

EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

HOMES · GARDENS · MUSEUM
LABORATORY



THE ICONIC BANYAN TREE STANDS STRONG

MEMBER MAGAZINE
NOVEMBER 2022

EDISON and FORD winter ESTATES

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cole Peacock, *Chair*
Eric Graff, *Vice Chair*
Craig McLean, *Treasurer*
Renee Norris, *Secretary*
Randall P. Henderson, Jr., *At Large Member*
Steve Niehaus, *At Large Member*

Frank Aloia, Jr.
Sidney Ann Brinson
Jeanne Dozier
Suzanne Edwards
Susan Lawson
Richard Moulton
Madeleine Plummer
Brian Rist
Karen Ryan
Brett Sands

EMERITUS TRUSTEES

John Cauthen
Melvin Morgan
Wiley Parker
Margaret Sirianni
Tom Smoot, Jr.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Michael Flanders

MEMBERSHIP

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

CONNECT WITH US



While cleaning up debris, employees pose for a photo as the sun shines bright over Edison's study.

We are OPEN!

Add home construction to the long list of things that Thomas Edison knew something about. The main Edison house and guest house are standing strong and because they were elevated, did not sustain any flooding. **WE WERE VERY LUCKY!** The Ford house is also in great condition. In addition, the museum and laboratory did not sustain any damage, so the artifacts are all in great condition.

At first glance, we thought all of the buildings were in great shape, but after a closer inspection, we did discover some damage. The Ford Cottage Shoppe (the gift shop that was once Henry Ford's caretaker's home) sustained some roof damage, the swimming pool tea house structure and sistern have some structural damage, the garage of Edison caretaker's house and the Edison study had some flooding, and the "block house," which is not a historic structure has roof damage. These structures will be repaired.

Employees have cleared debris from our 20-acre site. Like with past hurricanes, we've lost some trees and we'll need to replace some plants and shrubs throughout the gardens. The iconic Banyan and Mysore Fig trees have survived another storm. We still have some work to do and we could use your support. Anyone who was fortunate enough to not have personal losses and would like to help restore the gardens, may make a donation through the website at **EdisonFord.org**, or call **239-335-3678**. You can also help by becoming a member or renewing your membership. **We hope to see you soon!**

NOVEMBER

EVENTS AND PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE:

More details on each event and program are included in the following pages and on the website.

EdisonFord.org

November 5	Floral Still Life Painting Class
November 8	Digital Discussion
November 11	Bluegrass Concert
November 12	Silk Scarf Painting
November 13	Fall Floral Arranging
November 18	Wine & Cheese Pairing
November 19-20	Fall Garden Festival
November 21-23	Physics Camp
November 24	Turkey Trot 5K
November 25	Holiday Nights Opening Night

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

CONTENTS

4	Tribute
5	Membership Appreciation
6-13	Events
15-17	In the Garden
18-19	Tours & Programs
20	Adult Education
21	Just for Kids
22-23	Curatorial Corner
24-25	Historical Connection
26	E-Awards
27	Book of the Month
28	EFWE Employee Cleanup Photo

ON THE COVER:

Edison and Ford Winter Estates employees stand in front of the iconic Banyan Tree during Hurricane Ian clean up.

IN FOND REMEMBRANCE OF *Marti Campbell*



Marti Campbell pictured on far left

Marti Campbell loved volunteering. In 2011, she became a volunteer at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates - even though she was already involved with other organizations. She quickly became loved by staff and was a very valued volunteer. Marti was dependable, passionate, and friendly to all those she met.

In 2015, in addition to her volunteering, Marti became a part-time staff member at Edison Ford. She was so reliable, organized, and caring that the retail manager offered her a paid position. Marti shrink-wrapped the books for our gift shop and kept the shelves stocked. However, she did so much more than that: she engaged with visitors on a regular basis and helped find the right staff member to recommend books for each person that requested assistance.

Marti was always a joy to talk to and was quite entertaining. She knew about so many things and shared her knowledge with staff and visitors alike. She had a variety of interests, including jewelry, real estate, theatre, travel, and spending time with her friends. She also loved sharing stories about her cats.

Sadly, Hurricane Ian took her life. We are all mourning the tragic loss of Marti and her memory will remain in the hearts of staff and volunteers forever.



THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS!

We want to thank all of our members for supporting us over the years! We also want to let everyone know that we are making some changes to our membership program. Beginning October 1, we will be offering new membership levels. For those who have expressed an interest in supporting us at a higher level, we've created the Premier Membership Levels with improved benefits.

Current members whose membership renews in October, will soon receive our new and improved renewal forms. We think you'll find the new forms easy to complete; all you need to do is select the level that best suits you and your family. While we are making some changes with Holiday Nights admission, please note that all new members and renewed members will get into Holiday Nights for free this year as a special thank you.

We currently have more than 26,000 members, thanks to our wonderful community of supporters. We greatly appreciate your continued support of the Edison and Ford Legacy.

Below is the list of members who have supported us for 10 years or more! THANK YOU!

Darilyn H. Alderman
 Terrence and Beverly Bennett
 Todd and Carolyn Bennett
 Donna Biggar
 Steven and Sandra Bowers
 Randy and Chris Briggs
 * Sidney Ann Brinson
 Richard Cegelis
 Martha L. Dean
 Kathy Depinet
 Lawrence and Gail Diamond
 Dennis and Diane Dow
 * James and Sharlene Dozier
 Elliot and Linda Drisko
 * Charles and Sass Edwards
 Karen Eisenhauer
 James and Kathy Franklin
 Raymond and Peggy Fritz

Judy Grippio
 Dennis and Mary Heitman
 Rose Ann Hoffman
 Jane Holder
 Donald and Veronica Huber
 Sally Johnson
 Valerie Kaiser
 Donald and Arlene Keehan
 Carol Kiplinger
 Gary and Christine LaCroix
 Dale and Linda Leger
 Donna Lloyd
 Jan MaGirl
 John and Mary McDonough
 Mark and Michele Montague
 Patrick O'Briant
 Heide Orshan

Arthur and Marie Oxley
 Samuel and JoAnn Papanek
 * Cole and Rachel Peacock
 Charles and Patricia Petro
 * Richard and Madeleine Plummer
 Roberta Pombo
 Robert and Laura Riddle
 Dennis and Marilynne Rodgers
 Greg and Alice Silva
 Roger and Irma Spencer
 Don and Linda Tecklenburg
 Anne Turnley
 Bruce and Nicole Vanderlaan
 Henry Venable
 Allen and Joyce Walker
 Richard and Gloria Waterhouse
 Portia Wright
 Nancy Zeedyk

*EFWE Board of Trustees

RHYTHM ON THE RIVER CONCERT SERIES
IN CELEBRATION OF VETERANS DAY
APPALACHIAN ROAD SHOW
 (AMERICAN BLUEGRASS BAND)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 • 6:30-8:30 P.M.

Spend the evening along the Caloosahatchee, while enjoying great music, a fantastic sunset, and refreshing beverages! Bring your favorite lawn chair and a sweater if the weather is chilly. Beverages and food will be available for purchase. Concert starts at 6:30 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m.

Tickets 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. Park in the Edison Ford lots only. No coolers or picnic baskets permitted. A VIP seating area 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.



WINE & CHEESE PAIRING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 • 5:30-7 P.M.

We're partnering with The Wine Room and Grazing Haus to offer visitors the opportunity to sample wine and cheese at the historic site. The event will take place in the river pavilion, along the Caloosahatchee River. Guests are invited to sip wine, enjoy relaxing music and have a chance to see a beautiful sunset. Each participant will receive two red wine tastings and two white from different regions, paired with four cheese samples. Instructors from The Wine Room and Grazing Haus will discuss the pairings and will have additional wine and cheese available for purchase.

TICKETS: \$75 for non-members and \$65 for Edison Ford members. Advance, online registration is required by 5 p.m. on Monday, November 14. Space is limited. Register at EdisonFord.org.





FALL GARDEN FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 19-20 • 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.

In September, Hurricane Ian pummeled area gardens. Many of us are replanting to make our gardens more beautiful than ever. Our annual fall Garden Festival will have more than 40 garden vendors from around the state with tropical and native plants and trees for sale. The festival takes place outdoors and features food trucks and live music.

Vendors will have many types of plants and trees, including air plants, bromeliads, butterfly plants, cacti, fruit trees, herbs, hibiscus, orchids, palms, succulents, and many hard-to-find species. Vendors will also offer garden supplies, such as fertilizer and worm castings. The Edison Garden Shoppe will be open and have unusual tropical and Florida native plants that thrive in Southwest Florida. Ceramic flowerpots, vegetable and flower seeds, garden art, and gardening gift items will also be available for purchase.

Edison Ford members will receive a discount on Garden Shoppe purchases; guests may purchase a membership during the event to receive the discount. Members also receive free, unlimited general admission throughout the year, plus free admission to many other museums and gardens across the country through the reciprocal program.

A limited number of garden carts will be available, so guests are encouraged to bring a cart or wagon for transporting plants. A designated plant holding tent and loading spot will be offered for anyone needing assistance.

Parking and admission to the festival is free (tours of the homes, museum and lab are not included).



43RD ANNUAL TURKEY TROT 5K THANKSGIVING 2022

**NOVEMBER 24 • 7:30 A.M.
AT EDISON FORD (meet at the Banyan Tree)**

Join us for a 5K run and walk to benefit preservation at the Estates and the Fort Myers Track Club scholarship fund. Registration is required at www.ftmyerstrackclub.com.



HOLIDAY NIGHTS OPENING NIGHT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25 • 6 P.M.



Join us for the 47th celebration of Holiday Nights and see the homes and gardens decorated with thousands of lights! Dave Elias from NBC-2 will officiate the countdown and tree lighting ceremony and the American Sirens will sing holiday songs.

Holiday Nights runs through January 1 (Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas night). Be sure to check the website to see the nightly schedule. There will be Santa visits, carolers, science shows and Inside-the-Homes tours on select nights. Lee County residents will receive \$5 off admission on Sunday nights.



HOLIDAY NIGHTS ADMISSION: \$20 for adults, \$10 for teens (13-19), \$2 for children (6-12), and children 5 and younger get in free.



HOLIDAY NIGHTS SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					11/25 * Tree Lighting Event * Live Music * Food & Beverages	11/26 * Food & Beverages
11/27 * Visit with Santa * \$5 Off for Lee County Residents	11/28	11/29 * Family Holiday Science at 6pm	11/30 * Holiday Inside the Homes Tour* * Live Music	12/1 * Member Party*	12/2 * Wreath Auction* * Food & Beverages	12/3 * Food & Beverages
12/4 * Visit with Santa * \$5 Off for Lee County Residents	12/5	12/6 * Family Holiday Science at 6pm	12/7 * Holiday Inside the Homes Tour* * Live Music	12/8	12/9 * Food & Beverages	12/10 * Food & Beverages
12/11 * Holiday Market * Visit with Santa * \$5 Off for Lee County Residents	12/12	12/13 * Family Holiday Science at 6pm	12/14 * Master Singers * Holiday Inside the Homes Tour*	12/15	12/16 * Sparkling Wine & Dessert Pairing* * Food & Beverages * Live Music	12/17 * Food & Beverages * Live Music
12/18 * Visit with Santa * Food & Beverages * Live Music * \$5 Off for Lee County Residents	12/19 * Cookies & Cocoa* * Live Music * Food & Beverages	12/20 * Cookies & Cocoa* * Family Science, 6pm * Live Music * Food & Beverages	12/21 * Cookies & Cocoa* * Live Music * Food & Beverages * Holiday Inside the Homes Tour*	12/22 * Cookies & Cocoa* * Live Music * Food & Beverages	12/23 * Live Music * Food & Beverages	12/24 CLOSED
12/25 CLOSED	12/26 * Food & Beverages	12/27 * Food & Beverages	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31
1/1 * \$5 Off for Lee County Residents	* Starred Items: Reservations or Tickets May Be Required • Contact Us: (239) 334-7419 www.EdisonFord.org					

THANKS TO GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM

TITLE SPONSOR



EDISON FORD MEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1 • 6-8 P.M.
IN THE RIVER PAVILION

Come listen to the Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers, see the holiday lights and enjoy refreshments! Prepayment and advance registration (online only) required by November 21 at noon.

\$25 Per Member

TICKET INCLUDES:

Admission to Holiday Nights
1 drink ticket (beer or wine)
Lite appetizers

Tickets are non-refundable



ANNUAL WREATH AUCTION

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FORT MYERS WOMAN'S COMMUNITY CLUB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 • 6-9 P.M. IN THE RIVER PAVILION

Select from dozens of unique, handmade wreaths to benefit restoration and preservation efforts at the Estates.

Come see the lights, listen to music, enjoy some appetizers (and cash bar) and **BID ON A WREATH!**

Registration is required by November 21; capacity is limited.

SPONSORED BY

Francine A. Payson
Senior Vice President, Wealth Management

Tarek Z. Salhab
Senior Vice President, Investments



RIVERVIEW
WEALTH PARTNERS
OF

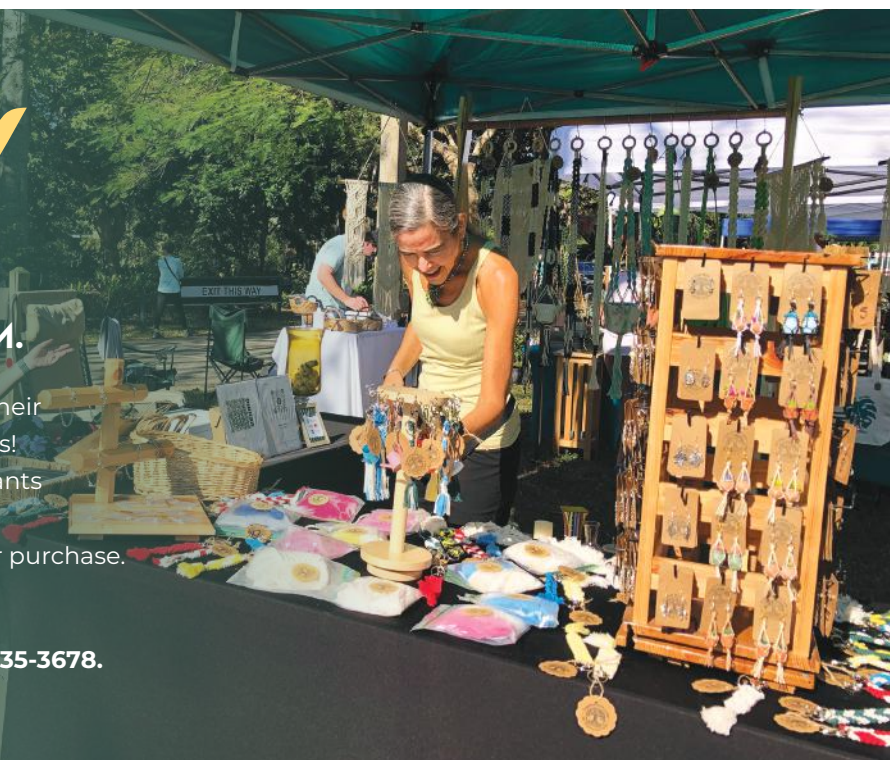
RAYMOND JAMES

Holiday MARKET

DECEMBER 11 • 4-9 P.M.

The public is invited to come do their Christmas shopping at the Estates! Craft vendors and holiday merchants will have tents under the trees. Refreshments will be available for purchase.

VENDOR SPACE IS AVAILABLE;
contact Nancy or Sherri at 239-335-3678.





BROMELIAD SALE

DECEMBER 3-4 • 9 A.M. – 4 P.M.

Edison Ford is partnering with the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society for its annual Bromeliad Sale. Bromeliad growers will have tents under the oak trees, near the historic Banyan and will offer hundreds of different species, including exotic and rare plants for sale. Several experts will be on hand from the Society to answer questions about Bromeliads.

The Bromeliad Society was formed more than 30 years ago and has held an annual sale since 1984. This event is the largest Bromeliad sale in the state of Florida. Growers from other areas, including Miami, Sarasota and Venice will be participating.

A limited number of garden carts will be available; guests are encouraged to bring their own. Food trucks will have refreshments available for purchase. Parking and admission to the sale is free (does not include tours or admission to the museum, lab or riverside of the property).

Sparkling WINE & DESSERT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 • 6-7:30 P.M.

If you didn't get a chance to sign up for the Wine & Cheese Pairing event, sign up for this new event soon! In partnership with the Wine Room and the Banyan Café, this event will offer sparkling wine and dessert samples. An instructor from the Wine Room will discuss the wines, and the owner of the Banyan Café will provide an overview of the desserts. Each participant will receive four two-ounce sparkling wine tastings (Prosecco, Red Lambrusco, Grapefruit Spritzer, and Rose' Prosecco) and four dessert samples.

The event will take place in the River Pavilion, along the Caloosahatchee - decorated for the holidays. Guests will also get to listen to holiday music. Holiday Nights admission is included in the ticket cost. Pre-registration is required at EdisonFord.org. Seating is limited to 48 people.

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



DECORATE CHRISTMAS

COOKIES

**DECEMBER 19, 20, 21, or 22
6-8 P.M.**

Decorate cookies, drink cocoa and see the Holiday Nights lights! This new event provides families with a night out to see the lights and still get the cookies made! Save the date for this new fun event!

Cost: Edison Ford members: \$115; non-members: \$125
(for a family of 4 & includes Holiday Nights admission)



Happily **EVER AFTER!**

Weddings are often booked a year or more in advance. There was one booked for October 16 - less than three weeks after Hurricane Ian pummeled the gardens at Edison and Ford Winter Estates. Staff were able to get the Moonlight Garden cleaned up and looking as good as new for that wedding. Below is a note from the happy couple.

"The devastation that tore through our hometown affected all walks of life. Our family was one of the many that saw the devastation firsthand. Once we had heard that our precious Moonlight Garden along with the entire property was potentially damaged, we shed tears of sadness for everyone's losses and for the probable loss of our wedding day. After a few days of worrying we received the call that they would do everything in their power to make our dream day come true. We were hopeful, but cautiously so. Our wonderful event planner, Maisen, kept in communication with us through the process. Three days before the wedding, we cried tears of JOY when we saw how beautiful the garden had come together. It was as if Hurricane Ian never existed. It was a MIRACLE! We will never be able to thank the dedicated and hardworking people at Edison and Ford Winter Estates enough for all of their amazing efforts. We were even fortunate to meet the horticulturists who helped make our garden as beautiful as ever! Thank you for making our dream wedding possible - even post Hurricane Ian."

With Love, LeeAnn and Courtney Whitney-Hubbell

The Wedding Garden

By Karen Maxwell, Horticultural Specialist

I enjoy managing the Moonlight Garden at Edison Ford and I especially enjoy opportunities to dress it up for “first looks” and intimate weddings. Building on the foundation of white azaleas and roses originally planted by Mrs. Thomas Edison (Mina), the wedding theme has allowed me to expand the evolving list of plants that seasonally enhance the venue for our brides.

This past September, “my” Moonlight Garden moved to Maine – to my little cottage near the sea, to be part of the weekend ceremonies of a very special bride, my only daughter, Olivia. For the last two and half years – since my daughter announced she was getting married, I have imagined, designed, planted and devoted myself to building her a wedding garden inspired by Mina’s Moonlight Garden.



This garden, in addition to hosting her pre-wedding rehearsal party, was created to produce all of the flowers and greenery for her bouquet, the wedding party floral accessories, as well as the wedding and table arrangements. To do this, the plantings included Florida tropicals that I have used in the Moonlight Garden, worked in amongst favorite Maine summer perennials, and those that I added because I loved their wedding theme name, or perhaps they were a new white hybrid of an old standard and some that evoked her family heritage. The plan was to use only what I could grow for a natural, cottage garden look.

The Moonlight Garden, the eponymous collection of evening bloomers, nocturnally fragrant white flowers and variegated foliage offset by dark green foundation plantings can be enjoyed all year. The wedding season which is usually coincident with my time in Florida, affords me the opportunity to add nuptial sounding plants that thrive in our tropical climate and add a special *je ne sais quoi* to notch up the wedding atmosphere. There are many tree-mounted white phalaenopsis* orchids as well as fragrant *Brasavola nodosa* orchids.*

At different times, I have featured exotics such as Tahitian Bridal Veil (*Gibasis genicula*),* an easily grown houseplant which makes a dense cascading basket of dainty white flowers and brightens any dark corner; Bridal Bouquet (*Plumeria pudica*)* the unscented plumeria that unlike popular scented plumerias, grows as a compact, vase shaped shrub for an elegant garden enhancement; and several of the clerodendrums that produce gorgeous blooms in our gardens: Bridal Veil (*C. wallichii*),* the Fountain Clerodendrum (*C. minahassae*)* and of course, the beautiful Bleeding Heart (*C. thomsoniae*)*. Our white flower list seems almost endless: gardenias, jasmines, angel trumpets, lilies and more are available depending on the season.

Planning such a garden for an October event in Florida would be ideal. As the relentless humidity and warm, drier days make it possible to re-start our outdoor activities. The warmth of the October sun brings forth many of the prettiest clerodendrums and our roses are now looking robust – the queen of the wedding garden!

It probably goes without saying, but I’ll do so anyway – timing a garden to produce for any specific day is not without anguish and mishaps! As gardeners, we can control many things, and we can surely count on Mother Nature acting up just when we need her to behave. In New England, the old adage, “if you don’t like the weather, wait a minute” means planting for a design with a contingency plan, the back up to the contingency and lastly, plan B!

continued on next page ▶

Consideration must be factored into the margins of error for excess rain, too little rain, wind, and in Maine, a sudden drop in temperature. In addition to the wedding party florals, I needed some large planters to be featured in the garden for the pre-wedding party, which would then move to frame her wedding arbor.

Large containers expand the opportunities for artistic expression that might be limited by ground plantings. Disney growers taught me (who must always produce eye-popping perfect results) – allow three months for planters to mature for exhibition. Drawing on the work I do for Edison Ford planters, my Maine containers would be lush with tropicals – a white trellis to increase the height would become a base for vining Mandevilla Giant White; a mixture of caladiums with white foliage including Moonlight, White Christmas and Aaron fill lots of space without effort; white gladiolas for drama; Tahitian Bridal Veil as the “spiller” and the twisted Juncas effusus Curly Wurly for texture.

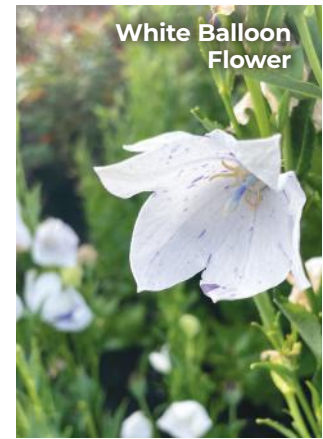
Acknowledging that 2022 is the year of the Gladiolus – a plant that had an important place in the agri-economy of Fort Myers, I ordered seven dozen white gladiolus corms from Holland. All were planted in June with great soil, faithfully watered knowing they would make a striking feature in my wedding garden and floral designs. Fail! Not one had even a hint of a flower stalk by wedding day.

Unlike Florida, it took until late June before our temperatures were suitable to start my caladiums that need day and night temperatures over 65 degrees. On my wedding garden calendar, I noted that I only needed five weeks from planting to full foliage. Well, that’s how it always works in Florida. We enjoyed great warm weather throughout July and August; in fact many people joked about having two months freed of lawnmowing due to high temperatures and drought. I maintained faithful to hand-watering, ensuring the garden, especially the roses, received a requisite one inch of water per week.

Suddenly, just one week before the wedding, our temperatures dropped and for the next three evenings, overnights stayed in the mid-40s – anathema to caladiums! Oh, and did I mention that along with those cool, damp mornings, my garden roses announced they had black spot, some even exhibited downy mildew. Blackspot! All summer, I would rise just after dawn and slip into the garden, quietly, trying not to spill my morning coffee, as I dragged the water wand attached



Curly Wurly



White Balloon Flower



to a heavy black hose around plants – watering the ground around my roses – to avoid splashing water on their foliage. They had been provided adequate space for ventilation and drying and roots were protected with a nice thick mulch layer.

My garden is a playground to nectar hunters, so I needed to find a natural solution to my fungal nemeses. For me, it was Neem oil spray. Too late for the wedding, but hopefully I have managed to save the roses for next year! For more on caring for roses here in Southwest Florida, be sure to sign up for our Gardening Class in February where you will learn all the tricks of the trade from our horticulture staff and learn to grow our Moonlight Garden wedding roses such as Prosperity and Iceberg.

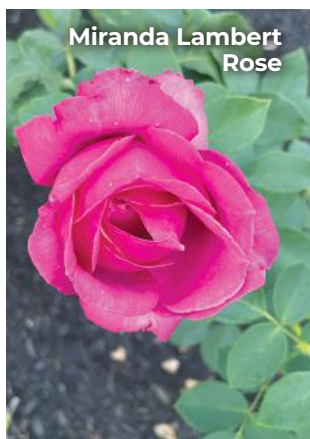
By introducing some exotic species to my Maine garden, I had to expect that there would be some challenges such as I experienced with the caladiums. Fortunately, there are some plants that do very well toward the end of summer and early fall, encouraged by the cool nights: Hydrangea paniculata “Pinky Winky,” Hydrangea macrophylla “Blushing Bride,” Wine & Roses weigela, and Red Twig Dogwood.

It is important to note here, that aggressive deadheading to encourage re-blooms on the desired date is not a chore to be overlooked for the likes of Hydrangea paniculata “Little Hottie,” Balloon Flower (Platycodon grandifloras) Florist White, White Grosso Lavender and certainly the roses. Also, if you are counting on using a specific bloom, plant lots of extras!

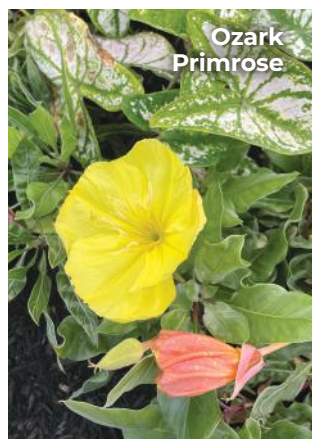
Early fall in Maine is when our panicle hydrangeas begin to blush from their summer whites to soft creams with varying levels of pink overtones. These are very predictable shrubs here by the coast as long as they receive ample water. I had always planned that these would be the foundation of the bridal bouquet, in



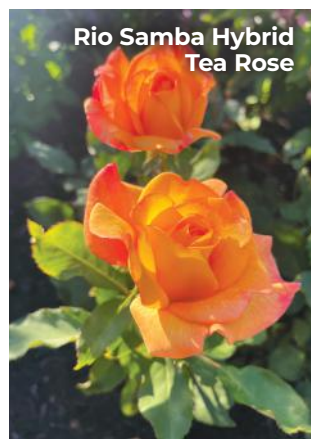
Jewels of Opar



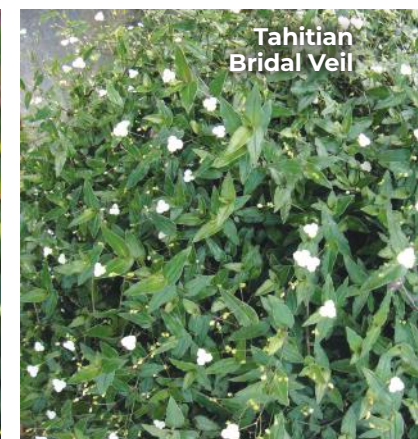
Miranda Lambert Rose



Ozark Primrose



Rio Samba Hybrid Tea Rose



Tahitian Bridal Veil

addition to providing a substantial white backdrop along an entire garden wall.

My go-to plant for any kind of white garden, is always caladiums. In Florida, they have been growing robustly since May but in Maine, these dependable little charmers couldn't be set in the ground until after Father's Day and it was not until September 1 that they looked like something to be proud of. Even though we only enjoy them for six weeks or so, varieties such as Moonlight, Candidum, Aaron, Blizzard, Florida Christmas, etc. can be enjoyed from May to December in your Florida garden. The caladiums insured that I would have an ample supply of cuttings to dress up all of the tabletop florals along with whatever else might have been ready on September 9!

My gardens are always a mixture of cultivated hybrids and stalwart natives – which promises a wedding garden full of butterflies! I included white echinacea, silver rod (a white goldenrod and North American native which blooms in the fall), white lavender, veronica White Wands (speedwell) and of course, white roses. The most spectacular being the John F. Kennedy hybrid tea and Shirley's Bouquet, another hybrid tea that produces big plump roses. The Milwaukee Calatrava shrub rose, a dependable and fragrant constant bloomer looked beautiful in the garden, but I could not use them in any of the wedding florals because, I had not previously noticed, this variety has way, way too many thorns to make them manageable for cutting. It would make an excellent container rose for a South Florida patio. Some of the other varieties I had great success with included the Painter's Collection, especially the Marc Chagall shrub rose of splashed pink and yellow palette; vigorous Miranda Lambert (hybrid tea) and Bewitched which produced loads of luscious pink roses; and Samba Rio for amazing yellow-orange sunset-colored roses.

To honor her father's family of St. Louis, Ozark Sundrops (*Oenothera macrocarpa*) which bloom in the late afternoon, lined one of the garden walkways. This native blooms all season with generously-sized yellow blossoms followed by huge seedpods – which I will be bringing back to the Edison Ford nursery for propagation and sale.

Other seeds which I will bring back to our garden nursery will be Jewels of Opar or Pink Baby's Breath (*Talinum paniculatum*)* which I grew in place of traditional baby's breath for her bouquet and the gentlemen's boutonnieres. An easy-to-grow plant, it produces lime green edible leaves and quickly puts up sprays of delicate pink flowers with dark pink, almost crimson seed pods. A great annual in the Maine garden, in the South Florida garden it self-sows and will produce lots of new plants without being a nuisance.

After the chipmunks and voles enjoyed all of the maidenhair fern, I turned to my Japanese Painted Fern – a lovely combination of green and metallic silvery fronds – Montauk or Nippon daisies and greens trimmed from my Harry Lauder Walking Stick trees (*Corylus avellana* Contorta) for unexpected floral structure.

Despite starting at 5:30 a.m. on the wedding day to produce one bouquet, one sweetheart centerpiece for the reception, nine table arrangements, six wrist corsages, six boutonnieres, and the large planters, I can't say this was an easy chore for the Mother of the Bride but, in the end, I wouldn't have had it any other way.

****Grows at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates***

BOLO in the Garden: Be on the lookout in the Edison Ford gardens this month for *Ceiba speciosa* – our gorgeous Floss Silk Trees in pink, white and pinkish.



Tours and Programs

Historian-led guided tours and self-guided tours of the site are offered daily. Through the app, narration is available in English, French, German, and Spanish. A web-based version is also available, which does not require downloading the app. Site maps are available in English, French, German, Spanish and Chinese.

Guided tours in German are available on Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

Cost: \$30 per person

On Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., special presentations are offered in the museum.

Guided Garden Tour

Available by appointment for groups of 5 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.



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

WILL RESUME NOVEMBER 15

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: 50% off (one time); non-members: Adults \$50, Teens (13-19) \$35, Children (6-12) \$20.



Private Guided Tour

Available By Appointment for groups with a maximum of 15 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: \$450 per group.



FLORAL STILL LIFE PAINTING WITH MARIE DYER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 • 10 A.M.

Impressionist painter, Marie Dyer, will explain color mixing, effect design, impressionistic techniques, shading and effective color contrast to create mood. This acrylic on canvas painting workshop is for any painting level. Space is limited and registration is required. Registration closes 24 hours before the class.

COST: Edison Ford members: \$90; non-members: \$100

DIGITAL DISCUSSION: MINA MILLER EDISON, BENEFACTOR OF FORT MYERS

NOVEMBER 8 • 10:30 a.m.

Join Program Manager, Holly Shaffer, for this free Digital Discussion about Mina Miller Edison and the role she played in the history of Fort Myers. Discover her thoughts about the City of Palms and her lasting legacy in the area.

Registration is required at EdisonFord.org (go to the November calendar).



SILK SCARF PAINTING WITH MARIE DYER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12 • 10 A.M.

Participants will paint a scarf that can be worn or hung as a piece of artwork! No experience required. All materials are included. Registration is required and closes 24 hours before the class.

COST: Edison Ford members: \$90; non-members: \$100



FALL FLORAL ARRANGING WITH ANITA SINGH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 • 10 A.M.

Participants will learn floral arrangement and take home a beautiful fall arrangement. All materials are included, as well as printed notes, an apron, and refreshments! All experience levels are welcome. Registration is required and closes 24 hours before the class.

COST: Edison Ford members: \$75; non-members: \$85



EMERGING INVENTORS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1 • 9 A.M.

For children ages 18 months to five years, the Emerging Inventors program includes socializing with other children, educational activities, science experiments, and exploration of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. The program runs September through May and is based out of the new Wizard's Workshop gallery space. Become a family member of Edison Ford and receive discounted registration! Programs take place the first Tuesday of every month from 9-10 a.m.

COST: members: \$10 each class or \$70 for the series; non-members: \$15 each class or \$105 for the series.
Cost includes one adult and one child. Space is limited.

HOMESCHOOL: ASSEMBLY LINES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 OR 17 (Grades 1-3) • 10 A.M.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10 OR 16 (Grades 4-6) • 10 A.M.

Students will engage in assembly line challenges and observe a Model-T demonstration with our automotive curator. Classes take place in an outdoor classroom environment (weather permitting). Homeschool classes at Edison Ford are aligned with Next Generation Science and Florida State Standards. Classes are a combination of instruction and hands on activities that are designed to facilitate homeschool or virtual science education.

CAMP: FANTASTIC PHYSICS

NOVEMBER 21-23 • 9 A.M.-4 P.M.

Campers will learn the FUNdamentals of physics in this entertaining and educational three-day camp.
For students in grades K-5.

COST: Edison Ford members: \$135; non-members: \$150

Edison's First Patented Invention

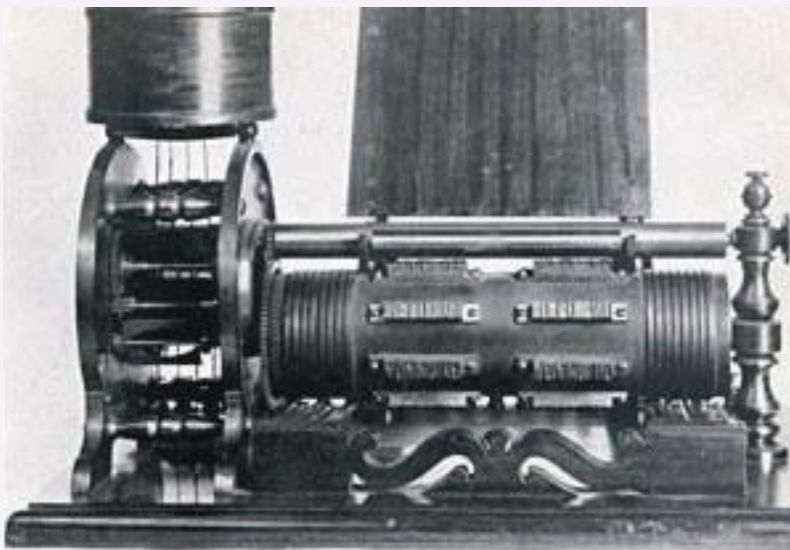
By Matt Andres, Registrar

"If there is any invention on earth that we don't want down here, that is it," could be heard emanating from the halls of congress during the summer of 1869. Dewitt Roberts, former telegrapher, entrepreneur, and small-time financier, slunk away disheartened and rejected. He was a victim of traditional slow-moving congressional mechanisms and operations as well as a harsh reality of a marketplace not fully consulted in which theoretical notions and practical applications reach a consensus. Thus was an ignominious end to Thomas Edison's first patented invention, the electric Vote Recorder.

Months before, Edison, a young telegraph operator working for Western Union in Boston, was voraciously devouring articles produced by one of his favorite trade magazines, the "Telegrapher." It mentioned a proposed device that could hopefully transform a tedious voting process into a more efficient task. Encouraged by reports and rumors coming from New York's state legislature and the Washington D.C. city council, Edison set about finding creative ways to solve what he thought was a legitimate problem vexing many elected representatives across America.

Relying on his adept mechanical knowledge and nascent understanding of electricity and chemistry, the emerging inventor essentially incorporated elements of each into an apparatus designed to count and record votes. His vote machine, a rather peculiar looking contraption, consisted of a spindle rotating 360 degrees, which was basically an electrochemical recorder displaying a variety of names alongside two columns of yes and no in metal print. Edison's idea was to have a legislator flip a switch in order to record their vote and have his machine tally them using two counting dials on either side. A physical record could be created by having a clerk place chemically treated paper over the spindle containing each name. Moving a metal roller over the type, electrical current was introduced that travelled through the special paper, thereby decomposing the chemical over each surname in a given column. This allowed a recording clerk to create a tangible copy of each specific vote. Edison would later work on chemical-recording telegraph systems during the 1870s.

With his idea in place, Edison began the inevitable task of begging for funding, a necessary evil for almost every inventor. He found his saving grace in fellow telegrapher and upstart entrepreneur, Dewitt C. Roberts. Having known Edison as an operator, Roberts funded some of his early work on stock-printer related equipment. A 22-year-old Edison was able to sell his product idea and vision for solving what he supposed was a serious voting issue. Recognizing Edison's abilities to solve problems as well as his tenacious work ethic, Roberts assumed the role of financier and became Edison's principal financial source during this process. Bolstered by adequate fiscal resources, Edison was able to utilize a machine shop owned by Charles Williams,

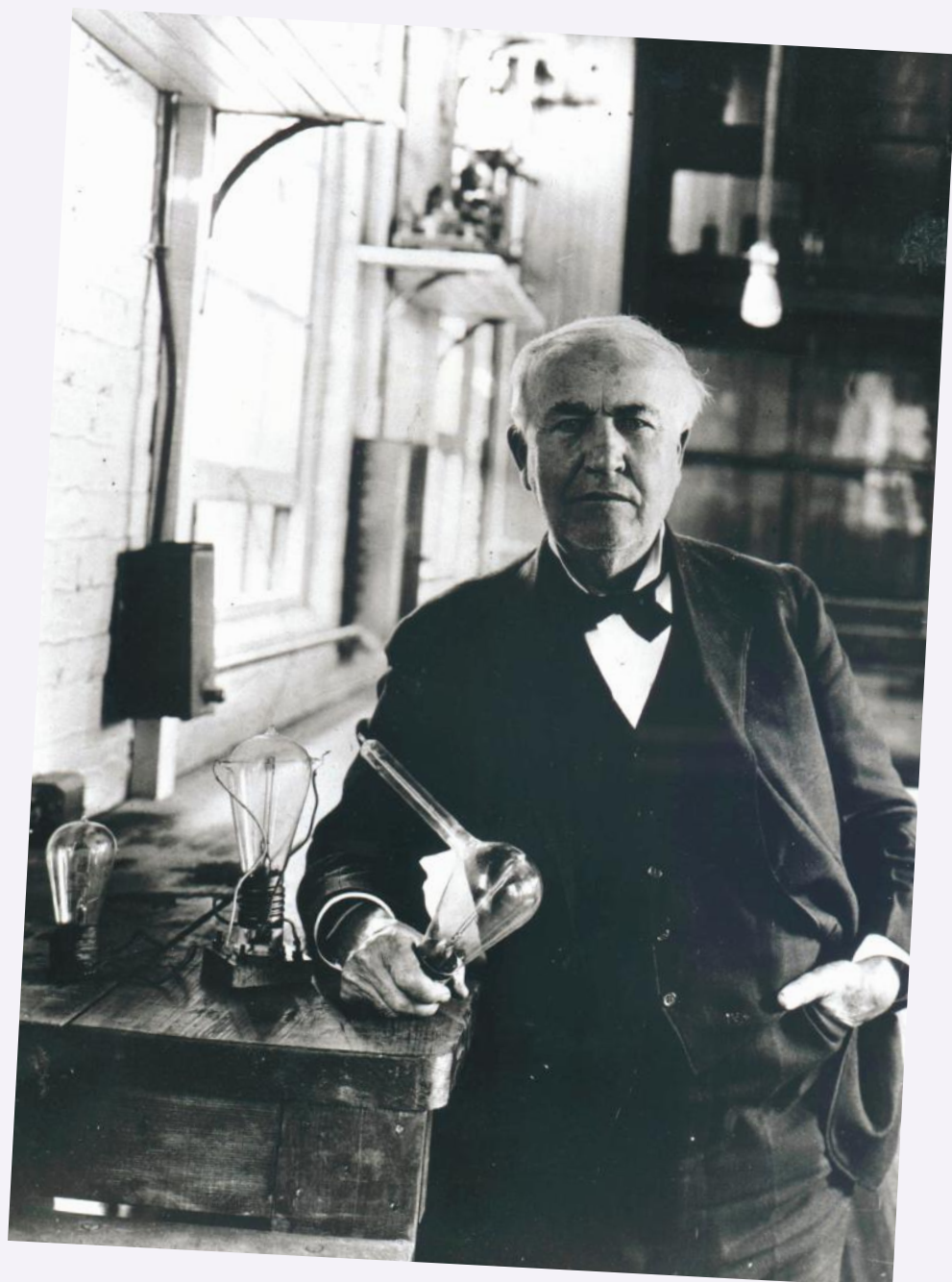


who specialized in experimental work and fabricating equipment and parts. His vote recorder came into existence within the walls of William's "cradle of innovation."

Applying for his first patent in October 1868, the application cost Edison \$35, which did not include his additional charges incurred for professional model drawings and attorney fees. A fairly expensive and time-consuming learning process, but one Edison safely navigated throughout his career. United States Patent 90,646 was officially issued on June 1, 1869, making this Edison's first patented invention and the earliest of his 1,093 American patents received.

Holding to the belief that Edison's machine would be an instant and enormous success, Roberts took it upon himself to act as the unofficial salesman and advocated for its adoption by legislative bodies.

Taking the invention with him to Washington D.C., he was able to gain access to a Congressional committee, promptly placing it on exhibit and describing how it operated. Unimpressed, the committee chairman discouraged its adoption, much to the surprise of a rebuffed Roberts. Although the machine was quick, it was this very element that caused its early demise. What Edison and Roberts failed to account for were qualities most politicians love: deliberation and power of persuasion.



The quick and efficient nature of Edison's Vote Recorder would have prevented filibustering of various legislation as well as any efforts to convince their colleagues to vote for or against a proposal during roll call of members. Consequently, it was never adopted, which relegated it to an interesting footnote in Edison's long and illustrious career. Many prospective inventors may have been devastated by such an experience, even voting against continuing their pursuits perhaps, but Edison, the eternal optimist, continued to forge ahead with electrifying results.

Dr. Hamilton Holt

By Alexandria Edwards, Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator

Journalist, social activist, and college president, Dr. Hamilton Holt was a close acquaintance of the Edison Family who made lasting impacts on the education system that can still be seen today. Dr. Holt served as the 8th president of Rollins college for 24 years and shaped the mission of the university as a national leader in innovative teaching. His philosophy continues to guide Rollins' academic programs and provides valuable insight into liberal arts education.

Dr. Holt was born on August 19, 1872, in Brooklyn, New York. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale University in 1894, where he studied economics and sociology, and completed his post-graduate degree at Columbia University. At these schools, he had a traditional classroom experience that was lecture-based; however, he valued more collaborative programs. While he was in school, Dr. Holt developed a passion for creating effective learning techniques and paved the way for the school system to support students in this manner.

Not only did Holt revolutionize education but worked tirelessly to support the communities that he lived in and beyond. After he graduated, the young man joined the staff of the Independent Magazine as a managing editor in 1897 and was sole editor and owner by 1913. In his early career, he married Alexandria Crawford Smith in 1899 and had four children: Beatrice, Leila, John Eliot and George Chandler.

In 1909, Dr. Holt along with notable progressives, including W.E.B Dubois, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Jane Adams, Charles Darrow, Mary McLeod Bethune and others founded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Beyond the United States, Holt helped form the Italy-America Society, the Netherlands American Foundation, American-Scandinavian Foundation, the Greek-American Club, the Friends of Poland and the League of Nations Non-Partisan Association. He was also a member of the Japanese Order of the Sacred Treasure, the French Order of Public Instruction and the Order of the Crown in Italy and an officer of the Greek Order of George I. Throughout the first World War, he played in instrumental role in the International Conciliation and World Peace Foundation and was made a knight of the

French Legion of honor, Polonia Restituta and the Swedish North Star in recognition of his efforts.

In 1925, Holt was asked to be the president of Rollins College after he stepped down as editor of the Independent Magazine. Holt accepted the position and later recalled, "I had no special qualification for the position. But from observation in many colleges and from my own experiences I had acquired a definite idea about teaching which I longed to put into practice." His tenure at the school broke down the traditional lecture-styled classes that did not involve many hands-on activities. Dr. Holt devised a new system called the "conference plan," which emphasized one-on-one interaction between the professor and the student so they could better their minds together. Holt felt that "there are two kinds of professors: one the research man, draws his inspiration for learning; the other, the teacher, draws from his life. The first is a great scholar, the second a beloved teacher."

When putting this plan into practice, students had an eight-hour day broken into four two-hour periods. Three of the periods were dedicated to "work of the mind under a professor in a classroom," and the fourth to activities, ranging from working to rehearsing for the arts. Dr. Holt's vision for the Rollins community shaped not only the curriculum, students and faculty, but the cultural experience throughout the campus. In 1926, he created the Animated Magazine, a live program modeled on a magazine that brought speakers on a variety of subjects to the school every February. He reached out to his contacts for their support in contributing to the program, including actress, Mary Pickford, novelist Faith Baldwin, and RCA chairman David Sarnoff.

Similar to "the Independent," Holt was the editor and chief for the magazine program and often sat on stage recording and revising notes made by the speakers. This program as well as the Theatre Department's productions made the school a prime attraction in Central Florida and Holt encouraged those around him to be involved in all the activities that differentiated Rollins from other colleges. He often attended the events hosted by members of the Rollins community, invited students to his home

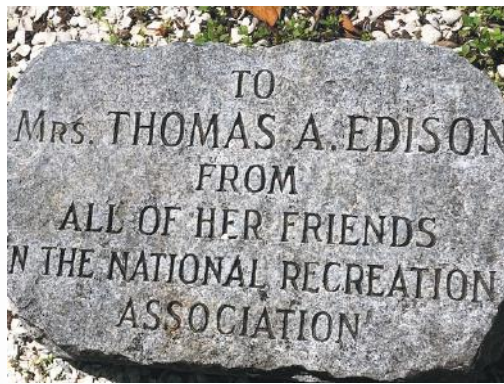
on a regular basis, and advocated to bridge the gap between faculty and students.

Students loved Dr. Holt and called him by his nickname, Prexy. He referred to them as his "sons and daughters" yet insisted the students be treated like adults. Holts legacy on the Rollins College also extends to the physical structures and layout of the campus. After he took over as president, the architectural style of the university shifted from original New England inspired structures to the Spanish Mediterranean style. Under his leadership, Pugsley Halls and the chapel theatre complex were completed.

In 1929, Dr. Holt decided to create a pathway along the campus called "The Walk of Fame," a semi-circular pathway in the center of the Rollins campus, surrounding the Barker Flagpole and Mills Lawn. On the sides of the pathway, stones from a plethora of places around the world sit under the shade of oak trees. Each one contains the engraved names of famous men and women throughout history, including writers, inventors, philosophers, scientists, artists and more. Some of the most noteworthy names along this walk are Aristotle, Oscar Wilde, Paul Murphy, Maya Angelou, Edward Albee, Fred Rogers, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, George Washington, Thomas Edison, Martin Luther King, Jr., William Shakespeare and more. The largest stone sits at the entrance of the walk and is nearly three hundred years old, inscribed with a Shakespeare quote, "Sermons in stone and good in everything."

In 1928, Dr. Holt visited Thomas Edison in Fort Myers and shared information with him about the "Walk of Fame." The Edison family was enamored with the idea and decided to install a similar path with stones from their friends. The first stone was from Dr. Holt; other notable stones were from friends such as Harvey Firestone, W.M. Buswell, John K. Small, Alice C. Garvey, Dot and James Hendry, and John Burroughs. One blank stone was reported to have been from Henry Ford who claimed that he was a poor farm boy who could not afford to have his name engraved on a stone.

The earliest stones date back to 1930, with 18 from the 1930-1932 time period. Many do not have a date and the most



recent stone is from 1947. In the late 1930s, Mina Edison opened up the estate to numerous garden clubs and the Friendship Walk was made a regular part of the tour. Visitors can

find the Friendship Walk on the street side of the Edison House leading to the fence along McGregor Boulevard.

In 1930, Dr. Hamilton Holt gave the keynote address when a memorial plaque was installed at Evans Park in honor of Edison and his wife, Mina on the inventor's 83rd birthday. This park was formerly occupied by Edison's old friend, E.L. Evans, who the inventor met hours after he set foot off the boat at the Keystone Hotel in Fort Myers for the first time. The plaque was inscribed with the words "erected by the citizens of Fort Myers," and the dates 1879 and 1929, commemorating the Golden Jubilee celebration that marked the 50th anniversary of Edison's electric lamp. Mina was also presented with a large bouquet of red roses from the women of the dedication committee. Two thousand people reportedly attended this event, including the Fords and the Firestones.

Around the same time, Thomas A. Edison was presented with an honorary degree of science from Dr. Holt. One newspaper reported that while the world-famous inventor could not hear the words of tribute that were stated in his honor, he took an active interest in the two-hour exercise that followed the speech. According to the New York Times, nearly 3,500 people attended the ceremony and Edison "was acclaimed by several hundred schoolchildren along the street as he marched in the academic procession to the campus." After this special event, the Edisons were guests at a luncheon hosted by Dr. Holt and his wife. Edison's brother-in-law, Halbert Hitchcock recalled that Holt sat at Edison's right hand and wrote all the important points that were stated and questions that people wanted him to answer since the inventor was hard of hearing.

After Mr. Edison passed away, his wife Mina returned to the university in April of 1940 to plant a tree on campus. When presenting the tree, Mina stated, "may this tree be destined to grow and flourish and give joy to all as it gives me joy in presenting it to you."



Hospitality at its **BEST!**

Each year, the Lee Visitor and Convention Bureau holds the E-Awards, or the Elaine McLaughlin Outstanding Hospitality Service Awards. Here at Edison and Ford Winter Estates, we usually have several nominations, and sometimes we get lucky and have a winner!

Join us in congratulating Doug Jaureguay for winning the E-Award honorable mention in the Good Samaritan category! Doug was nominated for the award because he rescued a fellow coworker's daughter. Below is the nomination that was submitted by our security guard, Kathy.

"On Labor Day 2021, it was a typical Monday where if anything can go wrong, it will. My oldest daughter's car broke down with a flat tire. Everyone in the house was gone for work and nobody was able to help her as she sat in the car, stranded. As I sat at the gate, I noticed that I hadn't seen Doug. After a few moments I decided to reach out and ask for his help. He lives not too far from where my daughter Sharon sat stranded in her car. He answered his phone with a curious "hello." As I told him the situation and proceeded to ask for his help, in true Doug fashion he said 'Well, why didn't you call me first'? Doug dropped everything that he was doing and grabbed all the tools he may or may not need, jumped into his jeep and drove to her rescue! He took her to the house to drop off the groceries, then took her to his house where they tried to plug the tire. When that didn't work, he took her to get the tire replaced. As he put the new tire on Sharon's car, he refused any sort of payment for his above and beyond good deeds. Doug spent most of the holiday afternoon helping rescue my stranded daughter on his day off. I cannot thank him enough for his selfless actions. I am forever grateful! This is just another reason why I love my EFWE family! Thank you, Doug!"

Many of our team members routinely go above and beyond. Additional Edison Ford nominees for the 2022 E-Awards were as follows: **Whitney Blair, Michael Bryant, Maisen Clark, Andrea Dickey, Alexandria Edwards, Michael Flanders, Tom Hottovoy, Lindsey Lutarewych, Sherri Muske, Holly Shaffer, Anita Singh, Maxine Surprise, and Jennifer Walker.**

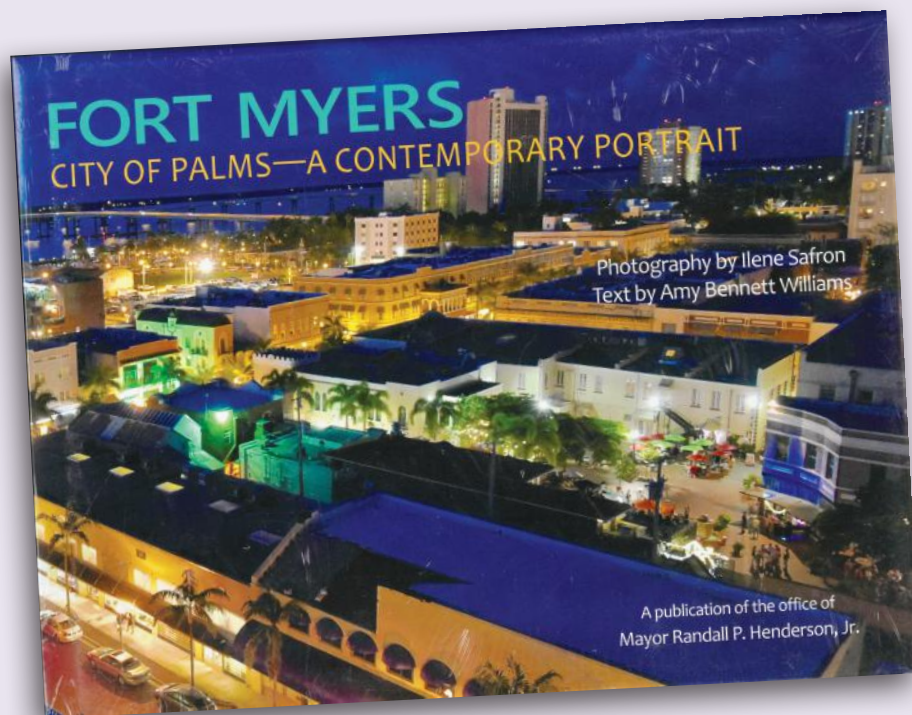
WE ARE VERY PROUD OF ALL OF THEM!

November Book of the Month

FORT MYERS: CITY OF PALMS

A Contemporary Portrait

By Amy Bennett Williams and photography from Ilene Safron



This month, we're featuring a book by a local author and photographer. "Fort Myers: City of Palms – A Contemporary Portrait" is a coffee-table sized book about Fort Myers, Florida. It's full of wonderful photographs with stories of local companies and the people who live in the City of Palms.

Buy a copy in the museum store or have one shipped by calling 239-335-3661.

Members receive 10% off the purchase price.



After cleaning up the debris,
the Moonlight Garden looks

SPECTACULAR!

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.

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO: 569

EDISON
and
FORD
winter
ESTATES

2350 McGregor Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33901



Newsletter sponsored
and printed by
Panther Printing