Fiddle, bluegrass banjo, mandolin contest winners named this evening at 2005 Vandalia Gathering

Champion fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players today competed for prizes during the 29th 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) - Donald Jones, Scott Depot
2nd place ($250) - Elmer Rich, Morgantown
3rd place ($150) - Lester McCumbers, Nicut
4th place ($75) - Jerry Lewis, Nettie
5th place ($50) - Junior Spencer, Frankford

Fiddle - under 60 years of age
1st place ($400) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
2nd place ($250) - Jarred Nutter, Meadow Bridge
3rd place ($150) - Jenny Allinder, St. Albans
4th place ($75) - Adam Hurt, Charleston
5th place ($50) - Meredith Pheasant, Fairmont

Mandolin - all ages
1st place ($400) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerco
2nd place ($250) - Rachel Singleton, Summersville
3rd place ($150) - Fred Honaker, Oak Hill
4th place ($75) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
5th place ($50) - John Putnam, Looneyville

Old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar winners named at 2005 Vandalia Gathering

Champion old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players competed for prizes today during the 29th 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) - Ben Carr, Wilsie
2nd place ($250) - Mack Samples, Duck
3rd place ($150) - Bernard Cyrus, Ft. Gay
4th place ($75) - Charlie Loudermilk, Frankford
5th place ($50) - Eugene Parsons, Orma

Old-Time Banjo
1st place ($400) - Tim Bing, Huntington
2nd place ($250) - Adam Hurt, Charleston
3rd place ($150) - David O'Dell, West Logan
4th place ($75) - Bob Shank, Morgantown
5th place ($50) - Pete Kosky, Charleston

Lap Dulcimer
1st place ($400) - Alan Freeman, Renick
2nd place ($250) - Dave Haas, Cross Lanes

3rd place ($150) - David O'Dell, West Logan
4th place ($75) - Katie Stricker, Charleston
5th place ($50) - Timmy Gillenwater, Griffithsville

Flat Pick Guitar
1st place ($400) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar
2nd place ($250) - Rich Adkins, Cross Lanes
3rd place ($150) - Rick Falls, Arnoldsburg
4th place ($75) - Robin Kessinger, St. Albans
5th place ($50) - Adam Hager, Kenna

The annual Vandalia Gathering is a FREE celebration of the traditional arts, music, dance, stories, crafts and foods of West Virginia. The Cultural Center and State Capitol Complex grounds plays host to this expanding family-style gathering each year on Memorial Day weekend. The statewide folk festival, named for the proposed 14th colony, creates new memories for the thousands of visitors who flock from across the Mountain State and the entire country to celebrate traditions passed from generation to generation. In addition to offering a sampling of West Virginia's traditional mountain culture by showcasing craftspeople and performers, the Vandalia Gathering pays tribute to the state's ethnic heritage through a variety of exhibitions and programs.

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, an agency of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, brings together the state's past, present and future through programs and services in the areas of archives and history, the arts, historic preservation and museums. The Cultural Center is West Virginia's official showcase for the arts. Visit the Division's website at www.wvculture.org for more information about programs of the Division. The Department of Arts, Culture and History is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.