**Thomas Edison NHP** News Release

For Immediate Release

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| **Master Gardeners Restore Historic Oval Garden**  **at Glenmont – with a little help from their "Friends"**  WEST ORANGE, NJ – Partnership and cooperation were crucial aspects of the recent project to restore the historic oval garden at Thomas Edison's Glenmont Estate, in Llewellyn Park.   In January, 2009, Mary Jo Patterson and Amy Trimarco of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Master Gardeners of Essex County (MGEC) first approached the National Park Service (NPS) about completing projects at the Glenmont Estate as part of their Master Gardener certification. The "Glenmont Project" was established, and the canna bed behind the mansion was the first project that year.  With the completion in 2010 of the "Cultural Landscape Report for Glenmont" (CLR) by the NPS Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation, the restoration of the oval garden at the northeast corner of the mansion became a priority. Among the many recommendations of the CLR was re-establishing the planted islands that existed during the Edison period of 1886-1931, with the vinca-covered oval being the most prominent candidate for makeover.  Master Gardeners Irene Dunsavage and Jean Grossman presented a design that included a plant budget and work schedule. With approvals in hand and with a generous contribution from the Trustees of the Friends of Thomas Edison NHP, the Glenmont crew made up of students from the 2011 Master Gardener program went to work. They raised the 10" bluestone blocks encircling the oval, uplifted the vinca, turned the soil, worked in topsoil and compost, and re-layed a 12" deep border of vinca. On May 10, the crew began planting with deer resistant perennials and annuals, supplemented with exotics such as cannas, all of which were consistent with the historical vegetation of the period to provide a four-season interest.  Work on the re-established island, as well as the other gardens that make up the Glenmont Estate will be ongoing, and it is hoped that they bring as much enjoyment to visitors of Glenmont as they do to the Master Gardeners who helped restore them.  For information about the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Master Gardeners of Essex County (MGEC) please contact: *www.mgessex.org*  For information about the Friends of Thomas Edison National Historical Park please contact: *www.foedison.org*  ***Note to Editors:***  Images are available upon request.  *Thomas Edison National Historical Park is a National Park Service site dedicated to promoting an international understanding and appreciation of the life and extraordinary achievements of Thomas Alva Edison by preserving, protecting, and interpreting the Park's extensive historic artifact and archive collections at the Laboratory Complex and Glenmont, the Edison family estate. The Visitor Center is located at 211 Main Street in West Orange, New Jersey.*  *The Laboratory Complex is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Glenmont, Edison's home, is open Friday through Sunday from 11:30am to 5:00pm. Tickets for Glenmont must first be obtained at the Laboratory Complex visitor center before going to Glenmont. For more information or directions please call 973-736-0550 ext. 11 or visit our website at* [*www.nps.gov/edis*](http://www.nps.gov/edis)*.* |