

2017 Vandalia Gathering Contest Winners Announced

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia’s champion old-time fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players, traditional pound cake and favorite family cookie bakers competed for top honors on Saturday, May 27, during the West Virginia Division of Culture and History’s 41st annual Vandalia Gathering. On Sunday, May 28, old-time banjo, lap dulcimer, flatpick guitar musicians and liars vied for awards.

Liars (all ages)

Biggest Liar (1st place and *Goldenseal* magazine’s Golden Shovel award) James Froemel, Madsville

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) Jack Froemel, Madsville

Favorite Family Cookies (all ages)

1st place – Ella Hoffman, South Charleston

Youth (age 15 and under) Kendall Atkins, Scott Depot

Pound Cake (all ages)

1st place – Bridget Pauley, Pinch

2nd place – Ella Hoffman, South Charleston

3rd place – Karen Cobbs, Charleston

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 host 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 Office of Secretary of Education and the Arts with Gayle Manchin, 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.