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Little Red Wagonful

Nurturing Nature One Wagon at a Time



August 2021

Gardening adds years to your life and life to your years. – *Unknown*

August includes back to school preparation and a winding down of the summer heat, transitioning us to the fall season. Enjoy our homemade lemonade recipe, in this month's newsletter, and sip away the summer.

Butterfly of the Month



© John Lampkin

Byssus Skippers

Byssus Skippers are tiny jewels that remind me of a topaz gemstone. With a wingspan that typically ranges from 1.5 - 2 inches, the upper wing is a deep chocolate brown with a bright yellowy orange "swoosh" across it. The bottom wing is more of a milk chocolate color in males and a rusty orange in females. Both males and females have a lighter yellow band near the back of the bottom wings. (See Photo.) In our area, the male Byssus Skipper can be easily confused with the female Delaware Skipper. A key distinguishing feature is the color of the fringe on their wings: male Byssus Skippers have white fringe while female Delaware Skippers have orange fringe.

In our area, females lay single eggs on blades of either Dwarf Fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum floridanum*) or Eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*). Byssus caterpillars are "leaf rollers" that will eat and shelter in the leaves of its host plant. The caterpillar is a light green-grey with very thin bands of pale yellow stripes. Its face is white and black.

Adults normally inhabit wet areas and like to nectar on marsh rattlesnake (*Eryngium aquaticum*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), and other nectar-rich wetland flowers. With two broods per year, if you live near a wet area, why not consider adding some Dwarf Fakahatchee grass or Eastern gamagrass to support this skipper's caterpillars? And, of course, if you have wetlands on your property, please consider adding nutrient rich nectar sources to feed these flying gems.

Plant of the Month



Dwarf Fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum floridanum*)

Dwarf Fakahatchee grass (*Tripsacum floridanum*) is a perennial grass in the *Poaceae* family whose native habitat includes pine rocklands and marl prairies. The plant forms dense, upright clumps that are 4-6 feet wide and 2-3 feet tall (up to 4 feet when it flowers with showy, rust-colored spikes). Its somewhat narrow blades pair well with coreopsis (*Coreopsis spp.*) and tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*) and it also looks great in mass plantings or as a filler in planters. Able to withstand moist soil as well as drought conditions, this grass prefers full sun and makes an outstanding addition to almost any garden. Importantly, this grass is an important food source for our Byssus Skipper caterpillars and its seeds are food for birds.

\$10.00 / gallon**SHOP NOW**

Garden Swag



Bee Inspired: August 15 & 17 - National & World Bee Days

Get your Swagon!

Celebrate bees by choosing one of these functional planters made of lightweight, durable polypropylene to plant a native plant. With a variety of styles to choose from, our Gift Shop's bee decorated planters feature a double-walled rim and punch-out drainage hole. Made by Studio M, these Art Planters™ are digitally printed in the USA with 3-year fade-resistant UV inks.

SHOP NOW

Design with Vines



Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)

Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*) is a vigorous vine that can easily grow 30-50 feet tall and almost 10 feet wide. It has beautiful, 1-3 inch trumpet-shaped flowers that can be yellow, orange, or red. In our area, Crossvine normally blooms in late winter and throughout spring on new wood in clusters of 2 to 5 flowers. A true favorite of hummingbirds, this flowering vine is also a great nectar source for butterflies and bees.

Crossvine likes full sun but can grow in part shade. It requires good drainage and likes moist soils. Be sure to plant it near a trellis or fence for support – Crossvine likes to climb, which means it's a great way to add some vertical interest to your garden. Note that this plant has an extreme flammability rating and should not be planted near buildings: it will act as a ladder fuel during fires.

\$10.00 / gallon

SHOP NOW

Calling All Volunteers

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



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Encore! Technology Park: August 10, 9 am - Noon

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, click or copy and paste into a browser: <https://volunteersignup.org/9MCFB>

TBBF Hell Strip Habitat Maintenance and planting: August 23, 9 am - Noon

Volunteers are needed to perform Hell Strip Habitat maintenance and additional planting to extend the habitat (4110 W. Estrella St.).

To volunteer, click or copy and paste into a browser: <https://volunteersignup.org/QXHD8>



Little Red Wagon Native Nursery:

We currently need garden enthusiasts to help us support the efforts of Tampa Bay Butterfly

Foundation's conservation, restoration, research, and education efforts. To join our awesome volunteer team, click or copy and paste into a browser:

<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.

Monthly Calendar of Events

August 1: *National Friendship Day*
 August 9: *National Book Lover's Day*
 August 12: *International Youth Day*
 August 14: *World Lizard Day*



Yield: 6-8 servings (about 6 cups)

HOMEMADE LEMONADE

Ingredients:

- 3 cups water
- 1 cup ice cubes
- 1/3-1/2 cup honey (adjust to taste)
- 1 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (approx. 4-7 large lemons)

Directions:

1. Overheating the honey or lemonade mixture can destroy its health benefits, so we recommend using a blender. Puree all ingredients in a blender to mix and dissolve honey (approx. 30-60 secs).
2. Enjoy the benefits of this healthy, antioxidant version of a favorite drink during the hazy days of summer. Vodka...optional!

August 17: *World Bee Day*

August 21: *National Senior Citizens' Day*

August 28-29: *Celebrate LRWNN's 1st anniversary with us! Stay tuned for more info.*

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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