

February 2024 Events and Programs at Edison and Ford Winter Estates

Introduction to Florida Gardening – Part II
February 3, 2024 at 10 a.m.

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

This class takes a deep dive into Southwest Florida gardening techniques and challenges. The University of Florida has developed a highly successful campaign of “Florida Friendly Gardening” and we will introduce this conservation-oriented gardening program. Our professional horticulture staff will introduce you to some common Florida insect pests and diseases and the best practices for addressing those issues. This in-depth program will also cover an overview of Florida lawn/turf types, proper planting of trees, a brief introduction to growing roses in Southwest Florida, and choosing ornamental plants for the landscape. During the last half hour of the class, we will visit our bromeliad garden. Register online at edisonford.org.

Edison Ford members: \$45; non-members: \$60

239-334-7419

Annual Antique Ford Car Show
February 3, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

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

This family event is free for Edison Ford members and \$25 for non-members, which includes a self-guided tour of the entire site. Admission tickets may be purchased online at edisonford.org or at the ticket counter (advance ticketing not required).

239-334-7419

Thomas Edison’s 177th birthday celebration
February 7, 2024 at 10 a.m.

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

Come celebrate Thomas Edison's birthday with us! The annual tradition continues with students from the Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts School singing, dancing and playing stringed instruments. Cake will be served for visitors attending the party, which is sponsored in part by the Edison Pageant of Light, the organization founded in 1938 to memorialize Thomas Edison. The party is a free public event with limited seating (does not include tours or admission to the museum or laboratory). This event takes place near the Banyan Café.

239-334-7419

Spring Garden Festival
February 10 and 11, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Don't miss the largest plant sale in the area! More than 60 vendors will have plants available for sale, plus there will be food trucks, live music and more! A huge selection of plants including butterfly plants, flowering exotics, fruit trees, herbs, Florida natives, and orchids will be available. Parking and admission to the festival is free (does not include tours of the homes, museum or lab). 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 offering for anyone needing assistance.

Members Only preview: Saturday, 8-9 a.m. Enter at the corner of McGregor and Larchmont, then check in at the membership table to get a wristband (membership ID required).

239-334-7419

Homeschool Program – Advanced Techniques
Grades 1-3: February 14 or 15, 10 a.m.
Grades 4-6: February 8 or 21, 10 a.m.

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

Homeschool programs are designed for children in grades 1-6. Students will be taught and challenged to apply advanced techniques that are used to improve the consistency of a robotics system. Students learn how to design functions, collect and use data from sensors, and other techniques to improve the reliability of their system. Advance registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

Silk Scarf Painting Class with Artist Marie Dyer
February 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.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 piece of artwork. All materials are included in the fee. No experience is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

**Nature's Green Laboratory Camp
February 19, 9 a.m. to 4 p.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. Campers will explore Thomas Edison's green laboratory and dive into the botanical work he did in Fort Myers. The day's fun will also include minerals, slime and a splash or American history in our local backyard. Advance registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

**Rhythm on the River – Liz Hunny and 5-piece Band
February 23, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

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

Spend the evening along the river, while enjoying great music, a fantastic view and refreshing beverages! Music was a big part of Liz Hunny's upbringing, and she has been singing professionally across Florida since 2018. As well as performing in the FSW and FGCU jazz bands, she travels Florida with "Nightbird," the ultimate tribute to Stevie Nicks, and independently as a recording artist. She is also the featured vocalist every Thursday night at the Roadhouse Café in Fort Myers. She has accomplished a mega-talented band members that perform with her: Heavilin on upright bass, Brad Brown on piano, and Steve Silverstein on drums. Attendees at this concert will enjoy a special guest feature and 5th band members – Jay Heath, who plays the saxophone. The chemistry of this quintet is undeniably organic and engaging. With world-class musicians and playing timeless and sultry jazz, this Roarin' 20's-themed evening will not disappoint!

Bring your favorite lawn chair and a sweater if the weather is chilly. Beverages and food available for purchase. No coolers or picnic baskets permitted. Concert starts at 6:30 p.m.; doors open at 6 p.m. Park in the Edison Ford lots only.

Individual tickets purchased in advance are \$30 for Edison Ford members or \$35 for non-members.

Individual ticket holders should bring a lawn chair.

A VIP seating area may be reserved by the table for \$275. Each table holds up to 5 people; table ticket price includes the use of a table and chairs. Purchase ticket at edisonford.org.

239-334-7419

Garden Class: Palms in the Landscape
February 20 at 1:30 p.m. or February 24 from 10 a.m. to noon

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

If 'tropical' was a plant meme, surely it would be a palm. We will start with the unique construction of this large family of plants known as Palm – what defines a palm, understanding the importance and distinctions of native and ornamental palms, the best choices for Southwest Florida and their care. Taught by experienced Horticulturists who regularly work with nearly 100 palm species, this program will provide the tools for 'reading' palms to recognize nutritional issues, maintenance practices, and proper feeding and pruning of various species well suited for our landscapes. Current issues facing certain species of palms in Florida will be covered. The last hour of the program will be a tour and Q&A session in our Palmetum.

Participants will each receive a palm seedling propagated at Edison Ford, a bottle of water and a copy of all the teaching materials covered in the class. Class will be held at the Berne Davis/SW Florida Garden Council Building on Larchmont Avenue. Register online at edisonford.org.

Edison Ford members: \$45; non-members: \$60

Acrylic Landscape Painting with Artist Marie Dyer
February 25, 9 a.m. to 2 p.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

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