

EDISON INVENTORS Association

Volume 18, Number 2

February 2010

February 2010 Regular Membership Meeting

(Wednesday, February 17, 2010 @
7 PM) Edison-Ford Estates

Main Program:

**PROTOTYPING &
Proposed Patent Law Revisions**

Board of Directors Meeting

(Wednesday, February 10, 2010
@ 7 PM)

Perkins Restaurant
Just S. of Crystal Drive on Hwy. 41
Members welcome to network.

Edison Quote of the Month:

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up.
The most certain way to succeed is
always to try just one more time"

Newsletter Highlights

Links Section

How To: Draw your Invention in 3-D

Edison Inventors Association
PO Box 07398, Ft. Myers, FL 33919

www.edisoninventors.org

Mission Statement

A non profit, educational organization with goals to promote creativity and entrepreneurial success in our schools and community. We are a diversified group of people sharing time, information, experiences and resources to this effect.

Attending a Meeting?

The doors open by 6:15 p.m. The meeting will begin promptly at 7p.m. In respect to our speakers please arrive on time and give them your full attention. There is time before the meeting and at the end of the meeting to network.

The Edison-Ford Winter Estates parking area will only be accessible from the East entrance. The McGregor Blvd gates will be closed for security purposes.

Directions off Hwy 41: At the Edison Ave traffic light, go west onto Cortes Blvd. Go past Euclid Ave. and veer right onto Monte Vista Street. Take Monte Vista to the very end crossing over Harvard Road. You have arrived!

Directions off McGregor Blvd: Proceed to Larchmont Ave. on the north border of the Edison-Ford Estates property. Turn right on to Larchmont and the next right turn on Harvard Rd. Watch closely for the Estate signs on the right side of this road. Private homes border this drive.

Or, go to www.googlemaps.com and type in, Monte Vista Street, Fort Myers, FL

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TREASURER'S REPORT

As of 12/31/09
General Account \$3,430.84 +\$4,591.00 in CD's
Bernard A. Cousino
Memorial Fund \$ 4,573.00

DISCLAIMER

Information is offered in an open forum for discussion. Opinions expressed may not represent the views of the Edison Inventors Association, Inc. The Association does not claim to endorse any advertisement or product unless specifically stated.

Publishing Information

All articles and paid ads must be submitted by the third Wednesday of the month to be included in the following month's e-letter. All information will be reviewed prior to publication and may appear as time and space permit. Reprints must be accompanied by proper credits to be considered for this e-letter.

Submit articles/ads to:
Edison Inventors Association
C/O Mike Kirby
P.O. Box 07398, Fort Myers, FL 33919

or e-mail mikekirby07@comcast.net

Do you provide a service to inventors? Advertise in the EIA E-Newsletter and help the association provide more opportunities to inventors.

2009 Advertising Rates
Business one month 6 mo 1 yr
Card \$15 \$60 \$90
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Message from the President

Greetings Fellow Inventors, My faith in the future of America was renewed again, as I was a Judge at the annual Thomas A. Edison Science & Inventors Fair in Fort Myers. The bold idea's & clever solutions, that the students came up with to solve a wide range of everyday problems, warmed my Engineers heart, and quite frankly"blew my mind." I always make it a point to ask the young inventors, what they want to be when they grow up. I am very pleased to report that more then half want to pursue a field related to Math, Science, or Engineering... The Discovery village was a great success with the EIA having a tent, and Tom Kershaw's "Tower of Idea's" on display. Tom also entertained everyone with his newest invention, the "Golf Ball Balance Board." We expect to have some of the new EIA promotional items for sale at the next General Meeting. Please be ready to support your Inventors Association. We have some very exciting main program's scheduled for the next few month's The speakers are all experienced in helping inventors get their invention , developed, protected, & most importantly...on the market! We are also working on getting some of our former members, who have become successful inventors, to come back and share their stories. Remember... someone had to have invented it, why not you?
Joe Gross

Share your thoughts with the President,
Email: grossrdlab@yahoo.com
Please put EIA in the Subject box

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THE LIVINGSTON FIRM

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Links to upcoming conferences and events

February 22 & 23, 2010 Naples, FL <http://www.imaginesolutionsconference.com/>

February 6, 2010 Ft. Lauderdale, FL <http://www.inventorssociety.net/PDF/EXPO%20Flyer%202010.pdf>

Links to other inventor groups of interest

Inventor's Society of South Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, FL <http://www.inventorssociety.net/>

Inventors Council of Central Florida, Orlando, FL Website coming soon drdavidflinchbaugh@bellsouth.net

Space Coast Inventors Guild, Melbourne, FL Website coming soon angelsnr@cfl.rr.com

Tampa Bay Inventors Council, Largo, FL www.tbic.us

Other useful Links

FGCU Regional Economic Indicators <http://www.fgcu.edu/cob/reri/indicators/indicators200808.pdf>

Selected News from United Inventors Association



Mark Your Calendars

Invention & Idea Show 2010 - Minnesota Inventors Congress

Redwood Area Community Center, Redwood Falls, MN

June 11-12, 2010

This expo is "the connection" for inventors and the experts who fuel their entry into the marketplace. Test market your products. Sell your products from your booth. Attend Inventing Success Workshops.

For more information, <http://www.minnesotainventorscongress.org>



Big Idea Group: Microbusiness Hunt!

Big Idea Group is searching for inventions that could become the basis of a profitable microbusiness. BIG plans to form a venture to bring the best invention (or inventions) to market. The winning inventor(s) will receive not only a royalty on products sold, but also an equity stake in the new business that we form to launch the invention. Multiple inventions might be selected. Innovations in the categories of hardware, lawn and garden, pets, housewares, and sporting goods are welcome.

Deadline: March 31, 2010

Write us admin@uiausa.org or call (800) 701-8595. We are available 24/7.

You never know when a good idea strikes!

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U Connect 2010

June 7-10, 2010, JW Marriott - San Antonio Hill Country Resort, Texas

Save over \$350 off if registered by January 15th. Save up to \$150 off each registration with group discounts.

First Early Bird expires this Friday, January 15th

This **Friday, January 15th** marks the end of the first Early Bird registration for U Connect 2010. Save over \$350 on the Combination Package of U Connect 101 and U Connect Conference. **Register today.**

Tuesday Bonus Networking!

Pre Conference Luncheon and Exhibit Hall: This comprehensive networking opportunity is **open to all attendees and speakers of U Connect 101, GS1 US Bar Code Certification Program, 1SYNC User Group, and U Connect Conference on Tuesday from 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm.** No other networking event brings together the entire community present during U Connect week. Attendees will have access to the networking luncheon, exhibits, Ask the GS1 US Experts, GS1 US Solutions in Action demonstrations and Trading Partner Roundtables. **One great value for no additional fee...so plan your travel to attend this comprehensive networking opportunity!** The U Connect 2010



Conference kicks off follows at 4:00 pm.

Trading Partners

[Visit Trading Partner Connections](#) to see the participating companies that have joined U Connect to be part of the Trading Partner Roundtables and also see which companies will be conducting "How to Do Business With..." sessions.

Follow us on  [UConnect2010](#)

To receive immediate reminders of U Connect sessions, exhibitors and Trading Partners Connections, follow us on Twitter.

Connect with: Ace Hardware

Acosta
AAFES

AFS
AWG

Best Buy
Dot Foods

Lowe's
McLane

SUPERVALU

Wakefern
Wegmans

The U Connect Conference© is hosted by



and



Thanks to Gary Nelson for passing this along.

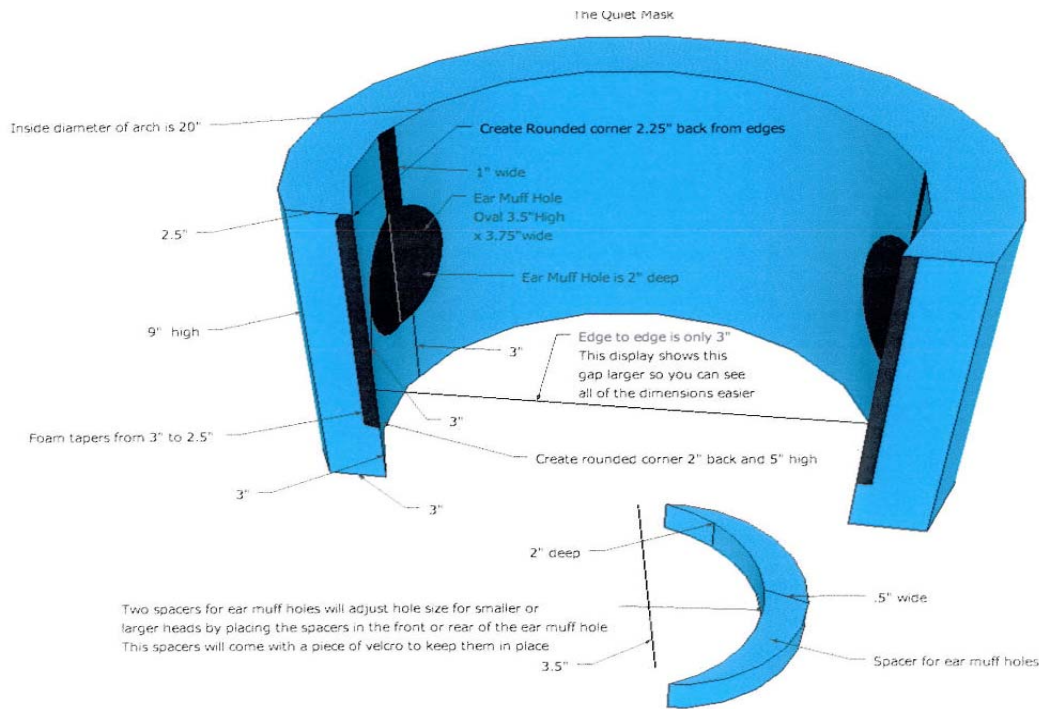


SBDC (Small Business Development Council) at FGCU

1. Feb 5, 12, 19th. "Doing Biz with the Government" Workshop. Learn all about government contracting and the PTAC program. Call us 745-3700 [11:34 AM Jan 25th](#) from web
2. Looking for our upcoming seminars and workshops in your community? What are you waiting for? Start/Grow your biz today! www.sbdcseminars.org [12:49 PM Jan 21st](#) from web

How To: Draw your Invention in 3-D

Google Sketchup, <http://sketchup.google.com/>, is a free software download that allows you to draw your invention in a 3-D computer graphic form. After drawing it, you can then rotate it and see the 3-D image from any angle. I downloaded the program to my iMac a month or so ago and am very happy with it. Here's a 3-D image of the "Quiet Mask" which I'm currently working on. The free program couldn't do everything I wanted, so I would need to purchase, Sketchup Pro, or hire someone to complete the drawing, (which I am doing). I had to crop the image down considerably for this newsletter but you can see where I've placed holes, made notes, specified dimensions, etc. Amazing what you can get for free!!! Now I'm ready for my 3-D graphics artist (which is a fine upstanding member of Edison Inventor's Association) to complete the drawing in enough detail to produce an actual 3-D print.



Contributed by, Mike Kirby

2010 Thomas A Edison Regional Science and Inventors Fairs a Big Success

Saturday, January 30, 700 students filled the Harborside Event Center exhibit floor with their ingenuity, research data, and entrepreneurship. Two hundred judges help to select the winners based on the originality and depth of the students understanding of scientific and or invention to market principles. The Edison Inventors Association was represented by EIA President Joe Gross and 16 additional EIA members. One of the judges hailed from North Carolina. Leo Mazur, president of the South Florida Inventors Society, made a special effort to attend. The Regional Manager for Home Depot participated for the third year in a row plus many special community VIPs and FGCU students shared their time.

Judges stated this year was special with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to share new product opportunities. Having many seasoned judges added to the efficiency of the process finishing in record time. Special category judges continued into the early afternoon to select projects fitting specific criteria.

A group of EIA special category judges selected the top four participants with Outstanding Prototypes, Research Data and Log Books, Marketing and Presentations to receive a \$50 check. It was such a challenging endeavor that a total of 30 family memberships were awarded to deserving competitors!

It is hopeful that many of the students will take advantage of their memberships and share their enthusiasm with the EIA members during the year.

Here is the Award Program's Special Category listing:

Edison Inventors Association Outstanding Invention Awards All winners received a \$55 Family Membership to the EIA. Once on stage, 4 names (highlighted in bold) were called to receive additional recognition of \$50 for the most outstanding in prototyping, marketing and display.

Jessica Anthony, second grade Pinewoods inventor of the Breakfast Bag

Helen Baxter, fourth grade Cape Elementary inventor of the Crayon Recycling Center

Andrew Brown, fourth grade Skyline Elementary inventor of VIBS

Brendan Donofrio, fourth grade Pinewoods inventor of the Run-N-Rescue Elite

Samuel Finley, fourth grade Edison Park inventor of the Pop Pop Corn Bowl

***Connor Leith, fourth grade Cape Elementary inventor of Deck Dirt Begone**

Branden Littleton, fourth grade Littleton inventor of the Attachable Ball Retriever

Caroline Peterson, fourth grade Seagate inventor of Happy Hands

Danielle Saunders, fourth grade Seagate inventor of the Saving Space Christmas Tree

Mikaela Whitman, fourth grade Pinewoods inventor of the Side Stick

Patrick Williams, fourth grade Edison Park inventor of the Cool Air Kit
Haley Wirth, fourth grade Cape Elementary inventor of the Grab-a-Disc
Mia Allen, fifth grade Crestwell inventor of the Buck Wheat Massage Socks

***Saira Ayres, fifth grade Naples Community inventor Blind Vision**

Alexa Barrera, fifth grade Cafferata inventor of the Purse Matt
Elliott Deolet, fifth grade Franklin Park inventor of the Dangler Hanger
Victoria Garcia, fifth grade Cafferata inventor of Cool Tape

Gaby Gobbo, fifth grade Cape Elementary inventor of Parallel Quads

Adrienne Hedlund, fifth Grade Pinewoods inventor of the Lolli Cone

*** Simon Hernandez, Allen Park fifth grade inventor of the Solar Still**

Cassidy Hitzing, fifth grade Bayshore inventor of the Floating Dog Bath Seat

Bridget MacPherson, fifth grade Pinewoods inventor of the Super Spatula

Elizabeth Nargi, fifth grade Crestwell inventor of the Train Rip

Mikayla Nemetz, fifth grade Cape Elementary inventor of the Shoe Renew

***Kaitlyn Salyer, fifth grade Crestwell inventor of Smart Tissue**

Nick Whitney, Fifth grade Cape Elementary inventor of the Medi-Reminder

Joshua Galang, seventh grade St Michaels inventor of the Tracking Solar Panels

(Three additional memberships were awarded to the 27 above. This was an opportunity to recognize special talents that had been overlooked.)

The list of other Special Category Awards follows with mention of the top Division Winners.

SPECIAL CATEGORY AWARDS

'The Most Popular' Trophy Award donated by Bright Ideas Trophies & Awards– to the inventor receiving the most ballots from the judges- it was very close AND the winner is River Hall's 2nd grader Tyler Ketron

Author & Cartoonist Doug MacGregor Awards presented by Doug MacGregor
U-Turn Signal - A smart, necessary, life saving invention by second grader Scott Morgan
Special Catapult for Dogs -A fun and imaginative invention by third grader Ben Powell
Shoe Renew by clever fifth grade inventor Mikayla Elise Neimetz

Kraft Construction "Best Built" Trophy Award

Fourth grade Cape Elementary inventor of the Deck Dirt Be Gone, Connor Leith

Florida Power & Light Alternative Energy Award

Fifth grade Naples Community inventor of the Genopack, Alexis Swan

Imaginarium "Creativity" Award

Allen Park fifth grade inventor of the Solar Still, Simon Hernandez

Senior Citizen's Life Enhancing \$25 Award

Fourth grade Pelican Elementary inventor of the Tilt & Rise, Jenna Newman

George Wallace, Patent Attorney Provisional Patent Application Award + \$50

Pinewoods Elementary inventor of the Lolli Cone, Adrienne Hedlund

\$1000 Argonauta Scholarship Award* presented by Margaret Eiluned Morgan

Presented to a student with a clear purpose of balancing technological advancements with the preservation of the natural environment.

TWO RECIPIENTS!

Fifth grade Bayshore Elementary inventor of the "Sticky Ball", Hannah Robbins

Eighth grade Gulf Middle inventor of the Kona Storm, Lindsay Freundlich

2010 Regional Inventors Fair Recognition Awards (Three)

for outstanding annual term support by a Faculty member, Administrator, or Volunteer

For a remarkable first year, Franklin Park Elementary Teacher Geanne Baily -

A signed

copy of Doug MacGregor's new Creativity book

Pinewoods Elementary Teacher Chris Giesecke – Trophy

ABC-TV Anchor Lenn Jennings -Trophy

Southwest Florida Community Foundation

James & Eleanor Newton \$4,000 Scholarship

designated for a middle school student.

Seventh grade St. Michaels inventor of the unique tracking solar panels, Joshua Galang

Hodges University

Associate Degree Scholarship*

A high school student demonstrating a keen understanding of the entrepreneurial process as it relates to the invention process.

Cape High Inventor of the Smart Pole Rs – a special warning Stop Sign alerting drivers from all directions of a vehicle approaching the intersection at too high a rate of speed.

Eleventh grader Zohair Zaidi

Division Winners are invited to ride in the Edison Festival of Light Parade

Melanie Davis

Joshua Galang

Zohair Zaidi

Contributed by, Gary Nelson



PROTECTING COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Welcome to another edition of Protecting Your Creativity by The Livingston Firm. Each edition of Protecting Your Creativity will discuss various aspects of intellectual property law and related business matters. This edition discusses the three options available for protecting software as intellectual property and other associated intellectual property, such as trademarks.

Software may be protected as a literary work under copyright law, as an invention under patent law, and/or as a trade secret. Although copyright protection is available for all computer software, patent protection and trade secret protection may or may not be available depending on certain factors.

COPYRIGHTS

The most common and basic method of protecting computer software is by copyright. Under U.S. copyright law, software is considered to be a literary work and is given the same protections as other literary works. The owner of a copyright has the exclusive right to make and distribute copies, and to create derivative works of the copyrighted software. Derivatives may include updates, new versions and/or translations of the computer software. Copyright law may be used to prevent the exact copying of computer software, as well as to prevent others from creating and selling works that are "substantially similar" to the copyrighted work.

Although software is legally considered copyrighted as soon as it is completed, the software should still be officially registered as a copyright with the United States Copyright Office. Registration establishes a public record of the copyright claim and is a prerequisite to filing a copyright infringement suit.

A copyright registration also provides considerable legal advantages in the event of an infringement suit. First, a registration is prima facie evidence as to the ownership of the copyrighted work. Second, owners of registered works can recover statutory damages for infringements which occur after the registration of the work as opposed to recovering actual damages which are often difficult to prove. Statutory damages are damages which the court can award without regard to the amount of actual damages that the copyright holder has suffered. Finally, in addition to an award of statutory damages an owner of registered work

may also obtain attorney's fees if they are successful in enforcing the copyright registration through litigation.

PATENTS

While copyrights are the first line of defense in protecting computer software, copyright law only protects the expression of an idea in a tangible, fixed form, which in the case of software is the written code. On the other hand, a patent protects the underlying method employed by the software. Moreover, a copyright only protects against someone copying the software, whereas a patent protects not only against someone copying the software but also against someone who independently creates the same software. A patent gives the software owner the right to preclude anyone from creating, using, selling, offering to sell or importing devices or processes which fall within the terms of the patent, or perform equivalent functions. Therefore, software patents provide much greater protection for software than do copyrights.

Of course, a patent can only be issued when an invention is new, useful, and nonobvious. To determine this, it is necessary to have a patent search performed and an opinion as to the patentability of the software issued by a patent attorney. A patent search will uncover similar prior art such as issued patents and published patent applications which are then compared to the subject software to determine the patentability of that software.

TRADE SECRETS

Computer software may also be protected as a trade secret. Unlike copyright and patent protection, which is created by Federal statutory law, trade secret protection arises under statutory and contract law. Trade secret law protects any secret process, technique or information which gives the owner a competitive advantage. It is not necessary that the elements of the process or technique be original, unique, or secret, so long as the combination is secret.

To protect the software as a trade secret the software owner must take reasonable steps to maintain its secrecy. This may be achieved by limiting access to the software and the source code of the software to those who need access to perform their job duties. Further, those persons should be required sign confidentiality agreements wherein they agree they will not disclose the trade secret to anyone and that they will take steps to maintain secrecy of the trade secret. The same conditions should also apply to customers to whom the owner might license or sell the software.

While a patented process cannot be a trade secret because patents are published and available to the public, a copyrighted work may be a trade secret if proper procedures are followed. Therefore, if patent protection is not available, then it is important to follow the correct procedures when registering computer software with the United States Copyright Office so that trade secret protection will not be lost.

TRADEMARKS

Finally, in addition to protecting computer software as discussed above, the name given to the software should also be protected under trademark law to prevent others from using a confusingly similar name.

CONCLUSION

The protection of computer software requires careful review and consideration by a patent attorney as adequate protection often involves copyright, patent, trade secret and trademark law. Therefore, it is important that software companies and developers seek the advice and counsel of a patent attorney as early as possible in the development process so their software may be properly protected against competitors and to ensure they do not lose any of the protections available to them.

The Livingston Firm specializes in all areas of intellectual property law including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade secrets, franchising, litigation and business law. As the largest full-service intellectual property law firm in Southwest Florida with over forty years of combined experience, The Livingston Firm can be there to assist you from beginning to end with protecting your ideas and inventions and getting those ideas and inventions to market.

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of Protecting Your Creativity. If you are in need of our services then please contact us to schedule an appointment.

Edward M. Livingston, Esq., U.S. Registered Patent Attorney, Board Certified in Intellectual Property Law

Erica L. Loeffler, Esq.

Bryan L. Loeffler, Esq., U.S. Registered Patent Attorney

The information contained in this newsletter is intended to convey general information. It should not be construed as legal advice or opinion. It is not an offer to represent you, nor is it intended to create an attorney-client relationship.

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