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## **Summer fun at the Mound House** *Lecture series and expanded hours*

**Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL** - The iconic Mound House, one of Southwest Florida's most-beloved historic attractions that traces its roots to the ancient Calusa of over 2,000 years ago, is inaugurating a new Summer Lecture Series while expanding its summer museum hours.

The series is the second Tuesday of each month and will be from July through September. Reservations are required and the deadline is the Monday before each lecture.

The first lecture will be on Tuesday, July 12. Mound House Education Coordinator Adam Knight will present *"Rancho Reality: Latino History at The Mound House."* Discover the rich culture of Cuban fishers, Spanish Indians, and the United States settlers of Estero Island and Southwest Florida. (Reservations are required by Monday, July 11.)

The second lecture will be on Tuesday, Aug. 9. Mound House Curator of Education Bobby Feldman will offer *"The Creatures of The Mound House: From Birds to Bugs."* Learn about the common animals found on the grounds and gain a greater appreciation of wildlife. (Reservations are required by Monday, Aug. 8.)

The Summer Lecture Series concludes on Tuesday, Sept. 13. Mound House Environmental Educator Yvette Carrasco will offer *"Butterflies on The Bay."* Yvette provides a closer examination of the endangered Atala Butterfly and other Fort Myers Beach butterflies. (Reservations are required by Monday, Sept. 12.)

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The Town of Fort Myers Beach, incorporated since 1995, is on Estero Island off the southwest Florida coast of the Gulf of Mexico. The beach stretches for seven miles and has sugar-white sand and spectacular shell finds and sunsets. The Town has a variety of unique cultural, parks, recreational and natural settings, as well as shops and restaurants.

The Summer Lecture Series is for adults only, with a wine and refreshments reception at 5:30 p.m. The lectures will be from 6 to 7 p.m. Due to limited seating, advance registrations are necessary and can be made by calling 239-765-0865. The cost is \$7 for Mound House members and \$12 for non-members.

In addition to the Summer Lecture Series, the Mound House will retain its current Tuesday through Saturday hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. rather than reverting to its shorter schedule from previous summers. The Museum Store is open during Mound House hours and the grounds are free for everyone to enjoy seven days a week from sunrise to sunset.

As the oldest standing structure on Estero Island, the Town of Fort Myers Beach operates the Mound House as a museum complex and cultural and environmental learning experience. Numerous monthly educational programs are perfect for adults and children. The house and grounds overlook Estero Bay.

The Mound House address is 451 Connecticut Street. Overflow parking is at 216 Connecticut Street. Admission is \$10 for ages 13 and older, \$8 for students with IDs, \$5 for ages 6 to 12. Children who are 5 and under are free. Residents of Fort Myers Beach receive a 50 percent museum admission discount.

For information, reservations, and a monthly program schedule, call 239-765-0865 or visit [www.moundhouse.org](http://www.moundhouse.org).

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