

Fiddle, bluegrass banjo, mandolin contest winners

Champion fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players competed for prizes during the 25th annual Vandalia Gathering. Two categories of fiddlers—those 60 years of age and over and those under 60 years of age—were recognized. The other two contests included all ages.

Winners were announced as part of an awards ceremony and concert Saturday evening in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

Fiddle - 60 years of age and over

- 1st place (\$400) - Elmer Rich, Morgantown
- 2nd place (\$250) - Harold Burns, Yawkey
- 3rd place (\$150) - Lefty Shafer, Charleston
- 4th place (\$75) - Jim Nichols, Pickaway
- 5th place (\$50) - Jerry Lewis, Nettie

Fiddle - under 60 years of age

- 1st place (\$400) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 2nd place (\$250) - Jake Krack, Orma
- 3rd place (\$150) - Darrell Murray, Charleston
- 4th place (\$75) - David Bing, Harmony
- 5th place (\$50) - Zack Fanok, Morgantown

Mandolin - all ages

- 1st place (\$400) - Mike Melton, Charleston
- 2nd place (\$250) - Robert Shafer, Elkview
- 3rd place (\$150) - Robin Kessinger, St. Albans
- 4th place (\$75) - Dorse Sears, Orma
- 5th place (\$50) - Matthew Hiser, Layland

Bluegrass Banjo - all ages

- 1st place (\$400) - Butch Osborne, Parkersburg
- 2nd place (\$250) - Ben Harrington, Fairdale
- 3rd place (\$150) - Rad Lewis, Winfield
- 4th place (\$75) - Bobby Maynard, Huntington
- 5th place (\$50) - Virgil Osborne, Lorado

Champion old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players competed for prizes Sunday during the 25th annual Vandalia Gathering. Two categories of banjo pickers—those 60 years of age and over and those under 60 years of age—were recognized. The other two contests included all ages. Winners were announced as part of the festival's closing awards ceremony and concert in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

The winners were:

Senior Old-Time Banjo

- 1st place (\$400) - Woody Simmons, Mill Creek
- 2nd place (\$250) - Eugene Parsons, Orma
- 3rd place (\$150) - Ben Carr, Wilsie
- 4th place (\$75) - Brooks Smith, Dunbar
- 5th place (\$50) - Charlie Loudermilk, Frankford

Old-Time Banjo

- 1st place (\$400) - David O'Dell, West Logan
- 2nd place (\$250) - Tim Bing, Spencer

3rd place (\$150) - Andrew Dunlap, St. Albans

4th place (\$75) - Doug Van Gundy, Marlinton

5th place (\$50) - Paul Gartner, Sod

Lap Dulcimer

1st place (\$400) - Alan Freeman, Renick

2nd place (\$250) - David O'Dell, West Logan

3rd place (\$150) - Timmy Gillenwater, Griffithsville

4th place (\$75) - Peter Snyder, Pigeon

5th place (\$50) - David Gladkosky, South Charleston

Flat-Pick Guitar

1st place (\$400) - Robert Shafer, Elkview

2nd place (\$250) - Robin Kessinger, St. Albans

3rd place (\$150) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerco

4th place (\$75) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar

5th place (\$50) - Jamie Rhodes, Green Bank

West Virginia's best storytellers competed today for prizes in the Liars Contest during the 25th annual Vandalia Gathering with the [GOLDENSEAL magazine](#) Golden Shovel award going to the best tall tale. Four-time champion liar Bil Lepp emceed the contest.

The winners were:

Biggest Liar (first place): Mike Lantz, Aurora

Bigger Liar (second place): Dorsey Johnson, Hurricane

Big Liar (third place): Mark Howes, French Creek

Youth Award: Rocky Seay, War