

Fiddle, bluegrass banjo, mandolin contest winners named this evening at 2005 Vandalia Gathering

Champion fiddle, bluegrass banjo and mandolin players today competed for prizes during the **29th 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) - Donald Jones, Scott Depot

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

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

4th place (\$75) - Jerry Lewis, Nettie

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

Fiddle - under 60 years of age

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

2nd place (\$250) - Jarred Nutter, Meadow Bridge

3rd place (\$150) - Jenny Allinder, St. Albans

4th place (\$75) - Adam Hurt, Charleston

5th place (\$50) - Meredith Pheasant, Fairmont

Mandolin - all ages

1st place (\$400) - Brandon Bentley, Sumerco

2nd place (\$250) - Rachel Singleton, Summersville

3rd place (\$150) - Fred Honaker, Oak Hill

4th place (\$75) - Dan Kessinger, St. Marys

5th place (\$50) - John Putnam, Looneyville

Old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar winners named at 2005 Vandalia Gathering

Champion old-time banjo, lap dulcimer and flat pick guitar players competed for prizes today during the 29th 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) - Ben Carr, Wilsie

2nd place (\$250) - Mack Samples, Duck

3rd place (\$150) - Bernard Cyrus, Ft. Gay

4th place (\$75) - Charlie Loudermilk, Frankford

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

Old-Time Banjo

1st place (\$400) - Tim Bing, Huntington

2nd place (\$250) - Adam Hurt, Charleston

3rd place (\$150) - David O'Dell, West Logan
4th place (\$75) - Bob Shank, Morgantown
5th place (\$50) - Pete Kosky, Charleston

Lap Dulcimer

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

Flat Pick Guitar

1st place (\$400) - Matt Lindsey, Dunbar
2nd place (\$250) - Rich Adkins, Cross Lanes
3rd place (\$150) - Rick Falls, Arnoldsburg
4th place (\$75) - Robin Kessinger, St. Albans
5th place (\$50) - Adam Hager, Kenna

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.

For more information, call Ginny Painter at (304) 558-0220, ext. 120.

The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, an agency of the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and History, brings together the state's past, present and future through programs and services in the areas of archives and history, the arts, historic preservation and museums. The Cultural Center is West Virginia's official showcase for the arts. Visit the Division's website at www.wvculture.org for more information about programs of the Division. The Department of Arts, Culture and History is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.