

**November 16, 2021**

## **‘Backroads of Montana’ Host William Marcus to Retire; Program Will Continue**

After 50 episodes, the awarding-winning Montana PBS series *Backroads of Montana* is announcing that long-time host William Marcus will be retiring.

Marcus, a fixture on Montana Public Radio for years and the former director of the University of Montana Broadcast Media Center, has been the host of Backroads since it premiered in 1991.

“There are many stories yet to be told, and many places yet to visit on Backroads. The show is certain to go on for years,” Marcus said. “The 50th program after 30 years seems like a good point to pause and reflect on what’s next. And for me to step aside. I am immensely proud of the programs we’ve produced and grateful to the talented Backroads producers who have made it such a pleasure to be the ‘face’ of the program.”

Backroads of Montana and Montana PBS will celebrate Marcus’ time as host during a special pledge event scheduled for Wednesday, December 1 at 8PM MST.

Backroads producer John Twiggs will assume the hosting role for episodes starting in 2022. “William leaves behind a legacy of excellence,” said Twiggs. “We’re excited to continue that tradition and share more great Montana stories.”

“John Twiggs understands the legacy, the impact and the potential of the program,” Marcus said. “I look forward to watching.”

“William has been a friend to so many Montana PBS viewers,” said Ray Ekness, Director of the UM Broadcast Media Center and a Backroads Producer. “He has introduced so many folks to parts of our state that we didn’t know existed.”

Marcus, Twiggs, Gus Chambers, Anna Rau, Breanna McCabe and Ray Ekness produce *Backroads of Montana* for Montana PBS through the University of Montana Broadcast Media Center.

*Backroads of Montana*, now in its 30th year of production, is made possible with support from the Greater Montana Foundation, a Big Sky Film Grant, and UM. Backroads has received multiple awards including being named the Montana Broadcasters Association non-commercial television program of the year numerous times. To view previous and upcoming episodes, visit [montanapbs.org/backroadsofmontana](https://montanapbs.org/backroadsofmontana).



Montana PBS (KUFM-TV in Missoula, KUSM-TV in Bozeman, KUKL-TV in Kalispell, KBGS-TV in Billings, KUGF-TV in Great Falls and KUHM-TV in Helena) is a service of the University of Montana and Montana State University. For more information, visit <http://www.montanapbs.org>.

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#### **CONTACTS**

John Twiggs, Producer | [john.twiggs@umontana.edu](mailto:john.twiggs@umontana.edu)

Laura Dick, Director of Digital Engagement | [laura@montanapbs.org](mailto:laura@montanapbs.org)

#### **KUSM-TV**

Montana State University  
Visual Communications Building 183  
Bozeman, MT 59717  
406.994.3437  
Fax 406.994.6545

#### **KUFM-TV**

University of Montana  
Broadcast Media Center  
32 Campus Drive  
Missoula, MT 59812  
406.243.4101  
Fax 406.243.3299