

Summer Fun at The Mound House!

Lecture Series & Expanded Hours

By Gary Mooney

thewritestuff25@gmail.com

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.

"We hear from Fort Myers Beach residents that many organizations host special events during Season, our busiest time of year on the island," said Alison Giesen, Mound House Executive Director and Director of Culture, Parks & Recreation for the Town of Fort Myers Beach. "As a result, the Mound House is committed to continuing to serve our residents and visitors with our very popular lecture series that we will now offer year-round, so our Summer Lecture Series that is the second Tuesday of each month will run from July through September."

On Tuesday, July 12, Mound House Education Coordinator Adam Knight presents "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 during Florida's "Forgotten Century." Mound House Curator of Education Bobby Feldman offers "The Creatures of The Mound House: From Birds to Bugs," on Tuesday, August 9. Learn about the common animals found on the Mound House grounds while gaining a greater appreciation of suburban wildlife. The Summer Lecture Series concludes on Tuesday, September 13, with Mound House Environmental Educator Yvette Carrasco offering "Butterflies on The Bay." Yvette provides a closer examination of the endangered Atala Butterfly and other Fort Myers Beach butterflies.

The Summer Lecture Series is for adults only, with a wine-&-refreshments reception at 5:30 p.m. and the programs from 6 to 7 p.m. Due to limited seating, advance registrations are necessary at 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 previous Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday summer schedule. "The Mound House is more popular than ever," explains Alison, "so we want to make visiting the site as convenient as possible. Just like many Fort Myers Beach businesses and attractions, the Mound House is discovering that Estero Island no longer has an off season! Remember that our spectacular Museum Store is open during Mound House hours and our beautiful grounds are free to everyone 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 that offers numerous monthly tourism and educational programs, including for kids. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Mound House is at 451 Connecticut Street with overflow parking at 216 Connecticut. Admission is \$10 for ages 13 & up, \$8 for students with IDs, \$5 ages 6 to 12, and 5 & under free, with Fort Myers Beach residents receiving a 50% museum admission discount. For information, reservations, and a monthly program schedule, call 239-765-0865 or see www.moundhouse.org. The Mound House – where history comes alive!