



## **IPPY Award Winners Announced for 2014 – "Independent Publishers Tell Real Stories about Real People and Places"**

(May 7, 2014 – Traverse City, MI) - After a long, cold winter, the announcement of the 18<sup>th</sup> annual **Independent Publisher Book Awards** has been brought a spring-like gust of excellence to the publishing world.

Launched in 1996 and conducted each year to honor the year's best independently published books, the "IPPY" Awards recognize merit in a broad range of subjects and reward authors and publishers who "take chances and break new ground." Independent publishers, along with independent booksellers, have long held an important role in the world of books, offering an alternative to "the big five" conglomerated media publishers. Thanks to small presses, university presses, and self-publishing services that give experimental and entrepreneurial authors a platform, the IPPY universe is rapidly expanding -- and that gives adventurous readers an abundance of new choices.

The medal-winning books will be celebrated on May 28th during the annual BookExpo America publishing convention in New York, with gold, silver and bronze IPPY medallions awarded in 78 national, 22 regional, and ten e-book categories. This year's contest drew over 5,500 entries from authors and publishers in all 50 U.S. states, nine Canadian provinces, and 32 countries overseas.

Some prominent themes in this year's winning books are "home" and "sense of place," reinforcing the idea that independent authors and publishers create books that tell real stories about real people and places. The Anthology category gold medalist, *Astoria to Zion: Stories of Risk and Abandon*, comes from *Ecotone*, "the magazine for reimagining place." The collection includes heart-wrenching short stories by Ron Rash, Rick Bass, and 24 other great writers.

In the gold medal-winning, *A Lifetime of Vermont People*, photographer Peter Miller compiles 25 years of capturing the images and spirit of Vermonters who "find solace in isolated regions where agriculture is strong and the roads are poor."

This year's Cookbook category winners also demonstrate a connection to the land. In Cookbook/Nutrition gold medalist, *Foraging & Feasting: A Field Guide and Wild Food Cookbook*, author Dina Falconi describes the art of foraging: "To forage means to dance with the land. It reconnects us to the exhilarating yet humble place within the web of life."

Congratulations to all the medalists for their independent spirit and dedication to excellence in a complicated and always-changing world of publishing and bookselling!

See complete results for the 2014 Independent Publisher Book Awards at <http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1791>

Regional and E-Book Awards:

<http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1794>

Outstanding Books of the Year: <http://www.independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1795>

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The IPPY Awards are presented by IndependentPublisher.com, “THE Voice of Independent Publishing” operated by publishing services firm Jenkins Group of Traverse City, Michigan.

For more details about the Awards, to attend the medal ceremony, or to interview recipients, please contact:

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