

## 2010 Vandalia Gathering contest winners announced

West Virginia's champion old-time fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players competed on Saturday, May 29, and old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players as well as the best liars on Sunday, May 30, during the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's 34th annual Vandalia Gathering. A new competition, homemade pound cake, biscuits and jams/preserves also was held on Saturday.

### Youth Old-Time Fiddle (age 15 and under)

- 1st place (\$75) - Ray Cossin, Mt. Alto
- 2nd place (\$50) - Emily Rhodes, Nitro
- 3rd place (\$25) - Nate Schoettker, Tornado

### Old-Time Fiddle (age 59 and under)

- 1st place (\$400) - John Cochran, Elkins
- 2nd place (\$250) - Darrell Murray, Charleston
- 3rd place (\$150) - Ben Townsend, Martinsburg
- 4th place (\$75) - Ray Cossin, Mt. Alto
- 5th place (\$50) - Rebecca McClung, Parkersburg

### Senior Old-Time Fiddle (age 60 and over)

- 1st place (\$400) - Gerald Milnes, Elkins
- 2nd place (\$250) - Lester McCumbers, Nicut
- 3rd place (\$150) - John Morris, Ivydale
- 4th place (\$75) - Elmer Rich, Morgantown
- 5th place (\$50) - Jim Mullins, St. Albans

### Mandolin (all ages)

- 1st place (\$400) - Luke Shamblin, Elkview
- 2nd place (\$250) - Brandon Shuping, Williamson
- 3rd place (\$150) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 4th place (\$75) - Joshua Brown, Summersville
- 5th place (\$50) - David Asti, Morgantown

### Banjo (all ages)

- 1st place (\$400) - Andrew Kidd, Hurricane
- 2nd place (\$250) - Logan Browning, Summersville
- 3rd place (\$150) - Blaine Johnson, Beaver
- 4th place (\$75) - Jim Gabehart, Hamlin
- 5th place (\$50) - David Asti, Morgantown

### Pound Cake (all ages)

- 1st place (\$75) - Shonnette Koontz, South Charleston
- 2nd place (\$50) - Mary Casto, Buffalo
- 3rd place (\$25) - Lynda Middleton, Elkview
- Youth Pound Cake (15 and under) - No award presented

### Homemade Biscuits (all ages)

- 1st place (\$75) - Judy Grigoraci, Charleston
- 2nd place (\$50) - Lydia Hager, Kenna
- 3rd place (\$25) - Valerie Burgraf, Elkview
- Youth (age 15 and under, \$25) - Lydia Hager, Kenna

### Jams/Preserves (all ages)

- 1st place (\$75) - Ella Hoffman, South Charleston

2nd place (\$50) - Carmen Wilson, East Lynn  
3rd place (\$25) - Wyatt Chapman, Charleston  
Youth (age 15 and under, \$25) - Wyatt Chapman, Charleston

Youth Lap Dulcimer (age 15 and under)  
1st place (\$75) - Will Manahan, Elkview  
2nd place (\$50) - Makayla Straughter, Charleston  
3rd place (\$25) - Glen Smakula, Montrose

Lap Dulcimer (all ages)  
1st place (\$400) - Hunter Walker, Beckley  
2nd place (\$250) - Will Manahan, Elkview  
3rd place (\$150) - Alan Freeman, Renick  
4th place (\$75) - Bob Smakula, Elkins  
5th place (\$50) - Emily Pritchard, Beckley

Old-Time Banjo (59 and under)  
1st place (\$400) - Tim Bing, Huntington  
2nd place (\$250) - David O'Dell, Glenville  
3rd place (\$150) - Bob Smakula, Elkins  
4th place (\$75) - Chad Ashworth, Nitro  
5th place (\$50) - Dennis Ott, Ronceverte

Senior Old-Time Banjo (age 60 and over)  
1st place (\$400) - Gerald Milnes, Elkins  
2nd place (\$250) - John Morris, Ivydale  
3rd place (\$150) - Ken Sheller, Elkins  
4th place (\$75) - Steve Harrison, St. Albans  
5th place (\$50) - Ted Samples, Harrisville

Youth Flat Pick Guitar (age 15 and under)  
1st place (\$75) - Logan Jones, Charleston  
2nd place (\$50) - Jonathan Digiulian, Mt. Hope  
3rd place (\$25) - Zack Myers, Charleston

Flat Pick Guitar (all ages)  
1st place (\$400) - Adam Hager, Kenna  
2nd place (\$250) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys  
3rd place (\$150) - Logan Jones, Charleston  
4th place (\$75) - Swanagan Ray, Ripley  
5th place (\$50) - Richard Adkins, Cross Lanes

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

Bigger Liar (2nd place \$75) - Adam Booth, Shepherdstown  
Big Liar (3rd place \$50) - John Smith, Meadow Creek  
Youth (age 15 and under, \$25) - Noah 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](http://www.wvculture.org). The Division of Culture and History is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.