth Gaffar, Gabe Souza, Mark Fleming, Erwin Sherman, and Mike O'Leary

Cover 35,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – I love this cover. It would make me open the magazine first thing after bringing in the mail.

Acadiana Profile
_Light Recipes_ by Sarah George and Melanie Spencer
Bronze – I think that approach is such a smart, compelling way to pull a reader in.
Oklahoma Today
The Food Issue by Lori Duckworth, Steven Walker, Nathan Gunter, and Megan Rossman

Silver – This cover is so compelling - the man's smile coupled with the adorable puppies really makes me want to open up this magazine.
Adirondack Life
Winter Tails by Lisa Godfrey, Mark Mahorsky, Annie Stoltie, Lisa Bramen, and Niki Kourofsky

Gold – Love the overall drama and impact of this image; you know exactly what the issue theme is on first glance.
Louisiana Life
Good Hunting Cover by Sarah George and Melanie Spencer

Cover 35,000 or more APR

Bronze – Striking cover. Great concept and great execution.
Arizona Highways
Navajoland by Keith Whitney, Barbara Denney, and Robert Stieve

Silver – I love this cover! Make me want to get a cottage right now without even seeing one.
Cottage Life
The Vintage Issue: The Cottage Then and Now by Sandi Pilon and Michelle Kelly

Gold – I really enjoy this cover. It's spectacular and beautiful. I like the way copy is laid out and the fact that they added the name of the writer.
Texas Highways
Dark Skies by Wayne Suggs and Mark Mahorsky

Magazine of the Year

2020 MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 35,000 or less APR

Finalist – Acadiana Profile
Sarah George and Melanie Warner Spencer

Winner – Oklahoma Today
Steven Walker, Nathan Gunter, Karlie Ybarra, Greg Elwell, Megan Rossman, Lori Duckworth, Bridgette Slone, Camille Wallace, Kashea McCowan, and Colleen McIntyre
2020 MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 35,000 or more APR

Finalist – Texas Highways
Joan Henderson, Andrea Lin, Mark Mahorsky, Ashley Burch, Chris Linnen, Emily Stone, Michael Hoinski, Matt Joyce, and Kimya Kavehkar

Winner – Cottage Life
Michelle Kelly, Liann Bobechko, Jackie Davis, Blair Eveleigh, Alysha Vandertogt, Marie Waine, Bradley Reinhardt, Sandi Pilon, Michelle Kenny, Roxy Kirshenbaum, and Megan McPhaden