

2003 Vandalia Contest Winners

Champion fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players today competed for prizes during the 27th 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) - Woody Simmons, Mill Creek
- 2nd place (\$250) - Elmer Rich, Westover
- 3rd place (\$150) - Junior Spencer, Frankford
- 4th place (\$75) - Virgil Ross, Clendenin
- 5th place (\$50) - Jerry Lewis, Nettie

Fiddle - under 60 years of age

- 1st place (\$400) - Jenny Allinder, St. Albans
- 2nd place (\$250) - Billy Ward, Elkins
- 3rd place (\$150) - David O'Dell, West Logan
- 4th place (\$75) - Jake Krack, Orma
- 5th place (\$50) - Jesse Milnes, Elkins

Mandolin - all ages

- 1st place (\$400) - Rachel Singleton, Summersville
- 2nd place (\$250) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 3rd place (\$150) - John Putnam, Looneyville
- 4th place (\$75) - Will Parsons, Rock
- 5th place (\$50) - Tim Gillenwater, Griffithsville

Bluegrass Banjo - all ages

- 1st place (\$400) - Rad Lewis, Winfield
- 2nd place (\$250) - Brandon Green, Beckley
- 3rd place (\$150) - Butch Osborne, Parkersburg
- 4th place (\$75) - Will Parsons, Rock
- 5th place (\$50) - Ben Harrington, Fairdale

Champion old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players competed for prizes today during the 27th 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 Sunday evening in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

Senior Old-Time Banjo

- 1st place (\$400) - Woody Simmons, Mill Creek
- 2nd place (\$250) - Brooks Smith, Dunbar
- 3rd place (\$150) - Ira Southern, Princeton
- 4th place (\$75) - Ben Carr, Wilsie
- 5th place (\$50) - Bernard Cyrus, Fort Gay

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) - Peter Snyder, Pigeon

5th place (\$50) - Bernard Cyrus, Fort Gay

Flat Pick Guitar

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

2nd place (\$250) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar

3rd place (\$150) - Robin Kessinger, St. Albans

4th place (\$75) - Donald Larabie, Gassaway

5th place (\$50) - Will Parsons, Rock

West Virginia's best storytellers competed today for prizes in the Liars Contest during the 27th annual Vandalia Gathering with the GOLDENSEAL magazine Golden Shovel award going to the best tall tale.

Biggest Liar (first place): Justin Wood, Charleston

Bigger Liar (second place): Rich Knoblich, Wheeling

Big Liar (third place): Adam Booth, Huntington

The Liars Contest regularly draws standing room-only crowds. GOLDENSEAL, West Virginia's magazine of traditional life, hosts the event and publishes the winning stories each year.

The lies must be short stories—humorous, dramatic, supernatural, etc.—of two to three minutes in length. Ribbons and cash prizes are awarded, along with an official Golden Shovel “trophy” for the first place winner.