

June 2016 Newsletter



The Institute for
Regional Conservation

IRC Searches for Lost Orchids in Cuba

IRC's Senior Biologist, Michael Barry, recently traveled to Cuba in search of four species of orchids currently extirpated from Florida. These "lost orchids" (*Epidendrum acunae* (pictured left), *Brassia caudata*, *Macradenia lutescens* and *Bulbophyllum pachyrachis* (pictured right)) were originally inhabitants of Florida that have become extinct due to poachers and habitat destruction.



Barry embarked on this historical trip to Cuba alongside Dennis Giardina, biologist for Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Welcome Our New Natives For Your Neighborhood Sponsors



[Wilcox Nursery and Landscape](http://www.WilcoxNursery.com)

IRC is pleased to announce that Veber's Jungle Garden (located in Homestead, Florida) and Wilcox Nursery and Landscape (located in Largo, Florida) have become sponsors of Natives For Your Neighborhood. Be sure to check out these native nurseries both online and in person and as always, mention that you saw their nursery on Natives For Your Neighborhood! For a complete list of nurseries that have sponsored Natives For Your Neighborhood, [click](#)

[here.](#)

Volunteer Opportunity with IRC at

Jonathan Dickinson State Park



IRC is currently looking for volunteers to assist on a project at Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Volunteers are needed Wednesdays - Fridays for about the next month and would help record data and take measurements. For more information on this exciting opportunity, contact Cara Abbott at 3053046610 or abbott@regionalconservation.org.

Yucatan Updates

In early May, IRC Senior Botanist Carlos Trejo attended an extremely interesting presentation at *Universidad Marista* in Merida, in the Mexican Yucatan. The meeting was held to publicize a grass-roots proposal to pass a law that would protect urban trees in the State of Yucatan. Carlos has been following the development of this multi-institutional and community-wide initiative since its beginning about two years ago. As there was a need for a basic tree inventory in the region, Carlos made available a list of trees that he prepared in 2014 for our Yucatan webpage, [Plantas del Mayab](#). In this way, he was able to directly connect IRC interests in plant conservation to the current needs of Yucatecan society. For now the list is a taxonomic and nomenclatural resource (an index of common and scientific names) but it has the potential to be developed into a complex conservation database like the [Floristic Inventory of South Florida](#) or [Plants of the Island of Puerto Rico](#), or even into a specialized page like South Florida's [Natives for Your Neighborhood](#).



Ehretia tinifolia, a common wild and urban tree in the Yucatan Peninsula.