Mound Key Field Trip

Date: Saturday, January 16, 2016

Time: 7:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
(Boat departs promptly at 8am; please arrive early to allow time to park and load the boat; No refunds for late arrivals.)

Departure Location: Captain Ed’s Charter Boats
27598 Marina Pointe Drive
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Cost: $15 per person
(Includes boat ride to/from island, guided tour, snack, bug spray, sunscreen; a cooler will be available if you would like to bring drinks or food)

For more information, please contact Robin Palmer at robin@palmerit.net or 941-916-0291.

Mound Key:
Elevated mounds and ridges, sculpted canals and watercourts remain a visible yet subtle reminder of the once thriving Calusa society in today’s southwest Florida landscape. Able to capitalize on the abundant estuarine and marine resources along the Gulf coast, the Calusa became the most powerful aboriginal group in south Florida - controlling the southern third of the Florida peninsula at the time of European contact. Mound Key in Estero Bay - the Calusa capital - remains the first specific location documented in the voyage of Juan Ponce de León in 1513 that named La Florida and set in motion events that lead to the United States of America. Join us as we explore this remarkable island capital the Calusa called Stababa.

This archaeological tour includes a beautiful cruise across Estero Bay and guided tour of Mound Key by archaeologist Theresa Schober. A well-known local archaeologist, Theresa has focused her research on the archaeological sites in Estero Bay. In addition to guiding tours, she is the executive director of a documentary in production about Mound Key.

Please dress for the outdoors and bring water and snacks with you. Wear layered clothing, hat, sunglasses and comfortable, closed toe shoes for hiking/walking. Note: Mound Key is an unimproved state park; there are no benches or restrooms; pathways are primitive and tour participants will hike up and down steep inclines without the benefit of stairs or railings; participants will alternate between walking/hiking and standing for the duration of the time on Mound Key. Please assess whether any medical condition would prevent you from making this hike comfortably. A liability waiver is required for participation in the guided tour.

Recommended items to bring:
- Polarized sunglasses
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Towel
- Jacket
- Closed Toe Walking Shoes
- Water
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Directions from Florida Gulf Coast University

- Take FGCU Blvd. to Ben Hill Griffin Pkwy. South to Corkscrew Rd. (2.6 miles).
- Turn right onto Corkscrew Rd.
- Turn left onto U.S. 41 South/ Tamiami Trail (5.5 miles)
- Turn right onto South Bay Dr.
- Turn left onto Country Club Dr.
- Turn right onto Bonita Bay Blvd.
- Turn left on Marina Pointe Dr.
- Location will be on the right