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Little Red Wagonful

Nurturing Nature One Wagon at a Time



July 2021

"The single greatest lesson the garden teaches is that our relationship to the planet need not be zero-sum, and that as long as the sun still shines and people still can plan and plant, think and do, we can, if we bother to try, find ways to provide for ourselves without diminishing the world." — Michael Pollan

July is filled with fireworks, fragrant flowers and flip flops on the beach.

Butterfly of the Month



American Lady

In recognition of July 4, it's fitting that our Butterfly of the Month is the American Lady. This beautiful, medium-sized butterfly flies year-round in Florida, favoring open habitats such as meadows, sand dunes, and garden edges. In Florida, there are at least three generations per year with some of our Florida butterflies migrating

north in the spring. During warmer months, American Ladies can be found in every state in the continental United States.

When American Ladies perch with closed wings, two large eyespots are clearly visible on the bottom wing. (See #1.) Thought to help protect the butterfly from predators, the size and number of these eyespots help distinguish the butterfly from its cousin, the Painted Lady: American Ladies have two large eyespots while Painted Ladies have four small eyespots. Another characteristic that helps distinguish the American Lady from the Painted Lady can be seen when the butterfly's wings are open: the American Lady has a small white dot in the large orange field below the dark brown patch that's at the top outer edge of the butterfly's wing. (See #2.) Painted Ladies don't have this dot.

American Ladies lay small, pale green eggs singly on the top of its host plants' leaves. In our area, host plants include spoonleaf purple everlasting (aka cudweed) (*Gamochaeta purpurea*) (see #3) and rabbit-tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium*).

Caterpillars have dark tufts that emerge from the base of thick bands of black with two white dots. These thick bands alternate with bands of thin yellow and black stripes. (See #4.) Caterpillars form nests of leaves, chaff and silk at the tips of flower stalks. They live and feed in these nests.

While we occasionally see them here in downtown Tampa, American Ladies are usually abundant at Goethe State Forest in Dunnellon. There they frequent nectar-rich flowers that include asters (*Symphyotrichum* spp.), ironweeds (*Vernonia* spp.), and rattlesnakemaster (*Eryngium aquaticum*).

Plant of the Month



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Spoonleaf purple everlasting (aka cudweed)
(*Gamochaeta purpurea*)

Spoonleaf purple everlasting or cudweed (*Gamochaeta purpurea*) is an annual or sometimes biennial in the *Asteraceae* family whose native habitat includes sandy soils and beaches. A plant that readily self-sows, this

native – like so many of our native wildflowers – has been deemed weedy and consequently is rarely available for sale. However, with wooly stems, soft grey-green leaves, and up to 50 tiny bluish-purple disk flowers along the head of each stem, this somewhat dainty plant is an important food source for our American Lady caterpillars, leafhoppers and other herbivores. The plant grows to a maximum height of about 18 inches and, in our area, usually flowers between March and June. If you have an area that can support a freeform planting design, why not allow spoonleaf purple everlasting to take hold? Pair it with any of our asters (*Symphyotrichum spp.*), ironweeds (*Vernonia spp.*), or blue mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) for a bonanza of blue and purple blooms.

\$5.00 / 1 gallon

SHOP NOW

Garden Swag



Get your Swagon!

Citronella is a proven, all-natural insect repellent made from the leaves and stems of the lemongrass plant. It repels insects by masking the smells biting insects are attracted to. Skeem's citronella oils are blended with fine fragrances to smell as good as they look. Stop by our Gift Shop for a variety of natural products to help make your picnic or evening outdoors more pleasant. Made by Skeem Design, products are hand-poured in the USA with an exclusive soy base.

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Design with Vines



Beach Morning Glory (*Ipomoea imperati*)

Beach morning glory (*Ipomoea imperati*) is a 10-20 foot long creeping evergreen vine with showy white flowers that is rarely is more than 6 inches tall. Native to coastal dunes, this plant is a great ground cover for sandy sites with full sun and room to sprawl. The plant tolerates drought and withstands both salty wind and salt spray, making it particularly useful for dune restoration efforts or properties close to salt water.

In our area, beach morning glory has been known to flower from spring to fall, although its peak flowering season is typically mid-summer to fall. With ephemeral, bell-shaped flowers that bloom in the morning and then wilt or close by the afternoon, this lovely plant attracts butterflies, other pollinators, hummingbirds and songbirds. It's a great addition to beds along walkways or other areas where it can be seen in the morning. Pair it with salt and pepper (*Melanthera nivea*) and button sage lantana (*Lantana involucrata*) for year-round interest.

Please note: the seeds of beach morning glory have low severity poison characteristics that can cause vomiting and hallucinations if ingested. As a result, it's a good idea to keep children and pets away from them.

\$10.00 / 1 Gallon

[SHOP NOW](#)

Calling All Volunteers

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



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Weekly Summer Day Camps: Ends August 6

Adult and High School-aged volunteers are needed to assist with our nature summer day camp program for children ages 6-10. This is a great opportunity for high school students to earn community service hours for Bright Future scholarships! To volunteer, sign up here: <https://volunteersignup.org/4FJKR>

Encore! Technology Park: July 8, 9 am - 11 am

Volunteers are needed to help maintain the Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation-sponsored butterfly garden at Encore Park! located at 1210 E. Harrison St. (Corner of Harrison Street and Hank Ballard St.)

To volunteer, sign up here: <https://volunteersignup.org/DT34H>

TBBF Hell Strip Habitat Maintenance: July 11, 9 am - 11 am

Volunteers are needed to perform regular maintenance on Butterfly Alley (4110 W. Estrella St.) to help keep this area looking beautiful as the habitat establishes itself.

To volunteer, sign up here: <https://volunteersignup.org/PETBB>

Encore! Technology Park: July 27, 9 am - 11 am

Volunteers are needed to help maintain the Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation-sponsored butterfly garden at Encore Park! located at 1210 E. Harrison St. (Corner of Harrison Street and Hank Ballard St.)

To volunteer, sign up here: <https://volunteersignup.org/KH9B9>

TBBF Hell Strip Habitat Maintenance and planting: July 31, 9 am - 11 am

Volunteers are needed to perform Hell Strip Habitat maintenance and additional planting to extend the habitat (4110 W. Estrella St.). To volunteer, sign up here: <https://volunteersignup.org/EDT74>

**Little Red Wagon Native Nursery:**

We currently need garden enthusiasts to help us support the efforts of Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation's conservation, research, and education efforts. To join our awesome volunteer team, sign up here:

<https://volunteersignup.org/9BQTJ>

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.

Pardon Our Metamorphosis



Visit our temporary butterfly education exhibit during our normal business hours while the Butterfly Conservatory is being constructed. Enjoy live butterflies every week: Fridays starting at 2 p.m. through Sunday closing. While the education exhibit is currently free, we do accept donations for Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation for education, research, restoration and conservation for butterflies and native plants in our area. Please keep visiting [Butterfly Conservatory of Tampa Bay](https://www.butterflyconservatory.org) website for updates regarding our Grand Opening.

Summer Day Camp



Summer Fun at Little Red Wagon Kids' Camp

Talley, our Red mangrove salt marsh snake, is looking forward to meeting new campers this summer. There's still a few spots before camp ends on August 6, so register before the programs get filled.

REGISTER NOW

Monthly Calendar of Events

July 3: *International Plastic Bag-Free Day*
July 4: *Independence Day*
July 6: *World Fire Fly Day*
July 7: *National Koi Fish Day*
July 14: *Shark Awareness Day, World Orca Day*
July 16: *World Snake Day* - Visit our reptiles on display.

National Moth Week: July 17-25, 2021

Did you know that moths serve as pollinators and are also source of food for other insects, bats, and bears?

This means that moths are an important part of our ecosystem, but because many moth species are nocturnal, they are invisible to most people. Watch our blog and Facebook page for fun facts about some of the [1,343 species of moths](#) that have been seen in Florida as we celebrate all things moths during the tenth annual [National Moth Week](#) from July 17-25, 2021.



July 24: *National Cousins' Day*

July 28: *World Nature Conservation Day*

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

Email: Info@ButterflyTampa.com

Hours: Tuesdays - Fridays 11-5:30, Saturdays 10-5:30 and Sundays 12-4. Closed Mondays.

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