

2016 Vandalia Gathering Contest Winners Announced

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia's champion old-time fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players, and pound cake and favorite family cookie bakers competed for top honors on Saturday, May 28, during the West Virginia Division of Culture and History's 40th annual Vandalia Gathering. On Sunday, May 29, old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flatpick guitar musicians, and liars vied for awards.

Youth Old-Time Fiddle (age 15 and under)

- 1st place – Ben Davis, Marlinton
- 2nd place – Hannah Snuffer, Beckley
- 3rd place – Liam Farley, Chapmanville

Old-Time Fiddle (age 59 and under)

- 1st place – Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 2nd place – Jesse Pearson, Huntington
- 3rd place – Bob Smakula, Elkins
- 4th place – Jenny Allinder, St. Albans
- 5th place – Cody Jordan, Point Pleasant

Senior Old-Time Fiddle (age 60 and over)

- 1st place – Greg Bentle, Huntington
- 2nd place – Gerry Milnes, Elkins
- 3rd place – John Morris, Ivydale
- 4th place – Terry Vaughan, Cross Lanes
- 5th place – Jim Mullins, St. Albans

Mandolin (all ages)

- 1st place – Karl Smakula, Elkins
- 2nd place - Joshua Brown, Summersville
- 3rd place – Jake Eddy, Parkersburg
- 4th place – Dan Kessinger, St. Marys
- 5th place – Silas Powell, Salem

Bluegrass Banjo (all ages)

- 1st place – Andrew Kidd, Morgantown
- 2nd place – Jake Eddy, Parkersburg
- 3rd place – Josh Lanham, Buckhannon
- 4th place – Levi Sanders, Fairview
- 5th place – Karl Smakula, Elkins

Lap Dulcimer (all ages)

- 1st place – Hunter Walker, Beckley
- 2nd place – Jesse Pearson, Huntington
- 3rd place – Patricia Westman, Beckley
- 4th place – David O'Dell, Glenville
- 5th place – Ezra Drumheller, Prosperity

Old-Time Banjo (59 and under)

- 1st place – David O'Dell, Glenville
- 2nd place – Hunter Walker, Beckley
- 3rd place – Nick Freeman, St. Albans

4th place – Ben Townsend, Romney

5th place – Cody Jordan, Point Pleasant

Senior Old-Time Banjo (age 60 and over)

1st place – Jim Mullins, St. Albans

2nd place – Paul Gartner, Yawkey

3rd place – John Morris, Ivydale

4th place – Warren Owings, Hamlin

Youth Flatpick Guitar (age 15 and under)

1st place – Silas Powell, Salem

Flatpick Guitar (all ages)

1st place – David Watson, Huntington

2nd place – Bryant Underwood, Charleston

3rd place – Matt Lindsey, Culloden

4th place – Joshua Brown, Summersville

5th place – Rick Hall, Princeton

Liars (all ages)

Biggest Liar (1st place and *Goldenseal* magazine's Golden Shovel award) Jacob Hall, Charleston

Bigger Liar (2nd place) Ian Nolte, Huntington

Big Liar (3rd place) –Pete Kosky, Charleston

Youth (age 15 and under, and *Goldenseal* magazine's Golden Shovel award) Claire Kosky, Charleston

Favorite Family Cookies (all ages)

1st place – Ella Hoffman, South Charleston

2nd place – Jennifer Foreman, Red House

3rd place – Toni McCullough, Bridgeport

Youth (age 15 and under) Victoria Scarberry, Charleston

Pound Cake (all ages)

1st place – Ella Hoffman, South Charleston

2nd place – Casey Pruitt, Charleston

3rd place – Bridget Pauley, Pinch

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, pays tribute to the state's ethnic heritage through a variety of exhibitions and programs.

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.