

# Little Red Wagonful

*Nurturing Nature One Wagon at a Time*



## February 2021

*If nothing ever changed, there would be no such thing as butterflies.—Wendy Mass*

Change is a beautiful thing. Much like the butterfly emerging from its chrysalis, hopeful and ready to fly, we welcome a new year of possibility, beauty, and dedication to conservation of our native and natural environment. In December of 2020, we broke ground on the Butterfly Conservatory of Tampa Bay. Emerging Spring 2021, the Conservatory will be an immersive, magical experience and a way to surround yourself with the native butterflies, floral, and fauna of Florida. Follow us on Instagram @nurturenative and @butterflyeffecttampa and on Facebook at Little Red Wagon Native Nursery and Butterfly Conservatory of Tampa Bay for updates on our metamorphosis. You can also visit us at [LittleRedWagonNativeNursery.com](http://LittleRedWagonNativeNursery.com) and [ButterflyTampa.com](http://ButterflyTampa.com) for more information.

## Plant of the Month



### White Twinevine Milkweed

Host plant to Monarch, Queen, and Soldier butterflies. While at this time of year several of our native milkweeds, like Pink Swamp Milkweed, go dormant for several months, *Sarcostemma clausum* is in the milkweed family and an evergreen vine. It prefers moist soil and can be planted in the ground but does equally well in pots. Long runners can be trained on trellis, topiary forms (check out ours at the front door of the shop when you visit!) or along a fence, and it can bloom just about any time of the year. A great plant for the Monarch lover that is always running out of milkweed. Move your 3rd instar caterpillars to this vine while your other native milkweeds fill back in. The intertwining vines also make a nice protective shelter for the caterpillars. This is a fast grower, and you won't run out of it.

- Other common names: Twinevine
- Likes: Moist soil, grows well in containers
- Grows: Fast grower, evergreen
- Available in one-gallon and three-gallon pots

**\$8.00 (1G) / \$18.00 (3G)**

**SHOP NOW**

## Garden Swag

### Garden in a Bag

**Get your Swagon!** Our current must-have garden swag is *Garden in a Bag* featuring Organic Chives. Easy to grow, this classic culinary herb is so versatile! Snip bits to finish a hearty winter butternut squash soup, spice up a creamy ranch dip, add zing to a champagne vinaigrette, and always perfect over grilled salmon. Flowers are also edible and have a mild garlic flavor. The herb is best when cut fresh from the plant but can be dry frozen without much loss in taste.

Everything you need to get growing in a bag!

Available for **\$10.99**

**SHOP NOW**



**And don't forget Valentine's Day!** The Little Red Wagon Native Nursery shop is brimming with wonderful Valentine's gift ideas from adorable heart-shaped trowels made in Holland, to delicate heart and butterfly wind chimes and sweet garden stakes. Little Red Wagon Native Nursery Gift cards are also something to share with the people you love!



### Heart-Shaped Trowel

Featuring a wide, curved blade ideal for scooping potting soil and loosening plants from their pots, the heart-shaped tool head is forged from boron steel and the hardwood handle is crafted from FSC-certified ash. The Gardeners Lifetime Potting Trowel is handmade in Holland and carries a lifetime guarantee.

**\$40.00**

**SHOP NOW**



### Butterfly Garden

You can also give a garden this Valentine's Day! Why buy flowers that only last a week when you can give the gift of a living butterfly garden? Featuring four different native plants beneficial to butterflies and bees, our easy-to-care-for Butterfly Container Garden at \$40 makes a perfect gift for someone you love. Free heart-shaped garden stake with purchase while supplies last!

**\$40.00**

**SHOP NOW**

## In Pollinator & Native News

### Leave Those Leaves and Branches, Too!

As you engage in Florida winter garden cleanup, make sure to be careful to leave oak leaves to mulch and provide the important ecosystem canopy they provide to so many of our tiniest beneficial insects and larvae. Don't prune too heavily either; branch piles and shrubbery are essential for our fine-feathered friends for protection and for making their nests in the spring.



We recently spotted this beauty on the side of the road and happily claimed it. What may look like a decaying log to some, is a living and beautiful thing supporting the delicate, yet resilient, Resurrection fern and epiphytes, like Spanish moss, you see scattered along the surface.



## Pardon Our Metamorphosis

### Butterfly Conservatory of Tampa Bay... Emerging Spring 2021!

On December 9, 2020, we broke ground on the Butterfly Conservatory of Tampa Bay (that's founder, president, and passionate conservationist, Anita Camacho, CPA, along with her husband, Marc Camacho, M.D.). After the site was cleared and leveled, a 1,700-gallon water harvesting system was



the first thing “planted” to enable us to catch and use as much rainwater as possible for on-premises irrigation of the nursery and native plant installations.



*Emerging Spring 2021!*



## Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation Update

### We Are Feeling Grate-ful!

A number of generous donations have already poured into TBBF in 2021! We are so humbled by your generous support which allows us to support environmental conservation efforts and related research and science education in the Tampa Bay area.



#### **ABOUT THE TAMPA BAY BUTTERFLY FOUNDATION:**

With a focus on Florida butterfly species and native plants, environmental education and local awareness in the Tampa Bay area, Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation was established to support the conservation of butterflies and pollinators and the restoration of their natural wildlife habitats. By working globally with university research partners, providing educational and research opportunities and community outreach programs, and through multi-faceted fundraising efforts, the Foundation aims to elevate public awareness of the importance of butterflies.

The Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation Inc., a 501(c)(3), is an affiliate of the Butterfly Conservatory of Tampa Bay.

## Calling All Volunteers!

Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation regularly has a number of single-day and ongoing volunteering opportunities.

#### **Little Red Wagon Native Nursery Volunteer Opportunities:**

[Click HERE to assist LRWNN.](#)

#### **CFC Maintenance:**

The Center for Conservation, or CFC, is a 20-acre campus located in Apollo Beach and exists as a partnership between the Tampa Electric Company (TECO), the Florida Aquarium, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission (FWC) and the University of Florida.

[Click HERE to volunteer for the CFC butterfly garden & habitat maintenance.](#)

### Encore Park:

Encore Park Planting is a Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation-sponsored butterfly garden installation in downtown Tampa on February 22. Bring a shovel!

[Click HERE to volunteer for the Encore Park Planting.](#)

## Monthly Calendar of Events

### Upcoming Classes & Workshops

Our *Tampa Bay Butterflies & Native Plants* classes at the end of January were a huge success. Learn what's going on with the Monarchs as Anita Camacho, owner of Little Red Wagon Native Nursery, presents an update on Monarchs and discusses Tampa Bay-area butterflies and the host plants they depend on. Our overwintering species will be emerging soon, and we need to be ready for them. [Check out our website for next available classes.](#) Registration and masks are required, and space is limited. \$15 per person.

**Summer Is Around the Corner!** Our summer camps for rising first through fifth graders will be announced soon. [Check our website for updates and more information.](#)

### Upcoming Important Dates

#### February 2: *Groundhog Day*

Just like Phil up in Punxsutawney, Bucky the Buckeye, our local weather prognosticator, saw his shadow confirming it's six more weeks of winter for us in Tampa Bay! So socks with flip flops a few more days.

February 4: *National Green Week* kicks off. This annual event empowers and challenges schools to engage in sustainability-focused lessons, projects, and activities through the end of Earth Month (April).



### Happy for the Home Team and Beyond!

February 7: *Super Bowl LV*. Congratulations to our Tampa Bay Buccaneers for winning the Lombardi trophy! The Bucs make history as the first NFL team ever to play and win a Super Bowl at their home stadium. Visit community garden projects planted near Raymond James Stadium as part of the NFL Green Week initiative. We greatly enjoyed working alongside Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful and are so proud of the newly installed pollinator gardens at Reed Park and Wellswood Park, our volunteer efforts, and the beautiful native plants we supplied.



February 11: *International Day of Women and Girls in Science*. Celebrate STEM ladies and the critical role they play in science and technology!

February 14: *Valentine's Day*

March 3: *World Wildlife Day*

March 14: *World Butterfly Day*. Celebrate the inspirational and beautiful butterfly by planting native chemical-free plants! Look for upcoming class & workshop listings.

March 18: *Global Recycling Day*

April 5-12: *International Dark Sky Week*. Created in 2003 by a high school student, International Dark Sky Week has become a worldwide event held annually in April always near Astronomy Day. Drawing attention to the problems associated with light pollution and promoting simple solutions to help alleviate them, IDSW is a weeklong celebration of the night in all its glory. Learn more how you can make a difference at [darksky.org](https://darksky.org)

Little Red Wagon Native Nursery is Hillsborough County's only native nursery. Supporting Florida's native plant & wildlife ecosystem and our natural world, we are located at 4113 Henderson Blvd. in South Tampa.

You can also visit us at [LittleRedWagonNativeNursery.com](https://LittleRedWagonNativeNursery.com)

Email: [Info@butterflytampa.com](mailto:Info@butterflytampa.com)

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