



41st 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
- Al Bonowitz, Editor in Chief, AAA Hawai'i, Editor in Chief, Northern New England Journey
- Kiera Butler, Senior Editor, Mother Jones
- Sue Carter, Deputy Editor, Inuit Art Quarterly
- Melissa Chessher, Professor & Chair, Syracuse University
- Deb Cummings, publications editor at the University of Calgary, Veteran Journalist
- Matthew DiMera, editor and Founder of The Resolve
- Terry Greene Sterling, Writer-in-Residence, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism
- Jeff Labrecque, Former staff writer at Entertainment Weekly; communications writer at Princeton University
- Joseph O'Donnell, Editor/Publisher, B-Metro and BHM Biz magazines
- Anicka Quinn, Editor of Vancouver magazine/Western Living magazine
- Ingrid Randoja, writer, editor, Now Magazine, Cineplex Magazine
- Evelyn Renold, Former Deputy editor of Good Housekeeping magazine and editor at Lear's and Newsday; taught journalism at NYU, Fordham and USC Annenberg
- Charles Salzberg Writer for The New York Times, New York Magazine, and co-founded the New York Writers Workshop
- Stephen Vest, Editor & Publisher, Kentucky Monthly
- Julia Wang, VP of Content at The Lifetime Value Co.
- Charles Whitaker, Dean and professor at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism; former senior editor at Ebony

Design Judges:

- Maria Amador, Art Director, Reader's Digest magazine
- Christine Dewairy, Art Director, Toronto Life magazine

- Natalie Gagnon, art director, publication designer, brand strategist and design educator
- Kathleen Gates, Gates Sisters Studio
- Sarah Hackman, CEO + Creative Director, Hackman Creative
- Todd Johnson, Front Porch Creative
- Jeremy Leslie, Founder of magCulture
- Dave McKenna, Art Director, 5280
- Melissa Newman, Art Director, Yoga Journal
- Pete Nguyen, Art Director, Creative Consultant
- Colleen Nicholson, Art Director
- Tiffani Reding Amedeo, Art Director, New Orleans Magazine
- James Reid, Director, Content Operations, Rogers

Public Issues

Award of Merit – Mountain Home

Land of Milk and Honey by David O'Reilly

I like the B2B focus of the story. It's a story that could fascinate a lot of readers.

Award of Merit – Texas Highways

Let Freedom Ring by Michael Hurd

An important personal essay about the history of Juneteenth and how the event affected the author.

Bronze – Wyoming Wildlife

Bruin Challenges by Wyoming Game and Fish Department

The reporting here is very strong. Excellent info graphics and photography. The overall effect is quite compelling.

Silver – Arizona Highways

At the End of Their Ropes by Noah Austin

Interesting story about an interesting group. I can't believe they've never written about them before, given how long they've been around.

Gold – Oklahoma Today

Hell Came to Tulsa by Quraysh Ali Lansana and Bracken Klar

This sober, articulate piece, published just before the 100th anniversary of the riots, draws on survivor testimony (in public records) and startling historical photos to tell the horrifying story. The writer notes that until recently schools in Oklahoma didn't even teach about the riots. Now, all that's changing.

Historic Feature 35,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors

A Year in the Life of a Lighthouse by Ronald Joseph

Beautiful anecdotes and insights into the singular experiences of lighthouse living.

Bronze – Saltscapes

A Vital Community Connection by Shelley Cameron-McCarron

A well written exploration of an important community resource and touchstone.

Tie for Bronze

Bronze – Wyoming Wildlife

Opening the Borders for Justice by Christina Schmidt

Well researched and eye-opening feature.

Silver - Oklahoma Today

Anarchy in the I.T. by Brian Ted Jones

Little known history is brought to life in vibrant language in this feature.

Gold – Adirondack Life

Gone But Not Forgotten by Bret Yager

Excellent writing in this piece which makes a story ripped from the history books resonate with a timelessness that is both sad and meaningful.

Historic Feature 35,000 or more APR

Bronze –New Mexico Magazine

Grounds for Remembrance by Kate Nelson

Starts with a great lede and fills the story with solid reporting and keen observation, bringing to life a place so many of us walk by every day without looking closely.

Silver – Arizona Highways

The Exodus Trail by Annette McGivney

Powerful history, powerful piece.

Gold – Texas Highways

Flipping the Script by Sarah Hepola

Hepola takes the reader on this journey, and we come away much richer for it.

Nature and Environment Feature 35,000 or less APR

Bronze – Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors

Leeches, Snappers, Spiders, and Snakes Oh My! by Ronald Joseph

Gory details compel further reading (at least they did for me, and I found myself wishing this was longer).

Silver – Saltscapes

We're the problem by Deborah Carr

A very necessary and powerful showcase of only a fraction of the devastation raging across the natural world.

Gold – Oklahoma Today

Creature Features by Gordon Grice

Very good and informative writing supported by superb illustrations.

Tie for Gold

Gold – Louisiana Life

Drastic Measures by Joan Meiners

An important piece about one of the most environmental embattled wild spots in the US.

Nature and Environment Feature 35,000 or more APR

Bronze – Texas Highways

This Land Is Your Land by Clayton Maxwell

What an interesting trend. Great detail, great scenes.

Silver – Arizona Highways

Ho, Ho, Ho ... Green Giants by Tyler Williams

Tie for Silver

Silver – New Mexico Magazine

Bloom Town by Christina Selby

Strong reporting, notable hook/reason to care, compelling characters, and palpable scenes fuel this piece. Well done.

Gold – Cottage Life

The Scars We Bear by Eva Holland

Step 1: Write a riveting lede that grabs the reader. Check. Step 2: Tell a heck of a story about survival against a "killer bear." Check. Step 3: Once you have the reader, pivot to a second, even more rewarding story about the fate of the "killer bear" and man's relationship to nature. Check.

Travel Feature

Bronze – Arizona Highways

A Trip to Remember by Willis Peterson

This delightful narrative-driven piece is as fantastic as its backstory.

Silver – Adirondack Life

A Great Big Adventure by Peter Koch

I loved this piece. The writer added so many details I felt I was right there with them.

Gold – Texas Highways

Lights, Camera, Corsicana by Sarah Hepola

This essay shines. This is what writing about a place should be - interesting, well reported, vividly written, full of tension and context and interesting characters.

Art and Culture Feature

Award of Merit – Arizona Highways

The Fruits of Her Labor by Kelly Vaughn

Lovely photography and a good, tight narrative.

Award of Merit – Oklahoma Today

Feminine Mystique by Megan Rossman

I found this quite compelling. The art is stunning.

Bronze – New Mexico Magazine

Maisel's Legacy by Gwyneth Doland

Nicely written paean to a hidden gem.

Silver – Adirondack Life

Adirondack Blackface by Amy Godine

This is a fascinating history of minstrelsy.

Gold – Texas Highways

The Good, the Bad, and the Exótico by Roberto José Andrade Franco

Fascinating article and wonderful photos of an unusual sport and those who take part in it.

Recreation Feature

Award of Merit – Arizona Highways

In for a Bumpy Ride by Chels Knorr

Well written narrative that explores the passion and mechanics of mountain biking.

Bronze – Texas Highways

Such Great Heights by Sarah Hepola

A strong first person narrative full of insights, emotion and information.

Silver – Cottage Life

The Hundred-Year Pitch by Stacey May Fowles

Beautifully conceived and executed, bringing a small tradition to life while exploring the total cottage living experience.

Gold – New Mexico Magazine

Sand Blast by Elizabeth Miller, Diana Alba Soular, and Maria Manuela

Extraordinarily well developed feature, comprehensive, well written, beautifully photographed, and full of insights.

General Feature 35,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – Delaware Beach Life

Getting Lost by Bill Newcott

Every issue should include a story like this one. Great balance of text and illustrations. Fun.

Bronze – Adirondack Life

Homeward Bound by Brian Castner

This is the kind of feature I like, a personal tale that branches out and brings in MORE personal tales.

Tie for Bronze

Bronze – Oklahoma Today

Spooky Oklahoma by Megan Rossman

This is a compelling read, succinct and enjoyable and the first entry was scary.

Silver –KANSAS! Magazine

Explorers and Innovators by Dave Kendall, Kim Gronniger, Melinda Briscoe, Michael Pearce, David Garfield, Patricia Ackerman, Beccy Tanner, Haines Eason, Nick Spacek, Christine Steinkuehler, Amber Fraley

This deserves recognition for the ambition, and the writing is solid. Great work.

Gold – Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors

The Strange Tale of Outer Baldonia by Wendy Arundel

Okay, I really liked this one. Just a delight!

General Feature 35,000 or more APR

Bronze – Arizona Highways

Salvage Operation by Annette McGivney

A really interesting article about a really amazing group of volunteers.

Tie for Bronze

Bronze – Down East

Port in a Storm by Jaed Coffin

I went into this article not expecting it to be so wholesome and touching.

Silver – Texas Highways

Pick-Me-Up by Sarah Hepola

I had absolutely no interest in reading about trucks, but this piece was actually very interesting and very well written.

Gold – New Mexico Magazine

Corner of the World by Kate Nelson

This was such a beautiful and eerie portrait of a magnificently bizarre place.

Profiles 35,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – Louisiana Life

Louisianians of the Year by Fritz Esker, Chris Jay, Cheré Coen, and John R. Kemp

Varied and persuasive. The feature touches on various aspects of the community and how individuals can improve them.

Award of Merit – Oklahoma Today

Petticoat Terror of the Plains by Karlie YbarrA

Well researched and written with an authoritative voice.

Bronze – Nebraska Life

Escaping Gravity by Alan J. Bartels

Really well done profile, you feel you really know the subject of feature.

Silver – KANSAS! Magazine

'Part of the Legacy that Shapes Who We Are' by Martinez Hillard

Combining the comprehensive interview with the sidebar treatments created an excellent overall reader experience.

Gold – Adirondack Life

Rachel Finn by Luke Cyphers

Interesting and complex character profile that captured the spirit of Rachel Finn, her passion for the outdoors and the nature of grief.

Profiles 35,000 or more APR

Bronze – New Mexico Magazine

Nature the Navajo Way by Andi Murphy

This was a beautiful feature and possibly one of the most interesting people featuring in the entries I've judged.

Silver – Texas Highways

The Power of Richard Linklater's Nostalgia by Michael J. Mooney

The spreads, design, illustration and photography were all amazing! A great feature.

Gold – Arizona Highways

Meet the Master by Kelly Vaughn

This is a fascinating story about an equally fascinating man. Wonderful storytelling throughout.

Reader Service Article

Award of Merit – Avenue

CONTAIN YOURSELF by Jacquie Moore

Really, this is packed full of all the information anyone interested in this type of gardening could need.

Award of Merit – New Mexico Magazine

Powder Play by Elizabeth Miller, Ashley M. Biggers, Daniel Gibson, and Courtney Holden

This package is a treasure trove of information for would be skiers and skiers. All the bases are covered. Nice job.

Award of Merit – Oklahoma Today

Food Worth the Drive 2021 by Karlie YbarrA, Abigail Hall, Kashea McCowan, Nathan Gunter, Greg Elwell, and Megan Rossman

This is the kind of piece we all look for when we're casting about looking for a cool place to eat. Nicely done.

Bronze – Adirondack Life

Sun-day Baking by Paul Greenberg

Learned a lot, and enjoyed hearing the voice of this writer. One of my two favorites in this category.

Tie for Bronze

Bronze – Cottage Life

Game of Thrones by Jackie Davis

The bright clean design and simple breakdown of facts made this an interesting, fun read even to those not in the market for an alt-toilet.

Silver – Down East

Welcome to the Wild Wild World of Maine Real Estate by Jennifer Van Allen, Jesse Ellison, and Brian Kevin

A really intelligent use of infographics that are beautifully designed and help shed light on the market, as well as a good use of sources.

Tie for Silver

Silver – Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors

The State of Aquaculture by Nancy Harmon Jenkins

Beautifully reported and written. Brava! This piece effortlessly (well, it seems effortless but I know it was a lot of hard work) fuses themes of climate change, culture, innovation and survival. Stunningly good.

Gold – Texas Highways

Time Travel Through Texas by John Lumpkin, Sanderia Faye, and John Nova Lomax

I have to say I am really impressed with the story ideas and the way they blossom into wonderful stories in Texas Highways. This is a brilliant idea.

Hed & Dek

Bronze – Arizona Highways

Beadle Mania by Robert Stieve

This is an easy, clever headline to love.

Silver – Texas Highways

We All Live in Uncertain by Sarah Hepola

This hed and dek combo is both intriguing and profound, and they fit so well with this offbeat and deftly executed story.

Gold – Cottage Life

A Well-Executed Cover-Up by Cottage Life staff

Clever, engaging, unexpected hed. Definitely a page-stopper.

Essay

Bronze – Adirondack Life

My Adirondack Life by Alice Paden Green

Very moving essay about pain and perseverance in a part of the country that one rarely thinks of as having Black residents.

Silver – Arizona Highways

Breathing Space by Craig Childs

Beautiful visuals and interesting portrait of a stunning part of the country.

Gold – Texas Highways

The Desert Reclaims Everything by Roberto José Andrade Franco

In this stirring, heartfelt tribute to the borderland between Texas and Mexico--El Paso on one side of the Rio Grande, Juarez on the other--a native son tells what it was like to grow up there and why he felt compelled to leave.

Covid-related Story

Award of Merit – The Bermudian

Minister on a Mission: Controlling COVID by Annabel Cooper

A good idea for a public service piece.

Bronze – Arizona Wildlife Views

Conservation Is Essential by Arizona Game and Fish Department Staff

I deeply admire wildlife conservationists, and Arizona Game and Fish has so many hardworking and admirable staffers. They are unsung heroes. The idea of showing how they're doing their job during Covid is really a good idea.

Silver – Acadiana Profile

Grit + Glory by Eric Cormier

Thank you for writing this piece on restauranteurs' struggle for survival during the pandemic. Nice reporting and writing.

Gold – Texas Highways

For Love of the Outdoors by Asher Elbein

A helpful, forward-looking piece combining self-care with nature writing that will continue to have a life beyond COVID.

Tie for Gold

Gold – albemarle Magazine

One Sketch a Day: A Pen and Pencil Account of the Pandemic by Mike Fitts

Creative. Amazing. Impactful. Bravo!!!

Column

Award of Merit – Delaware Beach Life

Treasure Hunting by Bill Newcott

The subject matter of these columns were varied, interesting and evocative.

Bronze – Cottage Life

Editor's Note by Michelle Kelly

Warmth in the writing comes through, and the column is grounded in rich content.

Silver – Adirondack Life

Short Carries by Annie Stoltie

Creative, emotional, and insightful, these columns are a fascinating snapshot into place, mind and heart.

Gold – Arizona Highways

Editor's Letter by Robert Stieve

A well-written glimpse into the personalities, dynamics, personal histories and opinions that come together to create a magazine.

Writer of the Year 35,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – Mountain Home

David O'Reilly

David is a damn fine feature writer.

Bronze – Adirondack Life

Luke Cyphers

Engaging writing style and well-crafted use of language.

Silver – Oklahoma Today

Greg Elwell

Greg is a fine writer with a good grip on his craft. He works tons of facts into his copy to keep the reader compelled.

Gold – Delaware Beach Life

Bill Newcott

Conversational writing and great humor! Bill would be the star of any writing staff. Delaware is lucky to have him.

Writer of the Year 35,000 or more APR

Bronze – Arizona Highways

Kelly Vaughn

I really like Kelly's writing. I really appreciate the ability to maintain a voice and a narrative while allowing the subject matter or person being profiled to shine.

Tie for Bronze

Bronze – Texas Highways

Sarah Hepola

Sarah's work has a really strong voice and a range of interesting topics.

Silver – Cottage Life

Jackie Davis

I think Jackie's writing is great! I can actually hear an individual voice (also the personal anecdotes are contributing to hearing Jackie tell these stories/answer questions).

Gold – New Mexico Magazine

Kate Nelson

This writer tells me what I need to know, but does it in such a seamless way that I almost don't even know it's happening. She makes subtle observations and weaves them flawlessly into the writing. Superb storytelling.

Single Photo

Bronze – Texas Highways

A Golden Moment by Theresa DiMenno

Incredibly impactful. You can hear the languid woosh of the river, the rustle of the trees. It transports the reader.

Silver – Oklahoma Today

Light Show by Jason Ward

The many shades of purple make this photo sing. Great eye to capture this scene.

Gold – Arizona Highways

Navajo Dancer by Mylo Fowler

WHOA! Gorgeous framing paired with the earth and sky textures make this a truly stunning image that captures the gravitas of tradition.

Photo Series 35,000 or less APR

Bronze – Saltscapes

Dramatic hues of a watershed by Scott Leslie

The combination of long exposure, sharp detailed landscapes, and close-up flora and fauna, allow the reader to think of the Mersey River as an evolving and precious ecosystem worthy of slow, considered admiration.

Silver – Adirondack Life

Wild Traditions by Carrie Marie Burr

Very cohesive set of photos with variety and context. The photos alone are very inviting and helps tell the story. The frames and polaroid elements make it feel even more personal and really reinforces the story. Exceptional contender for photo series.

Gold – albemarle Magazine

30 Ways to Know a Place by Bill Mauzy

Such a smart and beautifully executed idea. As we all were scrambling for ways to pass the time during quarantine, this photographer found a way to expound on his gratitude for the beauty he has around him. I paused for a long time with this collection and could feel what he felt without needing to know the place. Wonderfully done!

Photo Series 35,000 or more APR

Award of Merit – New Mexico Magazine

Passion Fruit by Douglas Merriam

Bronze – Down East

The Parable of the Sower by Greta Rybus

Impactful photography that tells a strong visual narrative. The details, portraits, and environmental imagery all work together in a beautiful cohesive fashion.

Silver – Arizona Highways

The Evolution of Landscape Photography by Jeff Kida

Breathtaking opening image to invite the reader into the rest of the feature. Wonderful to see photography, color and the landscapes progress as time passes.

Gold – Texas Highways

Texas in Wonderland by Mabry Campbell

Really beautiful photographs. The framing and lighting of the buildings and structures really lets the viewer experience the architecture in a new and exciting way, as if you're transported to a secret location that allows you to see it with fresh eyes.

Portrait Photo

Silver – Texas Highways

Rolling with the Wheel by Jeff Wilson

Gold – Arizona Highways

Greg Wildman by Joel Grimes

Everything about this portrait—the horse, lighting, landscape, everything— is intriguing and makes the reader curious to learn more about the story behind the subject matter.

Portrait Series

Award of Merit – Adirondack Life

Hunting with Helena by Yvonne Albinowski

Strong, handsome photography. Atmospheric. Great lighting. And working with animals is NEVER easy!

Award of Merit – Louisiana Life

Louisianians of the Year by Danley Romero

Great portraiture! Everything about these images is stunning. Backdrops and attire subtly pair perfectly within each image.

Award of Merit – Oklahoma Today

The Revivalists by Shane Bevel

A bright and bold set of images. Excellent composition and life in these photos.

Bronze – Cottage Life

A Portrait of Small Town Life by Derek Shapton

Nice photography shot in a journalistic style.

Silver – Texas Highways

Work, Eat, Dance, Repeat by Dave Shafer

These environmental portraits are full of life. It's refreshing to see portraits of people in real places. Authenticity shines through in each image.

Gold – Arizona Highways

I Just Want to Go Home by David Zickl

Brilliant images. Sharp images with excellent lighting. The reader can connect with the heart of the subjects through these images.

Photographer of the Year 35,000 or less APR

Silver – Arizona Wildlife Views

George Andrejko

Lovely animal portraits. Nice, consistent style and intimacy in the photos. The ringtail was very strong and evocative. Very nice!

Gold – Oklahoma Today

Shane Bevel

I'm very impressed with the photographer's ability to effectively capture a wide range of subjects, in an equally wide range of environments.

Photographer of the Year 35,000 or more APR

Silver

Texas Highways

Tom McCarthy Jr.

Gold

Arizona Highways

Jack Dykinga

Illustration

Bronze – Texas Highways

The State Fair of Texas by Mike Lowery

Charming with downhome appeal, the combination of illustration, casual handlettering, and limited color palette adds to the Texas feel of this story without indulging Lone Star State cliches.

Silver – Arizona Highways

The Exodus Trail by Davide Bonazzi

Some illustrations show a story, some tell information, this makes you feel. Strong storytelling here. I truly feel the trail through this artwork.

Gold – New Mexico Magazine

Voices in the Dark. by Juan Bernabeu

These handsome illustrations capture a mystical storytelling quality, transporting the reader to a place that feels both magical and grounded.

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

Award of Merit – KANSAS! Magazine

'Part of the Legacy that Shapes Who We Are' by Shelly Bryant

Many great things about the art direction of this article. This was so creative and I loved the side bar and spirit of this layout.

Award of Merit

The Bermudian

2021 Bermuda Building and Interior Design Awards by Linda Weinraub

Bronze

Oklahoma Today

The Oklahoma Gift Guide by Steven Walker

Silver – Adirondack Life

Adventure Tales by Mark Mahorsky

The textures, colour palette, illustrations and text all work together perfectly. The end result is both striking and engaging.

Gold –Acadiana Profile

Let's Taco Bout It by Sarah George

Gorgeous layout. So much texture and typography is great. Photography is excellent and everything hangs together beautifully. The illustrations and pop outs are fantastic. This is stellar work!

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

Award of Merit – Down East

100 Books Every Lover of Maine Should Read by Mike O'Leary and Mirek Jurek

The photography, typography and design all work so well together to keep the reader engaged throughout the feature. I discover something new every time I look through the pages.

Bronze – Arizona Highways

There's Gold in Them Thar Hills by Lisa Altomare

The subtle and elegant design of the pages allows the breathtaking photos to shine and have maximum impact.

Tie for Bronze

Bronze

Cottage Life

We've Gone to the Birds by Bradley Reinhardt

Silver – New Mexico Magazine

Powder Play by John McCauley

Wonderful, playful typography and color palette that really brings in the reader to read further. The design and type design carried throughout gives a nice touch.

Gold

Texas Highways

Back to Your Routes by Mark Mahorsky, Ashley Burch, and Chris Linnen

Overall Art Direction 35,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – KANSAS! Magazine

Shelly Bryant

I love the photography in this title and how the design elevates it by giving it space to live and breathe. The features are fun and engaging.

Bronze – Acadiana Profile

Sarah George

Overall great art direction with a lot of little whimsical details tossed in here and there to keep it continuously fun across the issues. Includes a nice variety of content delivery, I especially enjoyed the side bars, captions and choice of photography.

Silver – Adirondack Life

Mark Mahorsky

This art director has creativity in spades and knows exactly how much to give to every single piece without it feeling like it's taken too far. I truly love all the stories packed into this title. In the era of smaller page counts that only offer a taste, Adirondack Life feels like you got the entire gallon of ice cream.

Gold – Louisiana Life

Sarah George

Very well done. Redesign by Sarah George was very successful. Features were exceptionally designed, art direction was on point throughout and the whole magazine architecture did a good job of balancing ads and content. Overall does a great job pulling a wide spread of content into a cohesive and well-presented package.

Overall Art Direction 35,000 or more APR

Bronze – Cottage Life

Bradley Reinhardt

Dynamic layouts, stunning photojournalism, lively illustrations. The joy of the cottage is captured in the art direction of Cottage Life--evenly paced yet with pops of excitement. The visual elements truly connect with the mind and the soul, something the cottage itself, no doubt, does to the readers of the magazine. Beautiful.

Silver – New Mexico Magazine

John McCauley

New Mexico Magazine hits the sweet spot between regional-traditional and cosmopolitan-contemporary in its art direction. It sits perfectly between past and present tense--honoring the state's history and celebrating its present through the art direction. Beautiful covers. Sharp photographs. Yet more than beauty and high-quality from a technical standpoint--the content means something--it means everything New Mexico stands for.

Gold – Texas Highways

Mark Mahorsky

The art direction sings -- BOLD photography, vibrant illustration and the strong use of typography throughout. It takes intentionality to blend quick-reads with long form content, and the art direction in Texas Highways achieves that. Texas is a statement state and the art direction in Texas Highways makes a statement, too.

Department

Award of Merit – Texas Highways

Open Road by Michael Hoinski, Mark Mahorsky, Ashley Burch, and Chris Linnen

Admittedly I have a soft spot for essays and applaud publications that carve out space for them. And this one is a great example of how this type of storytelling can add much to the editorial mix, engage readers, and allow for voice and perspective informed by a sense of place that make memorable work.

Bronze – Oklahoma Today

The Market by Lori Duckworth, Steven Walker, and Nathan Gunter

The singular focus and the stunning, creative visual storytelling (and design) make this a stunner. What an imaginative and powerful way to showcase local businesses. Nice job.

Silver – New Mexico Magazine

Destinations by John McCauley, Steve Gleydura, and Kate Nelson

The excellent photography, evocative writing, and succinct and service-y display copy combine forces here for a really delightful travel department. Because the essays are so skillfully written and the photos so crisp, even readers who aren't planning trips will feel transported.

Gold – Cottage Life

Waterfront by Cottage Life staff and contributors

Exactly what you want from a magazine Department section. There is a structure that is easily replicable and comforting to the reader, yet there is enough flexibility to keep things fresh and surprise the reader.

Food Feature

Award of Merit – Louisiana Life

Daybreak by Stanley Dry, Eugenia Uhl, Sarah George, and Melanie Spencer

Mouth-wateringly delightful! Loved the thought put into the design of this feature, with the subtle sunrise tinting in the photography, typography, and iconography. Such a smart, yet subtle way to reinforce the mood of this piece. Made me want to get in the kitchen stat!

Bronze – Cottage Life

One Tart to Rule them All by Emma Waverman, Liam Mogan, Sandi Pilon, and Liann Bobechko

Really enjoyed this short feature. Much like its subject, it packs a lot into a small package. Personally, I enjoy the history of iconic regional delicacies, and I thought this feature delivered. All the info was there, balanced by an often facetious tone, which made it enjoyable to read. I especially enjoyed the Where It All Began sidebar. Really well done!

Silver – Acadiana Profile

Let's Taco Bout It by Eric Cormier, Jo Vidrine, Sarah George, and Melanie Spencer

Use of pattern, breaking of the grid with large typographic elements, lively color, and primarily brightly light photography take the reader on an energetic and tantalizing taco tour. The reader is also guided through eateries to find the best tacos with insightful chef vision statements, the historical origins of the hand-held street food, and appropriate accompaniments—all very useful and interesting.

Gold – New Mexico Magazine

Passion Fruit by Kate Nelson, Maria Manuela, Andi Murphy, Steve Gleydura, Elizabeth Miller, Diana Alba Soular, Douglas Merriam, and John McCauley

Wow - this feature has EVERYTHING! The informative content and carefully curated photography pairs perfectly with this clean design approach. Really enjoyed sitting with this piece and soaking up all the heat!

Special Focus

Bronze – Wyoming Wildlife

Special Grizzly Issue by Patrick Owen, Tracie Binkerd, and Robert Gagliardi

Beautiful tribute to a beautiful animal. I love the mix of photo, infographics, and clean, clear design. The pull-out poster was a really fun addition. It's super interesting to see how much the grizzly population has grown in the last 35+ years and how the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is moving to manage that.

Silver – Arizona Highways

The Great Escapes by Keith Whitney, Lisa Altomare, Jeff Kida, Robert Stieve, Kelly Vaughn, Noah Austin, and Ameema Ahmed

What a beacon of light, hope, and longing during such a dark time in the world's history. I love this issue theme.

Tie for Silver

Silver – KANSAS! Magazine

75th Anniversary Photo Issue by Shelly Bryant, Andrea Etzel, and Nathan Pettengill

There's no better tribute to your state than showing it through the eyes and words of the people. I loved the lack of captioning on the majority of images so it could be consumed as the art it is and the mood it evokes.

Gold – Texas Highways

The Return of Car Culture by Mark Mahorsky, Ashley Burch, Chris Linnen, Emily Stone, Michael Hoinski, Matt Joyce, Kimya Kavehkar, and Julia Jones

Terrific writing, inviting graphics and unexpected touches: *The Return of Car Culture*, in *Texas Highways*, is a very appealing package. A spread called *Let's Cross That Bridge* looks at the state's historic bridges, including "engineering marvels" and "abridged"--i.e., spans that have been repurposed. In *Pick-Me-Up*, writer Sarah Hepola looks at the evolution of pick-up-trucks, while test-driving an assortment of these vehicles. Captures the fun and exhilaration of driving on the open road.

Travel Package

Bronze – Arizona Highways

The Great Escapes by Lisa Altomare, Jeff Kida, and Robert Stieve

The Great Escapes feels like being invited into the intimate conversations of great storytellers and explorers who have seen almost everything Arizona and the west have to offer. Framed during COVID, it captures a moment and reminds us that time and nature are two things we need to take special care of.

Silver – Texas Highways

Back to Your Routes by Michael Corcoran, E. Dan Klepper, Clayton Maxwell, June Naylor, Joe Nick Patoski, Kenny Braun, Tom McCarthy Jr., Nathan Lindstrom, Justin Rex, Lulu La Nantaise, Mark Mahorsky, Ashley Burch, Chris Linnen, Emily Stone, Michael Hoinski, Matt Joyce, Kimya Kavehkar, and Julia Jones

Researching your travel trip is half the fun, and this comprehensive and clever guide through the more hidden routes of Texas has something for every type of adventurer. It also gives the reader the impression that the authors are experts who've done the mileage more than once — not just some yahoos who've cherry-picked some Wikipedia entries. To read it is to get a taste (and a hunger) for actually being there.

Gold – New Mexico Magazine

Sand Blast by Elizabeth Miller, Diana Alba Soular, Maria Manuela, Tira Howard, Jameson Simpson, John McCauley, Steve Gleydura, and Kate Nelson

This was such a stellar mix of eye-popping photography and service journalism. It feels just as relevant for readers who are planning a trip to this new national monument as for those who want to be transported there just by reading about it.

Cover 35,000 or less APR

Award of Merit – Louisiana Life

Daybreak by Eugenia Uhl, Sarah George, and Melanie Spencer

A striking cover. Love the hand coming from out of the corner, nice movement, the honey dripping- sweet! (See what I did there!).

Bronze – Adirondack Life

The Call of the Wild by Mark Mahorsky, Annie Stoltie, Lisa Bramen, and Niki Kourofsky

Love this cover. For a December/Holiday cover it is beautifully simple. The movement of the wings and type face placement evokes great movement. I love the snow falling across the letters. Simple works here and I am a fan.

Silver – Oklahoma Today

The Food Issue by Steven Walker and Nathan Gunter

Oklahoma Today is killing it. Fun cover. It makes me happy.

Gold – KANSAS! Magazine

Kansas Trailblazers by Angie Pickman, Shelly Bryant, Andrea Etzel, and Nathan Pettengill

Really like the graphic design. Using Old-timey woodblock style of design for innovators issue is a juxtaposition that works for me. Bold and then more bold, and the design fills up the page, which I like.

Cover 35,000 or more APR

Award of Merit – Texas Highways

Secret Rivers by Kenny Braun, Mark Mahorsky, Ashley Burch, Chris Linnen, Emily Stone, Michael Hoinski, Matt Joyce, Kimya Kavehkar, and Julia Jones

Cover shot shows an enticing locale which I'd surely want to learn more about—good appeal. It's also brought to life by the inclusion of swimmers as well. Placement of the primary cover line over the very painterly clouds is creating a heavenly vibe to the secret places the reader will soon discover.

Bronze – New Mexico Magazine

The Chile Issue by Steve Gleydura, Douglas Merriam, John McCauley, and Kate Nelson

Image is very eye-catching with its vibrant colors and natural lighting.

Silver – Arizona Highways

Native Peoples Stories of Hardship and Hope by Keith Whitney, Jeff Kida, and Robert Stieve

The eye-catching image, with alignment of the stars towards the open door, allows readers to think about indigenous peoples as stewards of the land under the majesty of nature's splendour but also shows the practicalities of daily living. It's a good visual setup for the "hardship and hope" copy.

Gold – Cottage Life

May 2020 by Bradley Reinhardt and Michelle Kelly

It's busy, but I found myself engaged with this cover for a really long time. It sucked me in. I had to look at each photo and read the small captions. It was like a story in itself.

Digital Presence

Silver – Texas Highways

Texas State Travel Guide

<https://travelguide.texashighways.com/>

I liked that this is a single destination for what you need to know about travelling through Texas. Loved the use of photography. It is great to see high quality images on digital and it is particularly important for travel content. I wanted more!

Gold – The Bermudian

TheBermudian.com

<https://www.thebermudian.com/>

Get a real sense of the energy and vibrancy of the culture of Bermuda. The content doesn't feel stale. It feels like it is always fresh. Overall it achieves the goal of sharing information about the people, culture, history, and events of Bermuda.

Magazine of the Year

2020 MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 35,000 or less APR

Winner – Oklahoma Today

Nathan Gunter, Karlie Ybarra, Megan Rossman, Greg Elwell, Lori Duckworth, JJ Ritchey, Steven Walker, Colleen McIntyre, Bridgette Slone, Ben Luschen, Erica Johnson

Vibrant and emotionally-charged photos, illuminating illustrations, dense information, playful yet expert editorial tone and tons of entry points into each and every story... all make Oklahoma Today a great reader experience. Well done!

This title impresses with its wonderful photography - used effectively and respectfully - as well as its powerful and compelling covers.

2020 MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR 35,000 or more APR

Finalist – Texas Highways

Mark Mahorsky, Ashley Burch, Chris Linnen, Brandon Jakobeit, Emily Stone, Michael Hoinski, Matt Joyce, Kimya Kavehkar, Julia Jones

A dedication to voice-driven narratives that explore an interesting range of ideas (many of which that are surprising, unexpected) and to reporting and strong writing make this magazine a stand-out. That work is supported by strong design, engaging visuals, and nice packaging of the ideas.

Texas Highways knows what it's doing. Their magazine issues are well structured, with stories that speak directly to its audience — Texans who are looking for adventure on the highways and off the beaten paths of the Lone Star State. Texas is full of beautiful places and flavors, but what makes Texas Highways stand out are profiles that capture eclectic and authentic Texans, like "Meyagi" and BG Porter, two automobile artists who are heroes in the "slab" car scene.

The stunning photography and inviting design drew me in, and the crisp writing kept me engaged. But it was really the outstanding effort to include diverse voices that impressed me here. The mix of writers, sources, and profile subjects really reflects the diversity of Texas. Bravo!

Truly a Texas magazine - everything about this magazine is big and bold. The issues submitted show a perfect curation of all the state has to offer travelers and are each a unique experience for the reader who is exploring Texas at home or planning their next adventure.

Winner – Down East

Benjamin Williamson, Mark Fleming, Mike O'Leary, Mirek Jurek, Brian Kevin, Will Grunewald, Virginia M. Wright, Rachel Slade

Bravo to this publication's staff for its willingness to dig deep and deliver creative and compelling magazine-making as the two pandemics of the past year (Covid-19 and racism) upended our country. Great reads, a strong commitment to reader interests, and a notable commitment to inclusivity make this publication noteworthy. Well done!

Down East is the Maine postcard you receive from that one friend who squeezes 800 words into a 4x6 space and you're still upset she couldn't write more because

every detail makes you want to visit; combined with a local newsletter that captures all the color and personality of a town's places and people — like Uncle Lumpy, the jovial pooping-moose toy maker. Yes, you can play a drinking game with all the mentions of Thoreau and Stephen King and the phrase "Maine-iest," but Down East has a way of making you feel like Maine was the first and best corner of the country — the rest of the union subsequently unfurled at its southwest border and with diminishing returns. The magazine's dedication to literature, crafts, nature, and history, buttressed by first-rate reporting and clever rubrics, made the 2020 issues a clarion call to quit everything and find adventure/peace/meaning in the Pine Tree State. A vicarious delight.

Lively and dynamic content paired with traditional scenic photography and strong writing make this a solid submission. Excellent showcase of Maine and celebrating the lifestyle of Mainers. *Roots Run Deep* was an especially engaging and relevant piece among the traditional state-celebrating stories. Down East does a phenomenal job showcase the state and shedding light on issues that matter to Maine.