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Release No. 15008

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State Museum Presents Inaugural South Carolina Muzzleloader Conference, Show and Sale

Two-day event brings gun experts and exhibitor from across the country to Columbia

COLUMBIA, S.C., Thursday, March 12, 2015 – The South Carolina State Museum is excited to present the South Carolina Muzzleloader Conference, Show and Sale from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday April 10 and Saturday, April 11. The two-day gun show will feature a variety of workshops and sessions on 18th and 19th century muzzleloaders led by gun and history experts and will also feature displays of muzzleloaders and accessories by exhibitors and collectors from across the country.

Sessions on both Friday and Saturday will focus on a wide array of topics, including the history of early South Carolina muzzleloaders, basic gun layout, gun barrel fit and function, gun building, gun decorating, antique gun conservation, muzzleloader safety and how to construct weaving straps, hunting bags, gun kits and more.

Vendors from across the country will have guns and other accessories on display and will be doing demonstrations on relief carving, metal etching, powder horn decorating, ammunition making and more. They will also have muzzleloaders and gun accoutrements available for purchase, including powder horns, bags, leather pouches and knives.

“These guns and accoutrements bring together history, art and technology,” said State Museum curator of history JoAnn Zeise. “We are excited to bring a variety of arms experts together to build awareness and educate our guests on the significance of pre-Civil War guns and how to properly use and conserve them.”

Muzzleloaders get their name from the way in which they are loaded. A projectile and the propellant are loaded into the muzzle or front open end of the gun barrel. Muzzleloading weapons come in a variety of sizes and types and can be either smoothbore or rifled. Their lineage dates back to the earliest guns and cannons of the 15th century, and they continue to be a popular choice for gun enthusiasts. The museum’s show and conference will focus on the 18th and early 19th century weapon types associated with the settling and founding of America.

The South Carolina Muzzleloader Conference, Show and Sale is included with museum general admission or membership. Please visit scmuseum.org for more information.

About the South Carolina State Museum: *As the state’s largest and most comprehensive museum, the South Carolina State Museum offers a unique, entertaining and educational experience to visitors throughout its 225,000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Columbia’s Congaree Vista. The State Museum is housed in one of its largest artifacts, an 1894 old textile mill full of character and charm. Guests can explore outer space in one of the largest planetariums in the Southeast, watch an interactive 4D movie and look through a vintage telescope in a one-of-a-kind observatory. These opportunities are all in addition to the four floors of South Carolina art, cultural history, natural history and science/technology. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more.*

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Muzzleloader Show Cutline: The South Carolina State Museum will host the inaugural South Carolina Muzzleloader Conference, Show and Sale from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday April 10 and Saturday, April 11. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more. *Photo courtesy of the Contemporary Longrifle Association.*