

“Build & Brew” on July 16!

Mound House Hosts Fun Event

By Gary Mooney

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The historic Mound House on Fort Myers Beach hosts the new fun event, “Build & Brew,” on Friday, July 16, for \$40-per-person, with Mound House members at \$30. “Build & Brew” admission includes one full craft beer along with sample tastings, as well as an approximately one-hour class on learning how to construct an ancient craft; on July 16, guests will build, learn to throw, and get to keep their own spear! “Build & Brew” will be outdoors unless weather conditions necessitate the move inside. The Mound House encourages all nonvaccinated guests to wear masks, with a limit of 20 people. Advance registration is necessary by Wednesday, July 14, at 239-765-0865, and you must be 21 years of age or older to attend.

“At the Mound House, we offer an exciting variety of programs that serve the entire community,” emphasized Alison Giesen, Mound House Director and Director of Cultural Resources for the Town of Fort Myers Beach. “‘Build & Brew’ will help us to reach a new audience that perhaps is unfamiliar with our museum and grounds. It is an entertaining format that allows us to teach others about some unique aspect of our site’s history, and by guests that evening learning how to build and throw their own spear, similar to ones the ancient Calusa used for hunting, they will have fun while learning a few new things all at the same time! The best part is that we will offer other ‘Build & Brew’ events throughout the year, with each having a different craft as well as craft beer vendor, so each one will be unique, where you will never have the same adventure twice, allowing the Mound House fun formats to fulfill our mission of reaching out to and better serving our community.”

Alison added that “guests will be able to sample various offerings from the craft beer vendor before choosing the one they want for their full serving. If beer is not your thing, we will offer wine and non-alcoholic options as well, along with snacks. ‘Build & Brew’ starts at 6 p.m. and we estimate that it will take roughly 60 to 90 minutes to sample and enjoy your craft beer, while building and learning to throw your spear! You are welcome to tour the Mound House as well while you are at the program. We want ‘Build & Brew’ to end early enough so you and your guests still have plenty of time to visit one of Fort Myers Beach’s terrific restaurants to continue your evening out with dinner and music.”

To take advantage of the \$10 Mound House members’ “Build & Brew” discount, Alison encourages everyone to join up! “All members receive free Mound House admission for one year, a 10% discount on all Mound House Museum Store purchases, email notifications on all upcoming events and programs like future ‘Build & Brews,’ free or discounted admissions on Mound House special events and programs, and an invitation to the Annual Member’s Celebration!”

**Flick-of-The-Wrist!**

Mound House Environmental Education Manager Dexter Norris explained that “the ancient Calusa and other early humans used the spear for hundreds of thousands of years for hunting as well as for combat, but we promise that at ‘Build & Brew,’ we will not turn loose our spears on each other! The spear works on the laws of basic physics and leverage to achieve enough velocity so that it covers a great deal of ground when you throw it. It is really a simple tool and similar these days to the modern dog stick with a tennis ball that you see many people use when playing fetch with their four-legged friends. We incorporate spear-throwing demonstrations at many Mound House programs and events, and I have yet to see anyone not having great fun in learning how it works, as we teach you the flick-of-the-wrist method. We will have a target set up and you will impress yourself with how far you can throw it!”

The Mound House, at 451 Connecticut Street with overflow parking at 216 Connecticut, is the oldest standing structure on Estero Island and operated by the Town of Fort Myers Beach as a museum complex and cultural and environmental learning center. It is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for ages 13 & up, \$8 for students with IDs, \$5 ages 6 to 12, and 5 & under free, with Town residents receiving a 50% discount. For additional information and a monthly programs schedule, call 239-765-0865 or visit [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org). The Mound House recommends that all non-vaccinated COVID-19 guests, whether attending the “Build & Brew” or any of its other events or programs, wear masks and observe Social Distancing. “We continue to follow Center for Disease Control guidelines,” stressed Alison, “to maintain a safe museum environment for everyone.”

### **We Keep History Alive!**

“If you have family or friends visiting from out of town, ‘Build & Brew’ is the ideal way to begin your weekend, show off the Mound House to them, enjoy a craft beer while sneaking in a little education, meet a few new friends from throughout the community, and still have plenty of time left in your Friday evening for dinner and other activities,” summarized Alison. “We hope the ‘Build & Brew’ programs will inspire people to visit the Mound House, as social events like this are a lot of fun, so we are excited to share this new concept with Fort Myers Beach and Southwest Florida!”

“It is important that the Mound House offer new and exciting events like ‘Build & Brew,’” added Dexter, “to keep our programming fresh, not only to attract new guests to our site, but to give regular visitors an ongoing reason to return. If you cannot attend the initial ‘Build & Brew,’ keep an eye out for upcoming ones at [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org). At the Mound House, we keep history alive!”