

## Fort Pierce

### From the River to the Ranch: The Gathering in Fort Pierce February 17-19, 2006

#### Schedule of Events

##### Pre-Gathering

Pre-Gathering, Friday, February 17, 2006

Arrive early and get a jump-start on your Gathering weekend!

An additional fee is charged for this activity.

*During the Pre-Gathering we will:*

A view of the Indian River Lagoon in Fort Pierce. Cruise upon the Indian River lagoon with Captain "Chop" Lege. Enjoy the beauty of this unique estuarine ecosystem and study it in further detail with a scholar from the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit at the St. Lucie County Marine Center. Visit a local fish house to explore how some local residents make their living from the estuary. Discover the importance of the sea in Fort Pierce's history at the St. Lucie County Historical museum, and enjoy lunch at a local seafood restaurant.

##### The Gathering

During our weekend together we will:

*The Gathering weekend begins with a 5:30 pm reception on Friday, October 13.*

- **Exploration of the Adams Ranch, one of Florida's oldest cattle ranching operations**  
We will tour the grounds and facilities with ranch President Mike Adams to learn about the intricacies of the cattle industry, consider early Florida culture while listening to a talk by Dana Ste. Claire, author of *Cracker: Cracker Culture in Florida*, enjoy the tales of Judge Nelson Bailey the "Florida Cracker Storyteller," and view a stunning photographic presentation by Carlton Ward, an eighth-generation Floridian from an old Florida ranching family (see Adams Ranch photo at top). A hearty barbecue and entertainment by Florida folk musician Frank Thomas will round out the adventure.
- **Architectural and historical walking tour of downtown Fort Pierce**  
Following an early morning visit to a charming farmer's market two local historians will guide us through the storied streets of Fort Pierce. During our walk we will meet some of the area's most colorful historic figures, brought to life by Fort Pierce citizens.
- **Reception at the A.E Backus Gallery**  
A.E "Bean" Backus, one of Florida's premier landscape painters drew his inspiration from the beautiful natural surroundings of the Fort Pierce area. He served as a guiding influence in the careers of the young African-American artists who came to be known as the Highwaymen. Gallery director Kathleen Frederick, a close friend of Backus' before his death in 1990, will discuss his life and work.
- **Study of the celebrated Highwaymen**  
Following dinner art historian Dr. Kristin Congdon, will lead a panel discussion exploring the unique story of the Highwaymen, the mid 20th-century black painters who survived on their wits and their talent. We will enjoy discussion with the only female Highwayman, Mary Ann Carroll, as well as Zenobia Jefferson, the art teacher who taught many of the young artists.
- **Archeological presentation on the Spanish Treasure Fleet that sank off the east coast of Florida in the 1700s**  
Join Dr. John de Bry, Director of the Center for Historical Archeology, as he speaks of the Spanish fleet that sunk off the Treasure Coast in 1715. Learn of the archeological riches that lay on the ocean's floor just off the shores of Fort Pierce.
- **Fish Fry on the banks of the Indian River lagoon**  
Enjoy a famous Summerlin family fish fry while overlooking the city's beautiful waterline.

