

## 2019 Vandalia Gathering Contest Winners Announced

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia’s champion old-time fiddle, bluegrass banjo, mandolin players and classic cookie bakers competed for top honors on Saturday, May 25, during the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History’s 43rd annual Vandalia Gathering. On Sunday, May 26, old-time banjo, lap dulcimer, flatpick guitar musicians and liars vied for awards.

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

- 1st place – Liam Farley, Chapmanville
- 2nd place – Sydnee Stricklin, Hurricane
- 3rd place – Mallory Hindman, Reader

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

- 1st place – Tessa Dillon, Morgantown
- 2nd place – Jesse Milnes, Valley Bend
- 3rd place – Andy Fitzgibbon, Montrose
- 4th place – Jesse Pearson, Huntington
- 5th place – Ben Davis, Marlinton

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

- 1st place – Gerry Milnes, Elkins
- 2nd place – Jenny Allinder, St. Albans
- 3rd place – David Bing, Gandeeville
- 4th place – Bob Smakula, Elkins
- 5th place – Jim Mullins, St. Albans

### Mandolin (all ages)

- 1st place – Sawyer Chapman, Charleston
- 2nd place – Seth Marstiller, Mill Creek
- 3rd place – Robin Kessinger, St. Albans
- 4th place – Luke Shamblin, Elkiew
- 5th place – Isaac Putnam, Kenna

### Bluegrass Banjo (all ages)

- 1st place – Nick Freeman, Charleston
- 2nd place – Jake Eddy, Parkersburg
- 3rd place – Jake Stover, Red House
- 4th place – Seth Marstiller, Mill Creek
- 5th place – Jared Long, Frametown

### Lap Dulcimer (all ages)

- 1st place – Nick Freeman, Charleston
- 2nd place – Ezra Drumheller, Prosperity
- 3rd place – Tish Westman, Beckley
- 4th place – Martha Turley, Ona

### Old-Time Banjo (59 and under)

- 1st place – Hunter Walker, Beckley
- 2nd place – Pete Kosky, Charleston
- 3rd place – Cody Jordan, Charleston

4th place – Jarrod Saul, Sumerco

5th place – Trevor Hammons, Marlinton

Senior Old-Time Banjo (age 60 and over)

1st place – Paul Gartner, Yawkey

2nd place – Gerry Milnes, Elkins

3rd place – Jim Mullins, St. Albans

4th place – David Bing, Gandeeville

5th place – John Morris, Ivydale

Youth Flatpick Guitar (age 15 and under)

1st place – Hazel Riley, Hillsboro

Flatpick Guitar (all ages)

1st place – Robin Kessinger, St. Albans

2nd place – Matt Lindsey, Culloden

3rd place – Dan Kessinger, St. Marys

4th place – Isaac Putnam, Kenna

5th place – Jarrod Saul, Sumerco

Liars (all ages)

Biggest Liar (1st place and *Goldenseal* magazine's Golden Shovel award) James Froemel, Maidesville

Bigger Liar (2nd place) Gary Buchanan, Creston

Big Liar (3rd place) Suzy McGinley, Ripley

Youth (age 15 and under, and *Goldenseal* magazine's Golden Shovel award) Zane Wilkinson, Ovapa

Classic Cookies (all ages)

1st place – Hannah Potter, Sissonville

2nd place – Maureen Cremeans, St. Albans

3rd place – Ashley Susan Hale, Charleston

Youth (age 15 and under) Kendall Atkins, Scott Depot

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 host 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.