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Little Red Wagonful

Nurturing Nature One Wagon at a Time



September 2021

Plant it high it will never die, plant it low it will never grow. – *Unknown*

As we journey into the fall season, take a moment to enjoy the last of our summer bloomers and look forward to our fall blooming natives to help migrators!

Butterfly of the Month



Zebra Swallowtail

Zebra Swallowtails (photo #1) are stunning. With their black and white zebra-like stripes and long tails, they are definitely Florida's most easily recognizable Swallowtail. Their wingspans range from 2.5-4 inches (spring individuals are usually smaller than those from later generations) and their stripes help camouflage them: the stripes make it difficult to see and track the butterflies as they glide in and out of shadows.

Zebra Swallowtails lay single pale lime green eggs (see photo #2) on young leaves of host plants, which, in Florida, include small flower pawpaw (*Asimina parviflora*), netted pawpaw (*Asimina reticulata*), large flower pawpaw (*Asimina obovata*) and common pawpaw small tree (*Asimina triloba*). Caterpillars are green or brown, with yellow, black and blue bands that are typically hidden (see photo #4). Caterpillars will frequently hide on the bottoms of leaves, in flowers, or even in the leaf litter at the bottom of its host plant, usually feeding at night. Interestingly, *Asimina* Webworm Moth caterpillars (*Omphalocera munroeii*) (see photo #3) also feed on pawpaw

leaves, buds and twigs, and by eating older leaves of the pawpaw, Asimina Webworm Moth caterpillars encourage new growth favored by Zebra Swallowtail caterpillars.



Pawpaws are pollinated by beetles, not Zebra swallowtails (see photo #5 below) which shows two color forms of Emerald Flower Scarab, *Trichiotinus lunulatus*. This is the beetle often responsible for pawpaw pollination.

Zebra Swallowtails are rarely seen in urban Tampa areas, but, during the spring and fall, I've seen them flying at Lettuce Lake Park, Violet Cury Preserve, and in various preserve areas in Riverview within Hillsborough County. These areas have moist low woodlands and plenty of pawpaw. See the young fruit below in photo #6.



Thank you to John Lampkin for contributing both his amazing images and knowledge on the pawpaw plant ecosystem.

Host Plant Of The Month



Pawpaw - *Asimina triloba*

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) is a small (15 to 20 feet) understory tree that typically grows along streams, low bottom woods, and in floodplains. The plant does not self-pollinate, but if fertilized, the pawpaw's springtime maroon flowers can produce the largest edible fruit native to North America by late summer. It typically requires 2 plants to cross pollinate to get fruit. Often described as tasting like a cross between a banana and a mango, pawpaw can be eaten raw, used to make jams, ice cream or flavor beer, or cooked in breads and pies. In addition, the pawpaw, like several shrubs in the custard apple (Annonaceae) family, is the food source for Zebra Swallowtail caterpillars. September 16 is National Pawpaw Day. Why not celebrate by planting two of them?

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Nectar Plant Of The Month



Slender Goldenrod - *Solidago stricta*

Slender goldenrod aka Wand goldenrod (*Solidago stricta*) is a long-lived perennial in the *Asteraceae* family whose native habitat include wet and coastal areas with well-drained soils. This is one of many species of goldenrod that can be found throughout Florida and one of the very best goldenrods for the home landscape as it is adaptable to most soils. With showy plume-like clusters of tiny yellow, daisy-like flowers atop stems that can easily reach 5 feet tall, this low-maintenance plant usually blooms in our area between September and November and is winter dormant. Like many goldenrods, slender goldenrod performs best in full sun to partial shade. It spreads by seed. Slender goldenrod also tolerates occasional salty wind and occasional brief inundation if there is a storm surge. It is an important nectar source for a variety of our native pollinators in the fall and migrating Monarchs. You may even find the goldenrod soldier beetle and many species of wild bees when these plants are in bloom. Slender goldenrod pairs really well with red tropical sage (*Salvia coccinea*), narrowleaf ironweed (*Vernonia angustifolia*) and blazing stars (*Liatris* spp.) Although people frequently blame goldenrods for causing hay fever, the real culprits are ragweeds (*Ambrosia* spp.): the plants flower around the same time each year but it's ragweeds' wind-borne pollen that triggers allergic reactions in many people.

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Garden Swag



Get your Swagon!

Solar Wind Chime

As we begin to have less daylight, enjoy this twinkling light solar glass and metal windchime. Available in hummingbird, butterfly and dragonfly designs.

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Design with Vines



Virginia creeper - *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*

Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*) is a vigorous, deciduous woody vine that can grow up to 40 feet. Equally happy trailing along the ground as a ground cover or climbing a support (including trees and walls), can also be grown in a pot with a trellis or even a hanging basket. The tendrils have sticky disks that allow it to attach to just about any surface to help it climb. However, these disks are easily removed as they do not penetrate the walls. The leaves of this plant turn a brilliant red, purple, and mauve in the fall and its blue berries are an extremely important food for migratory birds and small mammals. It is pollinated by bees and other pollinators and the larval host plant for the Virginia creeper sphynx moth (*Darapsa Myron*) and the day flying Grapeleaf skeletonizer moth (*Harrisina americana*) (see photo #1), based on our experience here at the nursery this past year. The thick foliage also provides shelter for wildlife. At the back of the nursery this vine is quite large and a big stop over for quite a few species of birds in the fall (see photo #2). This plant can be aggressive and reseeds easily and can be started from cuttings. Something to consider depending on where you plant it is the potential vigorous growth.



Virginia creeper is an easy-to-grow plant that tolerates urban conditions. It needs a medium amount of water and soils with good drainage. It prefers full or partial sun with full sun producing more brilliant fall colors in the plant's leaves. Don't confuse it with poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*): Virginia creeper tends to have groups of five leaflets while poison ivy normally has groups of three. As a child I learned this rhyme, "Leaves of three, let it be; Leaves of five, let it thrive."

Apparently a dye can be made from the fruits. Fruits are said to be edible but not tasty. The Cherokee used an infusion made from this plant for the treatment of jaundice caused by liver problems. The Creek tribe use this plant as a treatment for gonorrhea. Many northern tribes had myriad medicinal applications for this plant. (FNPS.org Ethnobotany)

Celebrating National Pawpaw Day

The Swallowtail Cocktail

Sunday, September 19, 2021

10 am - 11:30 am

\$25.00/person



Anita Camacho and Jordan Parker will co-present on the swallowtails in the Tampa Bay area, their host plants, habitats, how to ID the different swallowtails, and more!

4111-A Henderson Blvd.,
Tampa, FL 33629

In celebration of National Pawpaw day, mid-month, join us for a presentation by Anita Camacho and Jordan Parker: "The Swallowtail Cocktail". Limited seats available.

\$25.00

REGISTER NOW

Calling All Volunteers

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



UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

CFC Butterfly Garden Maintenance: Sept. 9 @ 9:00 am- NOON

Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation partners in monthly maintenance at the Center for Conservation for the pollinator garden installed in early 2020. Volunteers are needed to help with pollinator garden maintenance at the Center for Conservation in Apollo Beach (529 Estuary Shore Lane) managed by the Florida Aquarium and Florida Fish and Wildlife.

To volunteer, click or copy and paste into a browser: <https://volunteersignup.org/93RXR>

CFC Butterfly Garden Maintenance: Sept. 23 @ 9:00 am- NOON

Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation partners in monthly maintenance at the Center for Conservation for the

pollinator garden installed in early 2020. Volunteers are needed to help with pollinator garden maintenance at the Center for Conservation in Apollo Beach (529 Estuary Shore Lane) managed by the Florida Aquarium and Florida Fish and Wildlife.

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

Encore! Technology Park: Sept. 27 @ 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

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/AMAXM>

TBBF Hell Strip Habitat Expansion: Sept. 30 @ 8:30 am - 11:30 am & 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

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/BXETE>

"Thankful For Nature" Kids' Camp Assistants: November 22-24, 8 am - 1 pm

Adult or High School volunteers are needed to assist with our nature camps for children 5-11 years old. We will have a planning meeting one week in advance of camp (date and time TBD).

To volunteer, click or copy and paste into a browser: <https://volunteersignup.org/4FJKR>



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, their caterpillars and chrysalis as well as a few native reptiles Tuesdays through Sundays. While the education exhibit is currently free, we do accept donations for Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation for education, research, habitat restoration and conservation for butterflies and native plants in our area. Please keep visiting [Butterfly Conservatory of Tampa Bay](https://www.butterflyconservatoryoftampabay.org) website for updates regarding our Grand Opening. For updates, visit:

Registration will begin October 1



Ages: 5 - 11
8:30 am. - 12:30 pm.
November 22 -24
\$150

4111-A Henderson Blvd.,
Tampa, FL 33629

THANKFUL
FOR NATURE
CAMP



outdoor games, animal encounters,
 art projects, interactive activities,
 butterfly releases

BUTTERFLYTAMPA.COM



Discover nature
 through fun
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Monthly Calendar of Events

September 4: *National Wildlife Day*
 September 5: *Amazon Rainforest Day*
 September 6: *Labor Day*
 September 7: *Wildlife Migration Day*
 September 16: *National Pawpaw Day* - Join us as we celebrate with *The Swallowtail Cocktail* on September 19.
 September 18: *National Cleanup Day*
 September 25: *National Daughters' Day*
 September 26: *World Environmental Health Day*
 September 28: *National Sons' Day*

Visit Little Red Wagon Native Nursery

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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Little Red Wagon Native Nursery



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