

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden—2014

- We launched the Million Orchid Project, a new initiative to replant native orchid plants in urban landscapes within Miami-Dade. The first 10,000 orchids are now growing in our nursery at MBC, with an additional 150,000 seedlings developing in the new micropropagation lab at Fairchild.
- We launched an educational outreach program as part of the Million Orchid Project. High school science classes are designing horticultural experiments and hosting flasks of orchids in their classrooms.
- We inaugurated the Raymond Baddour DNA Laboratory as part of the DiMare Science Village. The lab is currently hosting research projects on palms, mangos, and orchids.
- A new University of Miami Ph.D. student joined the Fairchild graduate training program. He is helping establish new outreach and citizen science projects in our community.
- More than 200 high school students, all with an interest in pursuing environmental science as a career, connected with UM, FIU, MBC, and Fairchild scientists as part of the Fairchild Challenge Environmental Immersion Day.
- Two of our graduate students developed a workshop for high school and middle school teachers on how to conduct scientific research. They taught the first session at Fairchild in September and are expanding the program to include schools throughout the county.
- One of our graduate students will be launching a summer internship program for high school students. The interns will participate in our genetic research on mangos.
- Fairchild scientists and students conducted field research in the Bahamas, Jamaica, China, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia.
- Dr. Joyce Maschinski led a team of conservation researchers and horticulturists to manage the recovery of more than 80 rare plant species in South Florida.
- Dr. Brett Jestrow conducted research on the taxonomy, systematics, and evolutionary biology of Caribbean plants.
- FIU faculty member Dr. Alejandro Barbieri joined Fairchild as a Research Associate. He is studying the biochemistry of tropical plants, including potential medicinal products.
- Dr. Martin Motes joined the Fairchild science team as a Research Associate. Dr. Motes is the lead scientific advisor for the Million Orchid Project.
- The Fairchild Challenge, currently in its twelfth year, is expanding within South Florida and worldwide.
- New technology has been incorporated into our biodiversity field trip programs. Students use tablet computers to collect experimental data during their visits to Fairchild.
- Fairchild scientists published 23 peer reviewed articles in 2013 (see attached).