

FAU PINE JOG LAUNCHES THE FAIRCHILD MILLION ORCHID PROJECT



Florida Atlantic University's Pine Jog Environmental Education Center is joining Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens to kick off the Million Orchid Project on Thursday, June 4 at 9 a.m. FAU students and professors, volunteers, and Pine Jog staff will meet at the Center's entrance at 6301 Summit Blvd, West Palm Beach to set out into Pine Jog's 150 acre forest in search of native orchids. The goal of this project is to cultivate and re-introduce one million native orchids to the urban and natural areas in South Florida using published micro propagation techniques in a laboratory setting.

The seeds collected from the property will be cultivated in the new, state-of-the-art laboratory at Pine Jog and will spend the next nine to twelve months in glass bottles under fluorescent lights. FAU students and community volunteers will preside over the seedlings, while conducting experiments to perfect the cultivation process. Local area high school students will be engaged to assist in the final stages of orchid care. Elementary and middle-school aged children will engage with the orchids through planned field trips and science camps. Local schools, natural areas and urban cityscapes will be identified as recipients of these orchids over the next five years.

The Orchid Hunt is open to the public, and runs every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. through the month of June, and meets in front of the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center.

For information on how you can be a part of this exciting program, contact Jasmine Coyle at 561-686-6600 or jashcra1@fau.edu.

FAU

**PINE JOG ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTER**

College of Education
Florida Atlantic University