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## Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Folk Festival history documented in photo exhibit**

Longtime Juneau photographer Brian Wallace will display images from the past three decades of the Alaska Folk Festival in an exhibition opening Friday, April 2, at the Alaska State Museum. An opening reception for the artist, sponsored by The Friends of the Alaska State Museum, will be held from 4 to 7 p.m.

Born and raised in Juneau, Wallace began attending the Alaska Folk Festival at its inception in 1974, when he was a student at Marie Drake Junior High School. He's been at every festival except one since then, and has photographed every festival since 1983.

Wallace, an award-winning photojournalist, worked for the Juneau Empire from the spring of 1982 to December 2009. He documented many important events in Juneau during his tenure there.

"I was walking home from City Café one night in 1974, and I saw people going into the State Museum," Wallace recalled. "I went over to investigate what was going on. It was an event called the Folk Jamboree. I only stayed for a few acts, but I have been a fan of the Folk Festival ever since.

"Some Folk Fests I tried to photograph every act. Other Folk Festivals I was content to just sit on the floor in front of the stage, listening to the music, seeing friends, and taking photos of such Folk Festival stalwarts as Buddy Tabor, Robin Dale Ford, and Teri Tibbett."

Part of the exhibit will have a "Then and Now" theme. Images of performers from recent years will be paired with photos of them from the 1980s and early 1990s.

"My favorite event to take photos of for all these years has been the Folk Festival," Wallace said. "It was always a great place to meet new friends and catch up with old friends, and it was one of the first signs of spring in Juneau."

The exhibit will be on display through April 17. It will coincide with the 36th Annual Alaska Folk Festival being held at Centennial Hall.

Hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Discounted winter admission is \$3. 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:

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

[www.museums.state.ak.us](http://www.museums.state.ak.us)

[return to top](#)

[press releases](#) | [Alaska State Museum](#)