

2002 winners in Vandalia Gathering contests: fiddle, bluegrass banjo, mandolin, lap dulcimer, old time banjo, flatpick guitar and liars

Champion fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players today competed for prizes during the 26th 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 this evening in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

Fiddle - 60 years of age and over

- 1st place (\$400) - Elmer Rich, Westover
- 2nd place (\$250) - Junior Spencer, Frankford
- 3rd place (\$150) - Harold Burns, Yawkey
- 4th place (\$75) - Woody Simmons, Mill Creek
- 5th place (\$50) - Jerry Lewis, Nettie

Fiddle - under 60 years of age

- 1st place (\$400) - Jake Krack, Orma
- 2nd place (\$250) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 3rd place (\$150) - Billy Ward, Elkins
- 4th place (\$75) - Jenny Allinder, St. Albans
- 5th place (\$50) - Gerry Milnes, Elkins

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) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 5th place (\$50) - John Putnam, Looneyville

Bluegrass Banjo - all ages

- 1st place (\$400) - Bruce Jones, Big Springs
- 2nd place (\$250) - Butch Osborne, Parkersburg
- 3rd place (\$150) - Jim Gabehart, Hamlin
- 4th place (\$75) - Brandon Green, Beckley
- 5th place (\$50) - Dave Douglas, Ivydale

Champion old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players competed for prizes today during the 26th 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 this evening in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

Senior Old-Time Banjo

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

Old-Time Banjo

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

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

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

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) - Dave Haas, Cross Lanes

4th place (\$75) - John Stike, South Charleston

5th place (\$50) - Timmy Gillenwater, Griffithsville

Flat Pick Guitar

1st place (\$400) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerico

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

3rd place (\$150) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar

4th place (\$75) - Darrell Meadows, Roanoke

5th place (\$50) - Matt Poff, St. Albans

State's best "liars" named at 26th Vandalia Gathering

West Virginia's best storytellers competed today for prizes in the Liars Contest during the 26th annual Vandalia Gathering with the GOLDENSEAL magazine Golden Shovel award going to the best tall tale. Four-time champion Bil Lepp emceed the contest.

Biggest Liar (first place): Rich Knoblich, Wheeling

Bigger Liar (second place): Mark Howe, French Creek

Big Liar (third place): Nancy Feather, Aurora

Youth Award: Justin Wood, Charleston