



EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM
LABORATORY

MEMBER
MAGAZINE

OCTOBER
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,
apply at edisonford.org/membership

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PRIVATE EVENTS AT EDISON FORD

Did you know that you can rent certain areas of the Estates for a wedding, corporate event or even a family party?

The Edison Caretaker's House, Moonlight Garden, River Pavilion, Pergola (between the Edison and Guest houses), and the Ford lawn area can all be reserved for your one-of-a-kind event! Contact Lindsey at llutarewych@edisonford.org or call **239-334-7419** and ask for the Events Department to book your event today!

What we're doing to keep you safe:

Following CDC guidelines, masks are **recommended** on guided tours, when indoors or when 6' social distancing cannot be achieved.

- Sanitizer stations are placed throughout the site.
- Counters and door handles are being disinfected daily.
- Plastic shields are installed at the ticket counter.
- Masks are available in the Museum Store.

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: Oncidium orchid "Dancing Lady" and other orchids hang from trees throughout the gardens.

RHYTHM ON THE RIVER

APPALACHIAN ROAD SHOW

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29 • 6-8 P.M.

Get ready for the first ever bluegrass performance at Edison Ford! This acoustic ensemble performs bluegrass and folk music, as well as original songs for an entertaining show! The event will take place on the Ford lawn, along the Caloosahatchee River.

Band members include Grammy-nominated banjoist Barry Abernathy, Grammy-winning fiddler Jim VanCleve, vocalist and mandolinist Darrell Webb, Grammy-winning bassist Todd Phillips, and guitarist Zeb Snyder. Abernathy, VanCleve, and Webb were each born and raised in Appalachia. Abernathy sang in his church as a young boy, VanCleve has played the fiddle since he was six years old, and Webb grew up with the influence of bluegrass music from his father.



The group's music tells stories from the mountains and valleys of North Carolina and Virginia and the coal mines of West Virginia and Kentucky. Those stories include topics of logging, coal mining, trains, and lost love in their hit songs such as the gospel-esque "I Am Just a Pilgrim" and "Little Black Train," the kick-up-your-heels "Dance, Dance, Dance," and the ballad of love and loss in "Anna Lee." The performance is more than just a concert and includes telling the stories behind the songs.

The band's first album had three number-one songs on the Bluegrass Today Weekly Airplay charts. Then, in 2019, the band was nominated for the New Artist of the Year and Song of the Year ("Dance Dance Dance") at the International Bluegrass Music Association Awards.

Food and beverage vendors will have refreshments available for purchase. No coolers permitted.

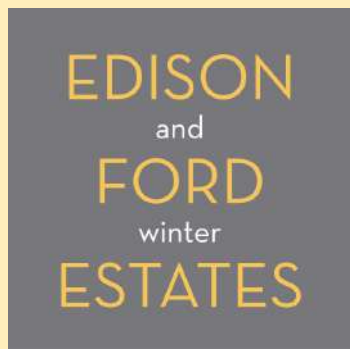
Free parking is available in the main Edison Ford parking lot at 2350 McGregor Boulevard.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and the concert starts at 6 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased online at EdisonFord.org or at the ticket counter.

Individual tickets purchased in advance are \$30 for Edison Ford members or \$35 for non-members; tickets at the door will be \$40. Individual ticket holders should bring a lawn chair.

A new VIP seating area will be open and may be reserved by the table for \$225. Each table holds up to 5 people; table ticket price includes the use of a table and chairs.



HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM
LABORATORY

***In partnership with
the Southwest Florida
Orchid Society***

Participating vendors
Open to the public:

- ♦ Blue Pagoda
- ♦ Jim-N-I Orchids
- ♦ Just One More Orchid
- ♦ OFE Orchid Supplies
- ♦ OrchidsAmore
- ♦ Orchid Jewels
- ♦ Palmer Orchids
- ♦ Smileys Orchids
- ♦ So Orchids
- ♦ Sunland Orchids
- ♦ Tropiflora

Plus

- ♦ Refreshments for sale
- ♦ Edison Ford Garden Shoppe open all day
- ♦ Live music

Orchid Sale & Symposium

October 9-10
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

A ticket is required for the presentations (each day): \$10 for EF members; \$15 for non-members *No charge to visit the vendor tables or Garden Shoppe. (Does not include tours or admission to the lab and museum).*

Presentation Schedule:

Saturday, October 9

- ♦ 9:30-10:30 a.m. - Little Known Orchids; Debbie Hughes, Horticulture Director at Edison Ford
- ♦ 11 a.m.-12 p.m. - Favorite Orchids for SW FL; John Hampton, Past President of the SW FL Orchid Society
- ♦ 1-2 p.m. - Orchid Mounting; Gary Murza, President of the SW FL Orchid Society
- ♦ 2-3:30 p.m. - Orchid Pests & Diseases; Gary Murza, President of the SW FL Orchid Society

Sunday, October 10

- ♦ 11 a.m.-12 p.m. - Intro to Orchids; Mickey Carnell, owner of Blue Pagoda Orchids
- ♦ 1-2 p.m. - Putting Orchids in Trees; Debbie Hughes, Horticulture Director at Edison Ford
- ♦ 2:15-3:15 p.m. - How to Grow and Re-flower Orchids; John Hampton, Past President of the SW FL Orchid Society



2350 McGregor Blvd. · Fort Myers, FL 33901 · EdisonFord.org · 239-334-7419

COLLECTION DISCUSSION

PLUMERIA

By Karen Maxwell, Horticultural Specialist

Behind the main parking lot at Edison Ford, are several garden areas presented just as when Edison was researching latex-bearing plants. A small sign invites the visitor to Edison's Botanic Research Gardens. There are beds of Goldenrod (*Solidago spp.*)*, Rubber Tree Vine (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) *and Crown of Thorns (*Euphorbia milli*)* and if one continues along the path, a copse of homely looking stick trees is beginning to mature with the promise of filling the air with sweet fragrance and beautiful flowers. Planted in 2017, an important collection of Plumeria, commonly known as Frangipani is emerging with an important, but different purpose from when Plumeria was originally introduced to the Edison property.

More than a hundred years ago, in 1920, the United States Department of Agriculture created a Plant Introduction Garden in Miami to assist with determining the viability of potentially important commercial plants including sources of rubber, cacao, mango, palms and more – all with the botanist Dr. David Fairchild's direction.

Shortly thereafter, Thomas Edison reached out to the garden sited at the former Chapman Field Airbase, for seeds from some of the plants they were acclimating to the South Florida conditions – specifically, he wanted latex-bearing plants that might be used in his efforts to produce domestic rubber. Our records indicate that Edison obtained seeds for the *Cryptostegia* or rubber vine plant for a 1925 spring planting, and it is quite possible, this was the source of the original *Plumeria acuminata rubra* (revised to *Plumeria rubra acutifolia*) or white frangipani trees. While originally focused on economic applications, this Chapman Field's garden today is known as the Subtropical Horticulture Research Garden in Miami, with conservation as its primary goal and where Plumerias are concerned, so is Edison and Ford Winter Estates.

Many visitors to Hawaii are familiar with the plumeria flower that's used in making leis. Those flowers are from trees that were imported to the Islands in 1860 from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Plumerias – in the same family as Oleander – are small tropical lactiferous shrubs or trees with swollen stems, typically with a canopy as broad as the plant is tall and producing clusters of flowers from May to October. Over the summer months, Plumerias are renowned for their (mostly) fragrant, five-petal waxy pinwheel flowers in a range of colors from deep reds to the purest whites, and many combinations in between.

There are 11 known species of Plumerias, each identified by a unique leaf shape. The most popular species includes Mexican or Common Plumeria (*Plumeria rubra*)*, which was the original species planted by Edison and catalogued as Nosegay Frangipani. *Plumeria rubra* is one of the most cultivated and hybridized of the plumerias for its strong fragrance and colors. Shedding most all its leaves when dormant from November to May, this deciduous variety is thus easy to recognize. Its botanical name refers to the color red. Most pink and red plumerias are of this species and produce seed pods up to 8" long.

Singapore Plumeria (*Plumeria obtusa*)* is the most fragrant and formal of the plumerias and has white flowers with yellow throats. This species is extremely fragrant and puts forth prolific flowers in July and August; the botanical name refers to the elliptical and blunt ended leaves and can produce seed pods 3-5" long. Bridal Bouquet (*Plumeria pudica*)* is an evergreen Plumeria identified by its spoon-shaped leaves and because of its name, is found in and around the Moonlight Garden, with its prolific white flowers. It has little to no fragrance and should not be chosen if a strong scented plumeria is desired.



Plumeria rubra acutifolia



Plumeria pudica

White frangipani (*Plumeria alba*) is a wonderful choice for fragrant white flowers with a yellow throat. Though native to the New World, the common name, Frangipani, has interesting origins in Italy. According to some, a nobleman developed a musky perfume, named it after himself and used it to sweeten the smell of new leather gloves. Once Europeans were introduced to Plumeria, they applied the name to the scented flowers. In India, it is called Pagoda Tree and its flowers are a symbol of immortality and Hindu brides wear the flowers in their hair as a sign of commitment to their new husband. In Polynesia, an available woman will wear the flower over her right ear.

Plumerias don't have nectar, but instead have a type of scent gland under the petals that accounts for the rich fragrance. After dusk, the evening fragrant promise of a meal lures the Sphinx Moth in search of non-existent nectar, but by the time it has learned it may go hungry, it has gathered enough pollen to spread it from flower to flower, sometimes resulting in a slow growing seed pod. In addition to species

Plumerias (those occurring naturally), there are thousands of cultivars in an array of colors including white, pink, yellow and reds and combinations of three colors. All new cultivars are named and registered with The Plumeria Society of America, Inc. (www.theplumeriasociety.org), the recognized international authority for plumeria. Some named cultivars in the Edison Ford collection include Princess Maria Tia, Maui Beauty and Nebel's Rainbow.

In 2017, Hetty Ford, Plumeria Curator of the National Plumeria Collection at Naples Botanical Garden, reached out to our Director of Horticulture, Debbie Hughes, to discuss creating a plumeria bank to reinforce and back-up their collection of species plumerias and many of its cultivars. A bank or plant repository is just what it sounds like – in the event of a catastrophic loss of plants at one location, species are protected from extinction by storing duplicates off site, and today we host more than 50 Plumeria species and cultivars in the Research Gardens. Plumerias only grow in USDA zones 10-12, so Edison Ford is a natural choice,

continued on next page ▶

in addition to its historical significance to Edison's latex research. The long-range plan includes adding new cultivars and expanding the collection sufficiently to propagate and sell specimens, as space permits.

Consider including the easy care Plumeria, a great host to the dendrobium orchid, in your sunny, well-drained garden. Fully mature after five years, plants will grow 15-30 feet tall, depending on conditions and variety. Plumeria are easily propagated by two methods. A vegetative cutting, at least 12" long should be allowed to sit for four to five days so the wounded end may form a scab, then it may be planted directly in the ground or in a pot. These cuttings will take three to five years of care before blooming. The other method, though slower, may be more interesting, and it involves growing them from seed from a non-sterile variety. Once pollinated, the flower will fade, and over the next eight months or so, a two-pronged capsule or pod will develop. Since we never know exactly when it will ripen, the seed pod is wrapped in something like a nylon stocking to catch the seed when the pod bursts. The seeds must mature on the tree to be viable and once they pop, they can be sewn directly into the soil.

For the most part, plumerias are disease resistant except for the common rust disease, which occurs frequently in our humid climate. This disease is caused by a wind-born spore that introduces a fungus that will defoliate most species, especially the *Plumeria rubra*. With that in mind,



Plumeria rubra

try to choose the driest location in your garden and remove any fallen leaves to avoid new infections. Keep tall weeds away and provide ample spacing to encourage drying of leaves. If necessary, apply a fungicide according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Give plumerias six to eight hours of sun each day and dry soil. If growing them in a container, be sure the planter can drain completely. A bloom booster (10-30-10) fertilizer is recommended, where the emphasis is on feeding a higher phosphorous. Avoid high nitrogen (the 1st number) so plants do not become leggy, and always stop fertilizing approximately 45 days before they go dormant, or around the middle of September in our region.

While Plumeria didn't produce a suitable latex for Thomas Edison, we realize the responsibility of preserving legacy plants for generations to appreciate – for their history, beauty and important role in our world's culture.

**Indicates plants in the gardens at Edison and Ford Winter Estates.*



Plumeria obtusa seedpod

WearTheFund Apparel that GIVES BACK



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

WearTheFund is a wholesale custom apparel company based in the heart of Fort Myers, serving clientele from large commercial businesses and nonprofits to individuals. Offering high-quality apparel decorated in-house, “WTF” is a social impact enterprise that “gives back” to charity on every order with \$225,000+ given to almost 100 nonprofit partners, including the Edison and Ford Winter Estates! Our mission is to “create a world where profit is not the bottom-line, one shirt at a time.”

It’s history? WearTheFund began as a pipedream.

Founder & CEO Sam Lewis was in business school when he had the idea to merge the ethos of a nonprofit with the drive of a corporation (his “WTF” epiphany), but his professors shrugged it off. “You have to make money before you can give money,” one told him, bestowing down the belief that philanthropy was a privilege only handed to those who’d already been successful. “You can’t be Mother Teresa and Warren Buffet.”

Sam wasn’t buying it.

After graduating from the University of Florida, the dream was still running wild in his mind. So, hunkered down in his parents’ garage back in Fort Myers, hours of YouTube tutorials and starter materials in front of him, Sam began bringing the idea to life. Fast forward, WTF is going on 10 years serving Southwest Florida, and beyond.

Tell us why you chose to become a business member of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates:

WearTheFund is only a few miles down the road from the Estates, plus we’ve partnered on custom merchandise for summer camps and other events hosted at the beloved venue. It’s meaningful for our business to further support this historic “gem” given our like-minded missions to build a lasting legacy that continues to benefit the overall community.

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

To us, just like Edison and Ford, we’re pioneers in the for-profit, for-impact niche; as the first in the industry to “give back” on every order, we make sure every prospect understands what, exactly, is on the table. It’s a win/win/win value proposition where equal attention is paid to quality control, competitive pricing, and social impact. Specializing in anything with a logo on it — branded swag, special event apparel, uniforms, company gifts, and more— you can contact us at info@wearthefund.com and follow our latest news and product updates on Facebook and Instagram @wearthefund.

2021-2022 VIP Tour Season

OCTOBER 16, 2021

HOMESTEAD

**Fruit & Spice Park, Cauley Square Historic Village
and Coral Castle**

Call to see if space is still available.

NOVEMBER 13, 2021

NAPLES

Naples Botanical Gardens, lunch, visit to Tin City, and Eco Boat Tour of Dollar Bay

8:45a.m. – 5:00p.m.

Join us for a day outdoors in nature and on the water of Southwest Florida. Prepare to have all of your senses stimulated by a day of adventure, education and activity. We will meet at Edison Ford in the morning for snacks and then depart by bus (provided by Dolphin Transportation). Our first stop in the morning will be the beautiful award-winning, Naples Botanical Gardens. We will have a private docent led tour for 90 minutes. Our groups will be small so it will be easier to social distance. Founded in 1993, the property is more than 170 acres – almost 10 times as large as Edison Ford. Ellin Goetz, who had ties to the Estates helped with the master plan of the gardens. A little more than half of the garden is set aside as native SW Florida habitat. Naples Botanical Gardens is partnering with other gardens and together will protect the native plant species.



Fruit and Spice Park



Naples Botanical Garden

Next, we will take the bus over to Tin City. This historic location was used by the Calusa Indians as far back as the 1500s. In 1887, a 600-foot pier was built in the Gulf of Mexico with easier access for industrialists and celebrities including Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone and Greta Garbo. When the construction of the Seaboard Airline railroad made the tin-roofed buildings it became an economic and transportation hub for Naples and the fishing industry. In 1970 the marketplace of today was built. It currently houses two waterfront restaurants, a riverwalk and retail stores. Guests can purchase lunch at a location of their choice and shopping on their own (there are more than 20 unique shops to visit).

After lunch we will depart from the dock and take a two-hour, private eco cruise with a Master Naturalist who will provide an educational and fun talk to get familiar with the eco-system and one of the largest Mangrove forests around. This will be the perfect way to end the day, with a nice cool afternoon boat ride. Hopefully, we will get a chance to see some dolphins too. If time permits, we can stop back at Tin City for a beverage and see anything you missed earlier.

All tours are subject to change and are based on availability. Spaces are limited. Pre-paid, advanced registration is required. Join the Membership program and take advantage of the discounted price.

Tour Cost for members is \$135, non-members \$150.

Face masks are required on the bus. We will follow COVID protocol in place at each location.

For questions or to make a reservation for this or any tour, please contact Sherri Muske at 239-335-3677 or smuske@edisonford.org. Tours fill up quickly, so reserve your space early.

DECEMBER 11, 2021

LARGO

Historic Heritage Village, early dinner on the waterfront and tour of the **Florida Botanical Gardens** holiday lights.

JANUARY 15, 2022

EVERGLADES CITY

Historic Everglades Museum and walking tour, lunch at a local establishment, Smallwood Museum and airboat ride through the Everglades.

FEBRUARY 19, 2022

SARASOTA

Private tour of the **Ringling Art Museum**, Ca' d' Zan, lunch at the Ringling Grillroom and tour the circus museum.

MARCH 12, 2022

SAINT PETERSBURG

Dali Museum, lunch, glass blowing demonstration at the Morean Art Center and Chihuly Museum tour.



Chihuly Museum



Eco Boat Tour of Dollar Bay



Florida Botanical



Ringling Art Museum

Cancellation Policy – Cancellations must be made 14 days prior to the tour date to receive a full refund, unless the vacancy can be filled. Cancellations made by Edison and Ford due to unforeseen circumstances will warrant a full refund or credit for another tour in the same season.

JANETT AND CHET PERRY

Prominent Fort Myers couple worked for Mina Edison

By Alexandria Edwards

Janett and Chet Perry were married in 1931 and made lasting impacts on the development of Lee County, while working for Mina Edison in the late 1930s and early 1940s. We can still see those impacts today. Chet was born in 1910 when Lee County only had a population of 6,294 residents, and Janett was born in 1906 in Atlanta, Georgia. Shortly after her high school graduation, Janett moved to Fort Myers with her family. When they were growing up, there were no paved roads south of Arcadia until 1928, the year the Tamiami trail from Tampa to Miami (now US 41) was completed; and very few amenities were available, except for a couple of general stores.

Throughout the time the city was evolving, Chet led the development of some of the most valued institutions in the county as he “always tried to be involved in things that helped people” (Fort Myers News Press). He began his career at the Slater Lumber Company in North Fort Myers in the early 1930s; however, after the lumber market began to suffer, he applied for a job at the Fort Myers Press as a Bookkeeper. Over the years, he rose to General Manager, became a partial owner, and completed his career as the president and a publisher. At the time, the Press was selling more than 2,000 copies per day and by the time he passed away, they were distributing up to 120,000 copies.

While working for the Press, he served as the President of United Way, Lee Memorial Hospital, the Lee County Welfare Federation and the Rotary Club of Fort Myers. He was also instrumental in bringing Goodwill Industries to Lee County. Throughout his lifetime, this organization helped more than 25,000 people with disabilities find a job that best suited them. According to Hatton Rogers, Goodwill's past president, “if Chet hadn't got us started in Lee County, many of those people would not have found viable employment.”

While Chet was dedicating time to these valuable organizations, Janett was also establishing her own career path. After moving to Fort Myers in 1926, she became the legal secretary for Jim Franklin, Sr., of the Henderson-Franklin law firm. Mr. Franklin believed she had great potential and encouraged her to take the bar exam; however, she stepped away from law and took a job as Mina Edison's Social Secretary after she married Chet. She assisted Mina by writing letters and helped her arrange social events, recalling that “Mina went to a lot of parties and hosted a few as well.”

Some of the groups that Mina entertained included soldiers from Buckingham field. At Seminole Lodge, they were served buffet dinners and shared many stories. According to Janett, most of them sat on the floor and enjoyed sharing details about their families. Putting these dinners together usually required a lot of effort and Janett's role was to compile lists and send out invitations. Marion Tillis, the Edison's cook at the time, made large batches of fried chicken and hot biscuits for the guests. Sidney Scarth, the Edison's chauffeur, who referred to Mina as “little mother,” gathered any last-minute supplies they needed.

Chet Perry was very supportive of his wife working with Mina Edison to give back to the residents in Lee County, and Mina also hired him as her business agent during the time that Janett served as her secretary. He loved her indirect management style and recalled that all the staff enjoyed working at Seminole Lodge and appreciated her congeniality. During the time that Chet worked for Mina, one of his main priorities was to rewire their home since it was the first electrically powered home in Fort Myers. He had all new wiring installed and set it up so a light would turn on in all the closets when they were opened.

Similar to her husband, Janett was active in civic affairs, serving as a volunteer for the Lee County Welfare Association, the Women's Community Club, Lee Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, and the Royal Palm Yacht Club. She also served as president of the Hammond Organ Society, the Collectors Club, and the Rotary-Ann Club Fort Myers, which she founded. She was a highly spiritual woman and always kept to her religious roots, dedicating a lot of time to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Fort Myers. She purchased an army barracks building in Page Field, with the purpose of establishing a chapel in Fort Myers to attract more members. She obtained a crew of carpenters, painters and plumbers that turned the barrack into a house of worship. The church now has three separate congregations in the Fort Myers and Cape Coral area. At age 85, she was the Ward Relief Society President and by 90, she served as the Fort Myers Stake Historian. In the final years of their lives, the couple moved to Tallahassee to be closer to their children.

Visitors can learn more about the Edisons and their staff on tours offered daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m

DIGITAL DISCUSSION:

How Edsel Ford and Ford Motor Company Helped Win World War II
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12 • 10:30 a.m.

During World War II, the Ford Motor Company played an essential role in arming the United States for success. Much of this success can be attributed to Edsel Ford, the only son of Henry and Clara Ford.

While battling stomach cancer, Edsel helped create an assembly line at the Willow Run plant that could produce crucial B-24 Liberator aircraft in an hour.

Join Program Manager, Holly Shaffer, for this free virtual discussion (registration is required). Visit EdisonFord.org to register.



Silk Scarf Painting Class

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23 • 10 A.M.

Marie Dyer will teach participants how to paint a 14" X 72" scarf that can be worn or used as a piece of artwork. All materials are included in the fee. Class will take place in the River Pavilion.

Advance registration is required at EdisonFord.org.
Edison Ford members: \$90; non-members: \$100



SUSTAINABLE CONCEPTIONS

AN EXHIBIT FROM

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**

TOURS & PROGRAMS

Throughout the month, presentations are offered for visitors to learn about music, sound and the phonograph, how a motor works on Henry Ford's Model T and making movies with animated images. Historian-led guided tours and self-guided tours of the site are offered daily. Through the new app, narration is available in English, French, German, and Spanish. Site maps are available in English, French, German, Spanish and Chinese.



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 • 10:00 A.M. (first come, first served)

THURSDAYS • 10:00 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.



Guided Garden Tour

Available by appointment for groups of five or more.

The Edison and Ford Winter Estates botanical gardens contain more than 1,700 plants from six continents including flowering plants and trees, fruit trees, palms, bamboo, cycads, vines, roses, orchids, and Florida natives. On this tour, an experienced horticulturist leads visitors through the 20-acre site and highlights the different types of plants and their importance to the Edison and Ford families. Visitors will see the Moonlight Garden, many rare plants and get to go behind-the-scenes in the propagating nursery. Some of the plants in the gardens are available for sale in the on-site Garden Shoppe. Call today to book your tour 239-334-7419.

Cost: \$40 per person.

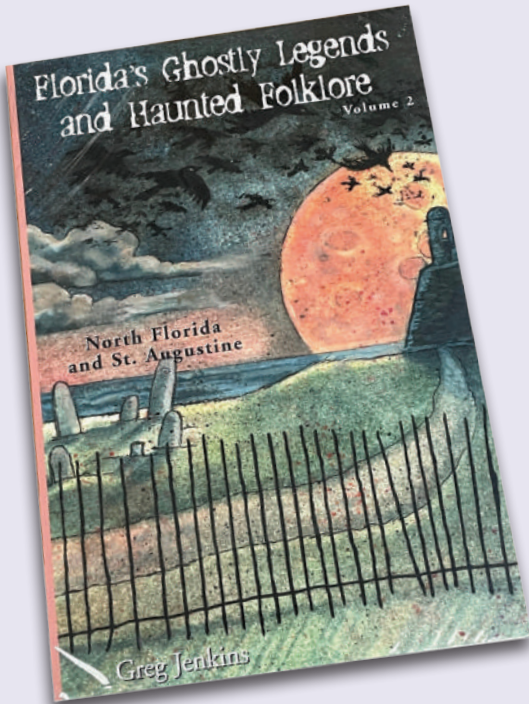
Private Guided Tour

Available By Appointment for groups with a maximum of nine people.

To accommodate families or small business groups, private guided tours are now available. These tours are for small groups and ensure that families will not be on a tour with other tourists. Masks are recommended on guided tours. Private tours should be reserved at least 48 hours in advance. During a private tour, visitors will see the historic winter homes of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, the caretaker's houses, swimming pool complex, Edison's study, the Moonlight Garden, and more than 20 acres of botanical gardens. After the tour, visitors may take extra time to stroll the gardens, museum and botanic research laboratory at their own pace.

Cost: \$345 per group.

Book of the Month:

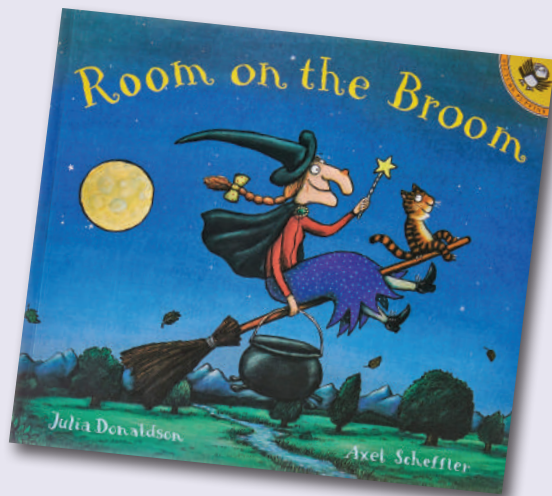


Florida's Ghostly Legends and Haunted Folklore, Volume 2

By Greg Jenkins

Room on the Broom

By Julia Donaldson



This month we are featuring two books that are perfect for some spooky Halloween reading: one for adults and one for children. "Florida's Ghostly Legends and Haunted Folklore" focuses on the haunted places in northern Florida. The author examines the history, legend and paranormal activity of northern Florida's haunted locations.

Our other book, "Room on the Broom," is a delightfully illustrated picture book that tells the story of a witch who loses her wand and hat and many other items in a wind storm. Her friends join in riding on the broom to help locate the missing items. This book is fun to read aloud and it makes a great addition to a young reader's book collection.

Both books are available in our Museum Store, or you may call 239-334-7419 and we can have it shipped to you. Members receive 10 % off the purchase price.

Emerging Inventors

OCTOBER 5 • 9 A.M. (CLASS IS FULL)

Edison and Ford Winter Estates Emerging Inventors programs are designed for children ages 18 months to 5 years old, and include opportunities to socialize with other children, educational activities, science experiments, and exploration of the property. These sessions will take place in our new Wizard's Workshop gallery space, and children will learn how electricity is generated, using kid friendly materials such as conductive clay, how sound works, and so much more. Classes will run from September through May. Includes one adult and one child.

Space is limited.

Edison Ford members: \$10; non-members: \$15.



School Break Camp: Spooky Science

OCTOBER 15 • 9 A.M.

School Break camps are designed for students ages 6 to 12 when school is out. Campers explore Edison's "living laboratory" while our educators, called "Wild Wizards," teach topics in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math), history and the natural world. In keeping with the Halloween spirit, students will create some wild and wacky science experiments in this one-day camp including a glowing lava lamp and several forms of slime. Students are invited to take part in this crash course in mad science!

Edison Ford members: \$45; non-members: \$50.



Homeschool Science Scholars: Magnetic Forces

GRADES 1-3: OCTOBER 13 • 10 A.M.

GRADES 4-6: OCTOBER 14 • 10 A.M. (CLASS IS FULL)

Homeschool Science scholar programs are designed for children in grades 1-6 and are typically held in an outdoor classroom environment (weather permitting). Our education staff, called "Wild Wizards" will challenge student's minds and foster collaboration in this science and engineering series. Classes are a combination of instruction and hands-on activities that are designed to facilitate homeschool or virtual science education. In this session, students will learn about physics, magnetism, and engineering. Edison Ford Educators will take students on a deep dive into the invisible force of magnetism and how it can be used to do work! Includes one adult and one child.

Space is limited.

Edison Ford members: \$15 each or \$105 for series; non-members: \$25 each or \$185 for series.



As Edison Ford prepares to hold our annual Orchid Sale and Symposium, this Curatorial Corner looks at one of the reasons behind the event – Mina Edison’s love of orchids. Both Thomas and Mina loved nature; Mina once stated *“Flowers ... have made the most important appeal in our domestic life, outside of music. Soon after our marriage I found that no matter how absorbed Mr. Edison might be in the experiments of the laboratory he could always find time to inspect the products of our conservatory or garden.”*



Over the many years spent in Florida, Mina developed a love for the varied and unique orchids. In 1908, a caretaker purchased the first documented orchid for the estate (*Laelia babyloniae*). As Mina’s affection for the orchid became known, famous horticulturalists working in Florida brought orchids and bromeliads as gifts to the estate. One writer recalled that people worldwide sent Mina orchids once they knew how much she enjoyed them. Around the same time, Mina Edison had a new greenhouse constructed at the family’s home in New Jersey. The greenhouse was divided into various houses: the palm house, used to grow plants for the Conservatory; a lean-to used mostly for growing poinsettias for the holidays; the rose house, used for growing roses; a carnation house, used to grow cut flowers for decorating the Edison house; a propagation house; and an orchid house. Mrs. Edison was now able to enjoy her botanical passion year round.

As her collection grew, Mina began working with two professional botanists with an interest in orchids and bromeliads, Dr. Henry Nehrling and Dr. Walter M. Buswell (between 1928 and 1933). When Nehrling spoke to the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs in 1929, he stated, “I am to report the epiphytic plants (orchids, bromeliads and ferns) were growing with exceptional vigor throughout the [Edison’s] property.” Mina lined a pathway with a variety of epiphytes, and it became known as Orchid Lane. Nehrling referenced Orchid Lane, stating *“An avenue of fine old Mango Trees lines the inside of the garden along the street. These large Mango Trees are particularly adapted for air gardens. I have tied many fine tropical Bromeliads and orchids to these old trees where they are growing with exceptional vigor. Last spring [1928] Dr. J.K. Small brought a few fine clumps of the noble *Oncidium luridum* from the Cape Sable region, which were also fastened with copper wire to the trunks of these old Mangoes ... These air-gardens will, in the future, form quite a feature in this unique garden. Cattleyas, *Phalaenopsis*, some *Dendrobiums* and many other gorgeous Orchids, growing well in the open in South Florida, will be used largely on the trunks of the Mango and other trees. Mrs. Edison, an ardent plant lover and extremely attached to her garden, is particularly interested in Orchids and Bromeliads.”*

The location between the homes and McGregor Boulevard fits orchids’ requirements well: shade, a reasonable amount of moisture in the air, and protection from strong winds. The orchids were placed about four to five feet off the ground so that it would be easy to care for them.

While Buswell was inventorying the Estate in 1930, he concluded the Edison Estate contained the most representative collection of tropical foliage of any in the community. He declared “the public has no idea of the extent of the tropical plantings ... palms, trees, flowers, shrubs, and vines ... many rare orchids.”

In April of 1942, the 78-year-old, twice widowed Mrs. Edison arrived in Fort Myers. A normally tiring journey had been made five hours longer due to delays. Even though it was after midnight by the time she got to Seminole Lodge, her love of her orchids was such that she immediately grabbed a flashlight and began touring the property in the dark. Mina couldn’t wait until morning to see her orchids and smell the orange blossoms. She loved her flowers, not wanting to leave them when she inevitably had to go home to Glenmont. “How I wish,” she once said, “I could pick it all up in my arms and carry it with me.”

Today, the Estates showcases Mina’s love of orchids, with the hundreds of orchids tied to trees across the property. We hope you can come share in the Edisons’ affection for plants at our Orchid Sale and Symposium, October 9-10.

By Brent Newman, Chief Curator

CONGRATULATIONS!



JOIN US in congratulating **Steve Glasener on 35 years of employment** with Edison and Ford Winter Estates! Steve is our Lead Custodian and the go-to guy whenever we need anything. He is a valuable member of the Edison Ford family!

THANK YOU, Steve for all the years of hard work!

GIFTS & SOUVENIRS



Whether you're looking for a gift for someone else or something special for yourself, the Museum Store, Ford Cottage Shoppe and the Edison Ford Shoppe at Edison Mall have lots of unique items! For anyone looking for something tropical to commemorate their visit to Florida, we have many Florida-themed items, including citrus perfumes, orange butter, and locally-produced honey.

We can even ship items to you if you're not in the area.



GARDEN SHOPPE

We have lots of edible plants in stock!

If you've been thinking about planting some vegetables, or maybe creating your own food forest, fall is the time to start planting! The Garden Shoppe staff have been growing edibles from seed, so these plants are not treated with pesticides. We have collard greens, broccoli, tomatoes, lettuce, watermelon, and pak choy – and that is just the tip of the iceberg; we'll have more soon! We also have lots of fruit trees, including papaya, bananas, soursop, mombin, jackfruit, starfruit, and Muscadine grapevines! Plus, we have lots of herbs available and some are host plants for butterflies – if you feel like sharing!

**The Garden Shoppe is open every day from
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. We hope to see you soon!**

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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