



EDISON  
and  
FORD  
winter  
ESTATES

HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM  
LABORATORY

**MEMBER**  
MAGAZINE

APRIL 2020

EDISON  
and  
FORD  
winter  
ESTATES

2350 McGregor Boulevard  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
239.334.7419  
edisonford.org

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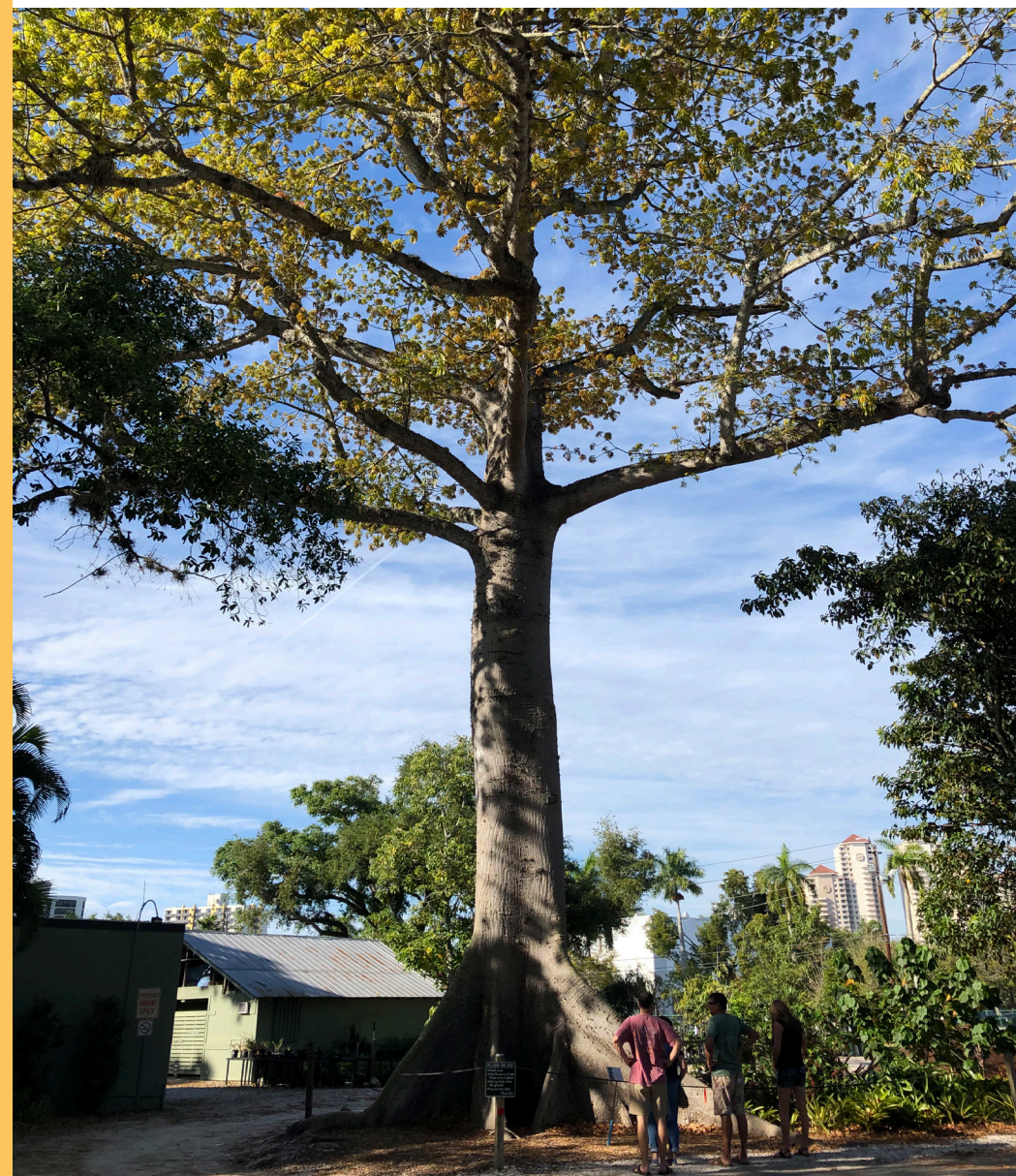


# Request for Old Photos

We are embarking on a research project to document older trees at Edison and Ford Winter Estates and we're asking for help from our members and the community. We are looking for photos of the property prior to 1980, especially any that may include large trees, like the Kapok tree (pictured below), which stands behind the nursery, or the row of many Ficus trees along the parking lot.

We would like to learn a little more about the histories of the trees and the old photos could potentially tell us a lot. Any submitted photos could be used for maps, in marketing materials, or on our website. Someday, we would like to have an interactive map that would show present day and historic views.

Anyone wanting to help with the research project may send photos pre-dating 1980 of the estates to the attention of **Britta Soderqvist at 2350 McGregor Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33901** or scan and email to [bsoderq@edisonford.org](mailto:bsoderq@edisonford.org). Submitting photos gives us the right to use them in the research project or in marketing materials. Please indicate if you need to have the hard copy photos returned.



**GENERAL HOURS**

Open Daily  
9:00 AM - 5:30 PM  
Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

**ADMISSION**

**Guided Tour:**

Edison Ford Members: \$5  
Adults: \$30  
Teens: (ages 13-19) \$25  
Children: (ages 6-12) \$18  
Children: (ages 5 and under) FREE

**Self-Guided Tour:**

Edison Ford Members: FREE  
Adults: \$25  
Teens: (ages 13-19) \$20  
Children: (ages 6-12) \$15  
Children: (ages 5 and under) FREE

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On the cover: Margaret Bacon Bougainvillea



## “Art in Bloom” Winners Announced

Last month, floral designers from the Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council created designs based on their interpretation of existing art pieces. The floral designs and their paired art pieces have been on display in the Edison Caretaker’s House as part of the Ford’s Factory exhibit. The winners were selected based on votes by Edison Ford visitors. We thank the designers for participating and for their effort and creativity in letting art bloom!



## Honoring Jamie Magirl, “Mr. Edison”

Jamie Magirl, the Edison and Ford volunteer who portrayed Thomas Edison for several years, was remembered and honored during the annual Fort Myers Artfest Run to the Arts on February 2. An avid jogger, Jamie finished 3rd in his age category in 2018 and was awarded a bronze medal. Jan Magirl, his ever-devoted wife and Edison and Ford volunteer who portrays Mrs. Mina Edison, organized a group of supporters who were invited to represent each facet of Jamie’s life.

“I was asked to attend by Jan,” said Matt Andres, Edison Ford Registrar. “It was definitely an honor to represent Jamie and the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. He was a wonderful volunteer and a great person, as he is sorely missed.”

### 1st Place

**Terry Pinck** with her interpretation of Manfred Behr’s Ford Truck art piece

### 2nd Place

**Sandy Gove** with her interpretation of artist Shah Hadjebi’s watercolor

### 3rd Place

**Nancy Colgan’s** interpretation of Megan Kissinger’s “Everything I Know about the V8, I learned in Art School”

## Nourish Your Mind, Body, & Soul!



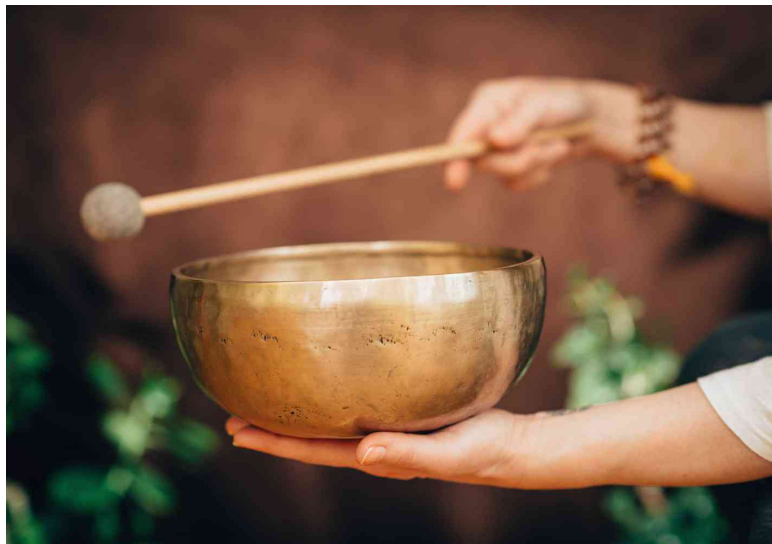
### Yomassage

**April 4 | 11 AM**  
South Florida Water Management, 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: \$45; non-members: \$55 per class, tickets can be purchased at [edisonford.org](http://edisonford.org). Admission to the site is not included.



### Full Moon Meditation

**Alchemy of the Senses: A Self-Guided Sensory Meditation**

**April 4 | 1:30 PM**  
South Florida Water Management, 2301 McGregor Blvd.

Relax, breathe, release and enjoy this personal 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 [edisonford.org](http://edisonford.org). Admission to the site is not included.

## Art in the Gardens: “River Reflections”

**April 25 - May 17**

From April 25 through May 17, 2020, Edison Ford will feature a free community art show including work created by students from more than 50 local schools. For more than a decade, Art in the Gardens has delighted visitors and members alike, as well as providing an educational and creative outlet to local students.

This year, to build on the theme of “River Reflections”, students will decorate a pre-cut wooden tarpon fish, largely using recycled materials appropriate for the Southwest Florida climate.

The free opening ceremony will coincide with the second annual Grow Fort Myers event on the museum porch at 2 PM on Saturday, April 25. Sponsored by Storm Smart. Tours and admission to the site are not included with this free event.



## Celebrate National Arbor Day

**April 24 | 10 AM**

Did you know that Fort Myers has the distinction of being designated as a “Tree City USA”? Fort Myers is part of a nationwide movement, providing the necessary framework for communities to manage and expand their public trees. More than 3,400 communities have made the commitment to becoming a Tree City USA!

Arbor Day was started by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska as a way to get more trees planted in the Midwest prairie states. In celebration of the day, students from Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts School will help continue the tradition of planting a tree for future generations to enjoy.





## Rhythm on the River

Almost ABBA, an ABBA Tribute  
April 24 | 6 PM

Almost ABBA is the longest-running North American tribute to the Swedish band ABBA. The event takes place at the Ford lawn along the Caloosahatchee River, where guests can feel a refreshing river breeze and watch a spectacular sunset. Bring your favorite lawn chair and a sweater if the weather is chilly. Refreshments will be available for purchase, no coolers are permitted.

Visitors should park in the main Edison Ford parking lot. Gates open at 5:30. Purchase tickets in advance at [edisonford.org](http://edisonford.org): \$20 for Edison Ford members and \$25 for non-members. Tickets at the door: \$30.

## FREE GARDEN EVENT

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HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM  
LABORATORY



## “GROW FORT MYERS”

SATURDAY, APRIL 25 • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Plant Sale • Workshops • Food & Fun

Don't miss our second annual local gardening celebration!

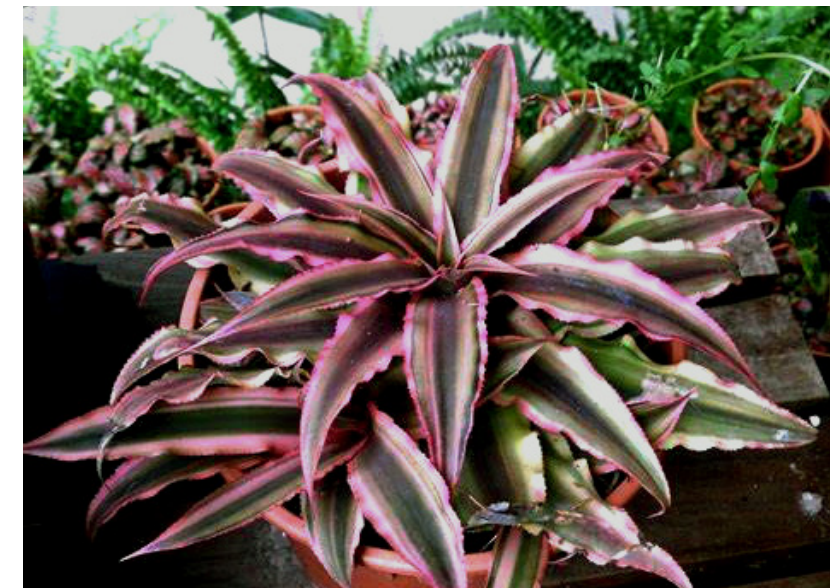
- Stock up on plants and trees for summer
- Discover native and Florida-friendly plants and trees
- Enjoy educational workshops and demonstrations
- Special Garden Shoppe discounts
- “Ask the Experts”
- Opening of the *Art in the Gardens* “River Reflections” community art display

At the Edison Ford Garden Shoppe

Tours of the site are not included with this free event.

2350 McGregor Boulevard • Fort Myers, FL 33901

Learn more at [www.EdisonFord.org](http://www.EdisonFord.org)



## Gardening Talk: Bulbs for the Florida Garden

April 14 | 10 AM

Many gardeners new to Florida miss the tulips, daffodils, and crocus bulbs emerging after a long winter of grey skies, cold air, and a blanket of snow. These flowers often signify that spring has arrived. In Florida, we have bulbs with different cultural characteristics, not necessarily what one would expect. Bulbs come in all shapes and sizes for our sub-tropical climate.

Come to the Garden Talk to learn which bulbs grow in Florida. While you might still miss the bulbs from up north, you will find a whole new botanical world to enjoy here! We will tour the property and find many surprises. Wear comfortable walking shoes, a hat, sunscreen and bring drinking water.

Participants will receive a 20% off coupon toward plant purchases. **Cost:** Members: \$10; non-members: \$15

## Gardening Class: Houseplants for a New Generation

April 16 | 1:30 PM

Houseplants have made a huge comeback in popularity and we want to help you make the best choices for your home. This class will cover the effects of the home environment including humidity, temperature and light. Houseplants are not immune to pests and problems so will also discuss how to identify the problems and give your plants the proper care they need. Whether you are a laid-back, low-key gardener or a fussy, helicopter plant parent, we've got you covered and will make sure the newest member of your family has found its forever home!

**Cost:** Members: \$35; non-members: \$50.

## Gardening Class: Propagation of Unique Edison Ford Plants

For Members Only

April 21 | 1:30 PM

Join us backstage in the propagation nursery as we teach you how to propagate some of our favorite plants, including ones that are historical and most popular plants, plus techniques for trees and shrubs. Each attendee will leave with a potted historical plant grown for this class, and we promise it won't be a banyan! After we review the parts of the plants, we will offer hands-on demonstrations for stem cuttings, propagation by division, air-layering techniques and how to know when to use the various methods. We will provide you with class material handouts, as this class will take place in the propagation nursery and in the gardens. Wear comfortable walking shoes, a hat and sunscreen.

**Cost:** Members: \$35.

ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR GARDENING CLASSES

Attendees will receive a 20% discount coupon toward plants in our fabulous Garden Shoppe and fun door prize drawings are always held during classes!

## Emerging Inventors

Ages 1-5 | 10 AM - 11 AM

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

**Members \$10; non-members \$15.** Price includes 1 adult and 1 child, each additional child: \$5

**April 7: Bubbles in the Garden**

**April 21: Earth Day Activities**

## School Break Camp

Grades 1-6 | 9 AM - 4 PM

When school is out, the "Wild Wizard" is in! Explore Edison Ford and topics in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, & math), history and the natural world.

**April 10: The Chemistry of Food**

What's the science behind a root beer float? Answer this and other culinary queries in this delicious day camp. Takes place at the Edison Caretaker's House.

**Members \$45; non-members \$50**

## Homeschool Science Scholars

Grades 1-8

Challenge your mind and foster collaboration with our popular ongoing homeschool series! Innovation & Collaboration: focus on history, problem solving, and teamwork. Students will explore different locations on the site.

**Members \$15; non-members \$25**

**April 8: Grades 7-8 from 10 AM - 12 PM**

**April 9: Grades 1-3 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM**

**April 9: Grades 4-6 from 1 - 3 PM**

Register online or learn more at [edisonford.org](http://edisonford.org).  
Questions? Contact Program Registrar, Leeanne Criswell at **239-334-7419**.

## Code Creators

Grades 4-8

Python, Pi, and DIY, Oh My! In this brand new Saturday afternoon series, students will be introduced to the Raspberry Pi, a tiny but powerful computer that will fuel their creative DIY projects spanning electronics, computer science, robotics, and coding with Python, HTML and JavaScript. Programs take place at the Edison Caretaker's House.

**Members \$15; non-members \$25 per class.**

**Pythons & Pies**

**April 4 | 1 - 3 PM**

Learn how to code on the Raspberry Pi using the dynamic software language of Python as students begin to code electronics and more.

**Animate It**

**April 11 | 1 - 3 PM**

Students use the Raspberry Pi and a tiny camera to make a big animation!

**Play It**

**April 18 | 1 - 3 PM**

Students leverage their increasing skills to code various simple video games.

**Creative Computing**

**April 25 | 1 - 3 PM**

From sticker design to birthday cards, students fuse code with art.



## Clara Ford: “The Great Believer”

April 11, 2020 will be the 154th anniversary of Clara Ford's birthday. “The Great Believer,” as Henry called her, supported and advised her husband throughout their long marriage, but her faith in him began in 1885.

The third of 10 children, Clara met her future husband at a dance on New Year's Day. They were engaged in April of 1886 and married in 1888. They received 40 acres of land from William Ford, Henry's father, in the hopes the young family would put down roots in the area. Instead Henry used funds from selling lumber from the land to move to Detroit. Over the next twenty years, Clara kept faith in her husband as he pursued his goal of manufacturing automobiles, had their only child Edsel, and lived in 11 different homes. In 1915, the family moved into Fairlane, their mansion in Dearborn, Michigan. The home included an indoor swimming pool, a billiards room, bowling alley and dance floor.

Clara managed the estate staff and enjoyed gardening, birding, and traveling with her husband. This included traveling to Fort Myers, the first time in 1914. Only a few weeks before, Henry had introduced the 40-hour work week and \$5 a day wage, making him immensely popular. When the Fords arrived at the train station in Fort Myers, more than 2,000 people and 31 cars, “mostly Ford machines” according to the newspaper account, waited to greet them. Three bands serenaded the family as they traveled to the Edison estate. Despite this raucous welcome, the private Fords purchased the home next to the Edisons, in 1916.

While not as active here in Fort Myers, Clara and Henry's philanthropy was life changing for many in the Detroit area and in Richmond Hill, Georgia, where the family owned extensive property. Some of the charitable work Clara was involved in included:

- Founded and supported the Henry Ford Hospital
- Established Vista Maria, a school and outreach program to help Detroit's young women
- Founded the Henry Ford School of Nursing and Hygiene, a tuition-free program that taught women nursing skills
- President of the Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, which aided women who wanted to make a livelihood in horticulture and agriculture
- Founding President of the Dearborn Garden Club
- Financial support helped build the Piney Ridge School & Home to help homeless African-American children in Mississippi

It is believed that the Fords donated nearly 1/3 of their income during the latter half of their lives. The ever generous Clara Ford passed away September 29, 1950 at the age of 84.

*Pictured below: Clara and Henry Ford*



## Business Member Spotlight: G3 Catering

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

G3 Catering is a custom, full-service, family owned and operated, catering company serving Fort Myers and surrounding SWFL areas. Karen and Mike Gavala have been providing the SWFL area with culinary delights since 1996 when they became owners of Sasse il Pizzaiuolo and have been in the culinary industry for over 35 years.

At G3 Catering, we build trust, confidence and lasting relationships with our clients through honesty, dedication and professionalism. Our mission is to make our clients shine! Our unique hands-on approach and business model enables us to do just that; ensuring an owner of the company is involved from the first point of contact right through the execution of your event -- something you can't find elsewhere. Your event is just as important to us as it is to you. We offer innovative cuisine, professional service and creative presentation. Our custom crafted menus are built to meet your specific needs, taste, style and budget. We are devoted to working with each client to make each event personal. We are well-versed in global cuisine as well as modern industry trends, which keeps things unique and interesting for all our clients and their guests.

### Tell us why you became a business member:

The immeasurable history, art, science, nature and beauty at the Estates is enjoyed by locals and tourists from all over the world and of all ages -- we wanted to do our part in supporting this local treasure so generations to come can enjoy it too.

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

That's easy! Living two miles north of the Estates with our catering kitchen located in downtown, I long to see the first associates and volunteers putting up the lights for the magical Holiday Nights display as I drive to or from work! This, by far, is the most spectacular attraction of the holiday season in our area!





## Volunteer Appreciation Event



**April 15 | 1 - 3 PM**

The Marina at Edison Ford | 2360 W 1st Street

On April 15, we will honor the contributions of our wonderful volunteers. We are thankful to Pinchers for graciously providing a nice venue and food for the volunteer event.

All current Edison and Ford Winter Estates volunteers who have contributed 60 or more hours in the previous 12 months are invited to join us for a time of light refreshments, raffles, and awards.

Please RSVP to Bobby or Holly via email: [bfeldman@edisonford.org](mailto:bfeldman@edisonford.org) or [hshaffer@edisonford.org](mailto:hshaffer@edisonford.org) by **April 1**. This will be in lieu of our scheduled volunteer meeting for April.

## TOURS & PROGRAMS

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. 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 AM**

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. The tour includes cars in the Museum and the Biggar Garage on the Ford property.

**Cost:** Edison Ford Members: \$15; non-members: Adults \$40, Teens (13-19)



## Inside-the-Lab Tour

**Tuesdays | 10:30 AM | Saturdays & Sundays | 2 PM**

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.



## 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 | 11:00 AM**

Limited reservations available for this tour, pre-registration required by calling **239-334-7419**.

**Fridays | 11:00 AM**

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.



## Museum Musings

Wednesdays | 11:30 AM

... **April 1: What really happened between Thomas Edison and Ezra Gilliland?**

Join Chief Curator, Brent Newman, as he “sheds light” on the controversy that destroyed their friendship forever. \*(Note-Mr. Gilliland originally owned the Edison Guest House. Program takes place in the Museum.)

... **April 8: Batter Up!**

Program Manager, Holly Shaffer, recounts Edison’s love for America’s pastime. (Takes place in the Museum Theater.)

... **April 15: How do you start a Model T Ford?**

Join Automotive Curator, James Moss, as he explains how to start and drive the car known as the “Tin Lizzie.” (This will take place at the Biggar Garage on the Ford property, weather permitting.)

... **April 22: The Creation of General Electric**

Collections Registrar, Matt Andres, describes the formation and organization of one of America’s biggest corporations. (Takes place in the Museum.)

... **April 29: What’s the difference between the early Model A and later A?**

Automotive Curator, James Moss, will highlight the differences and explain how they impacted the Ford Motor Company. (This will take place in the Biggar Garage on the Ford property, weather permitting.)

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

## German Language Tours

Tuesdays & Wednesdays | 10:30 AM

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.

## Step Into History with Edison Ford Historians

Fridays | 10:30 AM

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.



## Decorate Your Lanai or Porch!

There’s nothing like listening to the clear, crisp sound of wind chimes on a breezy summer evening! Now is the time to decorate your outdoor room with musical sounds and garden art. Welcome signs, flower pots and decorative lucky stones can add a touch of whimsical adventure to your outdoor space. These items also make great gifts and they’re small, so they easily fit in a suitcase. Stop by the Museum Store, Ford Cottage Shoppe, or the Edison Ford Shoppe at Bell Tower Shops today!





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# Call for Artists

## Creating Beauty from Disaster Exhibit

If you purchased a wood slab from Edison and Ford Winter Estates and would like to show off what you made, now is your chance!

Edison Ford is hosting its third annual art show in January 2021 with art created from fallen trees on site after Hurricane Irma. Many people in the area purchased wood slabs and have created amazing works of art. This show is designed to showcase those pieces. Submissions can be anything from wooden bowls to a coffee table, as long as it was created using fallen wood from Edison Ford after Hurricane Irma.

If you have made something you'd like to have featured in the show, please contact Tayelor Kakes at [tkakes@edisonford.org](mailto:tkakes@edisonford.org) or 239.334.7419. Please keep submissions no larger than 33" wide x 83" high in order to fit through the door frame. We will need:

*An image of artwork*

*Title of piece*

*Weight (if over 100 lbs)*

*Width and height*

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.

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