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# Little Red Wagonful

*Nurturing Nature One Wagon at a Time*



**March 2021**

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

Spring is in the air...welcome to the month of March! Are you ready to start digging in the dirt? This month, the gardening season increases in intensity and it's a perfect time to get some outdoor activity as the weather warms up.

## Butterfly of the Month



### Olive Juniper Hairstreak

*Callophrys gryneus*, the "olive" juniper hairstreak

I first saw the "olive" juniper hairstreak, *Callophrys gryneus*, last summer during a butterfly count nectaring on *Eryngium aquaticum*, commonly called Corn snakeroot near Goethe State Forest. A fun dime-sized butterfly to introduce to those of you who have not seen these beauties on St. Patrick's day. The upper side of the "olive" juniper hairstreak is tawny orange or a bronzy color in males, and blackish brown in females. The underside of the wings is bright green with a variable amount of brown scaling. Habitats include bluffs, open fields, barrens, and dry or rocky open places. They are almost always found near or on junipers in these habitats.

Snakeroot (*Eryngium aquaticum*)

*Eryngium aquaticum*, aka snakeroot, is a coarse, aquatic perennial that's found naturally in sunny marshes and swamps, along pond edges and in ditches. In the Goethe State Forest it grows along the sides of the highway for a couple miles in the ditches during the summer and early fall at about 3-5 feet tall and provides nectar for a variety of pollinator species. Snakeroot blooms vary in color from a pale whitish-blue to a rich lavender. Flowerheads are about 1/2" to 1" in diameter, globular and are surrounded by spiny bracts. Snakeroot typically flowers summer through late fall through zones 7-9 in Florida. In a home landscape setting, snakeroot may require a little more care than other wildflowers. It does not tolerate drought, so moist to wet and acidic soils must be maintained. Preferred sun exposure is full sun to moderate shade. It is not a very prolific re-seeder, so plants may need to be replaced periodically. Despite its maintenance needs, it is an interesting and beautiful addition to a mixed wildflower garden.

## Plant of the Month



### Pink Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

**Our Best Seller!** Pink Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) is one of over twenty milkweeds that are native to Florida. Pink swamp milkweed's leaves are long (up to 6 inches). Seeds are flat and brown with silky white hairs attached which come from pods, and split open when ripe. Seeds are dispersed when their silky hairs catch the wind.

Swamp milkweed occurs naturally in floodplain swamps, hydric hammocks, wet pine flatwoods and marshes. It typically blooms in summer and attracts many pollinators. It is a larval host plant for monarch, queen and soldier butterfly caterpillars. In my garden it grows in partial shade and sunny locations - both in pots and in the ground.

Once established, it does well in regular Florida conditions. It goes dormant around late October-November. It may appear above ground not to be viable at this point. If the roots are still viable, the plant will come back from the roots. Sometimes it will even skip a year and come up the 3rd year and every year after that, which is part of the native plant cycle.

**\$10.00 (1G) / \$18.00 (3G)**

**SHOP NOW**

## Garden Swag

### Garden in a Bag

#### Get your Swagon! *Good Luck Clover* *Garden-in-a-Bag.*

We could all use some "good luck" all year with the Good luck clover and not just on St. Patrick's day!

Here's organic good luck to brighten a windowsill or desk! While most plant clusters will have three leaves, you might be lucky enough to find a fourth to add to your luck. An easy to grow beautiful plant that will reach 6-8 inches in height. *Good Luck Clover* *Garden-in-a-Bag* includes: organic seed, growing medium, coconut husks for drainage, and directions.

Available for **\$10.99**

**SHOP NOW**



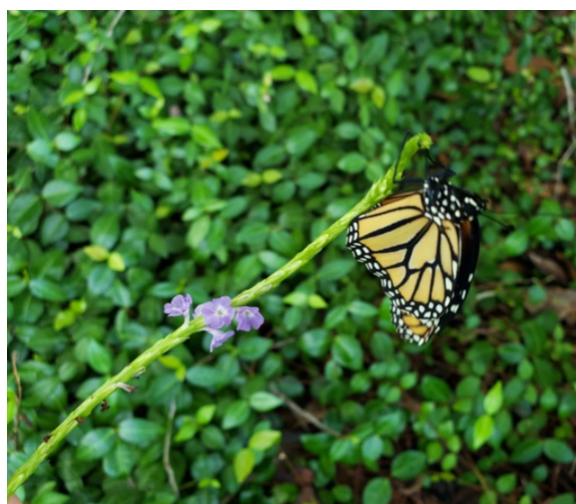
## In Pollinator & Native News

### If you plant it they will come!

March is here and it is time to focus on planning your garden with native plants. Make sure you incorporate both host plants for adult butterflies to lay their eggs on for the caterpillars to eat and plant nectar plants for the adult butterflies to nectar on as well as other pollinators. It is ideal to plant a palette of native blooming plants of different sizes to provide nectar for many different species as well as other pollinators. Do not let the word "weed" detour you from many of the native species. Afterall we love milkweed that provides the habitat for Monarch and Queen butterflies – so give the other plants with the word "weed" in their name a chance. For example, the native Blue Porterweed (*Stachytarpheta jamaicensis*) is a drought tolerant plant that grows low to the ground and a wonderful nectar stop for pollinators.

Available for **\$8.00**

**SHOP NOW**



## Calling All Volunteers!

Thank you to our dedicated volunteers for a great morning of planting at Encore! Park on February 22. [Click HERE to see our awesome volunteers participating in this great community event.](#)

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

### Little Red Wagon Native Nursery:

We are currently in need of garden enthusiasts to assist in our nursery. [Click HERE to view opportunities to assist LRWNN.](#)

### CFC Maintenance Volunteer Opportunities: **March 25 & April 29**

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. There will be an opportunity in March and April; it's always a fun time if you can make it! [Click HERE to volunteer for the CFC butterfly garden & habitat maintenance.](#)

## Pardon Our Metamorphosis



Construction is moving along on the Butterfly Conservatory which will be emerging soon. If you'd like a preview of some things to come, our temporary butterfly education exhibit is available Fridays to Sundays, free of charge. A Grand Opening date for the Conservatory will be announced in 2021, so please keep visiting [Butterfly Conservatory of Tampa Bay website](#) for updates.

## Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation Update

ENCORE! Tampa, the mixed-use, multi-family community near the heart of Downtown Tampa, partnered with Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation to create a ½ acre garden in the heart of the community.

Volunteers planted 300 native plants for a butterfly garden in downtown Tampa. The plants for the project came from our very own Little Red Wagon Native Nursery. [Click HERE to see MEFMedia's coverage of this event.](#)

[For additional media coverage of this event, click HERE for the News page of our website.](#)



### 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.

## Monthly Calendar of Events

March 3: *World Wildlife Day*

March 5: *International Women's Day*

March 12: *National Plant A Flower Day*. Visit our nursey for native plants.

### March 14 - World Butterfly Day

Friday, March 12 through Sunday, March 14 we celebrated World Butterfly Day all weekend long!

Here are just a few of the events held:

- Charley Belcher from Fox 13 Good Day Tampa Bay previewed our weekend celebration by broadcasting live from Little Red Wagon Native Nursery on March 11. [Click here to see the video.](#)
- Active gardener and author of *Look What Happened While I was Sleeping*, Alycyn Culbertson, signed books on Saturday from 10-12.
- Our animal ambassadors were busy meeting shoppers each day throughout the weekend.



March 17: *St. Patrick's Day*

March 18: *Global Recycling Day*

March 19: *National Backyard Day*. Celebrate and get your garden started off right with Florida native plants perfect for pollinators and wildlife. Each variety is hand-picked by the pollinator experts. You won't find these specialty plants in big box stores and we are the only native plant nursery in Hillsborough County! Plus our plants are 100% insecticide-free and grown with beneficial insects for pest control. More plants are arriving by the day; if there are plants you are looking for and we are out of stock, let us know.

March 20: *World Planting Day*. Let us help you find native plants that will attract pollinators.

March 22: *World Water Day*

March 28: *National Weed Appreciation Day, Day of Insects*

March 29: *National Mom & Pop Business Day*. Support LRWNN which is a family-owned business.

March 31: *National Little Red Wagon Day*. Visit our nursery and gift shop in honor of our name!

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](http://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](http://LittleRedWagonNativeNursery.com)

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

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