

ing juniors, intermediates, and women. Visit stuttgartarkansas.org/festivalhome.htm, or call (870) 673-1602.

Just Fiddlin' Around

The devil went down to Georgia, but the main event is in Alabama, where the fiddle king can win \$1,000. The Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention, held at Athens State University in Athens, **Alabama**, began in 1967. Contestants in "The Granddaddy of Mid-South Fiddlers Conventions" compete in 15 categories, including fiddle, guitar, harmonica, mandolin, old-time singing, banjo, and buck dancing. Visit athens.edu/fiddlers, or call (256) 233-8215.

Going Deep

Spreading underneath Edmonson County, **Kentucky**, 350-plus miles of underground passageways make up the longest and most extensive cave system in the world. Part of Mammoth Cave National Park, the cave is extremely stable due to thick, aged limestone walls, sealed under a layer of sandstone. Large vertical shafts found deep inside Mammoth's network of subterranean passages include the 192-foot-high Mammoth Dome and the 105-foot-deep Bottomless Pit. Visit nps.gov/mac/index.htm, or call (270) 758-2180.

Send in the Clowns

Wisconsin's known for cheese curds, cheese spreads, and cheese heads. But in Baraboo, **Wisconsin**, it's all about . . . clowns! As headquarters and wintering grounds to the Ringling Brothers Circus from 1884 to 1917, Baraboo now hosts the Circus World Museum. Dedicated to preserving, collecting, and interpreting artifacts and archival material related to American circus history, the museum continues to feature daily cir-

Sounds of the Delta

Purists might cringe, but with a 2007 season lineup including Harry Connick Jr., Van Morrison, the Rebirth Brass Band, and Rod Stewart, it's no wonder the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival is considered among the best festivals in the country. Better known simply as Jazz Fest, the annual celebration honors all the music—jazz, blues, gospel, Cajun, R&B, folk, rock, zydeco, and more—and culture of New Orleans and all of **Louisiana**. Visit nojazzfest.com, or call (504) 558-6100.



cus shows. Visit circusworldmuseum.com/map.html, or call (608) 356-8341.

Head 'Em Out

Canadian pioneer Johnny Grant settled in Deer Lodge, **Montana**, in the 1850s to trade and ranch; hundreds of head of his cattle and horses ranged the valley. In 1866, German-born Conrad Kohrs bought the ranch from Grant and turned it into a 25,000-

acre operation, securing the cattle business in Montana Territory. Today the Grant-Kohrs Ranch is preserved by the National Park Service as a working ranch. Visit nps.gov/grko, or call (406) 846-2070.

Peace Is Abloom

While the United States moves to erect a 370-mile fence along the Mexican border to keep out illegal immigrants, the world's

longest unfortified border between the U.S. and Canada in **North Dakota** and Manitoba is devoted to world peace. Established in 1932, the International Peace Garden attracts thousands of visitors each year with its 2,339-acre botanical garden; more than 150,000 flowers are planted each year. Visit peacegarden.com, or call (888) 432-6733.

The 'Big Stick'

With a touch of "big stick" diplomacy, "World War Zero" ended peacefully on Sept. 5, 1905. Formally ending the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War, the Treaty of Portsmouth—signed at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard near Portsmouth, **New Hampshire**—created four decades of peace between Japan and Russia. As organizer of the peace conference, President Theodore Roosevelt became the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1906. Visit portsmouthpeacetreaty.org, or call (603) 772-1835.

Two Straws, Please

"Enjoy Thirst." "The Pause That Refreshes." Since 1886 the Coca-Cola Company's breadwinning soft drink has sold under a lengthy list of slogans. Though headquartered today in Atlanta, Coca-Cola took off in Vicksburg, **Mississippi**, where on March 12, 1894, it was first manufactured by the Biedenharn Candy Company. Today the Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum hosts a variety of exhibits dedicated to Coke's birth in Vicksburg. Visit biedenhamcocolamuseum.com, or call (601) 638-6514.

Melody Lingers On

Luckily for the Newberry Opera House in Newberry, **South Carolina**, the fat lady has yet to wail. Built in 1881 for \$30,000, the Gothic-inspired Opera House served