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Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CAPTURING KISKA ASM Presents Photographer Dirk Spennemann

JUNEAU – Kiska Island is an incredibly wild place, home to large wildlife populations, dramatic weather and topography and a 4000-ft. volcano that occasionally emits steam, ash plumes and sometimes even lava. But it is also a National Historic Landmark, strewn with relics from the 14-month standoff between Allied and Japanese forces during World War II. How do you capture such a unique battlefield landscape as it very slowly turns back to tundra?

Join photographer and scholar Dr. Dirk HR Spennemann as he presents a public lecture, “Kiska: A World War II Battlefield Landscape,” Sunday, June 10 at 2:00 pm at the Alaska State Museum.

Copiously illustrated with photos and other mixed-media elements, Dr. Spennemann will discuss the unique cultural and physical landscape of Kiska, as well as its overall importance in understanding other cultural heritage sites in Alaska and elsewhere. He will also touch upon aspects of his own photography—as an artist, he is equally at home in wilderness and urban settings—and his techniques for collecting them into exhibits.

Spennemann is Associate Professor in Cultural Heritage Management at the School of Environmental Sciences at Charles Sturt University in Albury, Australia, specializing in the study and recognition of heritage sites. He is also an accomplished photographer, with exhibits and installations throughout Australia and the Pacific; he has also worked extensively throughout Alaska.

Spennemann’s lecture coincides with one of the two WWII exhibits currently on display at the Alaska State Museum: “Kiska: A World War II Battlefield Landscape” developed in collaboration with the National Park Service-Alaska Regional Office (Janet Clemens) and Charles Sturt University, Albury, Australia (Dirk HR Spennemann), and the Alaska State Museum’s “When ‘Over There’ Was Here: World War II in Alaska.” The exhibits run through Oct. 13, 2012. The lecture is free.

Summer hours at the Alaska State Museum are 8:30 to 5:30 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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www.museums.state.ak.us

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