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**Membership
Meeting**

March 7, 2016

6:30 p.m.

**Kelcee Smith,
Cindy Bear**

MUSEUM OF THE ISLANDS SOCIETY, INC.

5728 Sesame, Bokeelia, FL 33922

**MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 305, St. James City, FL 33956
239-283-1525**

www.museumoftheislands.com

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2016

FROM THE FRONT DESK



We had some very sad news this month. Sal Anastasio, our excellent Membership Chairman, passed away on February 11 of heart failure. We have lost a beloved member of MOTI who worked tirelessly for our museum. Condolences to Lynn Sarda, Sal's wife, and also a devoted volunteer for MOTI.

The Rhythm and Rummage Sale at the St. James Civic Association was a huge success — more than \$1400.00 was raised for MOTI. Also, the 50/50 was won by a generous veteran, who donated his part back to MOTI! We certainly have some outstanding people in our community ... always willing to help us.

SPEAKER SERIES: From the Podium ...

***MARCH 7, 2016 — 6:30 PM —
Fishers of Men Lutheran Church —***

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN TIME!!!

We have a very special membership meeting on March 7. This is election night, and we have two great presentations for you. The first one will be at 6:30 p.m. Please see PAGE 3 for a longer writeup about both presentations. This will be the last membership meeting of this season. Hope to see you there.

MUSEUM TOURS ... Please contact Carolyn Murphey to arrange a tour of MOTI for individuals or groups.

MEMBERSHIP

We have received several membership renewals and a few new memberships. Our Family Membership is an especially good deal. With it you can bring your children and grandchildren with you for no extra charge. For young kids we have a "treasure hunt", which they love, and can get a small prize for participating.

Please talk up MOTI to your friends and neighbors. We need to increase our membership. It is a very worthwhile organization and we would welcome new members.

VOLUNTEERS

If you can give at least 4 hours one day a month to welcome locals and visitors to the museum, please contact me. You will learn more about our unique history, meet great people and will know that you are providing a wonderful service to your community. We can work around your schedule so please consider joining our team of great volunteers. We need your help.

If you would like to become a MOTI volunteer, please call Ced at 239-283-5050 or 239-850-9850.

TOURS

Don't forget about MOTI when you are looking for interesting activities for your guests. Our tours are a great way to spend an hour or so and learn all about the history of our special island. Call the museum at 283-1525 to arrange for a guide (10 people or more).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, March 7, 6:30 PM

General Membership Meeting—Speaker:
Kelcee Smith, Louisiana State University —
Sampling of the Smalltooth Sawfish.

Monday, March 7, 7:00 PM

General Membership Meeting — Speaker:
Cindy Bear, Randell Research Center —
Life of the Calusa



Small Sawtooth Rostra at MOTI. This one is about 24" long ... we also have one that is about 4 feet long. Both will be sampled.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Museum of the Islands (MOTI) will present a special program on Monday, March 7, 2016, starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, 10360 Stringfellow Rd., Pine Island Center. Kelcee Smith, a Graduate Research Assistant at Louisiana State University, will give a short presentation on her recent sampling of MOTI'S Smalltooth Sawfish. Her project aims to determine the genetic diversity of the species before and after their population decline. To do this she needs both contemporary and historic genetic samples. Rostra held by museums throughout the historic range (like Museum of the Islands) provide a unique opportunity for sampling the genetic past of the species. Because rostra are dried and not stored in formalin like most fish, DNA is less degraded. These methods provide a good way of comparing historic and present diversity in Smalltooth Sawfish DNA, and will help in determining future action for preservation of the species.

Cindy Bear, Coordinator of Programs and Services, Randell Research Center, will be the main speaker at the meeting, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Cindy, a Pine Island resident, is a fifth-generation native Floridian. She holds degrees in Wildlife Ecology and Science Education. Her involvement with public archaeology came with her 20-year tenure with the Environmental Education Program of the Lee County School District, leading field trips to the first excavations at the Randell Research Center.

In her presentation, Cindy will discuss the Calusa People and their ancestors, and will include an overview on the methods archaeologists and historians have used to piece together the story we know today. She will highlight recent new excavations at the Research Center and how they are furthering understanding of the remarkable Calusa culture.

The program is free and the public is invited to attend.

**Don't forget the MOTI Gift Shop when you are looking
for that special gift.**

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