

2004 Vandalia contest winners

Fiddle, bluegrass banjo, mandolin contest winners named this evening at 2004 Vandalia Gathering

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 this evening in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

The winners were:

Fiddle - 60 years of age and over

1st place (\$400) - Harold Burns, Yawkey

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

3rd place (\$150) - Lester McCumbers, Nicut

4th place (\$75) - Terry Vaughan, Cross Lanes

5th place (\$50) - Junior Spencer, Frankford

Fiddle - under 60 years of age

1st place (\$400) - Jarred Nutter, Meadow Bridge

2nd place (\$250) - Meredith Pheasant, Fairmont

3rd place (\$150) - Jake Krack, Orma

4th place (\$75) - David O'Dell, West Logan

5th place (\$50) - Jenny Allinder, St. Albans

Mandolin - all ages

1st place (\$400) - Mike Melton, Ripley

2nd place (\$250) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerco

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

4th place (\$75) - Steven Acord, Fairdale

5th place (\$50) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys

Bluegrass Banjo - all ages

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

2nd place (\$250) - Ben Harrington, Fairdale

3rd place (\$150) - Ron Seebaugh, Parkersburg

4th place (\$75) - Bruce Jones, Kingwood

5th place (\$50) - Dave Douglas, Ivydale

Old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar winners named at 2004 Vandalia Gathering

Champion old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players competed for prizes today during the 28th 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 this evening in the West Virginia State Theater of the Cultural Center.

The winners were:

Senior Old-Time Banjo

- 1st place (\$400) - Bernard Cyrus, Fort Gay
- 2nd place (\$250) - Ben Carr, Wilsie
- 3rd place (\$150) - Jerry Lewis, Nettie
- 4th place (\$75) - Eugene Parsons, Orma
- 5th place (\$50) - Charlie Loudermilk, Frankford

Old-Time Banjo

- 1st place (\$400) - Andrew Dunlap, St. Albans
- 2nd place (\$250) - Tim Bing, Huntington
- 3rd place (\$150) - David O'Dell, West Logan
- 4th place (\$75) - Adam Hurt, Princeton
- 5th place (\$50) - Jim Mullins, Charleston

Lap Dulcimer

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

Flat Pick Guitar

- 1st place (\$400) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerco
- 2nd place (\$250) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar
- 3rd place (\$150) - Timmy Gillenwater, Griffithsville
- 4th place (\$75) - Robin Kessinger, St. Albans
- 5th place (\$50) - Matt Poff, Dunbar

State's best "liars" named at 28th Vandalia Gathering

West Virginia's best storytellers competed today for prizes in the 2004 Liars Contest during the 28th annual Vandalia Gathering with the GOLDENSEAL magazine Golden Shovel award going to the best tall tale.

The winners were:

- Biggest Liar (first place): Adam Booth, Huntington
- Bigger Liar (second place): Mark Howes, French Creek
- Big Liar (third place): Rich Knoblich, Wheeling

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.

The annual Vandalia Gathering is a FREE celebration of the traditional arts, music, dance, stories, crafts and foods of West Virginia. The Cultural Center and State Capitol Complex grounds plays host to this expanding family-style gathering each year on Memorial Day weekend.

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.