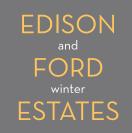


HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM LABORATORY

MEMBER MAGAZINE

MAY 2021



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

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MEMBERSHIP

To become a member of Edison Ford, apply at **edisonford.org/membership**



Guinea Chestnut Tree

GO PUBLIC GARDENS DAYS

In partnership with the American Public Gardens Association, we are celebrating Go Public Gardens Days from May 7-16. The week is an ongoing, evergreen association initiative to increase botanical garden visitation. Participating gardens are encouraged to show support with green lights, so Edison Ford will be glowing green this week!

Edison and Ford Winter Estates has more than 20 acres of botanical gardens and offers a guided Garden Tour, led by horticulturists. The tour leads guests around the property and through the propagating nursery. With plants and trees from all around the world, and Florida natives too, the gardens at Edison Ford are a treat all year long because something is always blooming! Garden Tours available by appointment. Call 239-334-7419 today to schedule a guided Garden Tour!

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 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: One of the many Plumerias blooming on the Edison estate.

IN THE GARDEN

ROSES at Edison and Ford Winter Estates







In 1903, Mina and Thomas Edison began a major relandscaping of their winter home along the banks of the Caloosahatchee and it is documented that the first perennials installed in their tropical paradise were roses. Roses were so important to Mina, that they were installed before Edison planted his vast inventory of exotic shrubs and trees!

Hale Walker, a landscape architect designed the Arts & Crafts-style pergola that connects the main house to the guest house. In the outdoor living space, he included climbing roses to scramble up and over the pergola. Roses were also recommended for the gate that led to the pier, and much later, in 1928 when the laboratory was removed, roses were once again the first of Mina's plants installed in the new garden behind Edison's study.

The demand for roses here in America at the end of the Victorian era included fussy hybrid tea roses combined with the naturalized plantings of the Arts and Crafts movement, which led to the creation of modern gardens. By the late 1800s the influence of the Arts and Crafts period gained a solid foothold in America and the Edisons had the benefit of an enormous greenhouse at their New Jersey home. The "Glenmont" had an entire room dedicated to roses sourced from around the world – many of which likely made their way to the Edison's new Florida landscape.

Edison had a desire to experiment with as many exotic perennial shrubs and ornamental trees as he could find, and records indicate that a similar approach applied to the rose gardens. From 1903 to 1907, the Edisons were assisted by their European-trained gardener and caretaker, Ewald Stulpner who kept meticulous records of the plant and rose purchases. Stulpner planted roses in narrow beds, with a three to four foot walkway, which would give at least two people room to walk, admire, smell and readily enjoy the roses. Mr. Stulpner was advised to plant Florida roses in September and beginning in 1901, the staff annually planted tea roses in the Fort Myers gardens. Stulpner noted that he placed the roses in a sunny, sheltered space and they were not to be moved.

In February of 1910, Mina, in a letter to her mother, wrote from Fort Myers that she could see her white roses from her sofa; indicating that her first rose beds were in front of the main house in the lawn that ran to the river's edge, and she enlarged her veranda to take in sweeping views of these gardens.

It is worth noting here, that roses grown as perennials today in Southwest Florida, are often grown on Fortuniana rootstock to provide the roses with a vigorous root system needed to thrive here. This was not known during Mina's gardening years and so the common practice of the wellto-do, was to grow roses as annuals and re-plant them every year.

We also know that Mina included roses in her first garden that was created in 1928 with the removal of Edison's laboratory. Nat Walker, the architect of the original Moonlight Garden trellis, called for red roses at the base of the coquina chimney and in the corners of the garden at the base of the original Italian cypress trees. He also called for a climbing rose, up the chimney, and the bench on the east end of the garden was placed to "gaze at the rosy-red roses on the chimney."

Mina also desired flowers in pastel colors and one of her favorite climbing roses was Marechal Niel (1909), a fragrant, yellow noisette climbing rose. A year later, she engaged the help of landscape architect, Ellen Biddle Shipman to re-design this garden space, and the original sobriquet Moonlight Garden appeared on her 1929 plan, as well as references to the existing roses.

Thrifty as the Edisons were known to be, when it came to Mina and her roses, apparently there was no limit. Records indicate that she often purchased roses from Glen St. Mary Nurseries, still located today about 30 miles west of Jacksonville. When they didn't have what she desired, she purchased them from John N. May Roses in NJ, or from Pickering's in Ontario, Canada which were undoubtedly expensive, but came with a guarantee.

Of the 42 unnamed roses purchased from J.E. Hendry, (a local grower who had a close association with the Edisons), for 25 cents a piece, they were more experimental than ornamental. As Edison experimented with collecting wild tropical plants, so Mina experimented in collecting rare, old, and brand-new varieties of roses – often buying new hybrids before most of the American public was even aware of their existence. Between 1903-1905 varieties such as "Kaiserin Augusta Victoria," an intensely fragrant yellow hybrid perpetual rose, and "American Beauty" were added to her garden. Between 1903 and 1910, records indicate that the Edisons purchased six dozen roses.

Today, visitors can admire the "Duchesse de Brabant," originally purchased by Mina as "Madam Joseph Schwartz" and "Safrano," a yellow tea and classified as an Old Garden Rose (OGR), meaning it existed before 1867. Mina used hybrid teas in her gardens to complement naturalized ramblers such as "Cherokee Rose," which Hendry provided.

In 1933, Mina permanently removed roses from the Moonlight Garden and created a dedicated rose garden adjacent to her home. Whether it was for sitting and viewing, or created as a cut-flower garden, we don't know.

Clara Ford also loved roses and grew more than 350 varieties at her Fair Lane home in Detroit. Her niece, Peggy Campbell gave the Estates a financial gift to create another rose garden to showcase some of the antique and OGRs so loved by her aunt. Today, "Mrs. B.R. Cant," a pink tea rose, is thriving in her honor.

Both Mina and Clara had a preference for pastel-colored roses, which in the language of roses includes yellow for friendship; pink for love, gratitude and appreciation; and white for honor and reverence. We hope you will come take a tour of our rose gardens and enjoy the fragrant history here at the Estates.

GARDEN TALK: Growing Citrus SATURDAY, MAY 8 | 10 A.M.

Many plants from all over the world have been grown at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. Citrus trees were a favorite of the Edisons. Some of the types of citrus that Thomas and Mina grew were sweet oranges, grapefruits, lemons, limes, tangerines and satsumas. Mina regularly sent her tasty citrus marmalade, mango jam, and guava jelly to her friends and family in Glenmont, NJ.

When Ford purchased the property next door to the Edison estate, it was a working citrus grove – similar to the one that exists now. This grove was re-established a few years ago. Today, there are 40 grafted orange and grapefruit trees. It has been quite a few years since the commercial citrus industry was "king" in Florida. Unfortunately, Citrus Greening has negatively affected the entire industry. The University of Florida and other research institutions are continuing the fight against this problem with some luck.

During this talk, participants will learn which diseases and nutritional issues affect citrus, and what we do to keep the citrus trees at the Estates healthy. We will discuss how to grow your citrus in the home landscape and the myriad of ways to use this luscious fruit. Participants will receive a 20% off coupon for use toward plants in the Garden Shoppe.

Cost: members \$10, non-members \$15. Advance registration not required.



CURATORIAL CORNER



A Tribute to Mina Edison on Mother's Day

Mother's Day was established by Anna Jarvis of West Virginia in 1908. Several years later, the second Sunday in May was designated as the official Mother's Day in the United States. Edison and Ford Winter Estates will be open for regular hours from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Mother's Day and mothers visiting the site will receive a little gift (while supplies last). Sundays are always a good day for families to stroll the gardens and see what's new in the museum!

Thomas and Mina first arrived to Fort Myers in 1885 and built their winter home here in 1886. They traveled to Fort Myers many times, spending the winter months of January through March along the Caloosahatchee until Edison passed away in 1931.

While Edison was heavily focused on his research, Mina ran the household and termed herself a "Home Executive." Mina's mother felt that a woman's highest purpose was her husband's happiness and Mina followed in her footsteps by taking on the supportive role for Thomas while he worked. Mary Valinda cautioned her daughter "not to look to greatness and nobility in things far beyond your reach ... greatness is in being ready and willing to make little things great and useful."

In later years, Mina became quite active in civic affairs herself; however, her mother's words always resonated with her and she made sure to support her family while also investing time to her own causes. The best advice Mary gave Mina was that once they learned to take things easier and let success come to them, that they would always feel happy and content.

Thomas and Mina had three children: Charles, Madeleine and Theodore. While in Fort Myers, Mina often corresponded with family members. Her daughter, Madeleine and mother, Mary would write letters back and forth to each other when they could not be together in person. They often shared details with each other about afternoon walks, sailing trips, and times spent in Fort Myers. Mina frequently expressed to her mother how much she wished she was with them and stated that she would never be satisfied until she saw it all, making a joke that she would arrange for a flying machine to bring her down to Florida if she could.

Madeleine often wrote to Mina about her grandchildren and their progression in their careers and how they enjoyed the lazy days spent by the pool at the Edison's Seminole Lodge Estate. She expressed appreciation to her mother for letting her spend time at their estate and how she loved the baskets of grapes and sweets she always sent while also pleading Mina not to always work so hard.

Mina deeded their estate to the City of Fort Myers in 1947 with the goal of leaving a legacy to her husband, Thomas Edison. Today, visitors from around the world can learn about Mina's many accomplishments.

DIGITAL DISCUSSION: "THE GREATEST OF ALL MY INSPIRING FRIENDS:" Exploring the Friendship of Henry Ford and George Washington Carver

TUESDAY, MAY 11 | 10:30 A.M.

Join Program Manager Holly Shaffer for a discussion about the friendship and the business relationship between automobile magnate Henry Ford and scientist and inventor George Washington Carver.

This is a free virtual lecture. Registration is required. Visit the website to register.

EDISON and FORD winter ESTATES

SUSTAINABLE CONCEPTIONS

JANUARY 14 to MAY 29, 2022

ARTISTS ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT 2-D AND 3-D WORKS OF ART Deadline for submission is November 7, 2021

CALL TO ARTISTS!

Did you know, Henry Ford repurposed wooden crates used to transport material as floorboards for his automobiles? Or that Thomas Edison purified chemical solvents to be reused while working on his rubber project in his Fort Myers Laboratory? While the Green Movement was not popular during their lifetimes, Edison and Ford both recognized the importance of recycling and reusing materials.

This year we would like to showcase art inspired by Edison and Ford's efforts to reuse products and their abilities to work towards a sustainable future.

For Information or to apply, Please Contact Tayelor Kakes at tkakes@edisonford.org

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



HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM LABORATORY







- Pre-registration at <u>EdisonFord.org</u> 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.

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

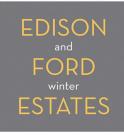
Campers fuse imagination with science and design as they expand their tool-belt of creative expression. *Members: \$200 • non-members: \$230*

Sponsored by:



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



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• Pre-registration at <u>EdisonFord.org</u> is required for all programs

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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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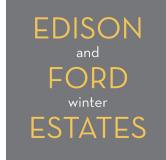
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EXPLORE MORE @edisonford.org 9

Join us for an evening of FILMS UNDER THE STARS!

In partnership with the Fort Myers Film Festival





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SPONSORED BY:

A Tradition of 100 Years in Southwest Florida STRAYHORN & PERSONS ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

MAY 14 • 7:30 P.M.

Several films will be shown on the Henry Ford estate lawn, along the Caloosahatchee River.

Refreshments will be available for purchase. Masks are required.

FILMS:

- Edison silent film, with Stephen Brittain performing the score
- **"Preservation Forever**," a tribute to the success of Sam Galloway, Jr. and his long history with the Estates
- **"Stay Wild**," a short story about a young woman and her quest to conserve wild places
- **"A Greenlander**," a documentary about a French painter in Greenland who teaches art therapy to neglected children

TICKETS: Edison Ford N

Edison Ford Members: \$10 and Non-members: \$15

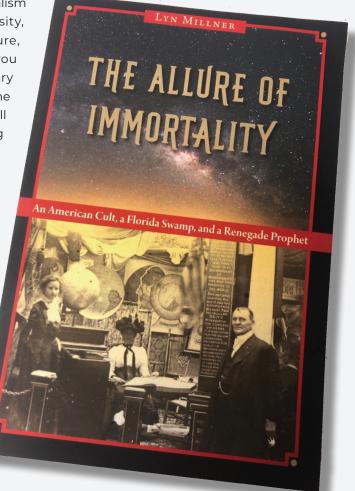
2350 McGregor Blvd. • Fort Myers, FL 33901 | 239.334.7419 EdisonFord.org

May Book of the Month: The Allure of Immortality

By Lyn Millner

In the early twentieth century, Cyrus Teed (who changed his name to Koresh) lead 200 followers out of Chicago into the scrubland of Estero, near Fort Myers, FL. He and his followers, the Koreshans, began building a communal Utopian society on what they believed was a hollow earth. His followers believed Teed would be immortal.

Written by a professor of journalism at Florida Gulf Coast University, this book is full of adventure, intrigue, and betrayal. Did you know Thomas Edison and Henry Ford made connections with the Koreshan community? You will be entertained while learning more about Southwest Florida history and this little-known community. 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.



TOURS & PROGRAMS



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

TUESDAYS | 11:00 A.M. (first come, first served) THURSDAYS | 11:00 A.M. (pre-registration required)

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**. Tours on Tuesdays offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

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. Call 239-334-7419 to check availability and to schedule a tour.

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

MUSEUM MUSINGS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12 11 A.M.

Henry Ford's Estate is known as the Mangoes for all of the mango trees that grow on the grounds. Find out how Mangoes came to be in the U.S. and how many varieties you can find here at Edison Ford with Curatorial Assistant, Tayelor Kakes.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26 11 A.M.

In remembrance of Thomas Edison displaying a scale model of his poured concrete house in 1910 at the Real Estate and Ideal Homes Exhibit at Madison Square Garden, Chief Curator, Brent Newman will discuss Edison and his work with concrete.

Museum Musings are included with admission. Check in at the museum desk.

Strayhorn & Persons



Jennifer Lynne Fisher • E. Bruce Strayhorn • Jenna Persons

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

For over six generations our predecessors have been involved and immersed in Southwest Florida, whether it be through the judicial system or through the halls of State Government.

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

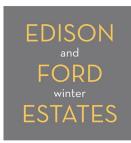
Guy M. Strayhorn began practicing law in the City of Fort Myers in 1915, he was a contemporary of both Henry Ford and Thomas Edison. The synergy of partnering with the Edison and Ford Winter Estates is unique and unrivaled, since after all, our predecessors were actually here, working in Southwest Florida at the time of Henry Ford and Thomas Edison, as well as Harvey Firestone and John Burroughs. Guy M. Strayhorn was serving as Lee County Prosecuting Attorney, State Attorney and in the Florida Legislature for most of the years that these famous individuals graced this area.

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

The process of public service and of law has evolved throughout the years, but careful attention to detail, proper preparation and service to the community, are some of the most important hallmarks that have withstood the test of time. Strayhorn & Persons represents the rich history of Southwest Florida.

A Tradition of 100 Years in Southwest Florida STRAYHORN & PERSONS ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS AT LAW

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION · APRIL 15 - MAY 31, 2021



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Questions? Contact the Membership Department at (239) 335 - 3674.

"AN ELECTRIFYING OPPORTUNITY"

The Edison and Ford Winter Estates and Cade Museum are teaming up for a unique, member-only promotion!

From April 15 through May 31, 2021, members of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates and the Cade Museum (located in Gainesville, Florida), can take advantage of a unique promotion. Hotels near each location are offering special discounts so that members can visit each museum for free through the reciprocal admission program.

Currently, the Cade is running two exhibits of special interest to Edison Ford members: Age of Electricity: Latimer, Edison and Tesla and Lewis Latimer: Lighting the Way. The mission of the Cade is to "to transform communities by inspiring and equipping future inventors, entrepreneurs, and visionaries."

Now is the perfect time to purchase or renew your membership!

2350 McGregor Boulevard • Fort Myers, FL 33901 Become a Member at www.EdisonFord.org



(Photos fromprevious year)

ART in the Gardens Exhibit

Students from local schools will participate in the **13TH ANNUAL ART IN THE GARDENS!**

This year, each class from more than 20 schools will create art pieces using wooden fish (approximately 48"x18"). The students may paint or decorate the fish in a creative manner, using recyclable materials that can withstand the outdoors. The fish will be mounted on a fence near the butterfly garden for all visitors to view. There is no charge to see this exhibit.

Sponsored by



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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