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Edison Estates offer summer program



PHOTO COURTESY THE EDISON & FORD WINTER ESTATES

The Edison & Ford Winter Estates is a Fort Myers icon.

The Edison & Ford Winter Estates will offer a variety of children and adult programs, special exhibits, discounts and events throughout the month of July.

- Wild Wizard Lab Show "Big Bangs and Beyond the Sound Barrier," Sunday, July 8, at 2 p.m. — The Super and Junior Scientists present a series of wild lab experiments exploring some of Mr. Edison's and Mr. Ford's illuminating inventions. Fun for all ages. Estates members are free, non-members \$10 adults, \$5 children.

- Estates Social: Volunteer Opportunities at the Estates July 17, at 2 p.m. — Visitors are invited to join Estates volunteers for a summer social to learn about volunteer opportunities at the Estates. The social is an informal meeting with refreshments and live music of the Edison era. Event is free to public.

- Design Your Own Moonlight Garden, July 25, at 11 a.m. — Work alongside Estates horticulturist, Debbie Hughes, to learn how to create your own Moonlight Garden and be inspired by one of America's first female landscape architects, Ellen Biddle Shipman, as you tour the award winning Edison Moonlight Garden. Estates members \$10, nonmembers \$15. Registration is required, call 239-334-7419 to register.

- Happy Birthday Henry Ford, July 30, at 10:30 a.m. — Celebrate Henry Ford's 144th birthday as the Estates unveils a statue of him at his winter estate, The Mangoes. Cake and iced tea will be served along with Mina Edison's cornflake cook-

ies. Visitors will also enjoy vintage antique Fords and live music. Estates members are free, special discounts available, call 334-7419 for more information.

- Summer Discounts for Florida Residents and Seniors, July and August. The Estates is offering significant discounts for Florida residents and seniors (age 55+). Florida residents will receive \$5 off a Homes and Garden ticket, which includes the Museum and Lab. Seniors will receive a 50% discount off admission between the hours of 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The discounts are offered daily through Aug. 31.

- Mr. Edison In His Lab, Sundays, noon - 4 p.m. — Mr. Edison will be in his historic Botanic Research lab every Sunday throughout the summer months. The historic interpreter portraying Edison will provide background and insight into the lab and the Fort Myers scientific research site where Edison searched for a source of natural rubber. Estate members are free.

- New Program for Youth Groups, Scouts and Camps — Groups can schedule visits and programs with "young Mr. Edison" during the summer months. Visitors will accompany Edison on a tour of the rubber research lab and complete a scavenger hunt. For more information or to schedule a group tour call 239-334-7419.

The Estates is an official project of Save America's Treasures at the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a Florida Historic Landmark. For additional information call 334-7419 or visit the Web site at www.efwefla.org. ■

The Power of Personal Service.



Left to Right: John Reingardt, Dennis Kucera, Bill Valenti, John Hodas and John Fritts

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