

December and January events

49th Annual Holiday Nights Celebration

Now through January 5 (closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day), 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd., Ft Myers

Thousands of lights, hundred of historic decorations and one unique holiday experience await you nightly! This celebration will run through January 5 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. (closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day).

Guided Holiday Tradition tours will be offered at 6 and 7 p.m. every night except for opening night or visitors can choose to meander at their own pace on a self-guided tour. Santa will visit on Sunday nights, up until Christmas and then he heads back to the North Pole. There will be musicians or carolers several nights each week; food vendors will be on site Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights; and a holiday movie will be shown on the Ford lawn each night in December. Visit our website at edisonford.org to see the nightly calendar.

Holiday Nights tickets for adults are \$20, teens (13-19) \$10, children (6-12) are \$2, and \$10 for Edison Ford members. Guided Holiday Tradition Tours are \$30 for adults, teens are \$25, children \$18, and \$15 for Edison Ford members. To purchase tickets or view the nightly schedule, visit the website at edisonford.org.

239-334-7419

Annual Wreath Auction

December 5, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates

2350 McGregor Blvd., Ft. Myers

In partnership with the Fort Myers Woman's Community Club, pick out a one-of-kind holiday decoration from dozens of homemade 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!

Cost: \$20 per person. Registration is required by November 22; capacity is limited. Bring your e-ticket to be scanned at the welcome booth. Tickets will be available starting November 1. Sponsored by Riverview Wealth Partners of Raymond James.

239-334-7419

**Book Signing with Author Doug MacGregor
December 6, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

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

Author-Illustrator, Doug MacGregor, is making an appearance during Holiday Nights at the Ford Cottage Shoppe on December 6 from 6 to 9 p.m.! Meet the award-winning cartoonist and author of several children's books that are perfect for holiday gift buying. He will sign and personalize each one for your family member and loved ones. Included with admission to Holiday Nights.

239-334-7419

**Annual Bromeliad Sale
December 7 and 8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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

Visualize your garden as the epitome of bold color and rich texture with Bromeliads! In partnership with the Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, there will be hundreds of different specimens of Bromeliads for sale, including rare species. Experts from the society will be on hand to answer questions about Bromeliads. Parking and admission to the event is free (does not include tours or admission to the museum and laboratory). A limited number of garden carts will be available; guests are encouraged to bring their own.

The Garden Shoppe will be open and stocked with tropical and native plants and trees, including edibles and butterfly host plants.

239-334-7419

**Garden Talk: Big Belly Plants
December 14, 10 a.m.**

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

Take a look at seasonal décor and enjoy music and light refreshments. Horticulturists will discuss plants with caudices (swollen trunks or bases) and how to add them to your garden. Specimens will be available for purchase. Advance registration is not required.

Edison Ford members: \$20; non-members: \$30

Decorate Christmas Cookies
December 21, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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

Come decorate cookies and enjoy the Holiday Nights lights! Participants will each receive a lighted specialty drink cup, and apple cider and lemonade will be provided. Admission to Holiday Nights is included. The river pavilion will be festively decorated, and holiday music will be played in the background.

Purchase tickets online by December 13 at 5 p.m. at EdisonFord.org.

Family ticket price: \$125.00 (includes 4 family members)

Additional person ticket price: \$30 each additional *up to (2) additional tickets can be purchased. The extra ticket includes an additional 6-piece cookie bundle.

Ticket price includes Do-it-Yourself Cookie Bundle Kit with 6 cookies (3 different holiday shapes), 3 icings, 2 types of sprinkles, and an instruction card. Cookies are Un-frosted sugar cookies, cut in various Christmas-themed shapes. A gluten free option is available. Register online at edisonford.org.

239-334-7419

Seasonal Floral Centerpiece Class
December 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

In this hands-on workshop, you will learn the techniques and secrets behind crafting exquisite centerpieces using a variety of seasonal flowers and foliage. All flowers and supplies will be provided. Advance registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

Acrylic Landscape Painting Class with Marie Dyer
December 29 and January 12, 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! All materials are included. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

Homeschool Series – Modern Engineering Marvels: Eiffel Tower
Grades 1-3: December 4 and 12, 10 a.m.
Grades 4-: December 5 and 11, 10 a.m.

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

We will progress in engineering to the incredible construction of the Eiffel Tower! In the ****Paper Clip Eiffel Tower Challenge****, they will use paper clips to build a model of the tower. This homeschool series is for grades 1-6 and facilitates homeschool or virtual science education. Advance registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

Crazy Contraptions Camp
December 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Use a variety of cool gadgets to make different things! With the power of simple machines and mechanics, campers build and learn about mechanical marvels. This camp explores simple machines, gearing ratios, and open-ended applications of these and various other mechanical concepts. Advance registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

Members: \$45; non-members: \$50

**Architecture and Design Camp
December 26-27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

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

Apply different architectural processes to make designs! From 2-dimensional to 3-dimensional, ideas come to life as the campers explore the Edison Ford Winter Estates and the world of architecture and design. Activities in this camp include computer aided design, 3D printing, and exploration of the architecture of the Edison main house. Advance registration is required. Register at edisonford.org.

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

**Garden Talk: Amazing Cycads
January 11, 2025, 10 a.m.**

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

Renowned cycad collector, grower and author, Chip Jones, will share his experience in the care, identification and maintenance of these dinosaur plants. Advance registration is not required.

Edison Ford members: \$20; non-members: \$30

239-334-7419

**Paws and Petals: Floral Puppy Arrangement Workshop
January 19, 10 a.m.**

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

Make a new friend in the beauty of nature! In this workshop, led by floral designer Anita Singh, you will learn how to transform flowers into an adorable puppy arrangement that will melt hearts. Anita will guide you through the step-by-step process of creating a unique puppy-shaped floral arrangement using fresh flowers and foliage. All materials and

supplies will be provided. Advance registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

Gardening Class: Introduction to Florida Gardening – Part 1
January 21, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

New to Florida gardening? Trying to sort out our topsy turvy growing cycles? This program is designed to de-mystify the nuances of our soils, climate, and sub-tropical pests within the context of an extensive introduction to sub-tropical plants, shrubs and trees. Inclusive of an introduction to palms, this class includes a tour and continued discussion in the Estates' Palmetum.

All participants will receive a 20% discount coupon good toward plants in the Garden Shoppe. *Advance registration is required as space is limited.* Register online at edisonford.org.

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

239-334-7419

Gardening Class- Introduction to Florida Gardening – Part II
January 25, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

A continuation of the topics introduced in Part I of Introduction to Florida Gardening, Part II begins with the principles of Florida Friendly Gardening, gardening for Florida butterflies, proper use of fertilizers for sub-tropical trees and plants, irrigation tips, weed and invasive plant recognition, and plant selection for the South Florida landscape. This class includes a tour and continued discussions in our butterfly, Florida native, moonlight and cycad gardens.

Class is held in the air-conditioned Fort Myers-Lee County Garden Council building (enter across from the Estates parking lot on Larchmont Avenue). We recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes, a hat and sunscreen, and bring drinking water.

All participants will receive a 20% discount coupon good toward plants in the Garden Shoppe. *Advance registration is required*, so register early as space is limited. COST: EFWE members: \$45; non-members: \$60. Register online at edisonford.org.

239-334-7419

**Botanical Abstract Mono Prints Class with Artist Marie Dyer
January 26, 9 a.m.**

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

Artist Marie Dyer will teach you the basics to effective mono printing. You will use acrylic paints, plants, household items, and construction materials when experimenting and designing your art on paper. No experience is necessary, and your one-of-a-kind creations will be suitable for framing. All materials are included. Advance registration is required. Register online at edisonford.org.

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

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