



The Lab Notebook

Fallen Glenmont Trees To Be Reborn



The Park is donating four historic trees damaged at Glenmont during Hurricane Sandy to the Rhode Island School of Design's Witness Tree Project," a studio art

course that teaches history and material culture to art students using wood from historic trees. During the next eighteen months, students will visit the Park and study the history of Llewellyn Park and Glenmont. They will then create artworks with the wood inspired by their studies. The completed projects will be displayed here at the Park. The four trees, two white oaks and two black oaks, dating probably to the 1880s, ranged in height from 70 to 100 feet.



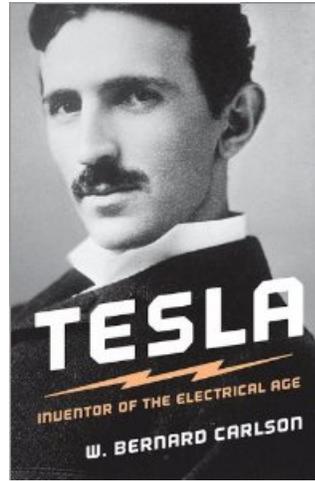
A 2011 exhibition at Sagamore Hill National Historic Site displayed the work crafted by students at the Rhode Island School of Design. The objects ranged from small hand-crafted books to large-scale furniture, all using plant material from Sagamore Hill NHS and George Washington Birthplace NHS. At right is an "Antler Chair," designed by student Benjamin Kicic. What will the student-artists create from the Glenmont oaks?

New Volunteers

The Park welcomed two new interpretive volunteers: Jean-Yu Chen, who will be working with Carmen Pantaleo on education programs and web activities, and Bob Wagner, who is currently helping in Building 5 and is very interested in doing programming in the Machine Shop.

A new curatorial intern started on January 24: Jill Laceste, is working with Joan Harris-Rico and Beth Miller to gain experience in collections management activities at both the Laboratory Complex and Glenmont.

National Volunteer Week is April 21-27. Again, many thanks to all our volunteers for their contributions.



Nikola Tesla at Thomas Edison NHP

W. Bernard Carlson, Professor of History at the University of Virginia (and former staff member of the *Thomas A. Edison Papers*), will be here on **Tuesday, May 7, at 7pm** to speak about his new book, *Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age*.

Nikola Tesla was a major

figure in the electrical revolution, a significant influence on AC technology and the development of radio and television. Like Edison (for whom he briefly worked), Tesla was a celebrity, a tireless self-promoter, and catnip to the press. In his new book, Carlson places Tesla within the cultural and technological context of his time, and focuses on his inventions and the creation and maintenance of his celebrity.



Bernie Carlson



Superintendent Jill Hawk Accepts New Assignment

Jill Hawk has been named the new superintendent of the NPS unit at the Federal Law Enforcement

Training Center, located in Glynco, Georgia.

"Jill's wide ranging experience made her the ideal candidate for this job," said Associate Director for Visitor and Resource Protection Cam Sholly. "Her blend of professional and academic credentials, coupled with her proven leadership abilities, will help us shape the future of the NPS law enforcement training program."

"I am honored and humbled to be selected to serve as the superintendent of the NPS-Law Enforcement Training Center. I look forward to working with the parks and regions, the visitor and resource protection team, and our partners at FLETC to ensure our law enforcement training program meets contemporary, 21st century standards," said Hawk about her new assignment.

Best wishes from all of us here at Edison, and thanks for your leadership over the past year.

Message from the Superintendent

The Thomas Edison team continues to work hard to provide an exceptional visit and experience for you, our guests. We firmly believe that you will be amazed at what you will learn at the Laboratory and Glenmont, Mr. Edison's home located in Llewellyn Park. When you work at a treasured American historical Park, sometimes there is a tendency to take the experience and story for granted. But as someone who has been honored and humbled to be the superintendent of this great Park and team, I offer that I have never taken this Park and its amazing story (and people) for granted. In these days of budget cuts and sequestration, and continued questioning of the quality and relevancy of government services, what the National Park Service protects and interprets at this Park is beyond measure.

Everyone at Thomas Edison National Historical Park understands the tremendous privilege and responsibility we have on a daily basis. We have a job worth doing, and we fully understand its value to the American story and our history as a nation. As you walk through the courtyard, enter Mr. Edison's Library, or as you experience the smells in the machine shop, please think about the dedicated public servants who protect this Park for your enjoyment. Our public servants dedicate themselves to academic and research expertise, fix what gets broken, turns wax cylinder recordings into digital recordings, and ensures that Glenmont looks just as it did in the early 1900's – as if Mr. and Mrs. Edison had just left for a walk. We are here to protect this amazing resource for future generations. And we are dedicated, beyond any talk of sequestration or budget cuts; we will be here to ensure that the legacy of Mr. Edison continues. It's a job worth doing, and for most of us, it's not a job; it's a vocation and a passion. After your visit, I'm confident you'll see why.

Jill Hawk

Thomas Edison National Historical Park was established to preserve and protect Thomas Alva Edison's West Orange Laboratory, home, and collections for the education and inspiration of people worldwide.

Thomas Edison National Historical Park

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our



National Park Service
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NEW BED LINENS AT GLENMONT

Have you ever noticed the anachronisms in the exhibit areas of historic house museums? In some house museums, visitors may notice the 1960s starburst linoleum in the historic turn-of-the-century kitchen and the modern telephone in the Victorian entrance hall.

The National Park Service strives for historical accuracy in its historic properties. Glenmont curator Beth Miller has moved one step closer to achieving this goal by replacing historically inaccurate, outdated bed linens and pillows in the second floor bedrooms. Bedspreads purchased from inexpensive chain stores have been replaced with ones of crewel work, satin and silk, and open work crochet. Contemporary pillows have been replaced with reproductions of boudoir style pillows that Mina Edison historically displayed in the bedrooms, documented by site photographs and receipts from decorators of the 1920s. Of particular note will be the removal of the early 1970s-style mustard yellow bed hangings on the canopy bed in the north bedroom. We all loved *The Brady Bunch* but we don't expect to be reminded of it



Mrs. Sloane's bedroom in Glenmont with newly purchased reproduction bed linens and pillows.

in Thomas Edison's Queen-Anne style Victorian mansion!

An unexpected outgrowth of this project is the relationships the Park has formed with women from all walks of life who are keeping traditional methods of textile making alive for future generations. Eleni hand crafts Victorian style velvet pillows with handmade lace as a border. Another gifted needle worker hand crochets a tasseled bedspread using a traditional pattern from her family, one that takes her over one year to complete. Pillow maker Wende Cragg from California, who specializes in pillows with historic Art Nouveau and Arts and Crafts designs, says of her work, "Each appliquéd pillow is hand-cut and machine-stitched without the aid of computers, very Old World/Old School! I believe I was born into the wrong century and could have been quite happy stitching away, hours on end! I've been doing this for nearly 45 years but it never gets old and I always welcome a challenge!"

Stay tuned to see all of the purchased textiles arrive at Glenmont as we begin our transformation of the West bedroom, the North bedroom, Mrs. Sloane's room, Theodore's room, and Thomas and Mina's Master bedroom.

Upcoming Volunteer Meetings

April 20: "The New Age Edisons", presented by Beth Miller

May 11: Edison Day Preparations, presented by Karen Sloat-Olsen

A Virtual Tour of the Greenhouse

Interpretation is working with the Garden Club of the Oranges to create a virtual tour of the greenhouse. The tour will include tidbits of history on the greenhouse along with highlighting some of the plants. Garden Club members have been submitting information and photos for the PowerPoint program. The program will be shown on the screen in the potting shed.



The Rose Room

Edison Catalog Records on the Web

The National Park Service recently launched a mobile version of its NPS Web Catalog for museum collections. Through a simple interface, mobile visitors can access NPS museum collections on the Web Catalog through search, browse, and collection highlights. The mobile version also includes location-based services to display the closest park, to the user's specific geographic location, with online museum collections. (To use this feature, location services must be enabled on the mobile device being used.) When a mobile device is used to access the Web Catalog website, the page will automatically be redirected to the mobile version of the site. Otherwise, the mobile version can be directly accessed at <http://museum.nps.gov/mobile/>. EDIS has records for 10,260 books from Edison's library on the web catalog at this time. Our goal is to add 300 records for museum objects to the web catalog over the next year.



Catalog records for over 10,000 library books can be seen on the NPS Web Catalog.



The Car's in the Shop

The historic Edison vehicles are due for some repair work. Conservators from B.R. Howard & Associates prepared conservation treatment reports and will conduct the work. The Edison Innovation Foundation will schedule the Brewster, Locomobile, and Model T for conservation all at the same time. All three automobiles will head to the Howard lab in Pennsylvania this summer. The Foundation has generously agreed to underwrite the cost of transportation and conservation work.



NPS WEEK

The National Park Service is proud once again to join with the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, to present National Park

Week, a presidentially proclaimed celebration of our national heritage. This year NPS Week will be April 20 – 28. April 24 – 26 will be fee free days here at Edison.

April 20 is Junior Ranger Day. At 10am and 2pm Ranger Carmen Pantaleo will lead a Junior Ranger program through the Laboratory Complex, after which participants will have earned their Junior Ranger badges. At 1pm there will be a Wax Cylinder Recording session with the Sleepy Man Banjo Boys bluegrass trio in the courtyard.

Thomas Edison and Morristown are collaborating on a "Super" Junior Ranger certificate for NPS Week. Any participant, who completes both Morristown and Thomas Edison Junior Ranger Programs, will receive a special certificate available at either location. We hope this "super" junior ranger will develop into a permanent activity between the two parks.

Other events include guided tours through the laboratory complex using the audio tour system (April 24 and April 25, 2:30pm each day), and a Sensory friendly tour of Glenmont on April 26 at 11am (reservations are required).

Black Maria Film Festival at Essex Green Theater

The Black Maria Film Festival presented a special Edison Birthday viewing at the AMC theaters in Essex Green mall on Sunday February 10 at 2:00pm. The show featured prize-films and videos from this year's competition. About 80 movie fans attended.



Staff Chats

Staff Chats are an opportunity to exchange, discuss, and share information about Thomas Edison and the Park and are open to all EDIS staff and volunteers. Previous topics included Supervisory Museum Curator Michelle Ortwein on "Taking Care of History - It's more than dusting artifacts" in January; Archivist Lenny DeGraaf on "Edison by the Book," an evaluation of various Edison biographies in February; Glenmont Curator Beth Miller on "The New Age Edisons" in March; and Sound Recording Curator Jerry Fabris on "Artifacts of Edison Cylinders and Disc Duplication: Masters, Molds and Related Rarities" in April. Upcoming presentations will be Archivist Ed Wirth on "Edison through the Lens," on Edison advertising on May 9, and Chief of Interpretation Karen Sloat-Olsen on "The Controversial Edison" on May 29.

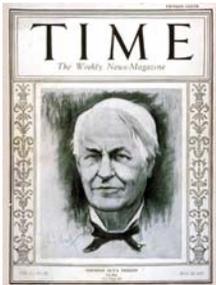


National Park Service
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Thomas Edison National Historical Park
211 Main Street
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Time, May 25, 1925

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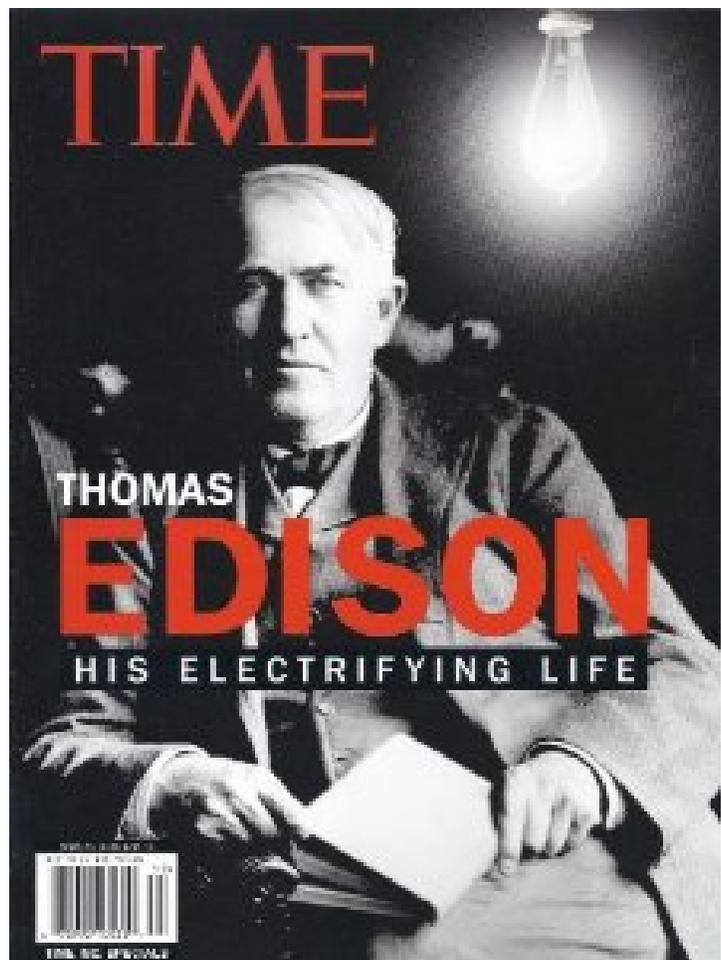
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Edison Makes *Time* Cover—Again

Time Magazine has placed Thomas Edison on its cover a third time for a special issue featuring an overview of his career and his many inventions. The issue is profusely illustrated with many color images and historical photos from our collection. Diagrams illustrate just how the phonograph, incandescent lamp, and motion picture camera operate. *Thomas Edison: His Electrifying Life* is available on newsstands through mid-June.