



Museum of the Islands Summer 2026 Newsletter



Summer 2026

by Karen Hartshorne, President

Moving a little slower, relaxing in the afternoon heat on the front porch, or the pool with a cool drink. That's how we do summer.

We are open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 11-3. Please let us know if you have any special requests for tours. We love that!

Please feel free to pass our newsletter on to your friends and relatives. Past years newsletters are on our website archives. You may view them [here](#).

Looking for something to do that is fun and helps others? Volunteer at the museum. We would love to have you join our Team.



THIS Summer's
TOP STORIES

We've Been Busy!

The island celebrated the 4th of July in style with a parade. Hope you got to see it. It's these summer months when the fruit on the island comes in. Wonderful mangos are plentiful right now. Fruit and vegetable stands are great places to stop and load up. The island smells of saltwater, grass cutting, plumerias, and all in full force right now. But remember, you can

always stop in the museum with your pet and step into the cool a/c to soak up some history. What a deal for \$3!

Museum of the Islands
5728 Sesame Drive
Bokeelia, FL
239-283-1525
museumoftheislands.com

Preserving the
Past for the
Future

Summer: May through October 11-3,
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday
Winter: November through April 11-3,
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and
Saturday

The Membership Drive in June was great. Did you miss it and want to join or renew? You may visit the museum, or [mail in your form](#).

Our new brochures are available now in the museum.



We've been stocking our Gift Shop



Writing to a friend? We have note cards in the museum for you to send. Slip in this bumper sticker for \$2. They'll love it.

Our gift shop is stocked with goodies. We have Museum of the Islands t-shirts, books, original artwork, archival art supplies, jewelry, notecards, and framed reproductions of photos you love. If you are not in town we are happy to ship to you.

We have weekly sales. Watch for them on our sandwich board in the front.

We've been having fun

This summer we've held free art lessons for children each Tuesday. 🌟 A huge Thank You to sponsors of the Children's Art



Program. Our special thank you to the [Pine Island Art Association](#) for the use of their building at Matlacha Community Park, and [Pine Island Seafood](#) in Matlacha so that we can offer free classes to children. 🌟

Take a look at our world around us through a child's eyes.



All children are welcome to paint with us.

We've been painting history

The Pine Island Plein Air History Painting Group is always discovering new places. We painted at Randell Research, The Master's Grove, Green Acres, Matlacha, Angler's Inn, Wigert Barron Preserve, Galt Preserve, Tropical Point, and Pineland Post Office.



Did I leave any place out? If you have somewhere you'd like to see painted please let us know. Email Karen at giftshop@museumoftheislands.com.

We'd love to have you join us. Bring your supplies, the cost is free and all ages are welcome. Our youngest plein air painter is 9, so don't think you have to be able to exhibit at the Louvre to paint with us. Just come have fun. To view our schedule visit [Paint](#) on the museum's website. You may also join the group on Facebook, [Pine Island Plein Air Painters of History](#).

Later This Year 2026

Never too early to plan for our December Open House. Our booth spaces are only \$10 and the best deal on the island. If you would like to be a vendor start getting your things together now. We will announce the date later, but it is usually the first Saturday in December, Pearl Harbor Day.

We are ready to help our neighbors. As soon as Randell Research reopens their classroom we want to have free art get togethers in it. You will need to bring your own supplies and may email Karen at giftshop@museumoftheislands.com if you'd like help getting started.

If you are not a member, or would like to renew your membership you may visit our [page](#), come into the museum and see us, or mail it in to PO Box 103, Matlacha, FL 33993.

You may also purchase tickets to the museum for \$3 each to give to a friend or customer. We also have gift certificates.

We would love to have you join us as a Volunteer in the museum. The people you meet, stories you hear and things you will learn about this area are wonderful. Come have fun with us and make a difference. Be a part of the museum's legacy.

Need to get in touch with us?

Museum Phone

239-283-1525

Gift Shop

giftshop@museumoftheislands.com

Information

info@museumoftheislands.com

Mail

PO Box 103, Matlacha, FL 33993

.....



Museum of the Islands
5728 Sesame
Bokeelia, Florida
museumoftheislands.com