

2009 Vandalia Gathering contest winners announced

West Virginia's champion old-time fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players competed on Saturday, May 23, and old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players as well as best liars on Sunday, May 24, during the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's 33rd annual Vandalia Gathering. A new competition, homemade pound cake and fruit

Youth Old-Time Fiddle (age 15 and under)

- 1st place (\$75) - Jerrica Hilbert, St. Albans
- 2nd place (\$50) - Ray Cossin, Mt. Alto
- 3rd place (\$25) - Annie Fowler, Scott Depot

Old-Time Fiddle (age 59 and under)

- 1st place (\$400) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 2nd place (\$250) - Chance McCoy, Greenville
- 3rd place (\$150) - Greg Bente, Huntington
- 4th place (\$75) - Jenny Allinder, Culloden
- 5th place (\$50) - Doug Van Gundy, Elkins

Senior Old-Time Fiddle (age 60 and over)

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

Mandolin (all ages)

- 1st place (\$400) - Robin Kessinger, St. Albans
- 2nd place (\$250) - John Putnam, Looneyville
- 3rd place (\$150) - Brandon Shoping, Williamson
- 4th place (\$75) - Adam Hager, Kenna
- 5th place (\$50) - Luke Shamblin, Elkview

Bluegrass Banjo (all ages)

- 1st place (\$400) - Doug Cossin, Mt. Alto
- 2nd place (\$250) - Ed Price, Huntington
- 3rd place (\$150) - Butch Osborne, Parkersburg
- 4th place (\$75) - Swanagan Ray, Ripley
- 5th place (\$50) - Brandon Shoping, Williamson

Pound Cake (all ages)

- 1st place (\$75) - Ella Hoffman, South Charleston
- 2nd place (\$50) - Tabitha Erwin, Scott Depot
- 3rd place (\$25) - Shonnette Koontz, Charleston

Fruit Cobbler (all ages)

- 1st place (\$75) - Valerie Burgraf, Elkview
- 2nd place (\$50) - Lynna Middleton, Elkview
- 3rd place (\$25) - Blair Chapman, Charleston
- Youth (age 15 and under, \$25) - Blair Chapman, Charleston

Youth Lap Dulcimer (age 15 and under)

- 1st place (\$75) - Hunter Walker, Beckley

2nd place (\$50) - Will Manahan, Elkview

3rd place (\$25) - Shalor Gore, Charleston

Lap Dulcimer (all ages)

1st place (\$400) - Chance McCoy, Greenville

2nd place (\$250) - Hunter Walker, Beckley

3rd place (\$150) - Heidi Muller, Charleston

4th place (\$75) - Dave Haas, Cross Lanes

5th place (\$50) - Bob Webb, Charleston

Old-Time Banjo (59 and under)

1st place (\$400) - Chance McCoy, Greenville

2nd place (\$250) - Tim Bing, Huntington

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

4th place (\$75) - Bob Shank, Bruceton Mills

5th place (\$50) - Bob Smakula, Elkins

Senior Old-Time Banjo (age 60 and over)

1st place (\$400) - Jim Mullins, St. Albans

2nd place (\$250) - Ken Sheller, Elkins

3rd place (\$150) - Mack Samples, Duck

4th place (\$75) - Steve Harrison, St. Albans

5th place (\$50) - Eugene Parsons, Orma

Youth Flat Pick Guitar (age 15 and under)

1st place (\$75) - Logan Jones, Charleston

2nd place (\$50) - Eric Campbell, Hurricane

3rd place (\$25) - Andrew Fry, Winfield

Flat Pick Guitar (all ages)

1st place (\$400) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar

2nd place (\$250) - Swanagan Ray, Ripley

3rd place (\$150) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys

4th place (\$75) - Richard Adkins, Cross Lanes

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

Biggest Liar (1st place \$100 and Goldenseal magazine's Golden Shovel award) - Pete Kosky, Charleston

Bigger Liar (2nd place \$75) - Scott Hill, Ghent

Big Liar (3rd place \$50) - Alex McLaughlin, Charleston

Youth (age 15 and under, \$25) - Ellie Lepp, Charleston

The annual Vandalia Gathering is a free celebration of the traditional arts, music, dance, stories, crafts and foods of West Virginia. The Culture Center and State Capitol Complex grounds play host to this expanding family-style gathering each year on Memorial Day weekend. The unique blending of ethnic and cultural heritage combines an atmosphere as comfortable as a family reunion with the excitement of a state fair.

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 Liars Contest regularly draws standing room-only crowds. GOLDENSEAL, the magazine of West Virginia 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 five minutes in length.

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 Culture Center in the State Capitol Complex in Charleston, which also houses the state archives and state museum. The Culture 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.