

2025 Azbee Awards of Excellence Heartland Region Award Winners (Alphabetical by publication name)

American Vegetable Grower (Meister Media Worldwide)

Category: All Content - Innovation Article

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Mark Smith's Tenacity is Transforming Yuma
Carol Miller, Editor; Susan Duffy, Graphic Designer

Category: Print - State of the Industry

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: 2024 State of the Vegetable Industry: I Am an American Vegetable Grower
Carol Miller, Editor; Dianne Munson, Senior Editor; Susan Duffy, Graphic Designer

Automotive News (Crain Communications)

Category: All Content - Group or Company Profile

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: For Toyota's big hydrogen ambitions, the Mirai is only the beginning
Jerry Hirsch, Senior Editor, Technology and Innovation

Category: All Content - Technical Article

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Humanoid robots are automotive industry's new next frontier
Pete Bigelow, Reporter

Category: Online - Podcast

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Automotive News Daily Drive
Jamie Butter, Executive Editor; Kellen Walker, Podcast Host; Jake Neher, Producer

Category: Print - Regular Department

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Shift Mobility Report
Jerry Hirsch, Senior Editor, Technology and Innovation

Behavioral Health Business (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: All Content - Innovation Article

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: 'Pandora's Box Is Open': The Future of the Behavioral Health Industry
Includes AI-Powered Chatbots
Bob Holly, Executive Editor; Laura Lovett, Senior Editor; Morgan Gonzales, Reporter

Club + Resort Chef (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Online - Online Single Topic Coverage

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Transforming an Industry Through "All Ships Rise"
Joanna DeChellis, Editorial Director; Kara Singleton, Director and Cinematographer; Isabelle Gustafson, Senior Editor

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Compact Equipment (BENJAMIN MEDIA)

Category: All Content - Regular Column

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Editor at Large: Highlighting the Human Side of Earthmoving Equipment
Keith Gribbins, Publisher

Category: Online - Video

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Mini Skid Steer Madness
Wayne Grayson, Video Editor

CropLife (Meister Media Worldwide)

Category: Print - Special Issue or Supplement

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: The ABCs of ESA: The agriculture industry faces profound changes under the Environmental Protection Agency's workplan to comply with the Endangered Species Act
Lara L. Sowinski, Group Editor, CropLife Media Group; Eric Sfiligoj, Editor; Dan Jacobs, Senior Editor; Matthew Hopkins, Senior Multimedia Specialist; Kim Henderson, Senior Graphic Designer

CStore Decisions (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Online - Online State of the Industry

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Digital 2024 Category Management Handbook
Erin Del Conte, Editor-in-Chief; Erin Canetta, Creative Director; Matt Claney, VP Creative Director; Dave Miyares, Web Development; Emily Boes, Editor; Kevin McIntyre, Editor; Greg Sanders, SVP

Design World (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: All Content - Editor's Letter or Note

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Insights
Paul J. Heney, VP, Editorial Director

Category: All Content - Thought Leadership

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: The importance of the ally
Paul J. Heney, VP, Editorial Director

Design World (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Print - Special Issue or Supplement

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: EDI – Engineering Diversity & Inclusion
Paul J. Heney, Rachael Pasini, Aimee Kalnoskas, Lisa Eitel, Martin Rowe; Emma Lutjen, Stephanie Neal, Mary Gannon, Ian Portsmouth, Allison Washko

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Garden Center magazine (GIE Media)

Category: All Content - Enterprise News Story

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Woodinville Heartbreak

Emily Mills, Digital Editor

Category: Online - Online State of the Industry

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Garden Center 2024 State of the Industry Report: Focusing on Success

Emily Mills, Digital Editor; Katelyn Mullen, Art Director

Greenhouse Grower (Meister Media Worldwide)

Category: Online - Podcast

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Greenhouse Grower to Grower Podcast: Get to Know Lauren Kirchner of Spring Creek Growers

Brian D. Sparks, Editor; Tyler Hatch, Senior Graphic Designer

Category: Print - Single Topic Coverage

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: A Balancing Act: Dynamic Market Conditions Are Forcing Many Top 100 Growers to Walk a Tightrope

Brian D. Sparks, Editor; Julie Hullett, Senior Editor; Tyler Hatch, Senior Graphic Designer

Greenhouse Management Magazine (GIE Media)

Category: All Content - Editor's Letter or Note

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Outlook

Patrick Alan Coleman, Editor

Category: All Content - Individual Profile

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: The Good Work

Patrick Alan Coleman, Editor

Hospice News (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Online - Online Single Topic Coverage

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Hospice in Jeopardy: How Fraud is Perpetrated, Puts Sector at Risk

Jim Parker, Senior Editor; Holly Vossell, Senior Reporter

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Hotel News Now (CoStar Group)

Category: All Content - Individual Profile

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: From Cookies to Secret Service Agents: Eric Danziger Closes Out 53-Year Hotel Career
Sean McCracken, News Editor

Category: All Content - Overall Headline Writing

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Hotel News Now's Best Headlines of 2024
Hotel News Now Editorial Staff

Category: All Content - Sustainability Article

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Developing Hotels To Withstand Climate Change
Trevor Simpson, Associate Editor

Category: Design - Web Article Design

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Asheville Hoteliers Assess the Damage and Begin to Rebuild from Hurricane Helene
Rachel Daub, Senior Graphic Designer

Category: Online - Event Coverage

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: 2024 Hotel Data Conference
Hotel News Now Editorial Staff

Category: Online - Podcast

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Expedia's 2025 Travel Trends on the Tell Me More Podcast
Hotel News Now Editorial Staff

MassDevice (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: All Content - Enterprise News Story

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: How GLP-1s tanked and reshaped the medtech stock market in 2023
Danielle Kirsh, Senior Editor

Medical Design & Outsourcing (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: Print - Special Issue or Supplement

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Medical Design & Outsourcing's Women in Medtech
Chris Newmarker, EIC; Jim Hammerand, ME; Matthew Claney, VP Creative Director; Danielle Kirsh, Senior Editor; Kayleen Brown, DeviceTalks Managing Editor

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Mobility Management (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: All Content - Thought Leadership

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Barbie Goes to Seating Clinic

Bob Holly, Executive Editor; Laurie Watanabe, Editor In Chief

Nursery Management (GIE Media)

Category: All Content - Enterprise News Story

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Bait and switch

Matt McClellan, Editor, Nursery Management

Pest Management Professional (North Coast Media)

Category: Design - Best Original Illustration

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: 2025 State of the Industry: Road to Success

Tracie Martinez, Art Director

Category: Design - Front Cover - Illustration

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Circle the Wagons

Tracie Martinez, Art Director

Category: Design - Front Cover - Photo

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Mosquito Control

Tracie Martinez, Art Director

Category: Print - Single Topic Coverage

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: 2024 PMP Growth Summit Event Recap

Heather Gooch, Editor-in-Chief; Diane Sofranec, Senior Editor

Category: Print - Special Issue or Supplement

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: 2024 Bed Bug Management Supplement

Diane Sofranec, Senior Editor

Category: Print - State of the Industry

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: 2025 State of the Industry

Marty Whitford, Publisher; Heather Gooch, Editor-in-Chief; Diane Sofranec, Senior Editor

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PracticeLink Magazine (PracticeLink)

Category: All Content - How-To Article

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: And Baby Makes 3

Ken Allman, Founder & CEO; Laura Hammond, Editor; Jack Brannen, Art Director

Category: All Content - How-To Article

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Are You a Fit?

Ken Allman, Founder & CEO; Laura Hammond, Editor; Jack Brannen, Art Director

Category: Print - Single Topic Coverage

Award: Regional Gold Award

Title of Entry: Contracts & Compensation Issue

Ken Allman, Founder & CEO; Laura Hammond, Editor; Jack Brannen, Art Director

Seaside Retailer (Breakwall Publishing)

Category: All Content - Group or Company Profile

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: From Bali to Cali

Kristen Hampshire, Contributing Writer

Solar Power World (WTWH Media LLC)

Category: All Content - Editor's Letter or Note

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Standing at a pivotal moment

Billy Ludt, Senior Editor

Category: All Content - Government Coverage

Award: Regional Silver Award

Title of Entry: Solar power

Kelsey Misbrener, Managing Editor; Billy Ludt, Senior Editor; Kelly Pickerel, Editor in Chief

Souvenirs, Gifts & Novelties (Breakwall Publishing)

Category: All Content - Group or Company Profile

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Dispensing Good Memories

Kristen Hampshire, Contributing Writer

Category: All Content - How-To Article

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Blow Plush Displays Out of the Water

Megan Smalley, Associate Editor; Kristin Ely, Executive Editor

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Waste Today (GIE Media)

Category: All Content - Sustainability Article

Award: Regional Bronze Award

Title of Entry: Sustainable aviation fuel

Carol Brzozowski, Freelance Journalist for Waste Today