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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

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WELL PRESERVED

Alaska State Museum Receives 2012 Ross Merrill Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections

JUNEAU – What does the Alaska State Museum have in common with the Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame in Goshen, New York?

Earlier this May, both museums were selected to receive the 2012 Ross Merrill Award for Outstanding Commitment to the Preservation and Care of Collections, given jointly by the American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and Heritage Preservation.

Presented annually to museums for exemplary stewardship of the historic collections in their care, the Merrill Award recognizes the Alaska State Museum's longstanding commitment to the preservation of its own of cultural property, as well as its dedication to assisting smaller cultural institutions across the state. Currently, the museum helps more than 80 Alaskan museums and cultural centers care for artifacts, in the form of preservation assessments, technical advice, artifact analysis, workshops, equipment loans and funding, among other services. All told, the ASM conducts approximately 800 consults a year.

Merrill Award judges specifically praised the Museum for maintaining a full-time conservator since 1976 as well as storage protocols, treatment planning and employment of modern conservation practices to the benefit of its collections and smaller institutions in Alaska.

"The museum's dedication to preserving artifacts is a sustained one," said Scott Carrlee, ASM Curator of Museum Services. "While we are accepting this award today, in 2012, we accept it on behalf of all the conservators and directors who have worked toward preserving Alaska's history over the last three-and-a-half decades."

Summer hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Summer admission is \$7 with a \$1 discount for seniors. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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