

December Events and Programs at Edison and Ford Winter Estates

Holiday Nights

Now through January 1, 5:30 p.m. to 9 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Thousands of lights, hundreds of historic decorations, and one unique holiday experience await you nightly! This year's theme is "Holidays on the Riverfront" and will incorporate water and nautical elements. Holiday Nights will run nightly through January 1, except Christmas Eve and Christmas night. Guided Holiday Tradition Tours will be offered at 6 and 7 p.m. every night except opening night or visitors can choose to meander at their own pace on a self-guided tour. Inside-the-Homes tours will be offered on November 30, and December 7, 14, and 21 at 6:30 p.m. for a special up-close looks at the homes' decorated interiors.

Several new light displays have been installed this year. When visitors enter the riverside of the property, they will walk through a new lighted tunnel that will incorporate animated lights choreographed to music. This will set the stage and lead visitors to the new fountain tree with animated lights.

Holiday Nights tickets for adults are \$20, teens (13-19) \$10, children (6-12) are \$2 and Edison Ford get in free. Guided Holiday tradition tours are \$30 for adults, teens are \$25, children \$18 and \$10 for Edison Ford members. Inside-the-Homes Holiday Tours are \$50. Lee County residents with identification will receive \$5 off Holiday Nights admission on Sunday nights. To purchase tickets or view the nightly schedule, visit edisonford.org.

239-334-7419

Annual Wreath Auction

December 2, 2022, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is partnering with the Fort Myers Woman's Community club for a wreath auction fundraiser. 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 online at edisonford.org by November 21; capacity is limited. Sponsored by Riverview Wealth Partners of Raymond James. Bring your e-ticket to be scanned at the welcome booth.

Cost: \$20

239-334-7419

Bromeliad Sale

December 3 and 4, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Edison and 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).

239-334-7419

Silk Scarf Painting Class
December 3, 2022 at 9 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

If you need some time to relax and unwind, join us for a silk scarf painting class with Marie Dyer along the Caloosahatchee River. Bring a friend with you and make a silk scarf that can be worn or hung as a piece of artwork. All materials are included in the fee. No experience is required. E-tickets can be redeemed at the ticket counter for a wristband. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

Christmas Centerpiece Floral Arranging with Anita Singh
December 4, 2022 at 10 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Anita has been creating floral displays for many years. This class offers a unique opportunity for guests to learn floral arranging and they will make a centerpiece to take home. All materials are included, as well as printed notes, an apron, and refreshments. Students of all experience levels are welcome. Seating is limited and registration is required. Hosted by Flowers by Anita at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates.

Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

**Garden Talk – Make a Holiday Wreath
December 10, 2022 at 10 a.m.**

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Come make a holiday wreath or festive door decoration with us, while using different materials from the gardens: grapevine, greens, etc. Enjoy some holiday refreshments (will be provided) while we get creative! All materials are included. Advance registration is required by December 3, and participation is limited to 15. This Garden Talk runs from 10 a.m. to noon. Register online at edisonford.org.

Edison Ford members: \$25; non-members: \$35

239-334-7419

**Acrylic Landscape Painting with Marie Dyer
December 10, 2022 at 9 a.m.**

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers

Come spend the day with impressionistic local artist Marie Dyer as she guides you in this plein air acrylic landscape painting workshop. She will cover the fundamentals of composition and structure, color creating mood, mixing paints, and assist in developing a pallet that speaks to you! Students will be inspired by the lush surroundings on site in this one-of-a-kind class. No experience is required. All materials are included. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

**Gouache Painting with Renee Lammers
December 11, 2022 at 10 a.m.**

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

In a small group setting, students will explore the world of colorful Gouache painting. Instructor, Renee Lammers, will explore mixing colors, Gouache painting tricks, and complete a demonstration painting before students create their own painting with her assistance. Lammers has been studying painting for 54 years. She has attended more than 30 workshops from award-winning artists, studied Fine Art at Stetson University in Deland, Florida, and mentored with Stapleton Kearns. No experience is needed. All supplies, including a Gouache set, palette, and brushes, are included. Registration is required and class size is limited to 10 students. Register online at edisonford.org.

Edison Ford members: \$70; non-members: \$85

Holiday Market

December 11, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

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. Please contact Nancy or Sherri at 239-335-3678 to reserve a vendor space.

239-334-7419

Digital Discussion: Christmas During the Great War

December 13, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Learn about the holiday traditions and observances of the Great War on the battlefield and the home front. During World War 1, Thomas Edison supported the war efforts by serving on the Naval Consulting Board. This program will be led by Site Program Manager, Holly Shaffer. This is a free virtual lecture. Register online at edisonford.org

239-334-7419

Sparkling Wine and Dessert

December 16, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

If you didn't get a chance to sign up for the Wine and Cheese Pairing event, sign up for this new event! 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 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

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!

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

Emerging Inventors

December 6 and January 4, 9 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Edison and Ford Winter Estates Emerging Inventors programs are designed for children ages 18 months to 5 years old. These sessions include opportunities to socialize with other children, educational activities, science experiments, and exploration of the property. This program runs September through May. Advance registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org

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

Homeschool Science Scholars: Parachutes and Aeronautics

Grades 1-3: December 15, 10 a.m.

Grades 4-6: December 21, 10 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Homeschool Science Programs are designed for children in grades 1-6 and 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. In this session, students will learn about aeronautics and the Newton's Laws of Motion. Advance registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

Edison Ford member; \$15; non-members: \$25

School Break Camp: Simple Machines

December 22-23, 9 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

School Break camps are designed for students in grades K-5 when school is out. This engineering camp is focused on the six simple machines: wheel and axle, wedge, lever, screw, ramp, and pulley. Campers will engage in engineering challenges that relate to each simple machine. All activities demonstrate how each machine applies a mechanical advantage to make work easier. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

School Break Camp: Designing the Future
December 27-30, 9 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

School Break camps are designed for students in grades K-5 when school is out. In this design and innovation camp, campers will learn how to manage “the problem space” with an engineering design process. In addition to solving engineering challenges, campers will also learn simple computer aided design (CAD) and get to work with 3D printers and 3D pens. Register online at edisonford.org

Cost: \$185 for non-members; \$160 for Edison Ford members.

Silk Scarf Painting Class
January 14, 2023 at 9 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

If you need some time to relax and unwind, join us for a silk scarf painting class with Marie Dyer along the Caloosahatchee River. Bring a friend with you and make a silk scarf that can be worn or hung as a piece of artwork. All materials are included in the fee. No experience is required. E-tickets can be redeemed at the ticket counter for a wristband. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

Garden Talk: Staghorns and Jungle Cactus
January 14, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Visitors can always find unique, exotic plants growing through the 20-acre botanical gardens at Edison and Ford Winter Estates. In this talk, learn about Staghorn Ferns and Jungle Cactus and how to care for them in a landscape. Participants will receive a 20% off coupon for use towards plant purchase in the Garden Shoppe. Wear sunscreen, a hat, comfortable shoes, and bring drinking water. Advance registration is not required.

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

Palm Weaving with Megan Kissinger
January 15, 2023 at 12 p.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Students will join local artist, Megan Kissinger, to learn how to make woven crafts that they can take home. All materials and tools will be provided, but students may bring their own specially chosen ribbons and scissors. Participants are also encouraged to bring a snack or lunch. Space is limited and registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

Edison Ford members: \$40; non-members: \$60

239-334-7419

Floral Still Life Painting with Marie Dyer
January 21, 2023 at 9 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

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 experience level. Capacity is limited and registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

Introduction to Florida Gardening Part 1
January 24, 2023 at 1:30 p.m., or January 28, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Gardening in South Florida is unlike anywhere else in the United States. Thomas Edison included plants from all over the world in his botanical gardens and quickly learned how different gardening is in Southwest Florida compared to New Jersey. In Part 1, you will be introduced to the significance of topics such as our seasons- including weather extremes, using the binomial naming system, how plants grow and our soil PH levels, recognizing Florida invasive plants, palms, and more. In part II, we will delve deeper into gardening in South Florida. Advance registration is required and limited to 25 participants. Class will be held at the Garden Council Building, located across the street from the Edison and Ford (Larchmont Street) parking lot. Register online at edisonford.org

Edison Ford members: \$45; non-members: \$55

Introduction to Florida Gardening Part II
January 31, 2023 at 1:30 p.m., or February 4, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Building on the groundwork of Part 1, we will delve deeper into the concepts of “Florida Friendly Gardening,” including the value of Florida native plants and use of fertilizers. Common diseases and pests in South Florida will be addressed as well as the controls that are recommended. Common weeds and different types of grasses will also be covered, along with different coastal garden options. Advance registration is required at edisonford.org. Class will be held at the Garden Council Building, located across the street from the Edison and Ford (Larchmont Street) parking lot.

Edison Ford members; \$45; non-members: \$55

239-334-7419

**Rhythm on the River – Michael Dutra and the Strictly Sinatra Band (Sinatra Tribute)
January 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Join us for the first Rhythm on the River concert of the new year with Michael Dutra and the Strictly Sinatra Band! The group performs many of Sinatra's greatest hits. The event will take place on the Ford lawn, along the Caloosahatchee River. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the concert starts at 6:30 p.m.

Food and beverage vendors will have refreshments available for purchase. No coolers are permitted. Free parking is available in the main Edison Ford parking lot at 2350 McGregor Boulevard. Guests should bring a lawn chair and a sweater or blanket if the weather is chilly.

Tickets may be purchased online at EdisonFord.org or at the ticket counter. 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.

Individual prices: TBD

239-334-7419

**Zen Drawing with Megan Kissinger
January 28, 2023 at 10 a.m.**

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Participants will explore meditative drawing with local artist, Megan Kissinger. This class will take place outdoors in the sprawling grounds of the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. Participants are encouraged to bring a lunch. The class will meet at the Visitor Pavilion before departing to paint on the grounds. All

materials are included. Registration is required and capacity is limited. No experience is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

Edison Ford members: \$40; non-members: \$60

Homeschool Science Scholars: Engineering Bridges

Grades 1-3: January 19, 10 a.m.

Grades 4-6: January 18, 10 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

Homeschool Science Programs are designed for children in grades 1-6 and 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. In this session, students will learn about how famous bridges were constructed as they design and test various models of these unique structures. Register online at edisonford.org.

Edison Ford members:\$15; non-members:\$25

School Break Camp: The Four Forces of Flight
January 3-6, 9 a.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates
2350 McGregor Blvd, Ft. Myers

School Break camps are designed for students in grades K-5 when school is out. This camp focuses on the four forces of flight: lift, gravity, drag, and thrust. Activities include paper airplane design, foam rockets, and water rockets -- all tied to concepts of Newton's Laws of Motion and the forces of flight. Register online at edisonford.org

Cost: \$185 for non-members; \$160 for Edison Ford members.