

EDISON and FORD winter ESTATES

HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM
LABORATORY



FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN AT EDISON FORD

MEMBER MAGAZINE
JANUARY 2020

EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

2350 McGregor Boulevard
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
(239) 334-7419
www.EdisonFord.org

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GENERAL HOURS

Open Seven Days a Week
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

ADMISSION

Audio tour:

Edison Ford Members: FREE

Adults: \$25

Teen: (ages 13-19) \$20

Children: (ages 6-12) \$15

Children: (ages 5 and under) FREE

Guided tour:

Edison Ford Members: \$5

Adults: \$30.00

Teen: (ages 13-19) \$25.00

Children: (ages 6-12) \$18.00

Children: (ages 5 and under) FREE

**To become a member of Edison Ford,
apply online at www.EdisonFord.org**

Follow us on Social Media



EDISON FORD HOSTS HISTORIC THIRD ANNUAL "FORD LEGACY SUMMIT"

In November, our site was honored to receive leadership staff from more than a dozen prominent Ford legacy sites around the country. Now in its third year, the annual Ford Legacy Summit provides a place for Ford organizations to come together. This year, a Purpose Statement was created to better define the role the group will play moving forward:

[The Ford Legacy Summit is an] annual gathering of Ford-related organizations with the goal of exploring ideas, sharing resources, building relationships, and increasing awareness of the Ford legacy.

We were proud to host this important meeting at our site, and to share what makes Edison Ford such a unique place. Summit attendees also experienced much of what makes southwest Florida so special: the diverse history and culture of the Downtown River District, the natural beauty of the Caloosahatchee, and of course, a respite from the snowy weather that many of their home sites were experiencing.

Going forward, Edison Ford staff will continue to participate in these Summits, which will continue at a different Ford legacy location each year.



GARDEN AND ART VIP TOUR WEST PALM BEACH - FEBRUARY 8, 2020

Mounts Botanical Gardens and Norton Museum of Art

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$140; non-members: \$155 (includes all transportation, admissions, lunch and gratuities).

Become a member and take advantage of all available discounts.

This trip will be a gardener and art-lovers day! Join us for a morning at Mounts Botanical Garden and afternoon at the Norton Museum of Art – an outdoor and indoor art museum.

Mounts Botanical Garden of Palm Beach County is a 14-acre living plant museum with over 25 unique garden areas, a tropical paradise with ever-changing beauty that will inspire all garden enthusiasts. Each garden within the collection is a living exhibit, with plants chosen specifically to tell a story about the choices they can make within a challenging subtropical climate. There is a Rose Garden, Garden of Tranquility, Herb Garden, O'Keefe Rain Garden, Butterfly Garden, and Edible Landscape and a Windows on the Floating World, just to name a few. This private-docent led tour will provide a great overview of all the gardens. Participants will also have a chance to see the stickwork exhibit called Cutting Corners: a Stickwork Exhibit by internationally acclaimed artist, Patrick Dougherty, who created a sculpture out of 30,000 pounds of willow, which is reminiscent of a fortress. There is also a gift and garden shop of unique items on site.

Next, we will head to the Norton Museum of Art for lunch and a tour. Lunch will be provided at The Restaurant at the Norton. We will have a private dining area and a selection of food items served family-style that will satisfy even the most discriminating diner.

After lunch we will have a private, docent-led tour of the museum, which was expanded in 2013 to meet the needs of the growing population. The museum originally opened in 1941 by Ralph Hubbard Norton. Norton was an industrialist who headed the Acme Steel Company in Chicago. He and his wife became interested in art and began collecting and decorating their home. When Norton retired he wasn't sure what to do with all of the art. In 1940, he began construction on the Gallery and School in Palm Beach as a place to showcase and share his art. Today the museum has more than 7,600 works; European, American, and Chinese art as well as contemporary art and photography. This museum is a must-see and participants will have additional time to explore – there is a lot to see!

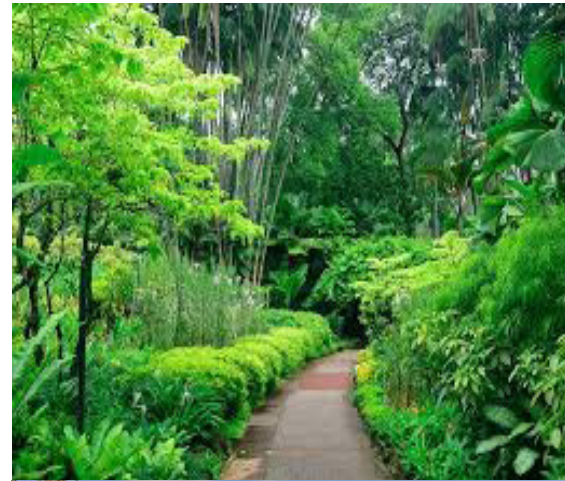
Last, we will make a stop at the famous Worth Avenue for snacks, beverages or just a little "window shopping" before we head back to beautiful Fort Myers.

Cancellation Policy - Cancellations must be made more than 14 days before the tour date to receive a refund, unless your vacancy can be filled.

For questions or to make **reservations** for this or any tour, please contact Sherri Muske at 239-335-3677 or smuske@edisonford.org.

UPCOMING TOURS:

March 28, 2020: Naples - Naples Botanic Garden and Revs Institute which houses one of the largest archives of automotive history ever preserved for scholars and connoisseurs alike. Members: \$140; non-members: \$155



SPECIAL PROGRAMS

VOLUNTEER MEETING AND LECTURE SERIES

Manatee Rescues

January 14, 10 a.m., South Florida Water Management
Lecture Hall, 2301 McGregor Blvd.



Rescued manatee named Tide.

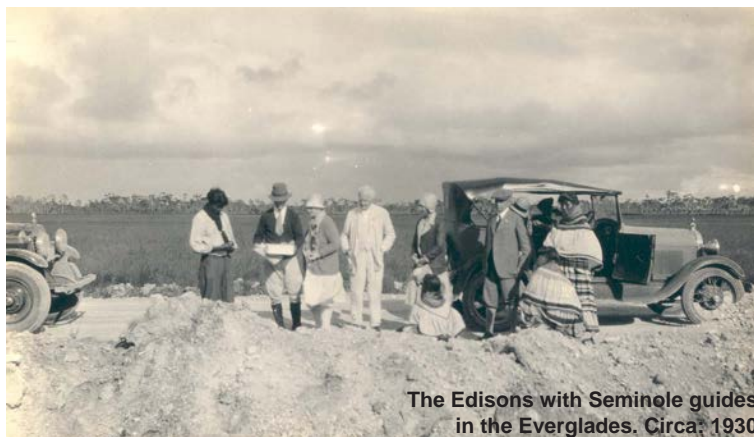
Our January guest speaker is Fred Rubino. Fred is a Fort Myers resident, who spends his summers in Maine, and a retired enforcement officer of 32 years. He is also a certified Master Naturalist through the University of Florida.

Fred has worked as a volunteer for the Florida Wildlife Commission on the Manatee Rescue team. He has been involved in many manatee rescues involving boat strikes, entrapment, cold water incapacitation and red tide coma. He has been a docent in the Lee County Parks and Recreation facility at Manatee Park. He has also guided county and private manatee excursions on the Orange River and Estero Bay.

Volunteer meetings are free and open to the public. Contact Bobby Feldman or Holly Shaffer, Program Managers, at 239-335-3694 for information.

EXPLORING EDISON AND THE SEMINOLE RELATIONSHIP WITH HISTORIAN WOODY HANSON

January 28, 2020, 6:30 p.m.



The Edisons with Seminole guides
in the Everglades. Circa: 1930

Don't miss a chance to hear fifth-generation Floridian Woody Hanson speak about the relationship between the Seminole Indians, Thomas Edison, and Fort Myers. Hanson is a descendant of Fort Myers' first permanent settlers and W. Stanley Hanson, known as the "White Medicine Man" to the Seminole and Miccosukee Indians. Woody is currently a postgraduate student studying American history at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland.

Cost: Free (donations encouraged)

SILK SCARF PAINTING WITH MARIE DYER

Edison Ford River Pavilion

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

A variety of techniques will inspire painters of all levels to create their own one-of-a-kind scarf. The scarves can be worn or displayed as art! Participants may book a single date or return for multiple sessions.

January 11, January 25, February 15, February 29, March 21, March 28.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$95 per class; non-members: \$105 per class.

Tickets can be purchased at www.EdisonFord.org. Advanced reservations are encouraged as class size is limited.



LANDSCAPE PAINTING WITH MARIE DYER

January 4 and February 22, Edison Ford River Pavilion

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Spend the day overlooking the picturesque Caloosahatchee in the River Pavilion while painting a beautiful landscape with acrylics.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$90 per class; non-members: \$100 per class

Tickets can be purchased at www.EdisonFord.org. Advanced reservations are encouraged as class size is limited.

DRAWING IN THE GARDENS WITH MEGAN KISSINGER

Join award-winning nature artist, Megan Kissinger, to learn the basics of drawing with informal drawing techniques!

Botanical Drawing Basics: Flowers, Trees and Leaves,
January 26, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Drawing and Making Valentine Mandala Cards
February 8, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Zen Drawing in the Succulent Garden
February 29, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$40; non-members \$60 (per class). Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch.

Tickets can be purchased at www.EdisonFord.org. Advanced reservations are encouraged as class size is limited.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAMS

YOMASSAGE™

South Florida Water Management Lecture Hall,
2301 McGregor Blvd.



Yomassage™ is a fusion of relaxing and supported restorative yoga positions with hands on massage therapy. Students hold each position for around 8-10 minutes while a massage therapist performs manual massage techniques. The classes are limited to 5 participants per class and lasts for approximately 90 minutes.

Yomassage™ classes are led by Dolores J. Gozzi, a Licensed Massage/Alternative Therapist (MA37360), who has completed a 16-hour Yomassage™ certification.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$55; non-members: \$65 per class, tickets can be purchased at www.edisonford.org. Advanced reservations are encouraged as space is limited. Admission to the site is not included.

FULL MOON MEDITATION ALCHEMY OF THE SENSES

South Florida Water Management Lecture Hall,
2301 McGregor Blvd.



Relax, breathe, release and enjoy this journey through sound vibration with singing bowls and drums. Modern medicine can now measure and confirm the practice of sound as a means to promote healing, reduce stress and help people experience a deep sense of peace.

The class is taught by Dolores J. Gozzi, a Licensed Massage/Alternative Therapist (MA37360). Bring something to lie on like a yoga mat or towel, water, and a small pillow.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$20; non-members: \$25, tickets can be purchased at the membership desk, the ticket counter or at www.edisonford.org. Admission to the site is not included.

2020 SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Yomassage: 11 a.m.; Full Moon Meditation: 1:30 p.m.

- Jan 11: Creating your theme for the New Year
- Feb 1: Follow Your Heart
- Mar 14: Plant your seeds - Happy Spring
- Apr 4: Nourish your mind/body + soul
- May 2: Allow to receive for mother's day
- Jun 6: See what has transformed this year
- Jul 11: Freedom
- Aug 8: Gather your harvest from this year
- Sep 5: Take Time to Honor + Celebrate your Life's Journey

SPECIAL EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING CAR EXHIBITIONS!



Edison and Ford Winter Estates hosts several car shows throughout the year as a fitting tribute to the legacy of Henry Ford, the pioneer of the automobile industry. Antique car owners and enthusiasts are invited to come out and spend the day, talk to exhibitors, and see some unique classic cars.

Tickets to the car shows: Free for Edison Ford members; \$20 for non-members (includes admission to the site).

February 1, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. – ANNUAL ANTIQUE CAR EXHIBITION

The largest of all Edison Ford car shows, this one will feature more than 100 antique cars from local car clubs and classic car owners. The cars will exhibit on Henry Ford's lawn, along the Caloosahatchee River. This family-friendly event offers something for everyone. Car owners will be on hand to answer questions about their cars, a DJ will provide entertainment and food will be available for purchase. Come on out and see the antique cars, get something to eat, enjoy some great music – and see what's new in the museum and gardens! A portion of the proceeds will benefit the restoration of the antique car collection at Edison Ford.

The deadline for car owners to register is January 24. The registration fee is \$20 for one car and \$10 for each additional car. This includes admission into Edison Ford for the registered participant and one passenger. Cars must be a 1980 Ford model or older.

March 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. – MUSTANG CAR EXHIBITION

Owners of Ford Mustangs will be exhibiting their cars on Henry Ford's lawn, along the Caloosahatchee River. The Mustang has been popular ever since it debuted in 1964; in two years, more than one million mustangs were sold.

The deadline to register is February 29. The registration fee is \$15 for one car and \$5 for each additional car. This includes admission into Edison Ford for the registered participant and one passenger.

Register your car on the website at EdisonFord.org. For any questions regarding car registration, email LeeAnne Criswell at lcriswell@edisonford.org.

FREE FAMILY EVENT - KID'S GARDEN ADVENTURE

January 11, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Children and parents are invited to join us for a brand new one-of-a-kind free family event! Children can win prizes in a garden scavenger hunt, create botanical art, explore kid-friendly garden vendors, jump into green science activities, stretch their imagination with wellness activities, and learn about bees and other local animals. Sponsored by the Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association (FNGLA).

Kids (ages six and up) and adults can also participate in the first ever Banyan climbing experience! All necessary training and safety equipment will be provided. Advanced registration is required.

Cost: Edison Ford members \$35; non-members \$45.

For adults, there will be a Garden Talk on "How to Attract Pollinators" at 10 a.m. (See GARDEN TALK on page 13).



FORD'S FACTORY ART SHOW

January 18, 6 - 8 p.m.



Join us for the opening reception of a new art show in the historic Edison Caretakers House. Ehren Gerhard, Gallery Director at the Alliance for the Arts, is the guest judge and will award prizes for the winning artwork. Visitors can also vote in the "People's Choice" category which will be announced at the conclusion of the show in May.

Drinks and light snacks will be available. The evening will conclude with a demonstration of Ford's most well-known product, the Model T.

Cost: Edison Ford members Free; non-members \$10 and includes a complimentary beer or soda.

RHYTHM ON THE RIVER

MUSIC & COCKTAILS WITH STEVE FARST

January 31, 6 p.m., Ford Lawn Riverside



Join us for the first Rhythm on the River of the new year with musician, Steve Farst and cocktails and appetizers from Sanibel Catering Company by Baileys! The event will take place on the Ford lawn along the Caloosahatchee River, where guests can enjoy a beautiful sunset view. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the concert starting at 6 p.m.

Musician, Steve Farst, has been entertaining audiences for years with his unique sound. He plays a little old and new on acoustic guitar and adds his own personal touch for a fantastic performance.

Parking is available in the Edison Ford lots only. Guests should bring a folding chair and a sweater if the weather is chilly. No coolers permitted.

Tickets include one signature drink and appetizers. A cash bar will also be available. Come listen to some great music, taste some delicious bites and sip a specialty cocktail with us!

Tickets can be purchased online or at the ticket counter. Edison Ford members: \$25; non-members: \$35; \$40 at the door.

CARIBBEAN CHILLERS - A JIMMY BUFFET TRIBUTE

February 28, 6 p.m., Ford Lawn Riverside



If you like Jimmy Buffett, you won't want to miss this concert! The Caribbean Chillers put on an authentic show that's sure to please any parrot head. There will be a cash bar and refreshments available for purchase. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with the concert starting at 6 p.m. on the historic Ford lawn.

So put on your flip flops, and come spend the evening along the river for some great music, a fantastic river view and refreshing beverages – because after all, it's 5 o'clock somewhere!

Parking is available in the Edison Ford lots only. Guests should bring a folding chair and a sweater if the weather is chilly. No coolers permitted.

Tickets available online: Edison Ford members: \$20; non-members: \$25; tickets at the door: \$30.



TOURS & PROGRAMS

Daily Programs in the Museum

Throughout the day, join in hands-on presentations to learn about music, sound and the phonograph, how a motor works on Henry Ford's Model T and making movies with animated images.

January Tours and Programs

Every day of the week Edison Ford offers visitors historian-led guided tours and audio tours in English, German, Spanish, and French, as well as museum demonstrations and hands-on science activities.

Automotive Tour

Mondays - 10:30 a.m.

Join Automotive Curator, James Moss, for a new perspective on the evolution of the automobile. Learn about production and how to operate a vehicle. From the Model T to the Model A, gasoline to electric, the Ford Motor Company and beyond, the Automotive Tour promises to offer a new way to connect with one of our most popular collections. Reservations are not required for this tour.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$15; non-members: Adults \$40, Teens (13-19) \$30, Children (6-12) \$16. Includes admission to the historic site, museum and laboratory.

To arrange a group tour, call 239-334-7419.

Inside-the-Lab Tour

Tuesdays - 10:30 a.m., Saturdays and Sundays - 2:00 p.m.

An in-depth exploration inside the Edison Botanic Research Lab, a National Historic Chemical Landmark, includes areas of the laboratory normally closed to the public. Visitors see the plant processing area and learn about the machinery and chemistry.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$15; non-members: Adults \$40, Teens (13-19) \$30, Children (6-12) \$16. Includes admission to the historic site and museum.

To schedule a tour for groups of 15 or more, call 239-334-7419.

Edison Ford Garden Tours

Groups of 10 or more, by reservation only

Learn about what's blooming at Edison Ford. Garden tours are led by an experienced plant curator.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$15; non-members: Adults \$40, Teens (13-19) \$25, Children (6-12) \$15. Includes admission to the historic site, museum and laboratory.

To schedule a garden tour, call 239-334-7419.

German Language Tours

Tuesdays and Wednesdays - 10:30 a.m.

Historian-led tour of homes, gardens, lab and museum in German language.

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$5; non-members: Adults \$30, Teens (13-19) \$25, Children (6-12) \$18.



TOURS & PROGRAMS



Museum Musings

Wednesdays - 11:30 a.m.

January 8: **What's the difference between a Model T and a TT?** Automotive Curator, James Moss, highlights the differences and provides a live demonstration on how to start a Model TT.

January 15: **What happens when you flip a light switch?** Join Edison Ford Historian, Phil Chase, for an "electrifying presentation" on early Edison lighting.

January 22: **Did Edison really invent Portland cement?** Join Chief Curator, Brent Newman, for some "heavy conversation" regarding Edison's contributions to the cement industry.

January 29: **Glenmont Glory: Home Sweet Home.** Collections Registrar, Matt Andres, leads a discussion about Edison's main residence in New Jersey.

Cost: Edison Ford members: free; non-members: included with admission.

Inside-the-Homes Tours

This tour is a unique opportunity to take a sneak peek inside normally-closed areas of Thomas Edison's "Seminole Lodge" and Henry Ford's "The Mangoes." Approximate tour time is 90 minutes to two hours. (Allow additional time to view the museum, laboratory, and gardens.)

Thursdays - 11 a.m.

Limited reservations available for this tour only. Preregistration required by calling 239-335-3674.

Fridays - 11 a.m.

Tickets are available on a **first-come, first-served** basis and space is limited. For persons with limited mobility, please speak with a staff member about special accommodations.

Cost: Edison Ford members: free (one time); non-members: Adults \$50, Teens (13-19) \$35, Children (6-12) \$20.

Step into History with Edison Ford Historians

Fridays - 10:30 a.m.

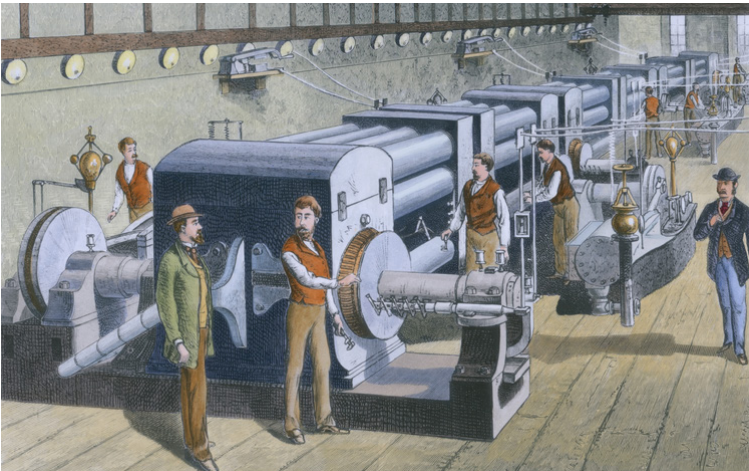
Each week, Edison Ford Site Historians present an in-depth look at a topic related to our site. Topics include: *Edison's Dynamo and Generators*, *Edison's Early Films*, *Edison's Cook: Queenie Adams*, *Mina Edison*, *the Edison Children*, *Edison and Tarpon Fishing*, and *Edsel Ford*.

Cost: Edison Ford members: free; non-members: included with admission. Reservations are not required.

Edison Ford River Cruises

Cruises depart Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 12 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and Sunset (one hour before sunset). Daily cruises will begin Sunday, December 8 through April 2020.

Edison Ford members can purchase tickets in the lobby of The Marina at Edison Ford for a discounted price of \$27 for adults and \$21 for children.



NEWS

EDISON FORD SUPPORTS SALVATION ARMY'S ANGEL TREE PROGRAM



Edison Ford HR Coordinator, Sherri Muske with Gena Price of the Salvation Army with gifts donated by Edison Ford staff.

Employees at Edison and Ford Winter Estates made Christmas a little brighter for 25 children through the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program. The Angel Tree Program gives organizations and businesses a chance to buy gifts for "angels" – children that would otherwise not have presents. Across the United States, the Salvation Army brightens the holiday season for 1 million children who are living in poverty.

HOLIDAY NIGHTS WREATH AUCTION RETURNS



Local artists and artisans donated a dozen wreaths, raising over \$1,000 for conservation and preservation at Edison Ford. The wreaths were sold at the annual Holiday Nights Members Party, returning to a tradition of an annual wreath auction for the first time in nearly a decade. Two wreaths (pictured above) were awarded additional honors:

- Marie Dyer (Most Beautiful)
- Becca Tillery (Most Unique; Highest Bid Received)

Thank you to all who participated on bidding at this exciting event, and special thanks to all of the wreath makers, including Karen Flanders, Marin Asher, Jeanne Dozier, Debbie Hughes, Anita Singh, Deborah Martin, Nancy Achter, Sherri Muske, and The Flower Path. With the help of these local artists and others, we hope to make this an annual tradition once more!

BROMELIAD BOGO!



Now is your chance to own a piece of history! The 12' tall tree used in the tree lighting ceremony was made with 250 Bromeliads. With the start of the new year, the Holiday Nights decorations are coming down, and the Bromeliads will be available for sale. Starting January 2, the plants will be offered at a buy-one-get-one deal of \$20! These plants won't last long so get yours soon!

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS AND SPONSORS

As we enter into a new year and decade, we want to thank all of our members for their continued support. Individuals and business members make a huge impact and enable us to offer new programs and events for both adults and children each year. Our success depends on members, sponsors and donors that help us continue our mission.

To educate the public and inspire an inventive spirit by interpreting and preserving the innovations, legacies, artifacts, gardens, homes, laboratory, and other structures of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, emphasizing Florida history, science, horticulture, and the arts.

We hope all of our members will support these great businesses and organizations that are so crucial to our ongoing success story.

Thank you and happy New Year!

Aloia | Roland • BGI • Bob Dean Supply • Chris-Tel Construction • Coastal Dayz Brewery
Dolphin Transportation Specialists
Edison National Bank • Family Thrift Center
Florida Power & Light • Florida Weekly
Edsel Ford II • G-3 Catering • Gulf Coast Village
Humana/Best Value • Henderson Franklin Attorneys at Law • LCEC • Noonan Law Offices
Norris Furniture & Interiors • Parker Mudgett Smith Architects • Phelan Holdings • Pincher's Seafood Restaurant • Roetzel & Andress • Sam Galloway Ford Lincoln • Sanibel Captiva Community Bank • Strayhorn & Persons StormSmart • Stroemer & Company • Sunbelt Rentals • TLC Engineering Solutions • TriCircle Pavers

For more information on becoming a Business Member or sponsorship opportunities, contact Nancy Achter, Membership Director at Nachter@edisonford.org or 239-335-3678.

BUSINESS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COOLAIR
AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING
239-275-7077



Coolair Owners Mark Pruskauer, Veronica Pruskauer and Pat LaMantia

Tell us about your company and its history in Southwest Florida:

Coolair began our journey servicing SW Florida from Marco to Port Charlotte in 2001. We have been honored to not only raise our families at Coolair, but also have them join us in servicing our community. Mark Pruskauer, Veronica Pruskauer and Pat LaMantia are the owners of Coolair. The Pruskauer children (Forrest, Farrah and Stormie) have also become a working part of the Coolair family, as well as LaMantia children and grandchildren. The owners are at the office daily to oversee all operations. We have grown to 48 employees with over 30 service vehicles.

All of our skilled service men and women go through rigorous training to provide the highest level of service and peace of mind to our customers, satisfying their every need. We are a 24/7 service company with no "after" hours charges. We are proud to be supporters of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates.



Tell us why you became a Business Member:

We became a business member of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates because, for years, we have entertained all of our out-of-town guests by accompanying them through Edison Ford and we have felt that it is the "Crown Jewel" of Florida! It is an honor to have Edison Ford in our own back yard and we feel it is a lost privilege for anyone who is not a part of it.

Is there something special you would like the Readers to know?

We know that there are a lot of choices in SW Florida for air conditioning. So, what sets Coolair apart from the others? First and foremost, it is our service. Air conditioners and their parts can be purchased by any air conditioning company. However, our superior level of service can only be experienced by Coolair. All our customers are part of the Coolair family and that is how we choose to treat them all – as family! We are grateful for the people we have been privileged to work with who have created this Coolair environment. Some have been with us from the beginning and most for over ten years. We are a Rheem Pro Partner, Diamond Elite Mitsubishi Contractor and Indoor Air Quality Specialist. In addition to HVAC, we also offer top notch plumbing and electrical services.

What is your favorite thing about the Edison and Ford Winter Estates?

The museum is an all-time favorite! The fact that we can browse through authentic artifacts and real samples of his hundreds of inventions is thrilling. The laboratory allows you to imagine yourself right there beside him as he works through testing and improving each item until he has accomplished his creative goals.

My favorite quote from each is:

"Whether you think you can or think you can't...You're right"
 -Henry Ford

"I have not failed. I've found 10,000 ways that won't work"
 -Thomas Edison



From The Edison Ford Vault

by: Matt Andres



Chief Curator, Brent Newman (standing), observes phonograph and cylinder experts, John Levin, Pat Levin and Tim Fabrizio (L to R) inspect cylinders from the Edison Ford archives.

The Edison and Ford Winter Estates currently preserved several hundred cylinder and diamond disc records within its vast collection of artifacts. Some of these records date back to the 1890s, representing some of the earliest stages of the recording industry. The very first music cylinders were individually recorded and then sent out in batches, each batch distinctly different than the other due to potential errors by recording artists and various tempos that occurred while recording multiple renditions of the same song. Brown wax cylinders were the first medium produced for a widespread consumer market and, with 100 threads per square inch, held two minutes of sound or music. Generally a release number was inscribed on the circumference of the cylinder, but not the actual name of the recording itself. Brown wax cylinders came inside a canister which contained a slip of paper identifying the song, but unfortunately many have been lost over the last 100 years, making identification and cataloging of these early cylinders difficult. Wax cylinders are often compromised by mold growth, which can damage or destroy the original record. This issue makes it important to transfer any available data to a new format for long-term audio preservation.

Within our phonograph collection sits an old wooden box containing five wax cylinders, some partially intact, with a note stating they are experimental Edison cylinders from 1888. Without thorough expert analysis and a proven provenance, it makes interpreting such a set challenging



for the estates. Fortunately, Edison Ford recently retained the services of two phonograph and cylinder experts, John Levin and Tim Fabrizio, to help examine and digitize the oldest recordings in our collection. Upon physical examination of the “experimental” cylinders by Levin and Fabrizio, it was determined that the items were indeed from the 1888-1889 time period. Furthermore, both believe they are great examples, or physical evidence, of the developmental evolution in Edison’s search for his first viable commercial cylinder. Indentations and adequate modulations were observed on three cylinders, with one complete cylinder and one partial cylinder considered stable enough that John Levin did attempt to extract sound from them using an audio extraction device called CPS1 (Cylinder Playback System). It was John’s technology that was used to transfer early recordings with optimal sound quality and negligible wear. Unfortunately, the partial fragment did not reveal any legible recordings. The second, however, did reveal some faint audio, but noise reduction software will need to be used in order to try to amplify and more fully extricate the recorded message. Six other early brown wax cylinders in the collection were examined and found suitable for digital transfer, titles, artists, and serial numbers were revealed adding greatly to the identification and catalog information of these particular records. All seven (which includes experimental cylinder) were digitized and hopefully audio will be available on our website at a future date. The Edison and Ford Winter Estates would like to thank John Levin and Tim Fabrizio for sharing their expertise and John in particular for transporting his technology across the country to digitize these rare cylinders.



GARDEN CLASS:INTRODUCTION TO FLORIDA GARDENING

January 7, 1:30 p.m. & January 14, 1:30 p.m.

January's garden class is an introduction to Florida gardening. The topics will include soil, nutrition, choosing plants for a specific yard or garden, understanding the difference between invasive and exotic plants, best practices, weed identification, plant identification, state and local regulations and much more. This class experience will include classroom and field exposure, so attendees should bring a water bottle, wear comfortable walking shoes, a hat and sunscreen. Both classes will last approximately two hours.

Garden Classes are held at the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council Building, adjacent to Edison Ford at 2166 Virginia Ave.

Cost: members: \$35 (or \$50 for both classes) and non-members: \$50 (or \$75 for both classes).

Advance Registration is required at www.EdisonFord.org or in person at the ticket office. All classes are limited to 25 participants. Class participants will receive a 20% discount coupon toward plant purchases in the Garden Shoppe.

EDISON FORD GARDEN FESTIVAL

February 8, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

February 9, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

If you're looking for a really unique plant -- perhaps one that your neighbor doesn't have -- this is the place to find it! More than 40 vendors will have booths all around the Banyan tree, museum and laboratory selling trees, shrubs, plants and even artwork! Whether you're looking for fruit trees, flowering shrubs, succulents, or Florida native plants, you'll find it here. The Edison Garden Shoppe will also be open and stocked with trees, butterfly plants, herbs, garden-related items and more! Plant vendors and Edison Ford horticulturists will be on hand to answer gardening questions and help you with your selections.

Food trucks and live music will be on site too, so come out and spend the day shopping for plants! This free event does not include tours of the homes or admission to the museum and laboratory.



GARDEN TALK: HOW TO ATTRACT BENEFICIAL POLLINATORS TO YOUR GARDEN

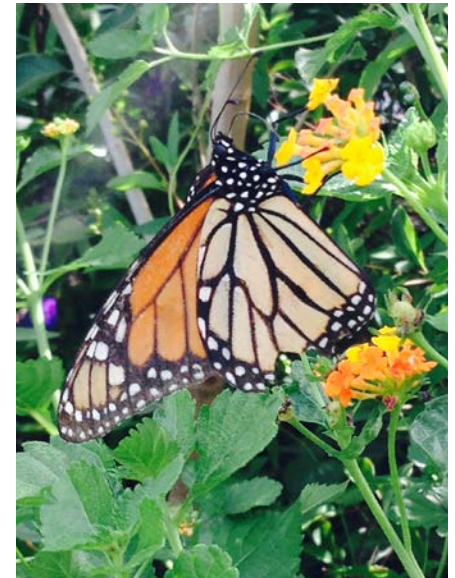
January 11, 10 a.m.



Passion flower is a native plant that attracts butterflies who lay eggs on it.

When visitors first arrive at Edison and Ford Winter Estates, many enjoy meandering through the Garden Shoppe. This area is filled with historical, rare and unusual plants, and a stunning pollinator display garden, where visitors can see many different butterfly species, as well as some native bees. The pollinator garden garners almost as much attention as the historical Banyan tree.

Just as the garden attracts a large number of different pollinators, it also boasts a huge diversity of flowers. All of these plants attract pollinators: butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, beetles, flies and even bats. Gardeners seem to flock to any plant possessing the amazing qualities that attract pollinators – after all, many of our food products depend on these creatures. Tropical fruits, vegetables and many of our native orchids invite pollinators to visit them.



Monarch butterflies are found in Florida year round.

This garden talk will include a tour of the Edison Ford property, highlighting which plants attract pollinators. Sometimes, creating a pollinator garden is as easy as "plant it and they will come." Many of these same plants are available for sale in the Garden Shoppe and participants will receive a 20% discount coupon to be used toward plant purchases. Participants should wear a hat, sunscreen, comfortable shoes and bring drinking water.

Cost: members: \$10; non-members: \$15



EMERGING INVENTORS

Ages 1-5

January 7, 10-11 a.m. - Out of this World Space Science
 January 21, 10-11 a.m. - Electricity & Energy
 February 4, 10-11 a.m. - Funky Fish

Children and parents will learn, play and gain valuable social skills while exploring the homes, gardens and museum.

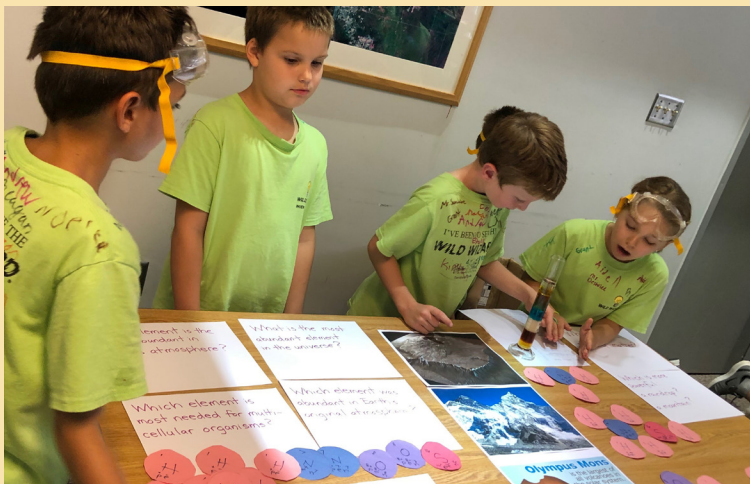
Cost: Edison Ford members: \$10; non-members: \$15. Includes one adult and one child; \$5 for each additional child (subject to availability).

HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE SCHOLARS LIGHT WAVES

Focus: light science, space science.

Grades 1-3: January 9, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
 Grades 4-6: January 9, 1 - 3 p.m.
 Grades 7-8: January 8, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Cost: Edison Ford members \$15; non-members \$25 per class. Includes one adult and one child. \$5 for each additional child (subject to availability).



INVENTOR'S SUMMER CAMP

AGES 6-12 • JUNE 8 - AUGUST 7, 2020 • EARLY REGISTRATION FOR MEMBERS BEGINS JANUARY 17
 JOIN US AS SCIENCE AND HISTORY COME ALIVE IN THE "LIVING LABORATORY" OF THE EDISON AND FORD WINTER ESTATES!

JUNE 8-12 • GEAR UP!

Members: \$220 • non-members: \$250

JUNE 15-19 • MAD CHEMISTRY

Members: \$220 • non-members: \$250

JUNE 22-26 • CREATIVE CODERS

Members: \$220 • non-members: \$250

JUNE 29-JULY 3 • ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

Members: \$220 • non-members: \$250

JULY 6-10 • CALOOSAHAATCHEE CONSERVATION

Members: \$220 • non-members: \$250

JULY 13-24 • FANTASTIC FILM-MAKERS (AGES 9-12)

Members: \$440 • non-members: \$495

JULY 13-17 • DISCOVERING DINOSAURS (AGES 6-8)

Members: \$220 • non-members: \$250

JULY 20-24 • FANTASTIC FILM-MAKERS (AGES 6-8)

Members: \$220 • non-members: \$250

JULY 27-31 • 3-D ART AND DESIGN

Members: \$220 • non-members: \$250

AUGUST 3-7 • LIFT OFF!

Members: \$220 • non-members: \$250

Advanced registration is required

Register online or learn more at www.edisonford.org

Become a member to receive program discounts

Questions? Contact Program Registrar Leeanne Criswell at lcriswell@edisonford.org

FREE EDUCATION EVENT

EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM
LABORATORY

NATIONAL KID INVENTOR'S DAY

January 17, 2020 - 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Q: What do television, water skis, and the popsicle have in common?

A: They were all invented by kids!

Celebrate National Kid Inventor's Day with a unique evening of hands-on science activities for the whole family in the Edison and Ford Winter Estates Museum!

Discover robotics, the science of sound, and test your inventive skills in the Smithsonian Spark!Lab.

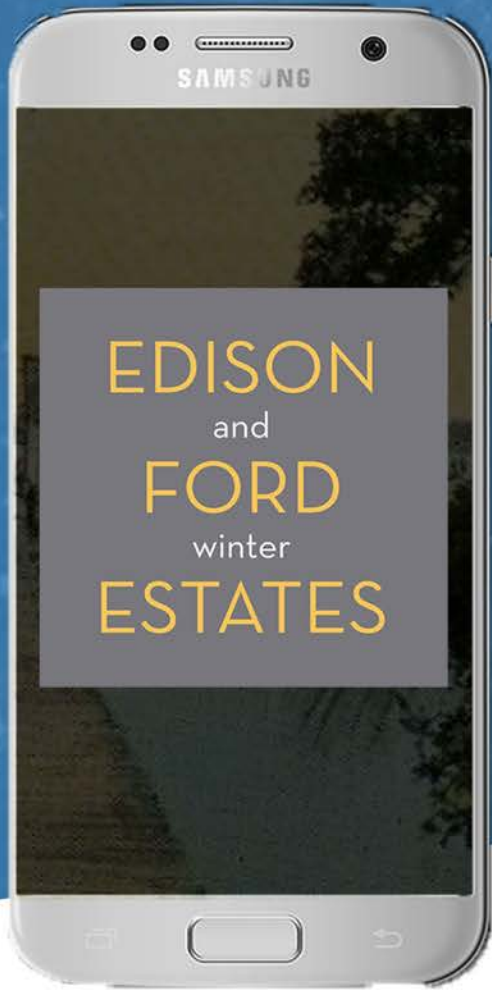
Admission is FREE

2350 McGregor Boulevard • Fort Myers, FL 33901

Register today at www.EdisonFord.org



EXPERIENCE MORE



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Before your next visit, download the new Edison Ford app, with audio commentary for adults and kids, historic photos, and more. Audio is also available via a free phone call!

Available on Apple/iOS and Android devices.



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The Edison and Ford Winter Estates is a National Register Historic Site and a Save America's Treasures site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The Edison laboratory is a National Historic Chemical Landmark. It is governed by a private, non-profit organization with a Board of Trustees.