



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK ANNOUNCES
2015 BOOK AWARDS WINNERS**

NEW YORK, May 14, 2015 -- [The New England Society in the City of New York](#) (NES) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2015 *New England Society Book Awards*, which honor books of merit that celebrate New England and its culture. Awards are presented annually to authors of books published in the previous 12 months, in any of four categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Art & Photography, and Specialty Titles. The winning authors will be honored at a luncheon on June 3 at the Grolier Club in New York City.

“Since the organization’s founding in 1805, distinguished authors from Ralph Waldo Emerson and Mark Twain to William F. Buckley, Jr., and David McCullough have spoken at NES. We are pleased to continue this rich literary tradition into the 21st century with the *NES Book Awards*,” said NES Book Awards Committee Chair Anna Bulkot.

“The 2015 winners represent excellence in New England-themed writing across a range of subjects and celebrate the culture, history, and individualism that are central to the New England character. We are delighted to honor this diverse group of books and their authors,” said NES President Jay Sherwood. “In essence, they mirror the history and mission of the Society, which balances its centuries-old connection to New England with contemporary programs that continue to celebrate the Yankee spirit.”

“We were particularly pleased to have a wealth of high-quality submissions this year,” said Committee Member, Ellen Scordato. “This made the selection process all the more enthusiastic and competitive; the winners were carefully chosen after considerable deliberation and debate by a very dedicated jury.”

The 2015 *NES Book Award* winners, selected from [9 finalists](#), are as follows:

Fiction

The Bird Skinner by Alice Greenway (Grove Press): In this deeply felt novel, Greenway pays tribute to the career of her grandfather, ornithologist Jim Greenway, by summoning, in lush prose, the landscape and wildlife of both the islands and the Maine coast. This novel is rich in sensual detail and heartbreaking in its portrait of a life consumed by regret.

Contemporary Nonfiction

Wide and Deep: Tales and Recollections from a Master Maine Fishing Guide by Randy Spencer (Skyhorse Publishing): As a Master Maine Guide, Spencer has learned from the best and has enough experience as a hunting and fishing guide to fill several lifetimes. Whether they are stories of joy or of pain, the pages of *Wide and Deep* evocatively capture the moments on the water that people wait their entire lives for and spend the rest of their lives remembering.

History & Biography

The Map Thief by Michael Blanding (Gotham Books): Once considered a respectable antiquarian map dealer, E. Forbes Smiley spent years doubling as a map thief—until he was finally arrested slipping maps out of books in the Yale University library. The book

delves into the untold history of this fascinating high-stakes criminal and the inside story of the industry that consumed him.

Specialty Title

The New England Kitchen: Fresh Takes on Seasonal Recipes by Jeremy Sewall, photography by Michael Harlan Turkell (Rizzoli New York): The award-winning Boston chef presents contemporary versions of New England classics that capture the flavors of this time-honored cuisine. More than one hundred recipes highlight the area’s celebrated farms and fisheries to incorporate distinct flavors throughout the year.

The publishing industry and public are invited to attend the awards luncheon and book signing on June 3 (cost: \$65 for NES members; \$80 for guests). The Grolier Club is located at 47 East 60th Street in New York City. To reserve, download a reservation form from the NES website at www.nesnyc.org, or contact Executive Director Emily Brochstein, at (212) 752-1938 or emily@nesnyc.org. Reservations must be received by May 29.

ABOUT THE NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY

The New England Society in the City of New York (NES) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was founded in 1805. One of the oldest social and charitable organizations in the country, NES was established to promote “friendship, charity and mutual assistance” among and on behalf of New Englanders living in New York. NES celebrates and promotes the New England heritage through its charitable programs, cultural works and social activities.

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