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Society of American Travel Writers honors Edison & Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers, FL with award for conservation, preservation

FORT MYERS, FL – The Edison & Ford Winter Estates received the Society of American Travel Writers (SATW) 2009 Phoenix Award at a reception at the Royal Palm Yacht Club in Fort Myers on Nov. 18. The SATW Phoenix Awards recognize organizations actively involved in conservation, preservation and beautification that further the growth and appeal of North American travel destinations. SATW President Timothy O’Keefe presented the award.

The annual award, given since 1969, is an initiative of SATW, a non-profit professional association that works to promote responsible travel journalism and to provide professional support for its members.

In nominating the Estates, Laurie Borman, SATW past president said, “I saw an inspiring place where visitors can peek into the lives of two American geniuses. These homes bring to life the exciting times and lifestyles of the 1920s, as well as provide a compelling attraction to downtown Fort Myers. I also visited the homes as a child on vacation, so it was especially gratifying to see that this treasure has been preserved for future generations to appreciate.”

Chris Pendleton, president & CEO of the Estates accepted the award and said, “We are grateful to the Society of American Travel Writers for this honor. The Estates staff and Board of Trustees are proud of the newly completed \$12 million restoration and will continue to preserve this national historic treasure to provide visitors with a unique historical, scientific, educational and cultural experience.”

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For 2009 a total of five Phoenix Awards were designated; the others being: Journey Through Hallowed Ground, Waterford, Virginia; World Bird Center, McAllen, Texas; Gerding Theater at the Armory, Portland, Oregon; and Main Huts and Trails, Kingsfield, Maine.

The Estates was awarded the 2009 National Trust for Historic Preservation Award and is an official project of “Save America’s Treasures” at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a Florida Historic Landmark and a National Register Historic Site. The Estates is open daily from 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. For additional information call 239-334-7419 or visit www.efwefla.org.

For more information on the Society of American Travel Writers, visit: www.satw.org. To obtain more destination information to visit this historic treasure, please access: www.FortMyersSanibel.com.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: *The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in southwest Florida includes: Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres. Images of the Edison & Ford Winter Estates are available upon request.*