



EDISON  
and  
FORD  
winter  
ESTATES

HOMES • GARDENS • MUSEUM  
LABORATORY

MEMBER  
MAGAZINE

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER  
2020



# EDISON and FORD winter ESTATES

2350 McGregor Boulevard  
Fort Myers, FL 33901  
239.334.7419  
[edisonford.org](http://edisonford.org)

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To become a member of Edison Ford,  
apply at [edisonford.org/membership](http://edisonford.org/membership)

## CONNECT WITH US



# WE ARE OPEN!

The botanical gardens, museum and botanic research laboratory are all open and waiting for you to visit again!

## *What we're doing to keep you safe:*

- Every employee undergoes daily temperature checks and a wellness screening prior to the start of their shift.
- All employees are required to wear masks and practice social distancing.
- Surfaces, such as counters and doors are being disinfected daily.
- Plastic shields have been installed at the ticket counter.
- To allow for additional cleaning time, we adjusted our hours; open seven days a week, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Sanitizer stations are placed throughout the site.
- Visitors will be required to wear masks on guided tours and inside all indoor locations, such as the museum, laboratory retail areas, and the ticket office.
- Masks are available for sale in the Museum Store for 50 cents.
- Signs are posted, alerting visitors to practice social distancing.

**As always, members get in free. We hope to see you soon!**





### GENERAL HOURS

Open Daily

9:00 AM - 4:30 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: blossoms of Golden Shower Tree (Cassia fistula)*





## Plants Donated

Sometimes we are lucky enough to receive gifts of rare plants. The *Grammatophyllum speciosum*, or Tiger or Giant Orchid, is the tallest orchid in nature and grows up to 10 feet! Steve Hoppin of Fort Lauderdale donated this specimen to us earlier this year. It seems very happy in its new home.

We also received a donation of an Epiphytic Fern (*Aglaomorpha coronans*) from Eleanor Kinzie of Fort Myers. The fern is very rare and more than 30 years old. Visitors can view it near the Edison main house, hanging from the Lofty Fig (on the McGregor Blvd. side of the house). Eleanor donated the fern in honor of the friendship between Thomas Edison's gardener, Edward Stulpner and the Reinhold Kinzie family.



## Labor Day

**September 7**

We'll be open regular hours,  
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Come stroll the gardens  
and see what's blooming!



## Antique Wooden Horse Donated



When someone hears the name Thomas Edison, they usually visualize an incandescent lightbulb, phonograph, or even a motion picture camera. Rarely do they think of a wood manufacturing company, especially one that would eventually go on to produce infant furniture for several decades. Sometimes fact is truly stranger than fiction, and what started as a commercial enterprise for Edison's phonograph cabinets ended as a brand of juvenile furniture, including cribs, highchairs and more.

During the mid-1910s, Edison was actively looking for a source that could supply and meet his demand for phonograph cabinets. The Wisconsin Cabinet and Supply Company was eventually purchased in 1916, becoming a subsidiary of Thomas A. Edison, Inc. Over the next decade, the factory in New London, Wisconsin vigorously manufactured thousands of cabinets for Edison's corporate empire. In 1927, the Wisconsin Cabinet and Supply Company became Edison Wood Products, Inc.

As phonograph sales began to flounder, it had an adverse effect on New London's production facility. In October of 1929, Edison discontinued his phonograph product line entirely, which severely jeopardized the city's local economy. Company President, Charles Edison, met with corporate executives in an attempt to save Edison Wood Products from complete collapse and dissolution.

As a result of these actions, a completely different product line was developed by a young executive named Tom Fitzgerald. This product line, juvenile furniture, became increasingly popular with parents of the era. Edison Little Folks Furniture brand was born in 1937 and continued operating under this name until 1969 when it was acquired by the Simmons Company.

The Edison and Ford Winter Estates historical collection contains several pieces of Edison Little Folks Furniture, which help highlight his company's contribution within the industry. Just recently, a couple donated a wooden horse produced by Edison Wood Products, Inc. According to Curatorial Registrar, Matt Andres, "the museum is often approached by potential donors who want to give us their phonographs, records, and even furniture, but seldom do we receive an offer for something as unique as this little wooden horse, called Go-Go Hos, manufactured by this subsidiary. I thought it would make a cute display for the little ones visiting our site." Go-Go Hos will be on display inside the Edison Ford Museum soon.



## Private Celebrations

### A Place to Impress

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is not only a world-renowned historic site, it's also an international wedding destination. It's a place where couples can say "I DO" under an almost 100-year-old Mysore Fig, while feeling the breeze coming off the Caloosahatchee River and watching one of the best sunsets in Florida. It is truly a one-of-a-kind location.

The site is also a popular venue for business functions. It's a great place to plan a team-building adventure, holiday party, or bring an out-of-town client for a classic tour that is sure to impress them.

The site can accommodate small groups in the River Pavilion, or inside the historic Edison Caretaker's House, or outdoors in the Moonlight Garden. The Ford lawn can accommodate larger parties with room for a tent and tables can be spaced as needed for social distancing.

If you would like to take a site tour or book your next function, contact Cori Cramsey at [ccramsey@edisonford.org](mailto:ccramsey@edisonford.org) or call **239-335-3689**. Reservations are being accepted for 2021 and 2022.



# Take Time to Honor and Celebrate Your Life's Journey!

## Yomassage

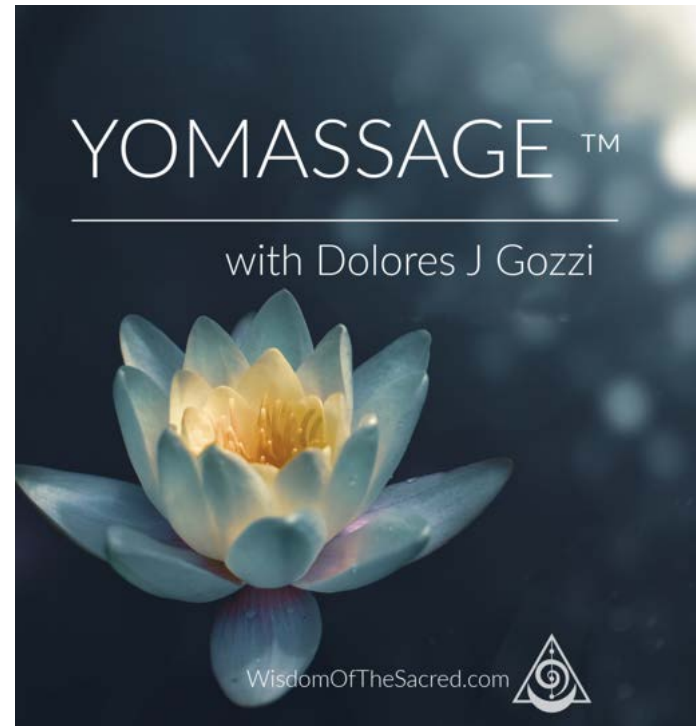
**September 5 | 11 AM**

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.

Benefits of Yomassage™ include improved joint range of motion, increased extensibility of muscle tendons and periarticular connective tissue, improved neuromuscular balance between muscle groups, reduced compression on joint surfaces, and reduced injuries. 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). Advanced reservations are encouraged as space is limited. Admission to the site is not included. **All participants are required to wear masks.**



## Full Moon Meditation

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

**September 5 | 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. **All participants are required to wear masks.**





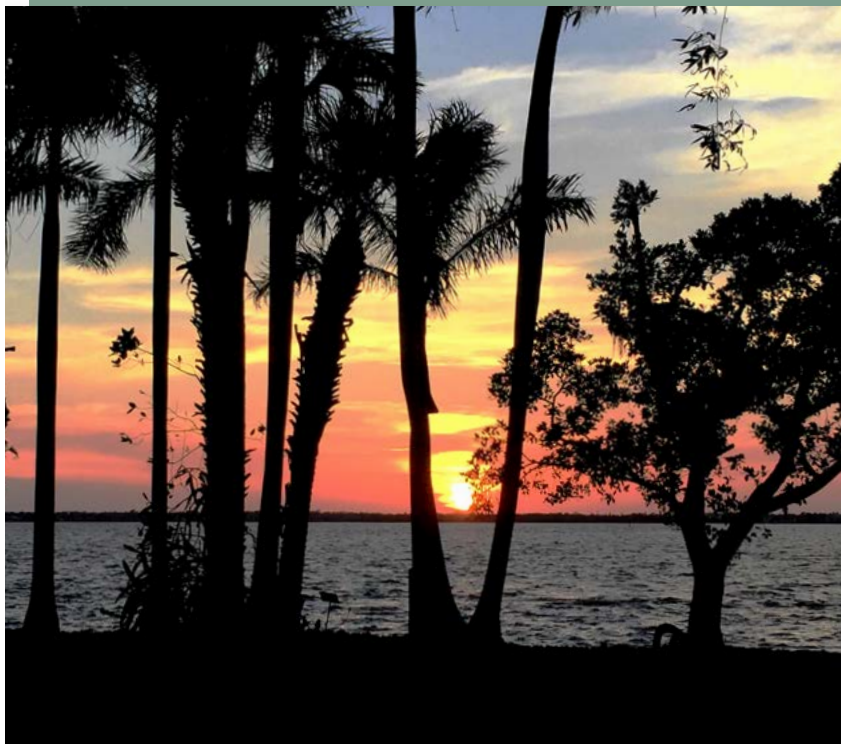
## Strolling in the Moonlight

**Tuesday, August 4 & September 1  
6-9 PM**

Visitors are invited to come take an evening stroll around the property while enjoying some beverages. Guests will also get to listen to a talk in the Moonlight Garden about the fragrant plants and the history of the garden. The dates coincide with nights that a full moon will occur. Visitors will also be able to walk onto the porches of the winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, and watch a video about the Moonlight Garden in the historic Edison Caretaker's House.

Discounted admission for the nighttime openings will be **\$20 for non-members** and **\$15 for members**.

Coastal Dayz Brewery will be on site and a cash bar will be available. Guests may bring a lawn chair or blanket to relax and watch the sunset or moonrise.



## Summer Nights at Edison Ford

**Friday, August 14 & September 18  
6-9 PM**

Visitors will be treated to music on the Ford lawn and have a chance to see a spectacular sunset over the Caloosahatchee River. Guests will also be able to walk onto the porches of the winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford and stroll through the botanical gardens.



## Plant Sales

**August 8, September 12,  
& October 10 (Orchid Symposium)  
9 AM-4:30 PM**

The plant sale that was held in June was a big hit, so we're going to have a few more! During the stay-at-home order, many people discovered the joy of gardening for the first time; and those who already were avid gardeners, dug in deeper. For plant enthusiasts, our gardens are our personal sanctuary, where we can get away from it all. It's a place to relax with a glass of wine after work; it's a form of exercise, as we dig, weed, prune, and plant new beauties; it's also a place to become one with nature and watch all the birds, bees, and butterflies enjoy the fruits of our labor.



The next plant sale will be on August 8, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Just like in June, we'll have a few vendors there too, along with a food truck and some beverages available for purchase. The sale will take place outdoors, in the Garden Shoppe and surrounding areas. We've received a lot of new plants, so the Garden Shoppe is stocked! Plus, horticulturists will staff the "Garden Guidance" table again, so bring your gardening questions. Vendors and Garden Guidance table will be on site until 2 p.m. Admission to the plant sale is free (does not include tours or admission to the museum, lab, or riverside of the property).

For anyone who has never been to the Garden Shoppe, it's a unique place for gardeners to shop for quality plants. There's a large selection of flowering and fruit trees, butterfly plants, herbs, succulents, orchids, rare exotics and even Florida natives. Wind chimes, fountains, ceramic flower pots and garden art are also offered. Only a limited number of garden carts are available, so if you have one of your own, it's a good idea to bring it along.

If you're a member, you'll be getting information about a special preview for members only, and members will receive discounts throughout the day. If you're not a member, you can join that day and get the discounts – just stop by the membership table for information!

All staff will be wearing masks, and **we are requiring our visitors to wear a mask to the plant sale** as well. Masks are required in all indoor areas. We also ask everyone to practice social distancing at the plant sale. If you would prefer to shop on a different day, the Garden Shoppe is open seven days a week, **9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** We hope to see you there!





## JUST FOR KIDS



## Just for Kids

Please check the website at **edisonford.org** for upcoming children's programs. Throughout the year, we offer Emerging Inventors for little ones (ages 1-5), school break and summer camps, and programs for homeschool kids. Contact Program Registrar, LEEANNE CRISWELL at **239-334-7419** with any questions.



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**CLASS DATES:**

**Saturday • August 29, 2020**

**Saturday • September 26, 2020**

**Saturday • October 10, 2020**

**Saturday • January 23, 2021**

**Saturday • March 6, 2021**

**Saturday • April 24, 2021**

**Saturday • May 22, 2021**

**11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**COST:**

Edison Ford Members \$75

Non-Members \$85

# Lessons in Manners for the Generations

## Etiquette Class

**for Children Aged 6-12**

**Mina Edison was a gracious hostess and concerned with the well being of children and the community. Following in her tradition, this two-hour etiquette class will teach etiquette and social skills.**

Students will gather at the Edison Caretaker's House for a lesson in good manners. This class teaches proper introduction, handshakes and dining etiquette during a three-course meal. Each student will receive a workbook and certificate of completion.

Classes are taught by Suzanne Willis who teaches etiquette classes at Ritz-Carlton hotels throughout the nation. Willis is a graduate of the Protocol School of Palm Beach and a Fort Myers native. She started the etiquette classes in honor of her grandmother, Florence "Mimi" Black.

**PER CDC GUIDELINES, MASKS ARE REQUIRED.  
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.**

Register online at

**ECommerce.EdisonFordWinterEstates.org**

or call **239-334-7419**



**2350 McGregor Boulevard • Fort Myers, FL 33901**

**[www.EdisonFordWinterEstates.org](http://www.EdisonFordWinterEstates.org)**



## New Exhibit in the Museum

The “DC vs. AC: Edison, Tesla, Westinghouse, and the Race to Electrify America” exhibit was extremely popular, so we brought it back! The display is now in the museum and visitors who didn’t get to see it before are in for a treat. It explores the differences and similarities of the genius inventors, as well as the differences between alternating and direct current.

“The Current War,” a movie about how Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla disagreed on which type of electric current was best, opened last year. Edison believed his direct current was superior to Tesla’s alternating current; however, Tesla ultimately won that war, as alternating current is used around the world today.

Other exhibits are in the works, so watch our website and social media for updates. Exhibits in the museum are included with admission. At the time of this printing, masks are required in indoor spaces, including the museum.





# Aloia, Roland, Lubell & Morgan, PLLC



Established in 2004, the full-service law firm Aloia, Roland, Lubell & Morgan, PLLC is a proud business member of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates (EFWE). Led by senior partners, Frank Aloia, Jr., Ty Roland, Evan Lubell and Jack Morgan III, the firm has deep roots in Southwest Florida and proudly serves the community with 10 attorneys and more than 25 support staff.

With a values-driven approach to its practice of law, the team at Aloia Roland has a genuine commitment to best serve its clients. Practice areas include business and commercial litigation, real estate and corporate transactional law, landlord/tenant law and construction litigation. Aloia Roland also has a talented team of attorneys who serve its clients with legal needs for personal injury and wrongful death, class action litigation, family law and wills, trusts, estates and probate.

Thomas Edison's statement, "Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time," embodies the team's approach to facing challenges and reaching its victories. Recently named Business Partner of the Year by the Foundation for Lee County Schools, Aloia Roland's dedicated service defines them.

Senior partner, Frank Aloia, Jr. has a long-standing commitment to the EFWE, and his family even has a personal tie to Thomas Edison. His great-grandfather, Michael Pavese, was Mr. Edison's barber when Mr. Edison was in Fort Myers. Frank currently serves as the chair of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates Board of Trustees and has been involved with the EFWE since the inception of the non-profit in 2003 and is a founding board member.

Prior to the inception of the non-profit board and the City's lease to the non-profit to run the Estates, Frank served on the board of the Edison-Ford Foundation, which was a private group of long-time Fort Myers citizens, and chaired by Sam Galloway, Jr. This group was greatly concerned with the physical condition of the historic structures, and generally how the Estates were being run by the City, and led the charge to have a private non-profit run the Estates via a long-term lease agreement so as to ensure the revenues from the Estates were being put back into the properties. The transfer of the operations of the Estates to EFWE has, over the last 17 years, led to a complete revitalization and rebirth of the Estates from both a physical "bricks-and-mortar" standpoint, but also from an educational and relevancy standpoint. The Estates are, once again, a communal hub of cultural and entertainment events.

"My favorite event at the estates is Holiday Nights. Ever since I was a small kid, going to see all of the Christmas lights and decorations at the Edison and Ford Homes has been part of our family's holiday tradition, said Frank Aloia, Jr."

As a business member, Frank believes in the organization's mission and is especially proud of the historic legacy that the EFWE preserves. As a shining example of Southwest Florida's gorgeous landscapes, the EFWE is a must-see paradise for locals and visitors from around the globe. Frank appreciates and highly recommends any opportunity to walk the grounds near the river, especially on a slow day when it's quiet.

To learn more about Aloia Roland, visit [www.LawDefined.com](http://www.LawDefined.com) or call (239) 791-7950.





# 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) \$30, Children (6-12) \$16.



## Inside-the-Homes Tours

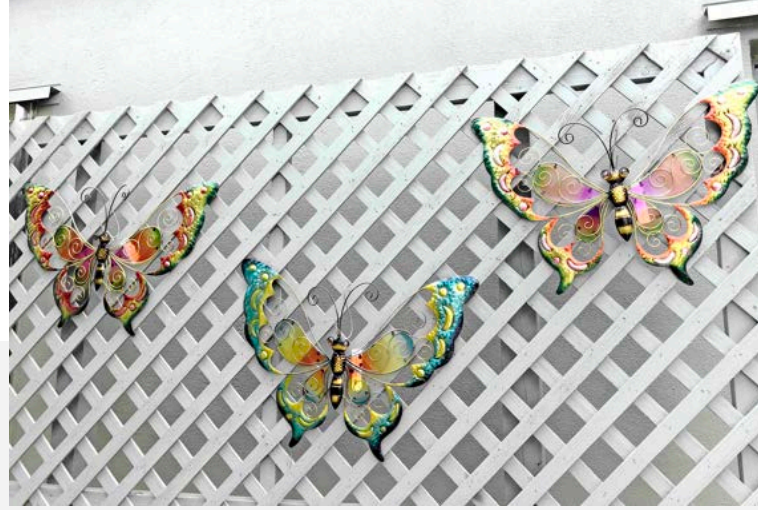
This tour is a unique opportunity to take a sneak peek inside normally-closed areas of Thomas Edison's "Seminole Lodge" and Henry Ford's "The Mangoes." Approximate tour time is 90 minutes to two hours. (Allow additional time to view the museum, laboratory, and gardens.)

**Thursdays | 11:00 AM**

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

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





## Create Your Own Personal Zen

We all need some Zen right now, and what better way to create your own Zen space than with the bubbling sounds of a water fountain! Several shapes and colors are available to coordinate with your lanai or patio theme. There are also some new garden art pieces to liven up your outdoor space, like these giant metal butterflies or “swimming” Koi fish. 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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