

2019 Vandalia Gathering Contest Winners Announced

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia’s champion old-time fiddle, bluegrass banjo, mandolin players and classic cookie bakers competed for top honors on Saturday, May 25, during the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History’s 43rd annual Vandalia Gathering. On Sunday, May 26, 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, Maidesville

Bigger Liar (2nd place) Gary Buchanan, Creston

Big Liar (3rd place) Suzy McGinley, Ripley

Youth (age 15 and under, and *Goldenseal* magazine’s Golden Shovel award) Zane Wilkinson, Ovapa

Classic Cookies (all ages)

1st place – Hannah Potter, Sissonville

2nd place – Maureen Cremeans, St. Albans

3rd place – Ashley Susan Hale, Charleston

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

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.