

2007 Vandalia Gathering fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin contest winners announced

Champion fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players today competed for prizes during the 31st annual Vandalia Gathering.

Youth Fiddle (age 15 and under)

- 1st place (\$75) - Ray Cossin, Mt. Alto
- 2nd place (\$50) - Jerrica Hilbert, St. Albans
- 3rd place (\$25) - Arianna Macy, Charleston

Fiddle (under age 60)

- 1st place (\$400) - Chance McCoy, Martinsburg
- 2nd place (\$250) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 3rd place (\$150) - Zack Fanok, Morgantown
- 4th place (\$75) - Ray Cossin, Mt. Alto
- 5th place (\$50) - Jerrica Hilbert, St. Albans

Senior Fiddle (age 60 and over)

- 1st place (\$400) - Lester McCumbers, Nicut
- 2nd place (\$250) - Gerry Milnes, Elkins
- 3rd place (\$150) - Boyd Phillips, Elkins
- 4th place (\$75) - Don Jones, Scott Depot
- 5th place (\$50) - Elmer Rich, Morgantown

Mandolin (all ages)

- 1st place (\$400) - Chris Davis, Ona
- 2nd place (\$250) - Steve Acord, Fairdale
- 3rd place (\$150) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 4th place (\$75) - Robin Kessinger, St. Albans
- 5th place (\$50) - John Putnam, Looneyville

Bluegrass Banjo (all ages)

- 1st place (\$400) - Brandon Green, Sophia
- 2nd place (\$250) - Ben Harrington, Artie
- 3rd place (\$150) - Doug Cossin, Mt. Alto
- 4th place (\$75) - Andrew Kidd, Hurricane
- 5th place (\$50) - Zack Life, Murrysville

Champion old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players competed for prizes today during the 31st annual Vandalia Gathering.

Old-Time Banjo (under age 60)

- 1st place (\$400) - Bob Shank, Bruceton Mills
- 2nd place (\$250) - Bob Smakula, Elkins
- 3rd place (\$150) - David O'Dell, West Logan
- 4th place (\$75) - Ben Townsend, Romney
- 5th place (\$50) - Jim Mullins, St. Albans

Senior Old-Time Banjo (age 60 and over)

- 1st place (\$400) - Gerry Milnes, Elkins
- 2nd place (\$250) - Ben Carr, Wilsie
- 3rd place (\$150) - Bernard Cyrus, Fort Gay

4th place (\$75) - Ted Samples, Harrisville
5th place (\$50) - Charlie Loudermilk, Frankford

Youth Lap Dulcimer (age 15 and under)

1st place (\$75) - Katie Stricker, South Charleston
2nd place (\$50) - Shalor Gore, Charleston
3rd place (\$25) - Jackson Davis, Tornado

Lap Dulcimer (all ages)

> 1st place (\$400) - Ro/bin Kessinger, St. Albans
2nd place (\$250) - Dave Haas, Cross Lanes
3rd place (\$150) - Heidi Mueller, Charleston
4th place (\$75) - Tish Westman, Mabscott
5th place (\$50) - Tim Gillenwater, Griffithsville

Youth Flat Pick Guitar (age 15 and under)

1st place (\$75) - Jacob Ryder, Marlinton
2nd place (\$50) - Doug Cossin, Mt. Alto
3rd place (\$25) - Levi Lipps, Bomont

Flat Pick Guitar (all ages)

1st place (\$400) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar
2nd place (\$250) - Adam Hager, Kenna
3rd place (\$150) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerco
4th place (\$75) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
5th place (\$50) - Tim Gillenwater, Griffithsville

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 festival continues tomorrow at 10 a.m., with old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar registration beginning at 11 a.m.; the contest start at noon.

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 Division of Culture and History, an agency of the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, 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. Its administrative offices are located at the Cultural Center in the State Capitol Complex in Charleston, which also houses the state archives and state museum. The Cultural Center is West Virginia's official showcase for the arts. The agency also operates a network of museums and historic sites across the state. For more information about the Division's programs, visit www.wvculture.org. The Division of Culture and History is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.