**Thomas Edison NHP News Release**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Theresa Jung

Phone: 973 736-0550 x50

**YEAR OF INNOVATION SERIES:**

**March 2014 – Thomas Edison: Muckers & Ore Milling**

WEST ORANGE, NJ –  Employing remarkable team work and persistence Edison spent much of the 1890s designing machinery to mine and process iron ore at his Ogdensburg, New Jersey ore milling plant, a project that ultimately failed. Explore these events, during the month of March at Thomas Edison National Historical Park. The programs are free and will be held at the Thomas Edison National Historical Park (NHP) Laboratory Complex at 211 Main Street in West Orange unless otherwise noted.

**1st Friday – March 7th at 2:30 p.m.**

**Meet the Muckers**

Over 100 people worked with Edison at the West Orange Laboratory. Who were the Muckers and what did they do? From 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. stop by the various rooms of the laboratory complex and talk with staff about the people who worked in the rooms and what they might have been working on.

**2nd Saturday - March 8th at 10:00 a.m. (especially for children)**

**Magnetism, Milling and Edison**

Learn about magnets and how Edison used them in his inventions, especially in his iron ore separator in Ogdensburg.  Join rangers for a short walk through the laboratory complex and a hands-on activity with magnets. Reservations are required and space is limited.

**3rd Thursday – March 20th at 7:00 p.m.**

**“We had a hell of a time”: Thomas Edison’s Venture in Ore Milling**

Dr. Paul Israel will examine Edison's greatest failure -- his decade long effort to mine and process low-grade iron ore in Ogdensburg, New Jersey. Dr. Israel will begin with a look at Edison's long-time interest in mining technology and his earlier ore milling projects. He will then examine the development of the Ogdensburg mine and milling operation, discuss how the project changed over time, and explain why it ultimately failed. He will conclude the talk by looking at how Edison sought to apply the technology he developed there to other mining ventures as well as to his successful entry into the cement industry. Dr. Paul Israel is the director and general editor of the Thomas A. Edison Papers at Rutgers University.

**Special programs in March:**

**Sunday, March 16th at 12:15 p.m.**

**West Orange St. Patrick’s Day Parade**

Thomas Edison’s 1922 Model T will be part of the 63rd West Orange Saint Patrick’s Day Parade. The parade will commence at Town Hall, 66 Main Street at 12:15 p.m. and proceed on Main Street to the Our Lady of Lourdes area. Stop by and visit the laboratory complex after the parade.

**Monday, March 24th at 4:30 p.m. at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ**

**"Method in His Madness: Nikola Tesla and Disruptive Technologies"**

W. Bernard Carlson, professor of science, technology, and society in the School of Engineering and Applied Science and professor of history at the University of Virginia will talk at 4:30 p.m. in the Teleconference Lecture Hall, Alexander Library 4th floor, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ. He has written extensively on major American inventors such as Nikola Tesla, Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell. His books include “Technology in World History,” “Innovation as a Social Process: Elihu Thomson and the Rise of General Electric, 1870 – 1900,” and “Tesla: Inventor of the Electrical Age.”

**Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mark Twain Museum Center, Hartford, CT**

**TESLA & EDISON**

Join us for what should be an electrifying conversation between two biographers: W. Bernard Carlson, author of TESLA: INVENTOR OF THE ELECTRICAL AGE, and Leonard DeGraaf, author of EDISON AND THE RISE OF INNOVATION. Both men made significant contributions to the creation of our modern age and their relationship remains mired in controversy. These two scholars will help separate the truth from the myth and illuminate these two Gilded Age giants. Followed by book sale and signing. The Mark Twain Museum Center is located at 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT.  [www.marktwainhouse.org](http://www.marktwainhouse.org/)

These programs are part of THE YEAR OF INNOVATION celebrating the New Jersey 350th Anniversary in 2014. Since 1664 New Jersey has provided a welcome home for inventors and entrepreneurs like Thomas Edison and there is no better place to learn about the history of innovation than Thomas Edison National Historical Park in West Orange. Special programs each month will explore the themes in EDISON AND THE RISE OF INNOVATION a recent book written by National Park Service archivist Leonard DeGraaf and published by Sterling Signature in October 2013. Another famous innovator – Bill Gates – has written the foreword to this fresh look at Thomas Edison. New programs for all ages will be offered monthly. For more information and updates about THE YEAR OF INNOVATION - First Friday, Second Saturday and Third Thursday events, please visit [www.nps.gov/edis](http://www.nps.gov/edis) monthly. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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