



READERS' CHOICE 2018

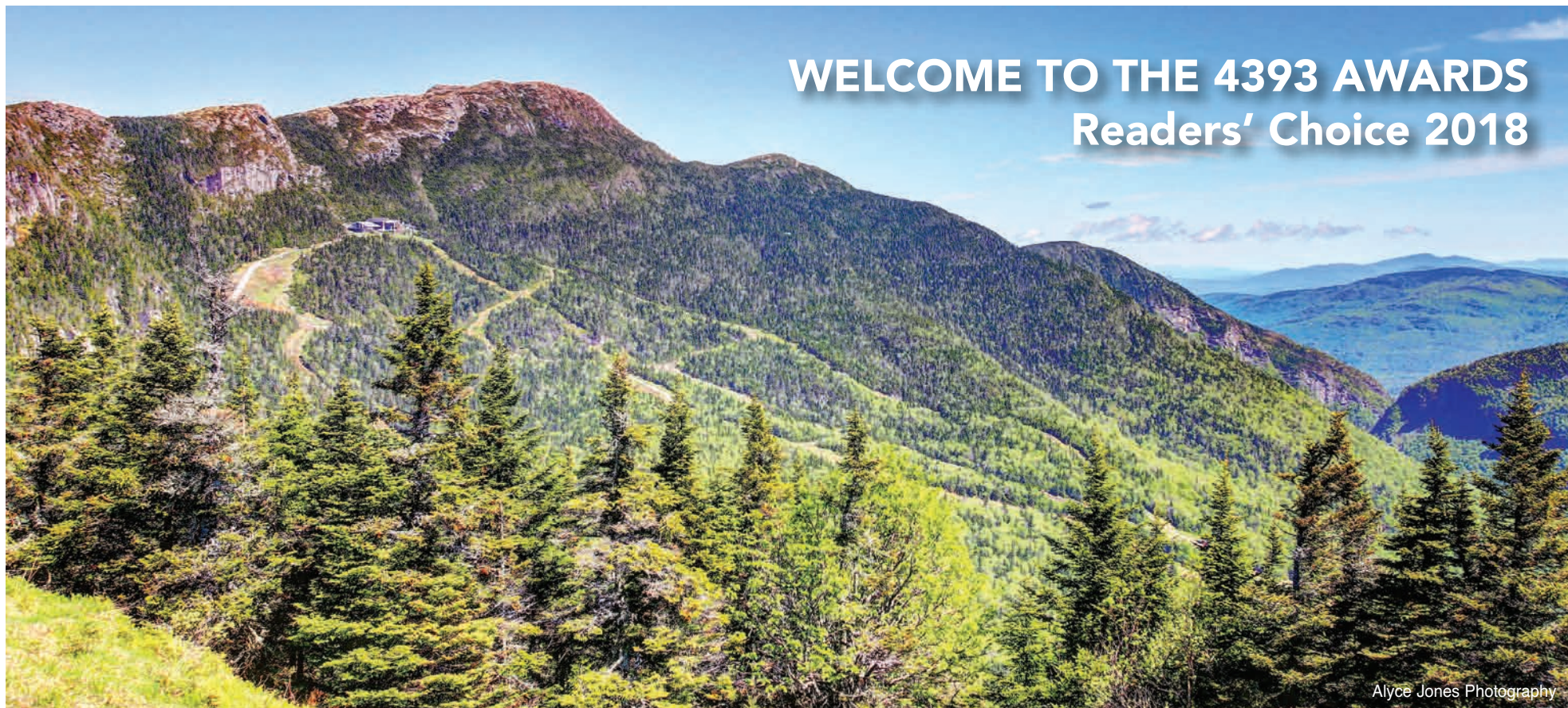
Stowe, Waterbury, Morrisville and beyond!

Alyce Jones Photography

A special section of the Stowe Reporter, Waterbury Record, News & Citizen and stowetoday.com

Check out the best of the best online, too! Visit stowetoday.com/4393awards.

WELCOME TO THE 4393 AWARDS Readers' Choice 2018



Alyce Jones Photography

They're here — the results of our fourth annual 4393 Awards! Readers of our newspapers — Stowe Reporter, News & Citizen and Waterbury Record — voted for their favorite restaurants, bars, ski shops, fitness pros, nonprofit organizations and so much more. Here's how it worked. During a monthlong nomination round, readers let us know their favorite people, places and services. Results were tabulated and then the voting started.

More than 2,000 voters turned out for the final round, with over 76,000 individual votes in 92 categories.

We've listed the top three in each category, along with the top nominees. As for those nominees, we didn't include one-hit wonders, and in most categories cut off the list of nominees if people didn't at least hit double digits. Nominees are listed in alphabetical order, not by vote totals.

And in case you're wondering — '4393' corresponds to the elevation of Mount Mansfield, Vermont's highest peak and home to Stowe Mountain Resort. We can't believe folks 'round here don't know that, but perhaps it is because some sources list the elevation at 4,395 feet. However, the U.S. Geological Survey (usgs.gov) uses the 4,393 elevation, and that's definitive enough for us.

We present this special section to our readers — both locals and visitors — and we hope you will enjoy it and refer to it throughout the year.

The 4393 Awards will live online at stowetoday.com/4393awards until next year's contest, and printed copies will be distributed throughout Lamoille County, Stowe and Waterbury. Hip, hip, hooray!

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On the cover: View of Mount Mansfield from the award-winning Pinnacle, photo by Alyce Jones Photography • alycejonesphotography.com

Above: Mount Mansfield, photo by Alyce Jones Photography • alycejonesphotography.com

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1) BEST PIZZA

1. Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge
2. Pizza on Main
3. Blue Stone

Nominees: Angelina's Pizza, Downtown Pizza, Firetower Pizza, Jeffersonville Pizza Dept., Jimmz Pizza, Junior's at Stowe, Pizza Joint, The Bench, The Matterhorn, Zachary's Pizza

Do you know why pizza makers toss their dough into the air? Ask Eduardo Rovetto and crew at the perennially popular Picasso. And no, it's not because it's really cool. ... well, it is really cool. But tossing it helps keep the dough moist, keeps it a uniform size and thickness and avoids the tearing that rolling or flattening can lead to. With specialty pies like Tree Hugger, Pablo Pesto and The Vienna, always with just the right amount of sauce, cheese and toppings — and that perfect hand-tossed dough — Picasso's secrets of success.

2) BEST BURGER

1. Doc Ponds
2. Burger Barn
3. Lost Nation

Nominees: 10 Railroad Street, The Bench, Black Diamond BBQ, Blue Donkey, Flannel at Topnotch, Harrison's, Idletyme Brewing Co., Plate, Prohibition Pig, The Reservoir, The Roost at Topnotch, Stowe Bowl, Sunset Grille & Tap Room, von Trapp Bierhall, The Whip, Zenbarn.

When Doc Ponds burst onto the scene a few years ago, its burger quickly topped many a favorite list, in a crowded field of great burgers. The Burger Barn, right?

Anyway, DP's award-winning recipe is simple: An egg-washed brioche style bun — never too much bread — great-tasting beef, yummy cheddar and secret sauce. Simplicity rules. And there is always that visitor who summed it up best with her post titled, "The Burger That Changed My Life."

3) BEST FRENCH FRIES

1. Prohibition Pig
2. Doc Ponds
3. The Bench

Nominees: 10 Railroad Street, Bistro at Ten Acres, Blue Donkey, Burger Barn, Depot Street Malt Shoppe, Mountain View Snack Bar, Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge, Stowe Bowl, Stowe Mountain Lodge, The Reservoir.

Take some duck fat. Hand cut potatoes. Mix, salt, serve. That's the ticket to great fries, at least at Pro Pig — and The Bench. Quack.

4) BEST WINGS

1. Black Diamond BBQ
2. The Reservoir
3. Sunset Grille & Tap Room

Nominees: The Bench, Doc Ponds, Idletyme, The Matterhorn, Picnic Social, Picasso, Prohibition Pig, Rimrocks, Sushi Yoshi, Tap 25, Village Tavern.

For a bunch of northern Vermont towns, far afield from Texas, the South, or even Memphis or Kansas City — all noted barbecue towns and regions — we got pretty darn lucky. There's Haabz at the Sunset, the restaurant moguls at The Reservoir in

Waterbury (they own two restaurants in Stowe, too) and not-so-new-kid in the smokehouse, Black Diamond BBQ, which finally moved into a brick-and-mortar location in Morristown Corners a few years back. The wings are spice-rubbed, smoked for three hours, cooled, and brought back to life in the fryer. "They come out of the fryer plain, but with so much flavor. There's something about that smoke and char that comes off a wing that is really, really good," manager Brian Krux said. Bazinga.

5) BEST VEGETARIAN/VEGAN FOOD

1. Green Goddess Cafe
2. Zenbarn
3. Pete's Greens Waterbury Farm Market

Nominees: The Bench, Commodities Natural Market, Idletyme Brewing Co., Plate Restaurant, Saensook Thai Kitchen, Sunflower Natural Foods, Sushi Yoshi.

Any place called Green Goddess has got to be a shoo-in to win best vegetarian joint, right? But these guys don't rest on their hummuses. Fresh, simple ingredients, prepared beautifully. The build-your-own salads served in big wooden bowls ... well geez, if you haven't tried one, what are you waiting for?

6) BEST NEW RESTAURANT (OPENED IN 2017 OR 2018)

1. Tres Amigos
2. Stowe Bee Bakery
3. Black Cap Coffee & Beer (Morrisville)

Nominees: Allium, Papa's Place.

Mexican is back in Stowe. The boys behind The Reservoir in Waterbury and The Bench in Stowe, Mark Frier and Chad Fry — awesome names for restaurant owners, right? — opened Tres Amigo in 2017 at the old Rusty Nail and haven't looked back. *Buen provecho.*

7) BEST CHEF

1. Michael Kloeti, Michael's on the Hill
2. Eric Warnstedt, Hen of the Wood
3. Aaron Martin, Black Diamond BBQ

Nominees: Andy Figliola, 10 Railroad; Jack Pickett, Bierhall at von Trapp Brewing; Jamie Nelson, Blackback Pub; Jason Pacioni, Black Diamond BBQ; Jonathan Nelson, Picasso; Josh Bard, Doc Ponds; Matthew LeBlanc, Harrison's; Mike Giffune, Zenbarn; Rich Haab, Sunset Grille; Sean Patrick Morrison, Plate; Steve Zeno, The Whip Bar & Grill.

The Stowe/Morrisville/Waterbury area can claim its fair share of great chefs (or cooks, as some prefer to be called) but the much-honored Michael Kloeti is always near the top. In the same old farmhouse first made famous by another great chef, Tony DiRuocco of Villa Tragara, Kloeti's "locally sourced, Continental cuisine" never fails to disappoint. He's cooked at Lespinasse at the St. Regis in New York City and on the island of Lana'i before he and Laura opened Michael's 15 years ago. His expertly prepared menus — crispy Rhode Island calamari with frisee, Reggiano and capers ... *c'mon* — feature all the words that shoot serious diners over the moon: bouillabaisse, crostini, gnocchi, bacon jam!

We are touched by the devotion and love we receive from our Club Members, locals, and guests. Whether The Spa is your space to get away, celebrate, or rejuvenate we appreciate your support. We live by the words of the late Maya Angelou, "they may forget what you said, or what you did, but they will always remember how you made them feel." We invite you to get lost in our world, to open your eyes to fresh thoughts, and to experience the magic of nature.

Be well.
Jessica Swartley
Spa Director




From all of us at Stowe Mountain Lodge:
Thank You for your continued support!

For More Information on the Spa and Wellness Center, Stowe Country Club, and all our offerings and services visit: www.StoweMountainLodge.com



Thank you for your support of Stowe Country Club in the 4393 Best of Mansfield Awards!! We are honored to be included among the best of Northern Vermont. We are committed to creating an enjoyable and exciting environment here at the Club and look forward to seeing you all soon. Check out our website, www.stowegt.com, for upcoming events and don't forget to join us for Craft Beer Tuesdays!

Find your fun!
Dave Finethy, PGA
Head Golf Professional



8) BEST RESTAURANT, FINE DINING

1. Hen of the Wood
2. Harrison's
3. Michael's on the Hill

Nominees: Michael's on the Hill, Cliff House at Stowe Mountain Resort, Flannel at Topnotch Resort, Hearth & Candle, Plate Restaurant, The Bistro at Ten Acres, The Dining Room at Edson Hill, Trapp Family Lodge, Trattoria La Festa.

Hen of the Wood is, simply, one of the best restaurants in the United States. The world? The universe? OK, we'll cut back on the hyperbole — a pinch. Stowe is blessed with many fine eateries, but HOTW is a cut above. We could wax on, but Chef Eric Warnstedt and his partner William McNeil kind of sum it up, describing their own vision for their Waterbury fine-dining destination: "a warm, inviting atmosphere, a historic and visually appealing setting, seamless service and, most importantly, outstanding wine and beautiful food." On the food, just one note. Well, two. The menu changes daily, and while the descriptions might sound fanciful — braised lamb with feta, panisse frites, baby bok choy and hazelnuts, yes ma'am — the ingredients are always respected, often local, and always expertly paired in inspired combinations. These guys know their stuff.

9) BEST RESTAURANT, CASUAL — STOWE

1. Doc Ponds
2. The Bench
3. Picasso

Nominees: Bierhall at von Trapp Brewing, Blue Donkey, Café on Main, Charlie B's, Depot Street Malt Shop, Idletyme Brewing Co., Junior's at Stowe, Saensook Thai Kitchen, Stowe Sandwich Co., Sunset Grille & Tap Room, Sushi Yoshi, The Matterhorn, The Roost at Topnotch, The Whip Bar & Grill, Tres Amigos.

Doc Ponds, it's one of those places where the locals go. It's a great hang. See our writeup.

10) BEST RESTAURANT, CASUAL — WATERBURY

1. Prohibition Pig
2. The Reservoir Restaurant & Tap Room
3. Blackback Pub

Nominees: Allium, Blue Stone, Maxi's Restaurant, Ocha Thai Smile, Park Row Café, Zenbarn.

Lost Nation proves the adage that you don't have to be fancy to be good, or in Lost Nation's case, great. You can't get more casual, the food is inspired, the beer is topnotch, and in a craft-brew market overflowing with topnotch beers. And it's always at the top of many a local's favorites list. See our writeup.

11) BEST RESTAURANT, CASUAL — LAMOILLE COUNTY

1. Lost Nation Brewing Co.
2. Black Diamond BBQ
3. Pizza on Main

Nominees: 10 Railroad, 158 Main, Downtown Pizza, El Toro, Hoagie's Pizza & Pasta, Martell's at the Red Fox, The Charlemont, The Village Tavern.

11. BEST RESTAURANT, CASUAL — LAMOILLE COUNTY



File Photo by Glenn Callahan

Lost Nation

It's obvious to anyone stopping by Lost Nation's indoor restaurant or outdoor beer garden why the brewery was this year's winner for best casual dining in the county. There's a fun, festive feel to the atmosphere in both sections of the brewery's dining locales as music and conversation fill the air while visitors partake of Lost Nation's award-winning brewskis and ever-evolving menu.

Always busy and a big hit when the doors are open — the Morrisville brewery also finished in the top three for best local brewery, best outdoor dining and best burger — Lost Nation is well-known as a great spot to stop for a beer, burger or whatever else strikes your fancy. But, Lamoille County's best casual eatery is also the one that almost wasn't.

Owners Allen Van Anda (pictured at right) and Jamie Griffith had originally planned to serve meat and cheese platters with their beer, but once they got rolling they realized they had the perfect spot for a small, fun, welcoming restaurant in the back of their brewery. Aiming for a casual

feel "where everyone is welcome", they opened their 40-seat indoor restaurant and bar in June of 2013, just after they got up and running. People began packing into the new spot, so much so that within a year they knew they needed to expand.

"We were so busy that first winter, we were always turning people away," Griffith said. So, they decided to expand that portion of their business during the summer months with a 70-seat beer garden, which opened in May of 2014.

In terms of what's on the menu, the pair wanted to offer large, affordable servings of "messy, barbecue-style food," prepared with as many local products as possible, Van Anda said, and the menu has been constantly evolving since 2013 as they work with head chef Eric Larson to update and add to the offerings.

Lost Nation's beer garden is open Wednesday through Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. between Memorial Day and Columbus Day, and the indoor restaurant is open year-round during the same hours.

— Andrew Martin

12) BEST FAMILY-FRIENDLY DINING

1. Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge
2. McCarthy's Restaurant
3. The Bench

Nominees: 158 Main, Depot Street Malt Shop, Harrison's, Hoagie's Pizza & Pasta, Mountain View Snack Bar, Stowe Bowl, Sunset Grille & Tap Room, Sushi Yoshi, Zenbarn.

Always the hands-down favorite in this category, and it's a place for all kinds of families — families with kids, retired leaf peepers, snowboard bums, young rural professionals, both Woodcharles and Woodchucks (thanks, Peter Miller), tourists, couples and singles. Guess what we're saying is it's just downright friendly. For everybody.

13) BEST OUTDOOR DINING

1. Idletyme Brewing Co.
2. Lost Nation Brewing
3. The Whip Bar & Grill

Nominees: Blue Donkey, Harrison's, Hen of the Wood, Prohibition Pig Brewery, Sunset Grille & Tap Room, The Bench, The Bistro at Ten Acres, The Village Tavern, Topnotch Resort.

Idletyme, a small-batch brewery, also features a great bar: Lots of wood, big tables and booths, no crowding, great old Stowe photographs, low-slung ceilings, and a big copper vessel for brewing. It also features a great dining room with separate bar, tons of ambiance and awesome booths that look like Holsteins. But, in summer, on a halcyon Vermont day ... it's all about the patio. Simply the best.

14) BEST DRAFT BEER SELECTION

1. Blackback Pub
2. Doc Ponds
3. The Reservoir Restaurant & Tap Room

Nominees: 10 Railroad Street, Brewster River Pub & Brewery, Idletyme Brewing Co., Lost Nation Brewing, Picasso, Prohibition Pig, Stowe Public House, Tap 25, The Bench, The Matterhorn, von Trapp Bierhall.

Holy bier stein, Batman. How do people vote in this category? Beer selections nowadays are simply top drawer. From great local brews to beers imported from around the Northeast, America and the world, the Waterbury-Stowe-Morrisville area features the best of the best. But it is a small, cozy bar, tucked into a building on Waterbury's Main Street, that tapped out the win. Blackback has a great list. An ever-changing list. And it explains their motto: "We are all about the beer. It is the reason we are here."

15) BEST BARTENDER

1. Andrew Kneale, Harrison's
2. Sam Sheldon, Doc Ponds
3. Emily Hassard, Zenbarn

Nominees: Brian Krux, Black Diamond BBQ; Jeremy Moselle, The Matterhorn; Tom Moog, Moog's Place; Gretchen Jarvis, 10 Railroad; Otis Helfrich, Sunset Grille; Ian Bud, Plate; JT Vize, Picasso; Mark Martell, Martell's at the Red Fox; Dennis Tallagnon, Backyard Tavern.

Local. Boy. Makes. Good. OK, it's a been a while since Andrew's been a boy, but he is a damn fine bartender and a damn fine man. Andrew, with his mother, Kathy, a Stowe restaurant business staple for decades (Partridge Inn, Depot Street Malt Shop and now Harrison's), own and operate what has become a Stowe institution. Andrew, behind the bar, is one of its top draws.

16) BEST APRÈS SKI

1. The Matterhorn
2. Doc Ponds
3. Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge

Nominees: Brewster River Pub, Cork Wine Bar & Market, Hob Knob, Idletyme Brewing Co., Martell's at the Red Fox, Picasso, Stowe Bowl, Sushi Yoshi, The Bench, The Den at Mansfield Base Lodge, The Roost at Topnotch.

The Horn knocked it clear over Mansfield this year — all 4,393 feet of it. This Stowe institution keeps on keeping it real. A real ski-town bar in a real ski town.

17) BEST SERVER

1. Anne Dunn, Harrison's
2. Noelle Hopkins, Topnotch

See "best bartender" above. Harrison's has all of the boxes checked.

18) BEST BREAKFAST/BRUNCH

1. McCarthy's Restaurant
2. Butler's Pantry
3. Maxi's Restaurant

Nominees: 158 Main, Cafe on Main, Deb's Place, Dutch Pancake Café, Green Goddess Café, Hender's Bake Shop, K.C.'s Bagel Café, Park Row Café, Stagecoach Inn, Stowe Bee Bakery, Stowe Street Café,

Continued on next page

The Bagel, The Broken Yoke, The Family Table, The Gables Inn.

Flapjacks still flipping, eggs still scrambling, bacon still frying ... Diane McCarthy and crew still greet visitors and locals, every day, like they've been doing for the last 40 years. Same smiles, same great breakfasts, same hot cup of Joe, and that special Stowe touch.

19) BEST BREAKFAST SANDWICH

1. The Bagel
2. Deb's Place
3. McCarthy's Restaurant

Nominees: Butler's Pantry, Cafe on Main, Green Goddess Café, Hender's Bake Shop, K.C.'s Bagel Café, Stowe Bee Bakery, Stowe Street Café, The Cupboard Deli.

A dozen or more choices of bagels, breakfast sandwiches, cream cheese — Mexican, strawberry, veggie, bacon horseradish. But you get the same one every time! Take off your bagel blinders and live a little, and see why The Bagel loxxed down this category.

20) BEST LOCAL BREAD

1. Elmore Mountain Bread
2. Red Hen Bakery
3. TIE: Mansfield Breadworks (Harvest Market), and Bob's Breadworks

Nominees: LaStrada Bakery, Slowfire Bakery, Thompson's Flour Shop. See our writeup.

21) BEST SWEET TREATS

1. Laughing Moon Chocolates
2. Stowe Bee Bakery
3. Ben & Jerry's

Nominees: Cafe on Main, Cake & Crumb Bakery, Deb's Place, Depot Street Malt Shop, Harvest Market, Hender's Bake Shop, Mountain View Snack Bar, Stowe Ice Cream, Stowe Street Café, Sweet Crunch Bake Shop, The Cakery/Baby Bundts of Vermont, The Farm Store, Thompson's Flour Shop, Vermont Sweet Tooth.

Blue cheese truffles. Chamomille and lavender chevre truffles. Buttercreams. Wait, say that again. Buttercreams filled with vanilla, chocolate, raspberry, lemon, orange, maple ... oh my. Oh, and give me three dozen of those sea-salted caramels.

22) BEST PLACE TO GRAB A QUICK BITE/TAKEOUT

1. The Butchery
2. Edelweiss Mountain Deli
3. Stowe Street Cafe

Nominees: Apple Core Luncheonette, Black Diamond BBQ, Café on Main, Green Goddess Café, Harvest Market, Hender's Bake Shop & Café, KC's Bagel Café, Mountain View Snack Bar, Nepali Kitchen, Picasso, Pizza Joint, Stowe Bee Bakery, Stowe Sandwich Co., The Bagel, Thompson's Flour Shop.

The Butchery in Stowe, sister op to the original in the Mad River Valley, blew into town last winter and took hold, coming out on top in a tightly contested race.

2. BEST BURGER



Photo by Hannah Marshall

Doc Ponds

There's a reason our readers named the good doctor's place the best casual restaurant in Stowe, and part of the equation includes the best burger in town. A juicy grilled patty (or two, if you like) of Angus beef from LaPlatte River Farm in Shelburne is sandwiched in a soft, golden bun that's somewhere between brioche and challah, baked fresh less than a mile up the road by Mansfield Breadworks at Harvest Market. There's a layer of Cabot cheddar cheese, and a healthy sprinkle of shredded lettuce, but a generous dousing of special sauce seals the deal. The proprietary blend of mayo, ketchup, mustard and pickles hits all the right flavor marks — creamy, a little sweet, a little tangy — and eliminates the need for additional condiments. It's a classic, easy-to-love combination that cinches the No.1 spot in the division, and satisfies like your favorite fast-food burger would if it tasted as good as you think it does at the end of a long, fuzzy night. Pair it with one of the many brews on the ever-changing beer list (No. 2 in this contest), which always

features a good local selection as well as the latest highly-sought offerings from New England and beyond. The extensive bottle and can menu is sorted by style profile for easy perusing, or if beer's not your thing, grab a glass of bespoke house wine or a cocktail made with Green Mountain Distillery spirits. Round out your meal with a little or a lot of hand-cut, canola-crisped fries (runner-up in our inaugural best french-fry category) served simply with ketchup and aioli. Other 4393 nods this year include second-place honors for best Chef Eric Warnstedt, who's co-owner with William McNeil; readers named their other food baby, Hen of the Wood in Waterbury, best local fine-dining establishment. Doc's après-ski scene also took second, and if you're lucky you'll be served by the silver-tongued and silver-plating best bartender, Sam Sheldon, who released his first full-length novel earlier this year. All in all, it's just what the doctor ordered.

— Hannah Marshall

23) BEST LOCAL CATERER

1. Black Diamond BBQ
2. Susanna's Catering
3. Diane McCarthy

Nominees: Fiddleheads Cuisine, Harvest Market, Le Petit Gourmet, Simply Done, Stowe Sandwich Co., Sunset Grille, Thyme 2 Dine.

"The pig is still smoking when we arrive." Now that's a party. Cater us, boys.

24) BEST LOCAL SPIRITS MAKER

1. Green Mountain Distillers
2. Smuggler's Notch Distillery
3. Caledonia Spirits

Nominee: Boyden Valley Winery & Spirits. Congrats Green Mountain. We'll get you next year! Seriously, the area is blessed with some serious spirits' makers. Top dog Green Mountain's top guns Howie and Tim make some seriously smooth organic gin and vodka — some flavored — and

whiskey from their Morrisville distillery. Make mine a double.

25) BEST LOCAL BREWERY

1. The Alchemist
2. Lost Nation Brewing
3. von Trapp Brewing

Nominees: Big Tree Brewing, Brewster River Brewery, Idletyme Brewing Co., Prohibition Pig Brewery, Rock Art Brewery, Ten Bends Beer.

Focal Banger, Alena, Crusher. Luscious, Hellbrook. Skadoosh, El Jefe, Broken Spoke. Beelzebub. Wild Child, Harvest, Farmer's Daughter, Holy Cow. Lightweight, Pappy's Porter, Ourorboros. Petit Mutant, Sterk Wit, Dubbel Twubble, Winter Warmer. See, it's not all about the Heady Topper, that is.

26) BEST LOCAL CIDER

1. Stowe Cider

2. Cold Hollow Cider Mill
3. Boyden Valley Winery

"Goodnight you princes of Maine, you kings of New England." Stowe rules this cider house.

27) BEST WINE SHOP/SELECTION

1. Cork Wine Bar & Market
2. Stowe Wine & Cheese
3. Fine Wine Cellars

Nominees: Crossroads Beverage & Deli, Leisure World, Pete's Greens Waterbury Farm Market, Stowe Beverage, Stowe Public House.

Mr. Shakespeare unCorks the secret of this little gem next door to our office in Stowe: "... good company, good wine, good welcome, can make good people."

28) BEST BEER SHOP/SELECTION

1. Craft Beer Cellar Waterbury
2. Stowe Public House
3. Stowe Beverage

Nominees: Black Cap Coffee & Beer, Commodities Natural Market, Crossroads Beverage & Deli, Edelweiss Mountain Deli, Stowe Wine & Cheese, Sunflower Natural Foods, Tomlinson's Store.

Kegger! Goodness, craft brewsters. Trim your beards and wash that flannel shirt and go wander around the Craft Beer Cellar in Waterbury. It's a destination vacation for you beer aficionados, or even the casual Bud drinker. Step away from your PBRs and check out the choices from Palestine, Finland, Vietnam ... and dozens of beer hotspots from around the globe and nearly every state. *Prost!*

29) BEST PLACE TO MEET FOR COFFEE

1. Black Cap Coffee & Beer
2. PK Coffee
3. Stowe Street Cafe

Nominees: Deb's Place, Green Goddess, Green Mountain Coffee Café, Hender's Bake Shop, Maxi's Restaurant, McCarthy's Restaurant, Stowe Bee Bakery.

The coffee? Simple, if that's how you like it; perfectly roasted. Like it fancy? Double-shot espresso, macchiato, Americano. You're covered. The vibe? College coffee-house meets the ski bum and yoga set. Super Stowe village locale. Make mine black.

30) BEST COFFEE ROASTER

1. Vermont Artisan Coffee & Tea
2. Green Mountain Coffee Roasters
3. Brave Coffee & Tea

Nominees: Brown & Jenkins, Old Dodge Farm Roasters.

Mané Alves travels the globe and brings back unique coffees to roast and teas to package. Coolest of all? Go to coffee school at the Coffee Lab International School of Coffee. That's right. From morning ritual to career path.

32) BEST LOCAL MARKET

1. Commodities Natural Foods
2. Village Market of Waterbury
3. Stowe Seafood

Nominees: Alpine Mart, Edelweiss Mountain Deli, Harvest Market, Johnson's Sterling Market, Mac's Market, Morrisville

20. BEST LOCAL BREAD



Courtesy photo

Elmore Mountain Bread

Hundreds of today's surnames came from vocations of yore, like Smith, Carpenter, Cooper and Judge and countless others — Wikipedia lists 859 of them.

The husband-and-wife team behind Elmore Mountain Bread aren't named Miller or Baker, but their approach to their craft would be quite familiar to families in medieval England who begat such surnames.

Blair Marvin and Andrew Heyn started their bakery in 2004, after bouncing around the Seattle culinary world and coming back to Marvin's home state. Elmore Mountain's loaves — baguettes and anadama, and one called the Vermont Redeemer — are crunchy and chewy, with enough gluten to make even the most label-happy foodstuff packagers say, yeah, never mind.

It's one thing to say your bread is made

from scratch. It's another to mill your own flour from locally sourced grains and immediately use that flour to make your bread. And it's another thing altogether to start a side gig making 2,500-pound granite mills so you and other bread makers can revive the tradition of milling your own flour.

Of course, the 40-inch millstones are responsibly sourced, too, Barre Gray granite quarried and cut right here in Vermont.

Marvin remarked recently at a TEDx talk in Stowe that in a bygone age, every small town had its farmers, bakers and millers, and the sum of those vocations was the bread the people broke.

Their products are a far cry from Wonder Bread, and it's a wonder why other bakers don't do it the way they do.

— Tommy Gardner

Food Co-op, Pete's Greens Waterbury Farm Market, Sunflower Natural Foods, The Butchery, The Farm Store.

Little specialty markets of all sorts abound in these parts, but Commodities in Stowe keeps bagging the win in this category.

33) BEST DATE/NIGHT OUT

1. Hen of the Wood
2. Harrison's
3. Zenbarn

Nominees: Cork Wine Bar, Doc Ponds, Flannel at Topnotch, Plate Restaurant, Stowe Bowl, Stowe Cinema, Tres Amigos.

Love the one you're with, right? Or so says Stephen Stills. They'll love you if you make it Hen of the Wood ... on date night. Harrison's, a very close second, will probably get you some lovin' too.

34) BEST MUSIC VENUE — INDOOR

1. Rusty Nail Stage at Tres Amigos
2. Zenbarn
3. Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center

Nominees: Doc Ponds, El Toro, Martell's at the Red Fox, Moog's Place, Tap 25, The Den, The Matterhorn, The Music Box, The Reservoir.

We missed The Fleetwood Mac Experience at the end of June writing quippy copy for the 4393s, but fans and bands alike just Don't Stop with their love and led the reinvented Rusty Nail to a Landslide.

35) BEST MUSIC VENUE— OUTDOORS

1. Trapp Family Lodge meadow

2. Oxbow Park
3. Rusty Parker Park

Nominees: Legion Field, Johnson; Helen Day Art Center/Stowe Library gazebo.

If you've never been — there are actually local people who have never been — to a concert in the Trapp Family Lodge meadow, with heaven itself as a backdrop, a picnic spread out on the grass, a nice crisp Montrachet in a goblet (*no wine from plastic, please*), your one true love beside you ... see our writeup.

36) BEST WEDDING VENUE

1. Trapp Family Lodge
2. Edson Hill
3. The Barn at Boyden Farm

Nominees: Green Mountain Inn, Moose Meadow Lodge & Treehouse, Sandiwood Farm, Stowe Mountain Lodge, Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa, The Barn at Smuggler's Notch, The Stowehof, Topnotch Resort & Spa.

Have you seen the view? I do. See our writeup.

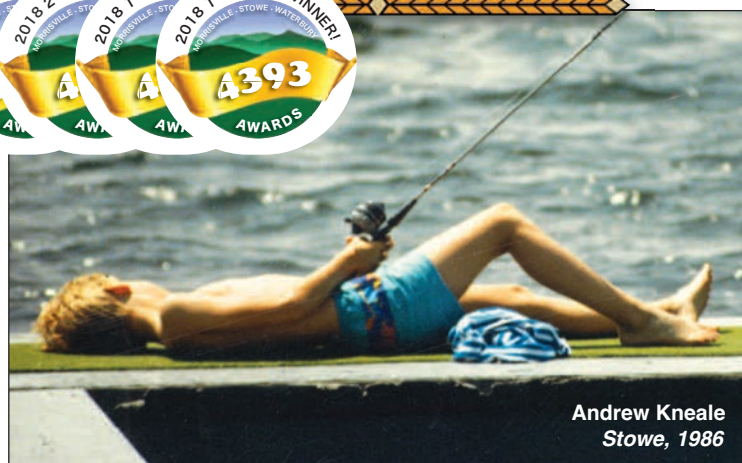
37) BEST SPA

1. Topnotch Resort & Spa
2. Stoweflake Mountain Resort & Spa
3. Spa at Stowe Mountain Lodge

Nominees: Bhav Spa, Lumina Med Spa.

Stowe's first bonafide spa continues to steam, massage, wrap, scrub, mask its way to the top as the area's best spa. All that's left for you is to feel like a million bucks.

Continued on next page



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72. BEST TRAINER/FITNESS INSTRUCTOR



Joanna Graves

If first-place 4393 Award wins come in cycles, it's only fair Joanna Graves scooped one this year for best trainer or fitness instructor.

Graves runs Ride, the indoor cycling studio at Baggy Knees Shopping Center on Mountain Road in Stowe. The physical location is fairly new, but her business began in 2012 as JoMotion, a boot-camp-style training program Graves ran out of the back of her car.

She started it while she was still Stowe High School's athletic director, where through sheer willpower and determination to improve kids' athletic experiences, the job expanded from 20 hours a week to nearly full-time.

Now, Graves pushes people to sweat it out on indoor bikes, helping them leave empowered, exhilarated and inspired to vote for her for Stowe's top fitness instructor.

"I call it a party on the bike. Just a lot of fun, a lot of energy," Graves said in 2017 when she opened Ride.

We wouldn't want to argue with Graves' fans — they sound far more in-shape than this writer.

— *Caleigh Cross*

Photo by Gordon Miller

38) BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST

1. Kate Graves
2. Maureen Slayton
3. Patty Delaney

Kate Graves is a Stowe-area institution. Over the last 30 years, Kate's hands and healing touch — through countless modalities — have helped countless folks sleep better, manage pain, relieve stress, improve general health and well-being, move around better. That list just goes on and on. Just relax, you're in good hands.

39) BEST HAIR SERVICES

1. Salon Salon
2. Artistic Roots
3. Salon4Men

Nominees: Antoine Brechu, Birch. Hair Studio, Essence Salon & Day Spa, Garfield's Hair Dressing, Hello, Gorgeous, Lush Salon and Boutique, Moira's Hairstyling, Northern Highlights, RG's Turning Heads Salon, Romano's Barber Shop, Salon on Main, Salon Ruelle, Sara's Salon, Shear Image, Stowe Barber Shop, StoweFlake Spa, Styles on Sunset, Sunflower Salon, Tangles Salon, Topnotch Spa.

When you find that colorist, or stylist, or manpedi perfection, where they do you up right, you don't stray. No way. Salon Salon is a perennial winner in this category, but folks are loyal to their "coiffurists" and many listed here posted respectable numbers of admirers.

40) BEST MANICURE

1. Phinne Nail Salon
2. Artistic Roots
3. Topnotch Spa

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Nominees: Essence Salon & Day Spa, Hello, Gorgeous, Salon Salon, Spa at Stowe Mountain Lodge, Stoweflake Spa, Sunflower Salon.

Whether it's a quick color change, long-lasting shellac manicure or the whole nine (ten) of gel sets with precise custom artwork, husband-and-wife team Phinne and Vilaysack will keep your tips sharp and your tootsies treated.

41) BEST JEWELRY STORE

1. Von Bargaen's Jewelry
2. Stowe Craft Gallery
3. Ferro Estate & Custom Jewelers

Nominees: Mazzarese Jewelry Design, Tangerine & Olive.

These three topflight jewelers always battle it out for the one, two and three spots ... and it's always neck and neck. They all glimmer and shimmer, if you ask us.

42) BEST ART GALLERY

1. Helen Day Art Center
2. West Branch Gallery & Sculpture Park
3. TIE: Axel's Gallery and Frame Shop; Stowe Craft Design Gallery

Nominees: Bryan Memorial Gallery, Edgewater Gallery, Green Mountain Fine Art Gallery, Green Mountain Light Gallery, Northwood Artisans Gallery, River Arts Center, Robert Paul Galleries, Vermont Studio Center.

It's truly amazing that such a small town as Stowe, a bit in the middle of nowhere, boasts a world-class contemporary art center. Thanks to Helen Day and to all of

the countless artists and fine art galleries, from Jeffersonville to Waterbury, that bring such richness and beauty into our lives.

43) BEST CLOTHING STORE

1. Miller's Country Outfitters
2. Green Envy
3. Shaw's General Store

Nominees: The Boutique at Stowe Mercantile, Bunya Bunya, Caplan's Shoe & Apparel, Decisions Clothing, Forget Me Not Shop, In Company Clothing, Pink Colony, Stowe Street Emporium, Well Heeled.

Do any of these establishments sell nail clippers? 'Cuz this contest proved to be a nail biter. You couldn't slip a fine piece of silk between the vote totals for Miller's, a Morrisville institution for over 40 years, and Green Envy, which is quickly becoming a Stowe institution.

44) BEST OUTDOORS/SPORTSWEAR

1. AJ's Ski & Sports
2. Pinnacle Ski & Sports
3. Waterbury Sports

Nominees: Caplan's, Darkside, Johnson Farm & Garden, Johnson Woolen Mills, MountainOps, Power Play Sports, Shaw's General Store, The Great Outdoors.

4393 note: Two generations of Shinners take home trophies this year. AJ IV won for best landscaper, while Dad — we'll call him Big AJ — outfitted everyone in town.

45) BEST CHILDREN'S SHOP

1. Yellow Turtle

2. Once Upon a Time Toys
3. The Tiny Acorn

Yellow Turtle sells clothes, Once Upon a Time sells toys and Tiny Acorn sells everything. Lucky darn kids.

46) BEST PLACE TO GET PET SUPPLIES

1. Guy's Farm & Yard
2. The Dog and Cat
3. Menard's Agway

Nominees: Aubuchon Hardware, Dogs Etc., Johnson Farm & Garden, Stowe Kennel Kare, Waterbury True Value.

No doubt about it, our pets eat well.

47) BEST GIFT STORE

1. Stowe Mercantile
2. Stowe Kitchen Bath & Linens
3. Stowe Street Emporium

Nominees: Bunya Bunya, Cabot Annex Shops, Country Store on Main, Good Stuff, Marvin's Country Store, Northwood Artisans Gallery, Stash N' Stowe, Stowe Craft Design & Gallery, Tangerine & Olive.

Two words: Penny candy. Oh, be quiet, who cares if it's a nickel now!

48) BEST BOOKSHOP

1. Bear Pond Books
2. Bridgeside Books
3. Ebenezer Books

Nominees: Galaxy Bookshop, The Literary.

"A bookstore is one of the many pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking." — Jerry Seinfeld. Damn, we're

smart (lucky?). We have five bookshops in a 25-mile radius.

49) BEST HOUSEWARES

1. Stowe Kitchen Bath & Linens
2. Country Store on Main
3. TIE: Aubuchon Hardware and Stowe Hardware

Nominees: Bridgeside Home, Downeast Tile, Hannon Home Center, Johnson Farm & Garden, Stowe Craft Design Center, Stowe Mercantile, Stowe Street Emporium.

1/2 cup of service; 3 Tbsp. great merchandise; a dollop of deals; a few pinches of pizzazz. Stop driving to Burlington, people, and get off the internet! You've got it all right here. In spades.

50) BEST RESALE SHOP

1. Creative Consignments
2. ReSOURCE
3. Bargain Boutique

Nominees: Forget Me Not Shop, Nicky's Nook, Second Chance.

Everything — *and everyone* — deserves a second chance.

51) BEST FLORIST

1. Uncle George's Flowers
2. Peck's Flower Shop
3. Proud Flower

Nominees: Bramble & Bloom, From Maria's Garden, The Painted Tulip, Wild-flower Designs.

Continued on Page 11

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35. BEST MUSIC VENUE – OUTDOORS • 36. BEST WEDDING VENUE • 65. BEST CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING



Trapp Family Lodge

The lush, grassy meadow at Trapp Family Lodge, sloping gently down to a postcard view of Vermont’s rolling hills, is the perfect place to celebrate nuptials, hear a world-class concert or just take in a summer sunset. Readers named the spot the No. 1 wedding venue and best outdoor music venue in this year’s awards. The Trapp outdoor center, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, was also voted the best place for cross-country skiing. With more than 35 miles of wooded trails, it also got a No. 3 nod for best mountain biking. Fill up on the Lodge’s natural beauty and charming design before filling a stein of von Trapp Brewing lager at the Bierhall, which took bronze among local breweries.

—Hannah Marshall

Photo by Gordon Miller

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4393 AWARDS

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-Michael

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52) BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT

1. Pete Kelly
2. Pall Spera
3. Gayle Oberg

The best real estate agent is the one who sells your house. Sold.

53) BEST BUILDER

1. Alec Genung Construction
2. Donald P. Blake Jr. Inc.
3. Gristmill Builders

Nominees: Aaron Flint Builders, Beacon Hill Builders, Dolan Builders, Gordon Dixon Construction, Gyllenborg Construction, Patterson & Smith Construction, Sisler Builders, Steel Construction, Tim Meehan Builders.

The best builder is the one who builds your house.

54) BEST ARCHITECT (OR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER)

1. Andrew Volansky, Volansky Studio, Architecture & Planning
2. Milford Cushman, Cushman Design Group
3. Greg Paus, Silver Ridge Design

Nominees: Brian Hamor, Hamor Architecture; Bud Wilson, Wilson Architecture; Ernie Ruskey, Tektonica Studio Architects; Paul Robert Rousselle Architect; Sam Scofield Architect.

See our writeup.

55) BEST INTERIOR DESIGN

1. Stowe Craft Design

2. Seldom Scene Interiors
3. Brenna B Interiors

Nominees: Design Studio, Kathleen Dever; Sally Stetson Design; Tania Kratt; Teri Maher Interiors.

Susan Bayer-Fishman mixes her passions for art and interior design to create a home — yours.

56) BEST LAWN CARE

1. Yankee Home Solutions
2. Stowe Home Care
3. Loomis Property Services

Nominees: Glowac Grounds Care, Green Sleeves, Lawn Rangers, Mini Mayo's Property Management.

Yankee Home Solutions ... AJ Shinnery IV ... natch. See our writeup.

57) BEST LANDSCAPING

1. Ambler Design
2. Yankee Home Solutions
3. Loomis Property Services

Nominees: Glowac Grounds Care, Green Sleeves, Roberts Landscape & Supplies, Sunset Landscaping.

Ian Ambler is a local kid. He made good. Those are always the nicest stories.

58) BEST AUTO REPAIR

1. Willie's Village Auto
2. Larson's Auto
3. Waterbury Center Auto Repair

Nominees: 253-Auto, Bourne's Service Center, Checkered Flag, Duxbury Auto

Continued on next page

66. BEST PLACE TO HIKE AND RUN



File photo by Orah Moore

Stowe Pinnacle

The top three vote-getters in this category offer potential outdoor enthusiasts a good cross-section of the different ways to get outside and enjoy Lamoille County in the summer while stretching your legs.

The Stowe Pinnacle Trail, No. 1 in the category for 2018, gets hikers out on the mountain for an easy climb through the C.C. Putnam State Forest with views of some of the tallest peaks in the Green Mountain State.

The silver and sylvan Lamoille Valley

Rail Trail takes visitors along the gravel path that follows the winding course of the Lamoille River, offering up a plethora of views along the 17-mile stretch that's currently open between Morrisville and Cambridge.

Rounding out the podium with some easy riding, the Stowe Rec Path serves up a paved pathway that tours from Stowe Village up towards Mount Mansfield and Smugglers' Notch.

— Andrew Martin

1 FAMILY,
2 LOCATIONS,
9 AWARDS

The Fishman family extends our heartfelt thanks to all of you who voted and supported our family businesses.

Vibrant communities need great food, art, music & shopping in spaces that bring people together.

After 35 years of fun with our Stowe galleries, our children are reaching out to you with Zenbarn in Waterbury Center.

Please come see us in this new setting for you to eat, drink, meet, dance, have an event or take a yoga class.



- Best Interior Design (Susan) *
- Best Jewelry Store
- Best Art Gallery



- Waterbury Entrepreneurs of the Year (Ari, Noah, Marlena) *
- Best yoga Studio *
- Best vegetarian food
- Best Date Night
- Best music venue
- Mr. Waterbury (Ari)

* = 1st Place!

56. BEST LAWN CARE • 57. BEST LANDSCAPING



Courtesy photo

Yankee Home Solutions • Ambler Design

For all home-care needs, Yankee Home Solutions is there, whether it's managing rental homes, fixing the plumbing or taking care of the grocery shopping or that pesky "honey-do" list.

Owner AJ Shinners says he once transported a client's horse to a veterinarian in

New Hampshire, waited for the appointment to end and took the animal back home.

But what started Shinners' business 14 years ago — and what remains the biggest part of the company — was mowing lawns. That grass-razing chore has pushed Yankee Home Solutions to the top of the heap for

second-home and commercial lawn-care needs. Now, instead of buzzing lawns through Stowe on his own, he and his business partner Jim Smith employ 16 people.

Shinners also received a second-place nod for Mr. Stowe, sandwiched between No.1 Bobby Roberts and No. 3 Willie Noyes.

Yankee Home Solutions took second place in the 4393 Best Landscaping category, beaten out only by Ambler Design.

"We don't really do our own landscaping," Shinners said. "We mostly maintain what's already in place."

Ambler Design was founded by Stacey and Ian Ambler a year after Shinners started his business. The company works directly with home and business owners, architects and builders to provide site and landscape design and construction, working with talented local tradespeople to get the job done. The Amblers work with homeowners or on companies on their own ideas, or start from scratch with sketches and concept imagery for materials, plants and other unique details.

Ian spent hours in his parents' garden as a boy, then earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture. His wife, Stacey, is a master gardener and offers the creative vision behind their projects, such as Picasso Pizzeria & Lounge's front entranceway.

— Kayla Collier

Tech, Fred's Import Specialists, Madadash-car, McMahon Chevrolet Buick, Snowfire, Ted's Kar Kare, Waterbury Service Center.

A good editor always says not to use 20 words when one will suffice. Willie. (A good editor also says to never plagiarize, but we picked this up from last year's writeup, with a touch of editing.)

60) BEST SKI/SNOWBOARD SHOP

1. Pinnacle Ski & Sports/Skiessentials.com
2. AJ's Ski & Sports
3. Darkside

Nominees: MountainOps, Power Play Sports, Stowe Mountain Resort/Front Four, Today's Edge, Triple Diamond Ski & Sport/No School Snowboard Shop, Waterbury Sports.

The competition is fierce, but Pinnacle continues to Just Do It. Right.

61) BEST SKI OR SNOWBOARD INSTRUCTOR

1. Mike Tasi

Mr. Tasi is in a class by himself.

62) BEST BIKE SHOP

1. Chuck's Bikes
2. AJ's Ski & Sports
3. Waterbury Sports

Nominees: Bicycle Express, Bootlegger Bikes, iRide, Mansfield Cycles, Mountain Ops, Pinnacle Ski and Sports, Power Play Sports.

This Chuck guy is a legend. (PS: His name is Hank.) Last year, after he took the category



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for the umpteenth time, we wrote: "Shouldn't we rename this shop Hank's Place already?" But then it wouldn't be Chuck's.

63) BEST MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

1. Perry Hill
2. Cady Hill
3. Trapp Family Lodge

Wow. The Perry trails beat the Cady trails.

64) BEST ROAD BIKE ROUTE

1. Notch loop
2. Randolph Road, Elmore

Now is this the Stowe/Jeffersonville/Morrisville loop? Or the Stowe/Jeffersonville/Underhill/Jericho/Richmond/Waterbury loop? Does it matter? You still have to bike up the Notch! But, you also get to ride down.

65) BEST CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

1. Trapp Family Lodge
2. Craftsbury Outdoor Center
3. Stowe Mountain Resort Cross-Country Center

Nominee: Wiessner Woods.

See our writeup on Page 10.

66) BEST PLACE TO HIKE OR RUN

1. Stowe Pinnacle
2. Lamoille Valley Rail Trail
3. Stowe Recreation Path

Nominees: Camel's Hump, Cotton Brook, Elmore Mountain, Little River State Park, Mount Mansfield, Smugglers Notch.

See our writeup.

54. BEST ARCHITECT (OR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER)



File Photo

Andrew Volansky

Andrew Volansky has all the blueprints for success.

The Stowe architect is evidently popular — he was voted No. 1 best architect

and architectural designer — and he puts it down to his engineering mind.

He says the artistry of buildings drew him to develop that engineering predilection.

"I've always had an interest in engineering, but the design piece was a real strong draw for me. I still wanted to understand the complexities of how buildings stand up and how buildings get put together. The design portion of architecture is what drew me into engineering," Volansky said.

Right now, he's working on a modern building, going into Morrisville, that will have exposed concrete walls and lots of glass. He's excited about it, and can't wait to see it take physical form.

Volansky's good vibes in the community put him on the top floor in this year's 4393 Awards.

— *Caleigh Cross*

Copley Country Club.

Any golfers here? The Stowe Country Club drove in 30 percent of the vote, but the next four teed off quite nicely, pretty evenly splicing together the other 70.

69) BEST LOCAL RACE OR SPORTING EVENT

1. Stowe Derby
2. Leaf Peepers Half Marathon
3. Craft Brew Races

Nominees: B3 Fest, Gravel Grinder, Kids Adventure Games, Leaf Blower Fall Classic, Race To The Top of Vermont, Ski Bum Race Series, Stowe 8-Miler, Sugar Slalom.

See our writeup.

70) BEST VETERINARY SERVICES

1. Stowe Veterinary Clinic
2. Waterbury Veterinary Hospital
3. Sequist Animal Hospital

Nominee: Lamoille Valley Veterinary Services.

Spot and Cat can't go wrong with any of these pros, but Dr. Gregg notches another win in this category.

71) BEST YOGA STUDIO

1. Zenbarn Studio
2. Kula Center for Yoga and Meditation
3. Yoga Barn

Nominees: Bikram Yoga Stowe, Blackbird Wellness, Stepping Stone Yoga, Stowe Yoga Center, Stoweflake Resort & Spa, The Barn, Topnotch Resort & Spa.

Continued on Page 15

67) BEST PLACE TO PADDLE

1. Waterbury Reservoir
2. Green River Reservoir
3. Lake Elmore

Nominees: Gihon River, Lamoille River.

Hmmm. No offense 4393 voters, and no offense to the Waterbury Reservoir (no angry letters please; it's a favorite place in Vermont), but for paddling, the non-motorized

Green River Reservoir is pretty darn, um, quiet and, um, wake-free!

68) BEST PLACE TO PLAY GOLF (PUBLIC COURSE/CLUB)

1. Stowe Country Club
2. Country Club of Vermont
3. Ryder Brook Golf Club

Nominees: Blush Hill Country Club,

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Thank you to all who thought of us and voted for Seldom Scene Interiors

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- Michael Pollan

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Just the name, Zenbarn, conjures images of health, well-being, centeredness — yoga is zen.

72) BEST TRAINER/FITNESS INSTRUCTOR

1. Joanna Graves, Ride Stowe/JoMotion
2. Chad Couto, Stoweflake
3. Kyle Smith, The Forge

Nominees: Charlotte Brynn, Swimming Hole; Ernie Roick, PHIT Performance; Hector Ortiz, PHIT Performance; Jeff Rutledge, Snap Fitness; Julie Roick, PHIT Performance; Mary Regele, Topnotch.

See our writeup.

73) BEST FITNESS VENUE (INDOORS)

1. The Swimming Hole
2. PHIT Performance
3. The Forge Gym

Nominees: Cambridge Community Center, CrossFit Waterbury, Curves Morrisville, Dave's Community Fitness, Green Mountain CrossFit, Ride Stowe, Snap Fitness, Stoweflake Resort & Spa, Studio 108, Studio Zenith, The Barn, Topnotch Resort & Spa, Zenbarn Studio.

The gift that keeps on giving. Remember Stowe BSH*? Neither do we.

(* Before Swimming Hole)

74) BEST RAINY DAY ACTIVITY

1. Stowe Bowl
2. Stowe Cinema
3. Stowe Free Library

Nominees: Bijou Cineplex 4, The Adventure Center at Stowe Mountain Resort, The Swimming Hole.

A perfect 300! This sleek, modern alley with the fun vibe is not your granddaddy's Bowling Emporium. Why, it's not even your daddy's. And it's fun on sunny days too. Oh, and at night.

76) BEST LOCAL MUSICIAN OR BAND

1. Seth Yacovone
2. Eames Brothers
3. Chad Hollister

Nominees: Allen Church, Beg, Steal or Borrow, CopOuts, Cropduster, DJ Rekkon, The Full Cleveland, George Petit, John Wilson, Lesley Grant, Meat Milk, Sugar Daddies, The Shady Trees, TURNmusic.

In these here parts, Mr. Yacovone both sings the blues and he rocks. And, in an informal office poll, he's also the hardest working musician in Vermont.

77) BEST LOCAL THEATER/PERFORMANCE GROUP

1. Stowe Theatre Guild
2. Lamoille County Players
3. TRIP Dance Co.

Nominees: Moxie Productions, Peoples Academy Stage Company, Waterbury Festival Playhouse.

Well, you missed "Gypsy," but there's still time to catch "The Bridges of Madison County," "The Odd Couple (Female Version)" or "Heathers." The show must go on.

78) BEST LOCAL ARTIST

1. Jess Graham

4393 Awards

83. MS. LAMOILLE



Photo by Gorrdon Miller

Tricia Follert and Emoji Nightmare

The two ladies vying for the title of Ms. Lamoille may differ from each other in their chromosomal makeup, as well as their actual makeup, but they are both appreciated for their energy.

Tricia Follert is determined to transform Morrisville into a dazzling downtown. Justin Marsh, a.k.a. drag queen Emoji Nightmare, simply transforms and dazzles.

Follert, Morrisville's community development coordinator, dreams big for the town and swings for the fences. She has little patience for the snail's pace of government and often just goes ahead and or-

ganizes things, such as the town's annual Rocktoberfest event each fall.

Marsh dons big lashes and big wigs, recently started his own company — Typha Marketing — and sits on the Lamoille Area Chamber of Commerce's board of directors, helping organize the Chamber-adjacent young professionals group. As Emoji Nightmare, he and a fellow drag queen raised eyebrows in Cambridge last year reading to the town's youth at the library.

They may live on either side of the county — Ms. Nightmare is from Cambridge, while Ms. Follert lives in Elmore

— but their voices and actions echoed across the area enough to convince voters to cast their ballots to make Lamoille fabulous again.

The two of them literally stopped traffic last week as they sashayed through the middle of downtown Morrisville, showing that so-called "historic Route 100" a thoroughly modern match, as voted by you.

If you can't be first place — that honor goes once again to Maggie Cleary, who modestly wondered last time why she won — you might as well share the silver. Bling is bling.

— Tommy Gardner

2. Craig Mooney
3. Eric Tobin

Nominees: Ella Skye, Evan Chismark, Jen Hubbard, Jeremy Ayers, Lisa Beach, Mickey Myers, Rachel Laundon, Sarah-Lee Terrat.

"I believe in art that makes you happy," says Jess Graham, whose art and design have become synonymous with The Alchemist brewery. She wins; her art makes us happy.

79) MS. STOWE

1. Diane McCarthy

2. Heidi Scheuermann
3. Ani Petrolito

Nominees: Cristina Mink, Donna Carpenter, Huntly Armbruster, Jessica Cameron, Julia Gill, Kate Carpenter, Kristen Mooney, Lauren LePage, Leslie Anderson, Nielle Roselip, Patti Clark.

30+ years ago when this writer skied into Stowe, McCarthy's Restaurant was across the street from its current location, in the little building that's housed a ton of different businesses — clothing store, Italian gourmet market, numerous restaurants. Thirty years on, owner Diane McCarthy still greets her guests at breakfast, with the same sincerity and kindness and some stored-away nugget just about you ... "I was so sorry to

hear about ..." or "How was the wedding?" That's how she treats her community, too. She always comes through.

80) MR. STOWE

1. Bobby Roberts
2. AJ Shinnors
3. Willie Noyes

Nominees: Brian Krux, David Jaqua, Ed Rovetto, Esbert Cardenas Jr., Mark Vandenberg, Steve Sulin, Tad Davis.

Someone ought to write a book about Bobby Roberts. And title it "Mr. Stowe."

Continued on Page 17

91. BEST ANNUAL EVENT – LAMOILLE COUNTY



File Photos by Tommy Gardner and Glenn Callahan



Lamoille County Field Days

Every July, traffic on Route 100C picks up noticeably for one 3-day stretch as thousands of visitors head to Johnson for the county's most popular annual event: Lamoille County Field Days.

The fair, now in its 53rd iteration and scheduled for July 27-29 this year, is a summer staple for more than 10,000 visitors — it's so popular that even the Vermont Agency of Transportation, notorious for tripping up summer travel plans, scheduled two major construction projects on Route 100C around Field Days this summer to make sure people have no problem reaching the traditional agricultural fair.

Along with paying homage to Lamoille County's farming past, present, and future, Field Days also offers a little bit of everything for everyone. There are events like tractor, truck, and horse pulls, plenty of rides for younger fair-goers, lumberjack games, the famed arm-wrestling tournament and ladies' skillet toss, shows and performances galore, and enough food and drink vendors to make anyone happy.

"It's a great feeling to have this for the community," said Roger Audet, Lamoille County Field Days president.

More information: lamoillefielddays.com.

— Andrew Martin

81) MS. WATERBURY

1. Sue Minter
2. Rosina Wallace
3. Hiata DeFeo

Nominees: Christina Warnstedt, Liz Schlegel, MK Monley, Monica Callan, Nicole Grenier, Susan Fishman, Whitney Aldrich.

Three-peat! Sue Minter once again leads an impressive group of Waterbury women.

82) MR. WATERBURY

1. Ken Squier
2. Ari Fishman
3. Peter Miller

Nominees: Bill Minter, David Juenker, Ed Steele, Jeremy Ayers, John Walsh, Kyle Smith, Mark Frier, Noah Fishman.

Ken Squier this year sold WDEV, his family's radio station since 1935. Take it easy. Mr. Waterbury remains behind the mic, as the sale allows Ken to still bring you Music to Go to the Dump By, and other gems.

83) MS. LAMOILLE

1. Maggie Cleary
2. TIE: Tricia Follert and Emoji Nightmare
3. Theresa Snow

Nominees: Dawn Archbold, Jennifer Bishop, Kim Kaufman, Marisa Menendez, Savi van Sluytman.

See our writeup.

84) MR. LAMOILLE

1. Rusty DeWees
2. Hank Glowiak
3. Seth Yacovone

Nominees: Dave Yacovone, Donald Blake, Gary Nolan, Jimmy Goldsmith, Kenny Gardner, Peter Bourne, Tom Moog.

Rusty, what about a local (Stowe?) revival of David Budbill's "Judevine?" Reprise Antoine 30 years hence. After all, you're Mr. Lamoille now.

We'd also like to note that Seth Yacovone edged Kenny Gardner by a single vote. Settle it over a Heady?

85) ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR (2017-18) — STOWE

1. David Wolfgang — Pinnacle Ski & Sports
2. John & Jen Kimmich — The Alchemist
3. Danielle Moffatt, Morgan Nichols & Katie Nichols — Cork Wine Bar & Market

Nominees: Ed Rovetto, Graham & Cristina Mink, Jessica Cameron, John Decker, Mark Frier and Chad Fry, Mark Ray, Meaghan Minogue, Rachel & Mark Vandenberg.

See our writeup.

86) ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR (2017-18) — WATERBURY

1. Ari, Noah & Marlena Fishman — Zenbarn
2. Nicole Grenier — Stowe Street Café
3. Hiata DeFeo — Bridgeside Books/Home

Nominees: Jessica Wright, Kyle & Heather Smith, Lynn Mason & Dave Juenker, Noah Tautfest.

Great vegetarian/vegan food, great bartender, great place for a date night, great indoor music spot, great yoga — all categories in which Zenbarn posted a top-three finish. It's no wonder folks picked the Fishmans for this year's Waterbury entrepreneur(s).

87) ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR (2017-18) — MORRISVILLE

1. Hank Glowiak — Chuck's Bikes
2. Caleb Magoon — Power Play Sports/Waterbury Sports
3. Michelle Tomlinson — The Cakery/Baby Bundts of Vermont

Nominees: Andrew Mink, Jennifer Isabell, Jimmy Goldsmith & Kim Kaufman, Marisa Menendez & Michael Jansen, Peter Bourne, Ria St. Pierre.

A very, very solid group of Lamoille County businesspeople and community leaders. But perennial fave Hank Glowiak pedals away with another win.

88) VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR/LOCAL WHO GIVES BACK

1. David Wolfgang
2. Donna & Jake Carpenter
3. Devon Heath Williams

Nominees: Amy Touchette, Barbara Baraw, Darsey Moon, Huntly Armbruster, Justin Marsh, Leslie Anderson, Peter Ingoldstad.

See our writeup.

90) BEST ANNUAL EVENT — STOWE

1. Stoweflake Hot Air Balloon Festival
2. Art on Park
3. British Invasion

Nominees: B3 Festival, Craft Brew Races, Hyde Cup, Stowe Antique & Classic Car Show, Stowe Brewers Festival, Stowe Fourth of July Parade, Stowe Oktoberfest, Stowe Winter Carnival, Vermont Renaissance Faire.

Did you know that there's a term for the guy who "sacrifices himself during a flap inflation to stand inside the envelope and hold it up so that no valuable rip-stop gets burnt?" The term is, wait for it... cremation Charlie! How do you compete with that, even if you're showcasing sleek British autos, hundreds of antique cars, bands that go oom-pah, or spectacular fireworks? (*Editor's note: We liked last year's writeup — cremation Charlie, right! — so we relaunched it.*)

91) BEST ANNUAL EVENT — LAMOILLE COUNTY

1. Lamoille County Field Days
2. Oxbow Music Festival
3. Rocktoberfest

Nominees: Cambridge Arts Festival, Cambridge Fourth of July Parade.

See our writeup.

92) BEST ANNUAL EVENT — WATERBURY

1. Waterbury Arts Festival
2. River of Light Parade
3. Not Quite Independence Day

Continued on next page



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Nominee: Waterbury Winterfest.

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93) BEST LOCAL TOUR

1. Ben & Jerry's Factory Tour
2. Umiak Outfitters
3. Stowe Soaring

Nominees: Cold Hollow Cider Mill, Eden Dog Sledding, Fly Rod Shop, Four Points VT Mountain Bike School & Guide Service, Gentle Giants Sleigh & Carriage Tours, Mud City Adventures, Peace Pups Dogsledding, Stowe At Night Lantern Tours.

It's gotta be the ice cream at the end.

94) BEST NONPROFIT OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION – STOWE

1. Stowe Land Trust
2. Helen Day Arts Center
3. Stowe Rescue Squad

Nominees: iShareworks, Stowe Adaptive Sports, Stowe Education Fund, Stowe Free Library, Stowe Historical Society, Stowe Performing Arts, Stowe Rotary, Stowe Trails Partnership, Stowe Vibrancy, Stowe Volunteer Emergency Services, Stowe Weekend of Hope.

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85. ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR – STOWE
88. VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR/LOCAL WHO GIVES BACK



Photo by Kayla Collier

David Wolfgang

David Wolfgang says he likes to keep a low profile and work behind the scenes, but someone's paying attention, because the owner of Pinnacle Ski and Sports on the Mountain Road has skied into first

place in the Volunteer of the Year and Stowe Entrepreneur of the Year categories.

In addition, his Pinnacle shop took home Best ski/snowboard shop of the year, and second-best outdoor/sportswear shop.

Wolfgang was active in the Stowe Area Association for years, serving as president until 2016, and retiring from the board of directors last year.

He's on the finance committee for the Jewish Community of Greater Stowe and gives money to a number of local groups behind the scenes, though he wouldn't say which ones.

"This is my home, my family's home, and I'm just happy to give back where I can," he said. "When I started out in Stowe, I was just a ski bum. I was financially strapped until my wife told me to get off my (butt) and get a job."

That's when the Pinnacle shop started 34 years ago, and it's been going strong since.

— Kayla Collier

95) BEST NONPROFIT OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION – LAMOILLE COUNTY

1. North Country Animal League
2. Justice for Dogs

3. Lamoille Area Cancer Network

Nominees: Cambridge Area Rotary, Capstone Community Action, Clarina Howard Nichols Center, Green Mountain Support Services, Lamoille Community Food Shelf, Lamoille Family Center, Lamoille

Home Health & Hospice, Meals on Wheels of Lamoille County, River Arts, Salvation Farms, United Way of Lamoille County.

Ruff. It's hard to beat the puppies and kitties, even when you're helping the poor, the hungry, the battered and the infirm. We all, it seems, hold a soft spot for critters of the four-legged variety. Could it be because the love they give back is the unconditional variety?

96) BEST NONPROFIT OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION – WATERBURY

1. Revitalizing Waterbury
2. Waterbury Area Food Shelf
3. Waterbury Area Trails Association

Nominees: A River Runs Through It Garden Club, Children's Literacy Foundation, Duxbury Elf's Shelf, Friends of Waterbury Public Library, Himalayan Cataract Project, The Children's Room, Waterbury Area Senior Center, Waterbury Historical Society, Waterbury Rotary.

There's a lot of great work being done in Waterbury by a number of impressive groups and dozens and dozens of volunteers and others. But the Revitalizers came out on top.

Is this your first time participating in the 4393 Awards?

Yes! 53%

Nope! I voted last year. 47%

Thanks for voting!

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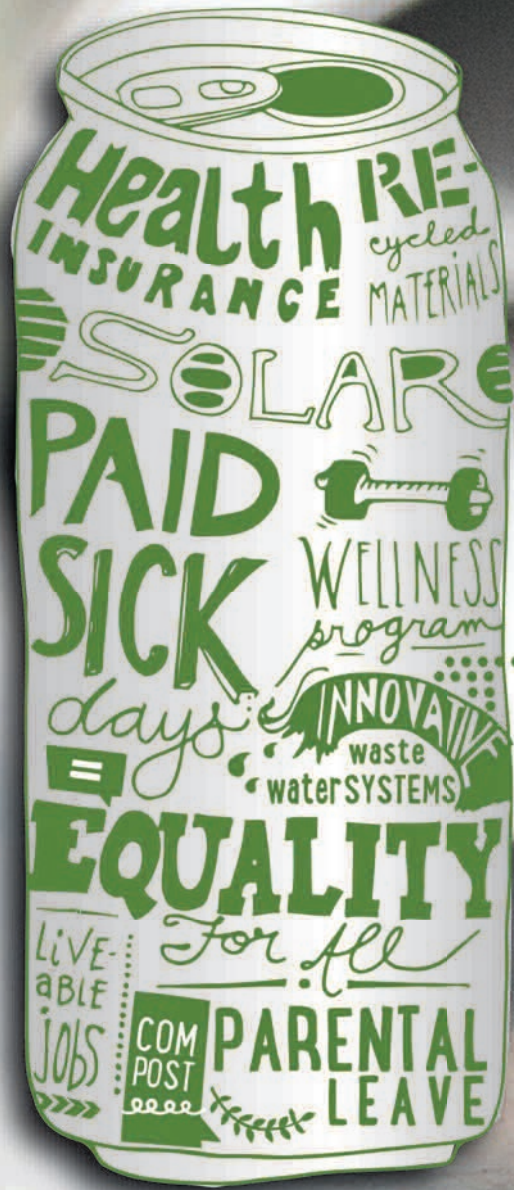
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photo: Danielle Visco



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