

Cigar Orchid Restoration Project Update

by Dennis Giardina

On April 22 and 23, about a dozen of Fakahatchee's few remaining cigar orchids were visited by a group led by Mike Owen, Park Biologist, and Matt Richards from Atlanta Botanical Garden to collect the seed pods from the cross-pollination effort that was undertaken last year and to pollinate the huge new cigar orchid we found last summer.

On behalf of all the collaborators, I would like to thank the Friends of Fakahatchee for financially supporting the cigar orchid restoration project.



Cypripedium punctatum flowers by Brad Wilson



Matt Richards pollinates newest and largest known Fakahatchee cigar orchid CPDG09, fifteen feet above the ground



Mike Owen and Dennis Giardina celebrate the return of a rehabilitated cigar orchid removed for a year from the wild for resuscitation at Atlanta Botanical Garden



Ralph Arwood trims ferns and vines away from a cigar orchid to let in more light above the ground