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2525 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, Fla. 33931

Upcoming programs at Mound House

Town of Fort Myers Beach, FL – Mound House is excited to announce that the museum and museum store will be open an additional day, which started on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

The hours will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. The grounds including the observation pier, kayak launch, and 2.85 acres of bayside native plantings will be open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The address of Mound House is 451 Connecticut Street.

Mound House will also expand its programming by offering the popular guided Eco-Kayak Tours on Saturdays and Wednesdays at 9 a.m. These tours – led by experts - take participants through mangroves tunnels and hidden inlets of Estero Bay. Encounters with dolphins, manatees, raccoons, stingrays, tarpon, rosette spoonbills, and herons, along with other birds, are common. To register for kayak tours, visit www.MoundHouse.org.

Mound House also offers daily guided Shell Mound tours that include a tour of the site, a hands-on replica artifact demonstration, and atlatl spear throwing. Learn about the Calusa - the first residents of Fort Myers Beach - and how this indigenous nation constructed large shell mounds and ruled southern Florida for nearly 2,000 years. Check www.MoundHouse.org for costs, information and tour times. No reservations are required.

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Incorporated since 1995, the Town of Fort Myers Beach is on Estero Island off the southwest Florida coast of the Gulf of Mexico. The beach stretches for seven miles and is known for white sand, shell finds, and sunsets. Two attractions operated by the Town are Bay Oaks Recreational Campus and Mound House. The Town took a direct hit in September 2022 from Hurricane Ian, a category five storm, and is in active recovery. However, many shops and restaurants are restored and open for business!

Events

1) Mound House Lecture Series: *The Calusa Legacy* / Tuesday, Nov. 7, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

What is the continuing legacy of the Calusa? Learn more about the connections of the Calusa people to the broader area during the Ancestral period, and the legacy of the Calusa ancestors within the Seminole Tribe today.

Dave Scheidecker, Research Coordinator for the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s Tribal Historic Preservation Office, will be the presenter. He graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a B.A. in History, and from Texas Tech with a Master’s in Anthropology. He has worked on historic and prehistoric archaeological sites in Texas, Ecuador, and Zimbabwe before returning to Florida. Dave has been with the THPO since 2015.

Mound House members save at \$7 per person. Regular admission is \$15 per person. Price includes lecture, museum admission, and complimentary light food and drinks. Register at www.MoundHouse.org.

2) Small Business Saturday / Saturday, Nov. 25, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Shop small and shop local at the Mound House Museum Store on national Small Business Saturday and receive 20% off storewide. Mound House members will save an additional 10%. The Museum Store features curated items with a focus on history and nature including toys, jewelry, home décor, books, wellness, bird-friendly coffee, local honey, and more.

3) Women’s Club Christmas Tree Festival / Friday, Dec. 8 and Saturday, Dec. 9.

Mound House will host the Fort Myers Beach Women’s Club for its annual Christmas Tree Festival. Learn more at www.fmb-wc.org.

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