

A. E. BACKUS MUSEUM & GALLERY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Summer Schedule of Weekend Hours Begins for the Backus Museum

Fort Pierce, Florida, June 21, 2019 –

The A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery is shifting to its summer schedule of public hours. Starting Saturday, June 22 the Museum will be open to the public Saturdays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, and Sundays 12 Noon – 4:00 PM. This summer the Museum will offer free admission on Sunday, July 7 and Sunday, August 4 as part of its Free Admission Days on the first Sundays of the month. The Museum's summer schedule will continue through Sunday, August 11, then closing to prepare for the upcoming new season. For more information, please visit www.BackusMuseum.com.

With a recently added, multi-million dollar expansion, the Museum 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 reputation 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, during the regular season the Museum organizes and hosts changing exhibitions from artists of national and international acclaim.

In addition to the permanent collection and video presentation always available to view, there is an outdoor family scavenger hunt accessible at any time on the Outdoor Mural Plaza. And no visit would be complete without a stop in the Museum Store, which offers many fine and creative gift items, including unique merchandise inspired by the works of Backus. The Backus Museum 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."

Summer Museum hours are Saturdays, 10 AM to 4 PM; and Sundays, 12 Noon to 4 PM. Admission is \$5 per person; AARP, AAA, and Veterans with appropriate ID receive a \$2 discount. Museum members, students with school ID, children under 18, and active duty military are always free. The first Sunday of the month is Free Admission Day.

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