



EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM
LABORATORY

MEMBER
MAGAZINE

MARCH
2021

EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

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

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To become a member of Edison Ford,
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Bougainvillea in bloom

While many northern states are still covered in snow, here in Southwest Florida, spring has sprung! The temperature is once again reaching into the 80s and shrubs, like the Bougainvillea are bursting with beautiful blooms!

Now is a good time to plant trees, shrubs and annual wildflowers, before the temperature gets really hot and the daily torrential rains start. Just remember to water newly planted specimens regularly until they are established.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates offers many ways to learn about plants and gardening, including Garden Talks, Gardening Classes, Garden Festival and Plant Sales and there's a new Garden VIP Tour. Gardening is a wonderful way to enjoy the outdoors and get some exercise. Come to one of our classes or events and we'll help you get started!

What we're doing to keep you safe:

- 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.
- Sanitizer stations are placed throughout the site.
- Visitors are required to wear masks during Holiday Nights, at events, 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 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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: Cars on display at the Mysore Fig tree.
The annual Antique Ford Car show is March 6.



GARDEN FESTIVAL HUGE SUCCESS!

THANK YOU to everyone who came out to the February Garden Festival! The Garden Shoppe sold more than ever before and we gained a lot of new members! Be sure to look out for upcoming information about Grow Fort Myers and additional plant sales throughout the summer months. **We hope to see you at each one!**

Save the Date: GROW FORT MYERS Plant Sale and Festival APRIL 24

Come spend the day with us and participate in workshops, demonstrations, and of course plants will be available for sale!





VIP TOURS

VIP Tour – Garden Tour | March 20

Do you love gardening? Do you enjoy learning about different plant species and how they grow in different environments? This special “fundraising tour” will take you to four private gardens in the City of Fort Myers. You will be treated to a half day (bus transportation included) with our garden staff to see the private gardens in the McGregor Boulevard area and hear the story of each garden!

This is a rare opportunity to be invited into the private gardens and converse with the owners who created, designed and visualized their own special places. You will discover that these gardens are as diverse and unique as each of the owners!

We will accept reservations for 25 guests for each tour on a 40-passenger bus so guests are adequately spaced apart. The morning tour will begin at 8 a.m. and the afternoon tour at 1 p.m. Participants will select morning or afternoon.

Please register by calling Sherri Muske at 239-335-3677.

COST is \$125 for Edison Ford members and \$135 for non-members.

All tours are subject to change and are based on availability. Pre-paid registration is required.

Masks are required.

Please note: 100% of registration fees for the Garden Tour will go toward the Edison and Ford Winter Estates Garden Restoration Fund.



ANNUAL ANTIQUE FORD CAR SHOW

MARCH 6 | 10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Each year, Ford car owners and club members exhibit more than 100 cars on the Ford estate lawn as a tribute to Henry Ford, the pioneer of the automobile industry. Along with the car show, there will be music, a food truck and visitors can tour the gardens, museum, laboratory and see the historic homes.

This family event is free for Edison Ford members and \$25 for non-members, which includes a self-guided tour of the entire site. **Tickets may be purchased online or at the ticket counter.** Masks are required.



SUNSET CELEBRATION

MARCH 12 | 6 P.M. – 8 P.M.

Steve Arvey

Visitors are invited to stroll the botanical gardens after regular hours for a special evening of music, refreshments and a sunset view over the Caloosahatchee River. Guests may also walk onto the porches of Thomas Edison's and Henry Ford's winter homes and look inside through the open doors.

Steve Arvey will play an eclectic mix of Blues. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Guests may bring a lawn chair or blanket to relax and watch the sunset. Masks are required.

TICKETS: \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. Masks are required.



VINTAGE BASE BALL GAME AT TERRY PARK

MARCH 21 | 11 A.M.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates will host a day of vintage “base ball” on Sunday, March 21 at Terry Park. There will be a double header featuring the Fort Myers Vagabonds versus the Vintage Base Ball Club of Central Florida. The first game starts at 11 a.m. Spectators will receive a special discount on admission to the Estates valid through April 30.

Admission to the game is free. Masks are required.



SPRING TRAINING TALK

MARCH 20 | 2 P.M. AND MARCH 22 | 11 A.M.

Learn about the history of Spring Training in Fort Myers with Program Manager, Holly Shaffer. Included with admission to the Estates. Masks are required.



RHYTHM ON THE RIVER

MARCH 26 | 6 P.M.

Caribbean Chillers (Jimmy Buffett tribute band)

If you like listening to 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. 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. There will be a cash bar and refreshments available for purchase.

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

Masks are required.

**Due to COVID-19, all events are subject to change. Please check the website for updates.
Masks are required where noted**

SCHOOL BREAK CAMPS GRADES 1 - 6

Spring 2021

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WHERE SCIENCE
AND HISTORY ARE
ILLUMINATED!



• Pre-registration at **EdisonFord.org** is required for all programs

• For information regarding safety and health protocols, or for **virtual field trips** or **science presentations**, view our website

March 15 - 19, 2021
**Spring Break Camp:
LEGO Robotics**

Every day, campers take on new challenges and skills in this robotics crash

course! This camp progresses through the core science and engineering concepts that define robotics. Campers begin with an exploration of circuits and electronics to understand the fundamentals of robotics. Mid-week, campers tackle mechanical engineering and physics as they become more familiar with simple machines and mechanical advantage.



The week of camp concludes with computer code and logic as campers tie together their new skills on an open-ended robotic challenge field. No prior knowledge is required. The main robotic platform used in this camp is the LEGO Mindstorm system. *Members: \$200 Non-members: \$230*

April 5, 2021
**Day Camp:
Mad Chemistry**

Campers will engage their inner “mad scientist” in a series of engaging chemistry experiments and activities! *Members: \$45 Non-members: \$50*



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CLASS DATE:

**SATURDAY
MAY 22, 2021**

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Space is limited

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
EdisonFord.org
or call **239-334-7419**



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www.EdisonFord.org

SUMMER 2021 • **GRADES 1 - 3** • June 21 - August 6, 2021

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INVENTOR'S SUMMER CAMP

Join us as science and history come alive in the "living laboratory" of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily!



JUNE 21 - 25 • KITCHEN CHEMISTRY

Fast-paced chemistry experiments that fizz, bang, and pop will inspire curiosity in young scientists. *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

JUNE 28 - JULY 2 • MINI MAKERS

Design, build, improve, and repeat! Walk in the footsteps of Edison and Ford along the path of innovation. *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

JULY 6 - 9 • EAGER ENGINEERING

Tackle daily engineering design challenges in this fast-paced camp exploring simple machines and physics. *Members: \$160 • non-members: \$185*

JULY 12 - 16 • MOVIE MAKING

Lights! Camera! Action! Every camper participates in learning the secrets and process to making movie magic. *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

JULY 19 - 23 • SPACE AND ROCKETS

The space race is on! Campers explore our solar system and the forces of flight-- and launch their own rocket! *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

JULY 26 - 30 • RADICAL ROBOTS

Robots big and small are examined this high-tech camp-- including a functional LEGO Mindstorm robot. *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

AUGUST 2 - 6 • ART SMARTS

Campers fuse imagination with science and design as they expand their tool-belt of creative expression. *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

Sponsored by:



• Pre-registration at **EdisonFord.org** is required for all programs

• For information regarding safety and health protocols, view our website

The school is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event, product, or service, nor endorsing the views of the sponsoring organization.

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SUMMER 2021 • **GRADES 4 - 6** • June 21 - August 6, 2021

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INVENTOR'S SUMMER CAMP

Join us as science and history come alive in the "living laboratory" of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily!



JUNE 21 - 25 • KITCHEN CHEMISTRY

Fast-paced chemistry experiments that fizz, bang, and pop will inspire curiosity in young scientists. *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

JUNE 28 - JULY 2 • CODE CAMP

Explore the world of code and computer science., coding Minecraft on the Raspberry Pi, making video games on Scratch, and coding a LEGO robot. No experience necessary. *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

JULY 6 - 9 • EAGER ENGINEERS

Tackle daily engineering design challenges in this fast-paced camp exploring simple machines and physics. *Members: \$160 • non-members: \$185*

JULY 12 - 16 and 19 - 23 • MOVIE MAKING

Lights! Camera! Action! Join the wild wizard and learn the secrets and process to making movie magic. Each camper participates in all aspects of movie production from story boarding, directing, acting, working with camera's, lights, and sound. *Members: \$400 • non-members: \$460*

JULY 26 - 30 • RADICAL ROBOTS

Robots big and small are examined this high-tech camp-- including a functional LEGO Mindstorm robot. *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

AUGUST 2 - 6 • ART SMARTS

Campers fuse imagination with science and design as they expand their tool-belt of creative expression. *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

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Garden Talk: Why Native Plants are Great

MARCH 13 | 10 A.M.

When Edison purchased the property on the Caloosahatchee River, the property contained many native plants that thrived here. They survived easily through the years, and now we love to highlight the importance of growing natives, with the emphasis on “Right Plant in the Right Place.” A native garden is also an important part of the health of our waterways. Come see the many varieties of natives that attract wildlife, including shore birds, song birds, butterflies and native bees. All participants receive a 20% off coupon good toward plant purchases in the Garden Shoppe. Registration not required.

Cost: members \$10, non-members \$15.
Masks are required.



Gardening Class: Shade Gardening in Southwest Florida

MARCH 16 | 1:30 P.M.

One of the amazing aspects of tropical gardening is the variety of plants that can be grown, and in fact, thrive in a shady part of gardens. This class will help one design a multi-layered shade garden that mixes texture, color and contrast and compliments existing plants or trees. Participants are encouraged to bring their shade garden challenges for ground cover, annual or perennial recommendations.

Container gardening is another great way to highlight a darker area of a garden, lanai or screen room and design ideas for these spaces will also be covered. Many Florida native plants are perfect additions to a well-designed shady area and it’s important to understand how they grow and how to choose complimentary non-natives to create a stunning shade garden. This class will also cover watering issues and maintenance. After the in-class experience, participants will walk through two shade gardens at the Estates. Classroom time: 60 minutes; garden time: 20 minutes.

Advance registration is required for all classes, as each class is limited to 25 participants. Register online at EdisonFord.org. Masks are required, and participants should bring a notebook, water bottle, hat, sunscreen, garden gloves and comfortable walking shoes. All in-class participants will receive a 20% discount coupon toward plant purchases in the Garden Shoppe. Taught by Karen M. Maxwell, horticultural specialist.

Cost: \$35 for members and \$50 for non-members.
Masks are required.

DIGITAL DISCUSSION: **On the Road Again: The Camping Trips of Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, John Burroughs and Harvey Firestone**

MARCH 9 | 10:30 A.M.

Join Program Manager, Holly Shaffer for a Digital Discussion on the camping trips of Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, John Burroughs and Harvey Firestone. These four "vagabonds" invented the road trip, meeting with world famous and everyday Americans along the way. This group of friends attracted attention wherever they traveled. We hope you will join us for this free and informative Zoom-based discussion.

This is a free virtual lecture. Registration is required. Visit EdisonFord.org to register.



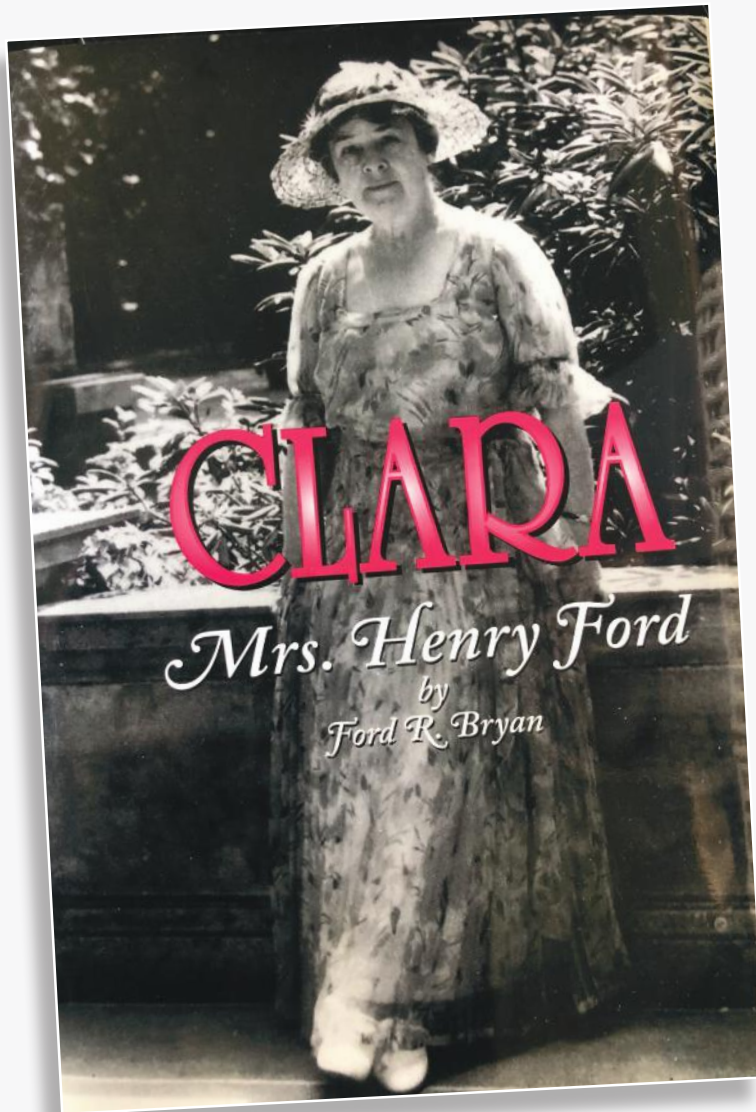
Silk Scarf Painting Class

MARCH 27 | 10 A.M.

Join artist Marie Dyer for a silk scarf painting class. Participants will make a 14" X 72" silk scarf that can be worn or hung as a piece of artwork. All materials are included in the fee. **Registration is required.**

Cost: \$90 for Edison Ford members; \$100 for non-members.

March Book of the Month: “Clara: Mrs. Henry Ford”



In honor of **Women's History Month** our March book of the month is *Clara: Mrs. Henry Ford*, by Ford R. Bryan. The highlight of this book is the 175 photos of Clara Ford, the Ford family and special places in their lives. Readers will also learn about her family genealogy, her diaries, and family recipes. This is the only biography of Clara Ford and one you won't want to miss. This book is available in the museum store and members get 10% off each purchase. If you're not in the area, give us a call at 239-334-7419 and we can ship a copy to you.

Coastal Dayz Brewery



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

With a laid back and relaxing atmosphere, Southwest Florida provides the perfect location for this indoor/outdoor brewery. We first opened our doors in Fort Myers in April of 2018 and have been pouring pints almost daily ever since. Being a member of this local community and receiving the support that we have since we opened, and especially over the last year, has proven how lucky we are to be a part of it.

Tell us what you like about partnering/working with Edison Ford.

We began working with Edison Ford Estates for special events after our first year of being open. Being so close to each other, it makes sense to partner up whenever possible. We especially enjoy making specialty brews for events when they provide us with fresh fruit from the property. The Starfruit Ale at the Garden Festival is a great hit! Always creating great events to bring small businesses and the community together is only one of the reasons we love working with them! Donating our time and our product to this organization has been both rewarding and extremely fun! It's never work when we're smiling, visiting and pouring beer for happy customers. And once the event is over, it's just a short walk down the street to the taproom.

Is there something special you would like to share about your company?

Coastal Dayz Brewery believes in providing a great product, in a relaxing setting with exceptional customer service. Along with our 11 core brews, we also offer a fun small batch beer every single Tuesday. Oh, and we love the pitter patter of little paws so bring those furry family members along with you. One of our incredible team members will always be here to welcome you to Coastal Dayz and pour your beer with a smile! Cheerz!



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. Every day of the week Edison Ford offers visitors historian-led guided tours and self-guided 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.



Inside-the-Homes Tours

THURSDAYS | 11:00 A.M.

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.)

Limited reservations available for this tour, pre-registration required by calling 239-335-3674.

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



Private Guided Tours Available By Reservation

To accommodate families or small business groups, private guided tours are now available. These tours are for small groups of nine people or less and ensure that families will not be on a tour with other tourists. Two tour focus options are available, including the Historian-led Private Guided Tour, or the Private Garden Tour with a Horticulturist. Masks are required on guided tours. Private tours should be reserved at least 48 hours in advance.

During the private tours, visitors will see the historic winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, the caretaker's houses, swimming pool complex, Edison's study and the Moonlight Garden, and more than 20 acres of botanical gardens. The Garden Tour provides an in-depth exploration of the hundreds of plants and trees on the property. After the tour, visitors may take extra time to stroll the gardens, museum and botanic research laboratory at their own pace.

Cost: Private Guided Tour is \$345, and the Private Garden Tour is \$360.

Museum Musings

MARCH 3 | 11 A.M.

Site Historian, Phil Chase, will talk about the history of Edison's work with the Electrical Generator Motor.

MARCH 17 | 11 A.M.

Want to know more about Ford's V-8 Engine? Join Curatorial Registrar, Matt Andres, for his discussion.

MARCH 31 | 11 A.M.

Join Curatorial Assistant, Tayelor Kakes, to learn more about the history of the Moonlight Garden.

Museum Musings are included with admission.

A VISIT FROM THE Model T Club

We recently had some visitors from the Model T Ford Club of America and they brought their cars for everyone to see. Dom was also kind enough to send us some antique car parts for our collection! Alexandria Edwards gave Steve and Jill Ellis, Dom and Kathy Rosenau, and "George" Hobart and Ramona Akin a tour.

Ford Model T cars in order: 1925 Coupe, 1920 Depo Hack and a 1919 Touring.
Photos courtesy of Jill Ellis





FLOWER FRIDAYS

Each Friday, the Edison and Ford Winter Estates Garden Shoppe receives a delivery of new plants. Those plants include butterfly host and nectar plants, herbs, orchids, fruit trees, exotic flowering shrubs, and even some Florida natives.

Stop by and see what's new this week!



Many years ago, Mina Edison had her photo taken while she stood at the edge of the Coloosahatchee, in front of the pier that her husband built. Today, this location is one of our most popular selfie spots with young visitors. We believe Mina would be pleased.

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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