



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

Colleen Nicholson, Art Director
Mélanie Ouimet, Conception et réalisation graphique
Sandi Pilon, Associate Art Director, Cottage Life
Tiffani Reding Amedeo, Art Director, New Orleans Magazine
James Reid, Director, Content Operations, Rogers

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 Abdelmehmoud

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 cracklins. And now we know. And are also very hungry.

Acadiana Profile

Best of Cracklins by Chéré 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

Gold – Can I go right now? Information-dense and accessible. Numerous clever entry points.

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 Abdelmehmoud, 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

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

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

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