

2011 Vandalia Gathering contest winners announced

West Virginia's champion old-time fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players competed on Saturday, May 28, and old-time banjo, lap dulcimer, flat pick guitar players and the best liars on Sunday, May 29, during the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's 35th annual Vandalia Gathering. There also was a competition for best homemade pound cake and apple pie on Saturday.

Youth Old-Time Fiddle (age 15 and under)

1st place (\$75) - Bella Zucker, Morgantown

2nd place (\$50) - Riley Sisco, Scott Depot

3rd place (\$25) - Walter King, Elkins

Old-Time Fiddle (age 59 and under)

1st place (\$400) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys

; 2nd place (\$250) - Ray Cossin, Mt. Alto

3rd place (\$150) - Jerrica Hilbert, St. Albans

4th place (\$75) - Andy Fitzgibbons, Elkins

5th place (\$50) - Bella Zucker, Morgantown

Senior Old-Time Fiddle (age 60 and over)

1st place (\$400) - Elmer Rich, Morgantown

2nd place (\$250) - Gerry Milnes, Elkins

3rd place (\$150) - Jerry Lewis, Nettie

4th place (\$75) - Lester McCumbers, Rosedale

5th place (\$50) - Mack Samples, Duck

Mandolin (all ages)

p; 1st place (\$400) - Matt Hiser, Spanishburg

; 2nd place (\$250) - John Putnam, Looneyville

3rd place (\$150) - Brandon Shuping, Williamson

4th place (\$75) - Karl Smakula, Elkins

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

Bluegrass Banjo (all ages)

1st place (\$400) - Brandon Green, Sophia

2nd place (\$250) - Calvin Leport, Henderson

3rd place (\$150) - Doug Cossin, Mt. Alto

4th place (\$75) - Blaine Johnson, Beaver

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

Pound Cake (all ages)

1st place (\$75) - Shonnette Koontz, Charleston

2nd place (\$50) - Judy Grigoraci, Charleston

3rd place (\$25) - Imogene Baker, Charleston

Youth Pound Cake (15 and under) - No award presented

Apple Pie (all ages)

1st place (\$75) - Lynn Divjak, Charleston

2nd place (\$50) - Ella Hoffman, South Charleston

3rd place (\$25) - Cassandra Atkins, Charleston

Youth (age 15 and under, \$25) - No award presented

Youth Lap Dulcimer (age 15 and under)

1st place (\$75) - Will Manahan, Elkview

2nd place (\$50) - No award presented

3rd place (\$25) - No award presented

Lap Dulcimer (all ages)

1st place (\$400) - Emily Pritchard, Beckley

2nd place (\$250) - Will Manahan, Elkview

3rd place (\$150) - David O'Dell, Glenville

4th place (\$75) - Martha Turley, Ona

5th place (\$50) - Timmy Gillenwater, Griffithsville

Old-Time Banjo (59 and under)

1st place (\$400) - Andrew Dunlap, St. Albans

2nd place (\$250) - David O'Dell, Glenville

3rd place (\$150) - Kevin Chesser, Elkins

4th place (\$75) - Chad Ashworth, St. Albans

5th place (\$50) - Paul Gartner, Yawkey

Senior Old-Time Banjo (age 60 and over)

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

2nd place (\$250) - Bob Shank, Bruceton Mills

3rd place (\$150) - Ben Carr, Wilsie

4th place (\$75) - Ken Sheller, Elkins

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

Youth Flat Pick Guitar (age 15 and under)

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

2nd place (\$50) - Isaac Putnam, Looneyville

3rd place (\$25) - Bryant Underwood, Charleston

Flat Pick Guitar (all ages)

1st place (\$400) - Swanagan Ray, Ripley

2nd place (\$250) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys

3rd place (\$150) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar

4th place (\$75) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerco

5th place (\$50) - Richard Adkins, Cross Lanes

Liars Contest

Biggest Liar (1st place \$100 and *Goldenseal* magazine's Golden Shovel award) - Adam Booth, Shepherdstown

Bigger Liar (2nd place \$75) - Pete Kosky, Charleston

Big Liar (3rd place \$50) - Bud Anderson, South Charleston

Youth (age 15 and under, \$25) - Dice Johnson, Dunbar

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 is an agency within the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts with Kay Goodwin, Cabinet Secretary. The Division, led by Commissioner Randall Reid-Smith, brings together the past, present and future through programs and services focusing on archives and history, arts, historic preservation and museums. For more information about the Division's programs, events and sites, visit www.wvculture.org. The Division of Culture and History is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.