

Preservation News

A Publication of the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation

Winter 2009 · Phone (239) 939-PAST

Preservation... The Ultimate Recycling

Preservation and Sustainability *by Scott Edwards*

"The greenest building is the one already built."

Why Historic Preservation is good for the environment?

Embodied energy is the energy required to extract, process, manufacture, transport, and install building materials. It's a new way of calculating the "true" value of a building. Recurring embodied energy savings increase dramatically as a building's life stretches over 50 years.

If embodied energy is worked into the equation, even a new, energy-efficient office building doesn't actually start saving energy for about 40 years. If a new building is replacing an older building that was knocked down and hauled away, the break-even period stretches to some 65 years, since demolition and disposal consume significant amounts of energy.

Recent research indicates that even if 40% of the materials are recycled, it takes approximately 65 years for a green, energy-efficient new office building to recover the energy lost in demolishing an existing building.

Preservation is not the only solution to the planet's problems, but it is part of the solution. If you want to calculate the embodied energy in your home or office building, or calculate demolition energy, go to www.thegreenestbuilding.org and use the embodied energy calculator.

Most buildings built before World War II used old-growth timber, which is much denser and long lasting than the wood harvested from the young forests of today. These older buildings were designed using energy efficient and sustainable features, such as operable windows, cross-ventilation, extensive use of glazing and awnings to deter solar heat gain in the summer. Buildings built after World War II frequently rely on energy guzzling mechanical systems for climate control. They are sited by builders without consideration for natural lighting or ventilation.

- Buildings constructed prior to 1920 were found to be, on average, more energy-efficient than any building constructed between 1920 and 2000.
- The United States makes up only 5 % of the world's population, yet it consumes a third of its resources and creates nearly half of its waste.

- The demolition of a historic building on Main Street USA -- 25 feet wide and 100 or 120 feet deep would wipe out the entire environmental benefit from recycling over 1.3 million aluminum cans.
- The constructing a 50,000-square-foot commercial building releases about the same amount of carbon into the atmosphere as driving a car 2.8 million miles. Demolishing it creates nearly 4,000 tons of waste.

The impact of our efforts to recycle newspapers, bottles and cans is minimal when compared to the embodied energy wasted by throwing away entire buildings, even entire neighborhoods. Historic preservation and downtown revitalization are, in and of themselves, sustainable development.

For more information on historic preservation visit the National Trust for Historic Preservation website at www.preservationnation.org.

SAVE THE DATE

March 12th, 2009 at the Edison Estate

The Lee Trust for Historic Preservation will host a workshop on the Economic Benefits of Maintaining a Historic Downtown. For more details call 939-PAST

WHAT'S INSIDE

***Our New Board Members
Another Adaptive Re-Use
Edison/Ford Home Receives Award
Bennetts French Roast***



LEE TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

The mission of Lee Trust is to promote historic preservation in Lee County through education, advocacy, and acquisition.

Lee Trust for Historic Preservation

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2008

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Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc.
was founded in 1993
and is dedicated to preserving
and developing
the heritage of Lee County
and its municipalities.

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Lee Trust publishes its newsletter,
Preservation News, quarterly.

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Newsletter Design & Layout by
Holly Originals, Inc.

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www.leetrust.org

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Lee Trust is a 501(c)(3)
not-for-profit corporation
and all gifts made to Lee Trust
are tax deductible to the
extent allowed by law.

Welcome To Our New Board Members



Michael Piggott, Vice President with Orion Bank has more than 15 years of commercial banking industry experience. Prior to joining Orion Bank, he was Vice President, Financial Center Manager for Wachovia Bank, formerly known as SouthTrust Bank. Michael is a resident of Cape Coral, Florida, married with two children both attending the University of Central Florida."

Ms. Kris Cella, CEO of Cella Molnar & Associates, Inc. The firm provides professional consulting services in all aspects of public involvement, project management, event planning and coordination, transportation planning, and construction engineering inspection. Kris Cella has lived in Lee County for 20 years and has served on the Board of Directors of the Southwest Florida Marine Institute and the East Lee County Council, and also served on the Lee County Metropolitan Planning Organization Citizen's Advisory Committee. In 2004, she and her partner Kaye Molnar purchased the building at 1631 Hendry Street and restored the building back to its original 1925 façade. It was this effort that sparked Kris' interest in historic preservation.



Michelle Nugent, President of Dean Park Historic District, has served as President for three of her four terms. Michelle works full-time as a Realtor with RE/MAX Realty Group, specializing in selling Historic Properties. She is a mother of three school-aged children attending Edison Park Elementary and Fort Myers High School where she is activity involved. As well, she is involved in various events and activities throughout the community. Her dedication for historic preservation is the aspiration of her belief in "Saving the Past for our Future".



Walter G. Fluegel, AICP, Principal of Mizner Planning Group has joined the Board of Lee Trust for Historic Preservation. Walter has 20 years of urban planning experience. Also, he has been a member of the City of Cape Coral's Planning and Zoning Commission for five years and is a past citizen member of the News-Press Editorial Board. Walter's public sector experience includes being a City Planner for the City of Boca Raton, Interim Executive Director for Fort Lauderdale's Downtown Development Authority and Acting Planning Director for the City of Plantation. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Culver Military Academy. Walter's passion for historic preservation stems from his childhood, spending time at the Pekin Theatre, which was built by his great grandmother and became Nationally Registered Historic Landmark.



Update on the Book Signing!

On December 5 The Lee Trust sponsored a unique evening at Echo Vintage books and Vinyl on Fowler St. in Fort Myers. The charming 1912 bungalow was the site of a book signing with well-known local author, Ad Hudler, and new author, Michele Wehrwein Albion (pictured right). Called "Edison Fact and Fiction," the event allowed our members and guests to meet the authors and discuss their perspectives on Southwest Florida's own Thomas Edison. Hudler's *All This Belongs to Me* tells a fictional story about Thomas and Mina, while Albion's *The Florida Life of Thomas Edison*, is a history of the inventor's years in Florida. Afterwards both authors remarked on how interested and engaging the attendees were. Albion said, "You can spot a Lee Trust member right away. They care about history and their community. The staff at Echo made it a very special evening!"



The Edison & Ford Winter Estates receives National Preservation Award From The National Trust for Historic Preservation

The Edison & Ford Winter Estates has just received the highest award of the National Trust for Historic Preservation called the Stewardship Award for excellence in restoration, preservation, fiscal management and interpretation. Rich Moe, president of the National Trust stated that "by combining conservation with program development, the site has raised the standard for stewardship of our cultural heritage."

More than a hundred years ago Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, two of history's most inventive and influential geniuses, were good friends and next-door neighbors with side-by-side winter homes in Fort Myers. Today, the place they loved is a sprawling complex of buildings and gardens managed by the new nonprofit Thomas Edison & Henry Ford Winter Estates, Inc. The organization spent almost \$10 million in a 5 year project to rescue the site from deterioration and reinvented it as a premier education center and community resource.

Over the years, millions of visitors and Florida's rain and high humidity compromised both estates. They suffered also from water and termite damage. The rehabilitation initially called for the emergency preservation of the historic wood buildings but this was expanded to include shoreline, seawall and landscape restoration. With guidance from a comprehensive master plan, The Edison main and guest house, caretaker's house, office, moonlight gardens, teahouse and pool and acres of lush tropical gardens were returned to their original 1929 appearance. Recent restoration of almost \$2 million is being focused on the Ford main house and adjacent buildings and gardens.

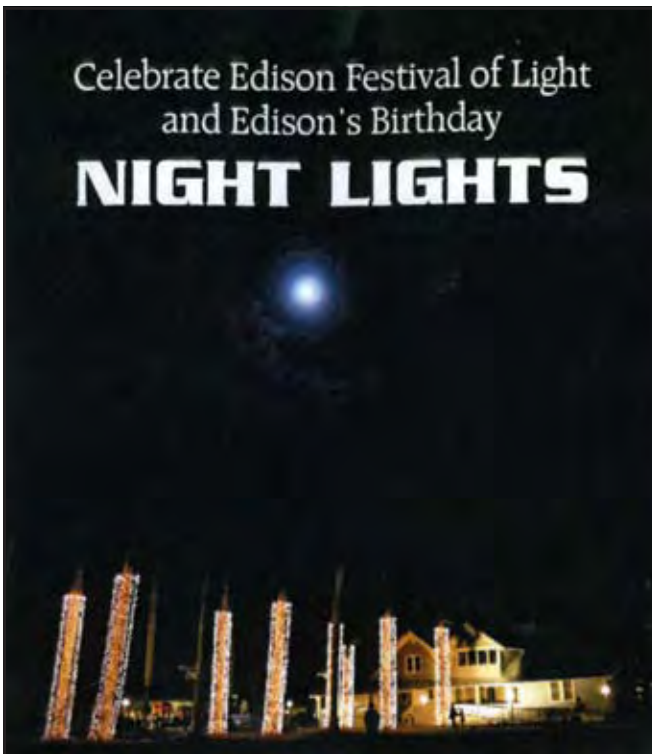
The restoration team for the project includes Chris Pendleton, Estates President & CEO, Wiley Parker, Managing Architect, Parker Mudgett Smith, Howard Wheeler, Construction Management ChrisTel Company and many regional sub contractors and products. The teams direction will continue to adhere to the Standards of the Secretary of the Interior for both structural and landscape restoration plus, whenever possible, to use green building, sustainable natural products and operating procedures.

The Edison & Ford Winter Estates is open daily from 9am - 5:30pm. In February the Estates will be open at night with the last ticket sold at 7pm and guided tours offered. Also, in March, the Estates the will be open again at night on the evenings of Boston Red Sox games with joint tickets available. Members of the Estates are admitted free and also the Estates is a Partner Place of the National Trust for Historic Preservation with reciprocal admission. Call 239-334-7419 for information.



Pictured: Suzanne Edwards, Estates Board of Trustees Chairwoman; Richard Moe, President National Trust for Historic Preservation; Chris Pendleton, Estates President & CEO; Sidney Ann Brinson, Estates Board of Trustees; Robert Gardner, City of Fort Myers, Director of Community Development; J. Clifford Hudson, Chairman Board of Trustees National Trust for Historic Preservation

Celebrate Edison Festival of Light
and Edison's Birthday
NIGHT LIGHTS



Edison & Ford
WINTER ESTATES
Homes • Gardens • Laboratory • Museum

Open at night February 2009

Special Evening Hours

January 31

February 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15,
19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, & 28

Last Guided Tour at 6 PM

Tickets Sold until 7 PM

For the first time ever, the gracious winter estates will be open in the evening during the month of February. Enjoy the beautiful gardens, river views, spectacular sunsets and the newly restored homes just like the Edison's and Ford's.

2350 McGregor Blvd. Fort Myers, FL 33991
239-334-7419

The Historic Lee County Throws Are Back!!



The Lee Trust has reordered these wonderful throws. They will be available in blue and cranberry. We will be selling them for \$49.50 available through the Trust Office and at many local museums.

Also available are Limited Edition Note Cards for \$8



Historic Building Plaques for \$55.00 each, including tax.

Another Adaptive Re-Use "The Red Brick Building" A Historic Landmark

Starting in 1885, after incorporation, Fort Myers made repeated attempts to establish a municipally owned water works. Anti-tax groups however, blocked all attempts.

In 1910, voters finally approved a \$50,000 bond issue to provide the city with a water and sewer system. Three artesian wells and a 50,000-gallon tank were erected at "Sandspur Patch" at Lee and Peck Street, which became the first water plant.

On May 6, 1935 during the "Great Depression", The Works Progress Administration (later renamed the Works Projects Administration, abbreviated WPA) was created by Presidential order from Franklin D. Roosevelt. (Congress funded it annually but did not set it up). It was the largest and most comprehensive New Deal agency, employing millions of people and affecting most every locality, especially rural and western mountain populations.

About 75 percent of employment and 75 percent of WPA expenditures went to public facilities such as highways, streets, public buildings, airports, utilities, small dams, sewers, parks, city halls, libraries, and recreational fields.

By 1937, the rapid growth of the city made a new plant necessary and one was constructed as a WPA project at Anderson and Evans at a cost of \$200,000. The City paid \$95,000 and the Federal Government (WPA) paid \$105,000. The new plant included a 200,000-gallon tank and a 240,000-gallon reservoir as well as a two-story brick pump and operations building which later came to be known as the "Red Brick Building".

The WPA program had strict design guidelines for any project that received funding and the "Red Brick Building" became a great example of depression-era, Art Deco Architecture.

The plant ceased operations in December of 1992 and has since been used as a storage facility.



Public Works Annex on 8-7-08

This project will restore the exterior architecture of the building, refurbish the brick and terra cotta, increase the size with a two-story 6,000 square foot addition that matches the period, and convert it to an alternate Emergency Operations Center. The scope of the project also includes providing a back-up generator, additional parking for City Employees, new ornamental fence with brick piers, a new entrance canopy with brick piers to match the building, and landscaping. Renovations are designed to critical use facility standards.

When completed, it will be available for use by the City as the New Publix Works Annex.



Public Works Annex on 7-11-07

SWFHS Happenings

The Cocoloba chapter of the Native Plant Society has put in new landscaping on our site at the corner of Colonial and McGregor Blvd. The attractive plants complement the improvements to the building funded by the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. We also want to give thanks to the Gulf Coast Christian Fellowship volunteers who removed the trees and shrubs to make way for the new landscaping. Come by and see our new look.

The annual Cracker Dinner will be held on Monday, February 9th. Call us at 939-4044 for further information.



Bennetts French Roast

When Bob Bennett saw it for the first time, he knew that the 1943 house located on 2100 Bayside Parkway in downtown Fort Myers, would make the perfect coffee shop. The small, two bedroom and one bath cottage, was cozy and quaint and charming.



Like the other homes on Bayside Parkway, Bennett's house was built during World War II to house military officers and their families who were stationed at nearby Buckingham and Page Field. When the home was renovated by George Mann General Contractors of Fort Myers, Patt Mann found a pair of women's hosiery and an army hat in the attic. They are now in a framed display in the shop.

Bennett, a champion for Historic Preservation, never believed in tearing down old buildings. We at the Lee Trust for Historic Preservation agree and commend him for his creative adaptive reuse of this historic structure.



Coffee has always been a passion for Bennett, a former radio personality in Fort Myers. In his work, coffee was as essential as oxygen. All the coffees in his shop are custom roasted daily. They are properly cooled and degassed in airtight containers to enhance the flavor of the roast. Bennetts is open daily and offers daily lunch specials that change everyday. Fresh doughnuts are a specialty and are quickly becoming the talk of the area. They also host wine tastings and offer a wide selection of coffee pots and accessories.

Bonita Springs Historical Society Fashion Show By Rosalyn Stillwaggon

"Sophisticated Lady" a fashion show with designer fashions provided by Dillard's of Coconut Point will be presented by the Bonita Springs Historical Society at their annual afternoon tea on February 24, 2009 at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church Parish Life Center. The theme of this fashion show will be based on the famous designer Erte; Romaine de Tirof. Ms. Susan Bridges, Executive Director of the Art League of Bonita Springs, will present Erte's biography.

Erte's legendary career spanned nearly the length of his life, born in Russia in 1892 and died at the age of 97 in 1990. At the age of 19 he started his career in Paris as a fashion designing apprentice. Harper's Bazar hired him in 1915 to design its magazine cover which continued for 22 years, over 250 covers. His work influenced an entire art movement that was to become known as Art Deco. Throughout his career, the artist created original costume, fashion designs, jewelry and accessories for many of the twentieth century's most renowned screen actresses, from Anna Pavlova to Marilyn Monroe. His creations for the stage included extravagant designs for productions at such venues as the Casino de Paris, the Paris Opera and Ballet, as well as the Folies Bergere and George White's Scandals, Chicago Opera House, The Copa Cabana, Latin Quarter and Radio City Music Hall. In addition, he applied his artistry to theatrical set designs and costumes for many Hollywood movies, including *Ben Hur*, and at the age of 96 he produced designs for the Broadway musical *Stardust*.

Erte is perhaps most celebrated for the serigraphs and sculptures which he began in 1968. These combine a sense of elegance, wit, folly and fantasy that are essentially Erte. Some of his art will be on display at this event.

Historical Society members, and friends will host 38 plus tables serving tea; tea sandwiches and desserts using their own beautiful and unique antique china, silver, crystal, linens and other finery. We will again have handsome gentlemen in black tie to greet, smile and assist in serving you. Society members and friends contribute all food and services. All funds received go directly to the Historical Society and are tax deductible. Tickets are \$35.00. For additional information and tickets call Roz Stillwaggon 239-949-0268.



Announcement!

The Bonita Springs Historical Society Research Center library at the Liles Hotel in Riverside Park will be open to the public from 1:00 to 3:00 PM on Thursdays beginning November 6th and continuing through May 2009. The Society will also open the Liles Hotel on the second Friday of each month from 5:00 to 8:00 PM to coincide with Bonita's Evenings in the Park. The 2008 White House Christmas ornaments will be available for purchase for \$20 each during these hours. On display at the Liles will be an exhibit, created by and on loan from the Collier County Museum, featuring the history of the Tamiami Trail and the movie "Bonita's Untold Story" depicting Bonita's history will also be shown on a continuous basis during these hours. Refreshments will be served Friday's during Evenings in the Park. Plan to stop by the Liles Hotel in Riverside Park and visit the artists' cottages, which will also be open during Bonita's Evening in the Park. For further information, please call 239-992-5349.



LEE TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

Membership Application/ Renewal Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

I am a: New Member Renewing Member

Level of Membership:

- Benefactor - \$500 and up Contributor - \$50
- Corporate Sponsor \$250 Family - \$30
- Sponsor \$100 Individual - \$20

In addition to my gift, a matching gift will be made by: _____
(Name of Company)

Make checks payable to Lee Trust for Historic Preservation and send to:

Lee Trust for Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 1035 · Fort Myers, Florida 33902-1035
www.leetrust.org

Tired of seeing our historic buildings torn down? Want to know more about historic preservation?

Then join Lee Trust!

Lee Trust is a nonprofit organization formed to promote preservation and assist our community when historic resources are threatened. We have a Revolving Fund Program to buy threatened historic structures. We also provide assistance and seek to educate the public about our community heritage. Our primary sources of funding are membership dues, gifts and fundraising events organized by volunteers.

Membership donations are tax deductible. For more information about Membership contact Gina Taylor at LeePreservation@embarqmail.com or (239) 939-PAST

You Can Join At Any Time!



LEE TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, INC.

Looking to the future with an eye to the past...

P.O. Box 1035 • Fort Myers, Florida 33902-1035

Congratulations!

Lee County
has been chosen
as the host site for
the Florida Trust for
Historic Preservation
State Conference in

May 2010

Lee Trust is a
proud sponsor of
The State Preservation
Conference