

*BOOKSTORES TO BREWERIES
LODGES TO LOBSTER SHACKS*

292 (!) READER & EDITOR FAVES



Down East

THE MAGAZINE OF MAINE | SEPTEMBER 2020

BEST

of MAINE



**GEORGETOWN
AND PHIPPSBURG
ARE GORGEOUS**

**MDI'S STONE
BARN FARM**

**MAINE'S MOOSE
HUNT TURNS 40**

HOME & GARDEN



THEATER

Maine State Music Theatre
Brunswick. msmt.org

FINALISTS

Quisisana Resort

Lovell

Portland Stage

Portland

The Public Theatre

Lewiston

Theater at Monmouth

Monmouth



PRIVATE SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY

Thornton Academy

Saco. thorntonacademy.org

FINALISTS

St. Brigid School

Portland

Maine Coast Waldorf School

Freeport

North Yarmouth Academy

Yarmouth

Waynflete School

Portland



MUSEUM

Portland Museum of Art

Portland. portlandmuseum.org

FINALISTS

Bowdoin College Museum of Art

Brunswick

Farnsworth Art Museum

Rockland

Maine Maritime Museum

Bath

Washburn-Norlands Living History Center

Livermore Falls



PRIVATE SCHOOL, SECONDARY

Thornton Academy

Saco. thorntonacademy.org

FINALISTS

Cheverus High School

Portland

Lincoln Academy

Newcastle

North Yarmouth Academy

Yarmouth

Waynflete School

Portland

OUR PICKS

The **Colby College Museum of Art** (colby.edu/museum) is Maine's largest art museum, with a strong claim to being its best. With more than 10,000 works of art housed in a lavish 54,000-square-foot complex in Waterville, the museum is the envy of small colleges nationwide. It has benefitted from the generosity of benefactors, including artist Alex Katz and his chief collector, Paul Schupf, and Peter and Paula Lunder (Peter is the former president of Dexter Shoe Company), who gave the museum their personal collection of more than 500 works by the likes of Georgia O'Keeffe, James McNeill Whistler, Pablo Picasso, and Alexander Calder. When it's open, the museum is as likely to show a conceptual video installation about climate change as a Winslow Homer deep dive as a collection of weather vanes, all free of charge. The pandemic has it closed, but kudos to the museum for launching online exhibitions and virtual curator chats. — EDGAR ALLEN BEEM

In July 1870, at the invitation of the state, 53 Swedish homesteaders arrived in Aroostook County to begin carving out a new life. Their stories and culture — and those of their descendants — are preserved at the **New Sweden Museum** (facebook.com/newswedenhistoricalsociety). The three-story building, named the Capitolium by the immigrant Swedes, shows off photos and artifacts that include original, handcrafted cross-country skis (a conveyance the settlers introduced to Maine). Worth a visit on the 150th anniversary of Maine's Swedish colony. — RONALD JOSEPH



HOME IMPROVEMENT STORE

Hammond Lumber

Various locations
hammondlumber.com

FINALISTS

Ames True Value

Wiscasset

Aubuchon Hardware

Belfast

Maine Hardware

Portland

Rangeley Lakes Builders Supply

Rangeley

OUR PICKS

We should all be so lucky to have a local hardware store like **Rankin's Hardware** (rankinshardware.com), in Camden, where staffers are unfailingly helpful and deeply knowledgeable and consistently treat my most boneheaded queries with the same time, consideration, and respect they give the professional contractor in line behind me. I've had 30-minute conversations about the relative merits of various screws and the particularities of \$6 cans of spray paint, and there's always someone to help me navigate the warren of rooms out back, looking for the perfect piece of wood. — J.E.



BUILDER

Knickerbocker Group

Boothbay Harbor
knickerbockergroup.com

FINALISTS

Goodwin Builders

Rangeley

Marden Builders Inc.

Boothbay Harbor

Ouellet Construction

Brunswick

Spang Builders

Kennebunkport



FURNITURE STORE

Thos. Moser

Freeport. thosmoser.com

FINALISTS

Chilton Furniture

Scarborough, Freeport

Dow Furniture

Waldoboro

FX Marcotte

Lewiston

Youngs Furniture

Portland



ARCHITECT

Knickerbocker Group

Boothbay Harbor
knickerbockergroup.com

FINALISTS

Caleb Johnson Studio

Portland

CWS Architects

Portland

Kaplan Thompson Architects

Portland

Platz Associates

Auburn

In Camden, the Rankin's staff can walk you through your next project.

