

A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The Delicious Tradition Carries On – Don't Miss the
23rd Annual "All You Should Eat" Backus Brunch & Painting Raffle
Sunday, March 3, 2019 at the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery**

Fort Pierce, FL – January 30, 2019 – In the tradition of A.E. “Bean” Backus, who knew the best way to bring people together was with great art and wonderful food, the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery invites you to join us for the 23rd Annual “All You Should Eat” Backus Brunch on Sunday, March 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Brunch tickets are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the door, rain or shine. The annual raffle drawing for an original Backus painting valued at \$25,000 will be held at 12:30 p.m., with raffle tickets available for \$25 each, 3 for \$60, or 6 for \$100. Brunch and raffle tickets are available online, by phone, or by visiting the Museum during regular hours.

The Backus Brunch is the modern translation of an authentic Florida Cracker breakfast, with many extras to enjoy. The signature menu items are fresh-fried mahi-mahi, creamy scrambled eggs laced with cream cheese and other secret ingredients, southern-style biscuits, and cheese grits. But your palate will be even happier to know that there’s also sausage, pancakes, biscuits with the Summerlin Family secret recipe for sausage gravy, fresh squeezed Nelson Family Farms orange juice, Plant City strawberries, and, naturally, mimosas and Bloody Marys.

Each year, the highlight of the event takes place at 12:30 p.m. with the raffle drawing for an original painting. This year, the painting is beautiful 30" x 24" scene, *St. Lucie River* (1968), oil on canvas, valued at \$25,000. This striking vertical scene captures the fragile grandeur of our local ecosystem, and is a magnificent reminder of the importance of our natural environment. Only 2,500 tickets will be available so odds are exceptionally good to win if you participate. Raffle tickets are available for \$25 each, 3 for \$60, or 6 for \$100. You need not be present to win, but you do need to buy a ticket, and the more you buy, the better your chances.

While enjoying the Backus Brunch or waiting for the raffle, you can also delight in the final day of the special exhibition *Artists of Color: Place, Race, and Vision of the Florida Highwaymen*. The exhibition will be on view until 4:00 pm, March 3, 2019.

Don't miss the Backus Brunch — a delicious tradition! The Backus Brunch is an event benefitting the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery, and generously sponsored by Sunrise Ford and Nelson Family Farms.

About the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery

With a recently added, multi-million dollar expansion, the A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery houses the nation's largest public presentation of artwork by Florida's preeminent painter, A.E.

“Bean” Backus (1906-1990), and is home to the state’s only permanent multimedia exhibition on the Florida Highwaymen.

With a career spanning more than 70 years, Backus was the first Florida-born artist to build his professional renown by painting the landscape and scenes from daily life of his native state. He was fortunate to have known great success during his lifetime, with paintings hanging in the businesses and the private collections of many of Florida’s most prominent citizens. A renowned humanitarian who abhorred the racist attitudes and segregation that engulfed the region, Backus taught and mentored the group of entrepreneurial African American artists who became known as the Florida Highwaymen. Their inspiring story is part of the A.E. Backus legacy.

In addition to preserving and perpetuating the artistic and humanitarian legacy of Backus, the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim. It was voted "Best Museum 2018" in Indian River Magazine's annual "Best of the Treasure Coast," where it was described as "a fabulous place to visit."

Regular Hours are: Wednesday – Saturday, 10 AM to 4 PM; Sunday, 12 Noon to 4 PM (closed Monday-Tuesday). Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Students with school ID, children under 18, active duty military, and current members are always free. During the regular season, the first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day.

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