



**A.D. HENDERSON &  
FAU HIGH SCHOOL**

777 GLADES ROAD  
BLDG #26  
BOCA RATON, FL 33431

THE  
**CANE  
INSTITUTE**  
FOR  
**ADVANCED  
TECHNOLOGIES**

## Dear ADHUS and FAUHS Students and Parents!

Happy Earth Day!!! The Cane Institute is excited to provide you with the Pine Jog Environmental Education Center Orchid Lab which includes a live, native Florida Orchid. You are about to become a botanist for the Million Orchid Project at Pine Jog. This state-wide citizen science project is designed to restore native orchids to Florida landscapes. Included in this mailer is a Florida Butterfly Orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*) pictured below and a seed packet of the native state wildflower, Tickseed (*Coreopsis leavenworthii*), pictured to the right.



## Background on Florida Native Orchids:



Photo Credit: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Historically, Florida was a haven of orchids, so much so, that early settlers marveled at the heavy fragrance of the flowers in spring. Then, in the late 1800's settlers found they could collect these orchids and ship them north to be sold as disposable plants. Millions of orchids were ripped from the trees and packed into railroad cars, and orchid populations dwindled rapidly. Urban development and agriculture further eliminated nearly all remaining epiphytic orchid habitat. Today many of our native orchids are endangered, and nearly all of our orchids exist in populations too small to regain their historic numbers on their own.

The goals of the project are to help restore native orchid populations to their historic numbers through urban plantings, as well as inspire a sense of stewardship over natural habitats.

## ***ENCYCLIA TAMPENSIS*: THE FLORIDA BUTTERFLY ORCHID**

Your mailer contains an *Encyclia tampensis*, the most common of the Florida orchids. It can be found growing from the Keys to north of Orlando, and is an epiphyte, or air plant, which means it does not require soil, but grows along the branches of trees. It grows well in both sunlight and shade, and flowers all year, especially from March through June. The leaves are stiff and linear and grow from 3" to 12" long and ½" wide. The 1 ½" fragrant flowers vary widely in color from whitish through shades of green and red.



## How to use your kit:

### Removing your orchid from the tube (scientists call this Deflasking):

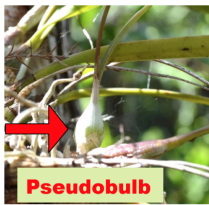
1. Remove the plastic seal and the lid from the container.
2. Gently tip the tube sideways and use a butter knife or the back end of a spoon to ***gently*** scoop out the orchid and the media that surrounds it.
3. Under gently running water, rinse the medium off of the orchid completely. Be very careful not to damage the leaves or roots.
4. Place the rinsed orchid on a paper towel and gently dry it.

### Planting your orchid in a tree (Scientists call this Outplanting):

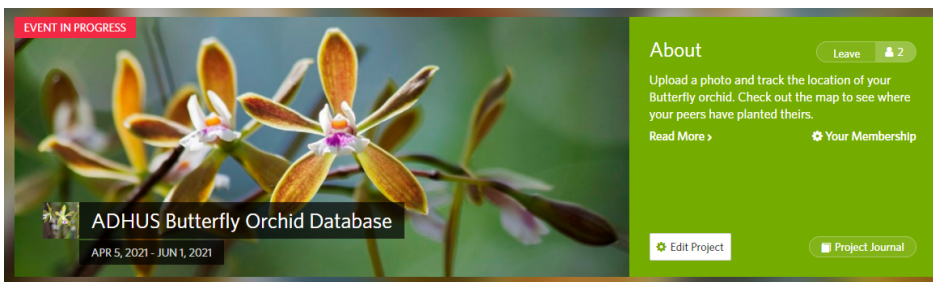
Click the QR code for video instructions. **Please note, the video instructions are from the FAU Pine Jog program and suggest using glue.** You will use the wire included in your kit.



*Encyclia tampensis* grow best on the horizontal limbs of hardwood trees. Choose a sturdy tree, with rough bark for the orchid roots to adhere. May through September are the ideal months to plant your orchid. However, if the weather is unseasonably dry, you may need to water your orchid daily or weekly with a spray bottle or gently with the hose for the first few months, this will depend on the amount of rain your area receives.



1. Select a horizontal limb that has good exposure to light, though not full sun.
2. Set the pseudobulbs (see picture on left) into a crook in the tree, or along a limb.
3. Use the wire (not glue) to secure the orchid to the limb, ***gently*** tying the wire across the pseudobulb. **DO NOT** tie the wire too tight or it will damage the orchid.
4. To water your orchid, use a spray bottle set to mist or a very gentle hose and wet the roots until you see them turn from white to green. Water your orchid daily for the first two weeks, and then water it once per week for four weeks. After that you do not need to water your orchid, except when it is very dry for an extended period of time.
5. **Contribute to Citizen Science** by uploading your orchid photo and location to iNaturalist using the link or QR code below. <https://www.inaturalist.org/> Your photo will then become part of the ADHUS Butterfly Orchid Database!



### Planting your Florida Wildflowers:

For instructions on how to plant your Florida native *Coreopsis* wildflowers, please see the instructions on the seed packet. We hope you enjoy being an amateur botanist this month!

### Other educational resources:

Rare Florida Ghost Orchid video



Participate in Pollinator Week



Find native flowers in Florida

