

2003 Vandalia Contest Winners

Champion fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players today competed for prizes during the 27th annual Vandalia Gathering. Two categories of fiddlers—those 60 years of age and over and those under 60 years of age—were recognized. The other two contests included all ages.

Winners were announced as part of an awards ceremony and concert Saturday evening in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

The winners were:

Fiddle - 60 years of age and over

1st place (\$400) - Woody Simmons, Mill Creek

2nd place (\$250) - Elmer Rich, Westover

3rd place (\$150) - Junior Spencer, Frankford

4th place (\$75) - Virgil Ross, Clendenin

5th place (\$50) - Jerry Lewis, Nettie

Fiddle - under 60 years of age

1st place (\$400) - Jenny Allinder, St. Albans

2nd place (\$250) - Billy Ward, Elkins

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

4th place (\$75) - Jake Krack, Orma

5th place (\$50) - Jesse Milnes, Elkins

Mandolin - all ages

1st place (\$400) - Rachel Singleton, Summersville

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

3rd place (\$150) - John Putnam, Looneyville

4th place (\$75) - Will Parsons, Rock

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

Bluegrass Banjo - all ages

1st place (\$400) - Rad Lewis, Winfield

2nd place (\$250) - Brandon Green, Beckley

3rd place (\$150) - Butch Osborne, Parkersburg

4th place (\$75) - Will Parsons, Rock

5th place (\$50) - Ben Harrington, Fairdale

Champion old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players competed for prizes today during the 27th annual Vandalia Gathering. Two categories of banjo pickers—those 60 years of age and over and those under 60 years of age—were recognized. The other two contests included all ages. Winners were announced as part of the festival's closing awards ceremony and concert Sunday evening in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

The winners were:

Senior Old-Time Banjo

1st place (\$400) - Woody Simmons, Mill Creek

2nd place (\$250) - Brooks Smith, Dunbar

3rd place (\$150) - Ira Southern, Princeton

4th place (\$75) - Ben Carr, Wilsie

5th place (\$50) - Bernard Cyrus, Fort Gay

Old-Time Banjo

- 1st place (\$400) - Tim Bing, Huntington
- 2nd place (\$250) - David O'Dell, West Logan
- 3rd place (\$150) - Andrew Dunlap, St. Albans
- 4th place (\$75) - Doug Van Gundy, Elkins
- 5th place (\$50) - Paul Gartner, Sod

Lap Dulcimer

- 1st place (\$400) - Alan Freeman, Renick
- 2nd place (\$250) - David O'Dell, West Logan
- 3rd place (\$150) - Dave Haas, Cross Lanes
- 4th place (\$75) - Peter Snyder, Pigeon
- 5th place (\$50) - Bernard Cyrus, Fort Gay

Flat Pick Guitar

- 1st place (\$400) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerico
- 2nd place (\$250) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar
- 3rd place (\$150) - Robin Kessinger, St. Albans
- 4th place (\$75) - Donald Larabie, Gassaway
- 5th place (\$50) - Will Parsons, Rock

West Virginia's best storytellers competed today for prizes in the Liars Contest during the 27th annual Vandalia Gathering with the GOLDENSEAL magazine Golden Shovel award going to the best tall tale.

The winners were:

- Biggest Liar (first place): Justin Wood, Charleston
- Bigger Liar (second place): Rich Knoblich, Wheeling
- Big Liar (third place): Adam Booth, Huntington

The Liars Contest regularly draws standing room-only crowds. GOLDENSEAL, West Virginia's magazine of 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 three minutes in length. Ribbons and cash prizes are awarded, along with an official Golden Shovel "trophy" for the first place winner.