

Winners from Appalachian String Band Festival 2017 at Clifftop, West Virginia

The 28th annual Appalachian String Band Music Festival at Camp Washington-Carver in Clifftop, Fayette County, wrapped up on Sunday, Aug. 6, 2017. Twenty-two musicians, 12 bands and 10 dancers from California to Maine took home a total of \$7,550 in prize money. Three of the winners are from West Virginia, including The Confirmation Bias, Beckley, fifth place Neo-Traditional Band; Mud Hole Out of Control, Marlinton, first place Youth Traditional Band; and Luke Snuffer, Beckley, first place Old-time Flat Foot - 15 years of age and younger.

More than 3,500 musicians, dancers, fans and friends representing all 50 states and 12 countries attended the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's five-day event that features some of the world's finest string-band musicians and flat-foot dancers. Contests were held in four traditional categories – fiddle, banjo, string band and flat-foot dance - plus one neo-traditional string band category.

Youth Banjo

- 1st Place (\$100) – Nora Brown, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- 2nd Place (\$50) – Joey Webb, Frankfort, Ky.
- 3rd Place (\$25) – Charlie Burkett, Rochester, Minn.

Banjo

- 1st Place (\$400) – Micah Spence, Chattanooga, Tenn.
- 2nd Place (\$200) – Seth Swingle, Earlysville, Va.
- 3rd Place (\$150) – Arnie Naiman, Aurora, Ontario, Canada
- 4th Place (\$100) – Pete Peterson, Oxford, Pa.
- 5th Place (\$50) – Luke Richardson, Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

Senior Banjo

- 1st Place (\$200) – Pete Peterson, Oxford, Pa.
- 2nd Place (\$100) – Arnie Naiman, Aurora, Ontario, Canada
- 3rd Place (\$50) – Don Borchelt, N/A

Youth Fiddle

- 1st Place (\$100) – Lillian Chase, Weaverville, N.C.
- 2nd Place (\$50) – Hickory Selin, Ithaca, N. Y.
- 3rd Place (\$25) – Ella Webster, Lexington, Ky.

Fiddle

- 1st Place (\$400) – Rhys Jones, Warrenton, Va.
- 2nd Place (\$200) – Clelia Stefanini, Nashville, Tenn.
- 3rd Place (\$150) – Joseph Dacasamo, Durham, N.C.
- 4th Place (\$100) – Henry Barnes, Newport, Va.
- 5th Place (\$50) – John Lane, Minneapolis, Minn.

Senior Fiddle

- 1st Place (\$200) – Barb Kuhns, Medway, Ohio
- 2nd Place (\$100) – Paul Brown, Winston-Salem, N.C.
- 3rd Place (\$50) – Bob Borcharding, Okemos, Mich.

Youth Neo-Traditional Band

- 1st Place (\$300) – Selin Brothers, N/A

Neo-Traditional Band

- 1st Place (\$700) – Che Apalache, Clemmons, N.C.
- 2nd Place (\$400) – Evil Diana, Oakland, Calif.
- 3rd Place (\$300) – Rain City Ramblers, Seattle, Wash.
- 4th Place (\$200) – Take Two, Charlottesville, Va.
- 5th Place (\$100) – The Confirmation Bias, Beckley, W.Va.

Best New Composition Song

No monetary award – “Heirloom and Upstarts” by Fred Swedberg

Best Original Tune

No monetary award – “Geezer Hill Allstars” by Rebecca Wise

Youth Traditional Band

1st Place (\$300) – Mud Hole Out of Control, Marlinton, W.Va.

Traditional Band

1st Place (\$700) – The Onlies, Seattle, Wash.

2nd Place (\$400) – The Cork Burners, Minneapolis, Minn.

3rd Place (\$300) – Old Drake, Nashville, Tenn.

4th Place (\$200) – The Buckin Mules, Lawrenceburg, Tenn.

5th Place (\$100) – Steam Machine, Galax, Va.

Old-Time Flat-foot Dance – 15 years of age and under

1st place (\$75) – Luke Snuffer, Beckley, W.Va.

2nd Place (\$50) – Audrey Sementilli, Albany, Ohio

Old-Time Flat-foot Dance – 16 years of age through 40

1st Place (\$75) – Hillary Klug, Shelbyville, Tenn.

2nd Place (\$50) – Kim Perry, Baltimore, Md.

3rd Place (\$25) – Greta Van Dorren, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Old-Time Flat-foot Dance – 41 years of age through 59

1st Place (\$75) – Susan Chalker, Sparks, Md.

Old-Time Flat-foot Dance – 60 years of age and older

1st Place (\$75) – Phil Jamison, Asheville, N.C.

2nd Place (\$50) – Ruth Alpert, Santa Barbara, Calif.

3rd Place (\$25) – Kim Forry, Arnold, Md.

Grand Champion Old-Time Flat-foot Dance Winner

(\$100) Hillary Klug, Shelbyville, Tenn.