

2016 Vandalia Gathering Contest Winners Announced

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia’s champion old-time fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players, and pound cake and favorite family cookie bakers competed for top honors on Saturday, May 28, during the West Virginia Division of Culture and History’s 40th annual Vandalia Gathering. On Sunday, May 29, old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flatpick guitar musicians, and liars vied for awards.

Liars (all ages)

Biggest Liar (1st place and *Goldenseal* magazine’s Golden Shovel award) Jacob Hall, Charleston

Bigger Liar (2nd place) Ian Nolte, Huntington

Big Liar (3rd place) –Pete Kosky, Charleston

Youth (age 15 and under, and *Goldenseal* magazine’s Golden Shovel award) Claire Kosky, Charleston

Favorite Family Cookies (all ages)

1st place – Ella Hoffman, South Charleston

2nd place – Jennifer Foreman, Red House

3rd place – Toni McCullough, Bridgeport

Youth (age 15 and under) Victoria Scarberry, Charleston

Pound Cake (all ages)

1st place – Ella Hoffman, South Charleston

2nd place – Casey Pruitt, Charleston

3rd place – Bridget Pauley, Pinch

The annual Vandalia Gathering is a free celebration of the traditional arts, music, dance, stories, crafts and foods of West Virginia. The Culture Center and State Capitol Complex grounds play host to this expanding family-style gathering each year on Memorial Day weekend. The unique blending of ethnic and cultural heritage combines an atmosphere as comfortable as a family reunion with the excitement of a state fair. The statewide folk festival, named for the proposed 14th colony, pays tribute to the state’s ethnic heritage through a variety of exhibitions and programs.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History is an agency within the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts with Kay Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary. The division, led by Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith, brings together the past, present and future through programs and services focusing on archives and history, arts, historic preservation and museums. For more information about the division’s programs, events and sites, visit www.wvculture.org. The Division of Culture and History is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.