

If you cannot see images, please [click here](#)

# Little Red Wagonful

*Nurturing Nature One Wagon at a Time*



## November 2021

**T**hanks for time to be together, turkey, talk, and tangy weather.

**H** for harvest stored away, home, and hearth, and holiday.

**A** for autumn's frosty art, and abundance in the heart.

**N** for neighbors, and November, nice things, new things to remember.

**K** for kitchen, kettles' croon, kith and kin expected soon.

**S** for sizzles, sights, and sounds, and something special that about.

That spells THANKS for joy in living and a jolly good Thanksgiving. ~ Aileen Fisher

**A**s we head into the holiday season, please remember to support local small businesses. Stop by to shop for nature-inspired and unique holiday gifts at Little Red Wagon Native Nursery's Gift shop. We also have gift cards available at the shop and online.

## Butterflies of the Month



## Tawny Emperor & Hackberry Emperor

People who describe the Tawny Emperor as a non-descript, medium-sized butterfly completely miss the joy they inspire. There's something magical about the way these butterflies frolic and chase either other and then zig and zag closer to people, teasing them as they look for a source of salt. Visually similar to Hackberry Emperors, the two types of butterflies are easily distinguished when the butterflies' wings are open: Tawny Emperors have two complete bars on the front wing (see Photos 1, 3); one of these is "hacked" on the Hackberry Emperor. (See Photo 2.) Additionally, Hackberry Emperors have a strong eyespot that can be seen when the wings are both open and closed. (See Photo 2, 4.)

Female Tawny Emperors lay clusters of white eggs on the underside of hackberry tree leaves (*Celtis spp.*) or on its bark. Caterpillars are green with yellow and white stripes that run the length of its body. They can overwinter (typically in small groups of ten or so caterpillars) in dried leaves that they make into a hibernaculum. Caterpillars attach this protective structure to the tree's stem with silk so that it remains on the tree throughout the winter.

In Florida, we're lucky enough to have three generations of Tawny Emperors each year. The closest we've found them to Tampa Bay is Celery Fields in Sarasota. There, we've seen both Tawny Emperors and Hackberry Emperors in September and October. We're still looking to find them in Tampa Bay – if you see them, please let us know where!

## Host Plant Of The Month

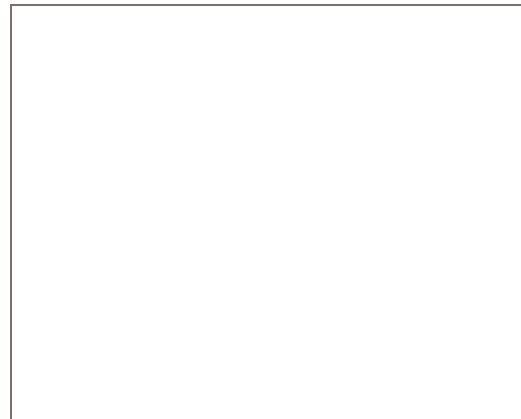
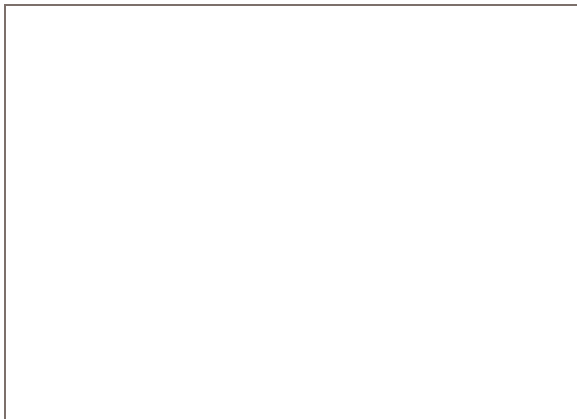




### Southern Hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*)

Sugarberry or Southern Hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*) is a deciduous tree with a round crown. The tree easily grows to 50-70 feet tall with a canopy as broad as the tree's height and a trunk diameter of 3 feet. Its branching structure and bark have been described as remarkably similar to that of the American Beech. Sugarberry is commonly found along streams, woodlands, and low-lying bottomlands across its native habitat which includes much of the southern United States: it ranges from Virginia to Florida, westward through Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The tree tolerates clay soils and thrives in fertile, sandy loam soils.

The tree's common name describes the tree's very sweet, very juicy berries which are a favorite of at least ten species of birds including robins, mockingbirds, and cedar waxwings. Some small mammals also enjoy the tasty fruit. Birds frequently nest in the tree and its leaves are food for the caterpillars of the Hackberry Emperors, Tawny Emperors, American Snout and Question Mark butterflies.





American Snout



Question Mark

A number of Native American tribes used Sugarberry: the Houma made a concentrate from the tree's bark to treat sore throats. The Comanche mixed pulp from the berry with animal fat for food while the Acoma, Navajo and Tewa ate its berries. The Navajo made dye from Sugarberry's leaves and branches.

Sugarberry is drought resistant and resistant to most debilitating pests. (It is, however, parasitized by mistletoe.) The University of Florida recommends that homeowners have an arborist prune this tree several times during its first 15 years to prevent the development of multiple trunks or weak branch crotches. If you have ever been lucky enough to visit Savannah, GA, you may well have seen it; Savannah plants it widely as a street tree.

Have you seen them here in Tampa Bay? If so, why not post a photo with its location to our [Facebook page](#)? We'd love to see more of them in our area. If we know where the trees are, there is a good chance we will see the butterflies during their season in Florida.

[SHOP NOW](#)

## Nectar Plant Of The Month





### Frostweed

Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*) is a perennial wildflower in the Aster family whose native habitat includes the moist edges of forests and stream banks from Pennsylvania west to central Texas and south to Florida. With clusters of showy, 3-6 inch white disc flowers that branch off a winged stem, this plant can easily grow to 4-6 feet and typically blooms from August through first frost when its stem splits as its sap and water seep out and freeze into curled icy ribbons. The plant then becomes an interesting garden focal point until temperatures rise and the ice sculpture melts. An important nectar source for native bees and butterflies (including Monarchs, Pipevine Swallowtails, and Great Purple Hairstreaks), frostweed also supports Spring Azure and Silvery Checkerspot caterpillars further to our north. Frostweed is a great transitional plant between fully manicured garden areas and more natural wildflower plantings. Plant it with Spanish needles (*Bidens alba*) for an all-white long-lasting feast for pollinators or interject pops of purple with blazing stars (*Liatris* spp.) for a fall bounty for bees and butterflies. Frostweed can tolerate a range of sun and moisture conditions: full sun and drier conditions promote a more compact form and more blooms. Pruning by 1/3 in May or June will also promote a fuller plant.

**\$9.00 / 1 gallon**

**SHOP NOW**

**Garden Swag**



### Get Your Swagon!

Whether it's Friendsgiving or another holiday get together, these nature-inspired items are elegant and functional for entertaining during the holiday season. They also make great hostess gifts...even if the hostess is you! Stop by Little Red Wagon Native Nursery's gift shop before your next holiday gathering.

[SHOP NOW](#)

**Design with Vines**





### Fairy Hats

Fairy Hats (*Clematis crispa*) is a semi-woody twining vine that grows to 10 feet in length. Native to swamps and flood plains of the southeast US, this plant is known for its fragrance and showy lavender-pink-white flowers that attract hummingbirds, butterflies, bees and numerous other insects. Spring and fall blooms give way to attractive, spider-like seed heads with a silky tail.

Although heat tolerant, the plant cannot tolerate dry conditions and drought can be fatal. Use it as a trailing ground cover in your rain garden or along a stream or plant it on a trellis where you can regularly water it. Fairy hats pair well with swamp twinflower (*Dyschoriste humistrata*) and marsh rattlesnake (*Eryngium aquaticum*). Please note: fairy hats have high severity poison characteristics with the potential to cause convulsions and confusion. It is toxic to dogs, cats, horses. Contact dermatitis is a problem for some people, so please use garden gloves when handling and be sure to plant only in areas where it won't be a problem for your family or pets.

**\$9.00 / 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:

**TBBF Hell Strip Habitat Maintenance: Nov. 16 @ 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm**

Volunteers are needed to perform Hell Strip Habitat maintenance (4110 W. Estrella St.).

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

**CFC Butterfly Garden Maintenance: Nov. 18 @ 9 am - 11:00 am**

The Florida Aquarium, Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation and FWC's Suncoast Youth Conservation Center are looking for volunteers to assist with habitat maintenance at Center for Conservation site of the Florida Conservation and Technology Center in Apollo Beach (529 Estuary Shore Lane) as well as their Adopt a Road site along Dickman Road.

To volunteer, click or copy and paste into a browser: <https://volunteersignup.org/7DMKA>

**"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>

**Encore! Technology Park: Nov. 29 @ 9 am - 11:00 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, click or copy and paste into a browser: <https://volunteersignup.org/84KRM>



### 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](http://www.ButterflyTampa.com) website for updates regarding our Grand Opening. For updates, visit:

[www.ButterflyTampa.com](http://www.ButterflyTampa.com)

## Thankful for Nature Kids' Camp



**Ages: 5 - 11**  
**8:30 am. - 12:30 pm.**  
**November 22 -24**  
**\$150**  
**4111-A Henderson Blvd.,**  
**Tampa, FL 33629**



outdoor games, animal encounters, art projects, interactive activities, butterfly releases  
**BUTTERFLYTAMPA.COM**



We have a few spots left, register before the program is full!

**REGISTER NOW**

## Monthly Calendar of Events

November 1 & 2: *Day of the Dead*  
 November 11: *Veteran's Day*  
 November 15: *National Recycling Day--Return pots to LRW after planting.*  
 November 19: *National Camp Day*



**TAMPA BAY BUTTERFLY FOUNDATION**

# BUTTERFLY WALK

**Sunday, Nov. 21**  
**9:30 - 11:30 am**

*Register to join us!*

**Picnic Island**  
 7404 Picnic Island Blvd, Tampa  
 Meet near Pavilion 605

© RON SMITH

Join Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation on a butterfly walk at Picnic Island in South Tampa. We will start out around the southern most part of the park and work our way to the entrance toward the end. Species that could be seen include Cloudless sulphur, Orange-barred sulphur, White peacock, Zebra longwing, Viceroy, Statira sulphur, Dainty sulphur, Common buckeye, Mangrove buckeye, Fiery skipper, Gulf fritillary, Phaon crescent, Cassius blue, Ceraunus blue, Monarch, Common white checkered skipper, Tropical white checkered skipper, and more. This is a new location that may be part of the North American Butterfly Association count circles for Tampa Bay. Come be a part of monitoring populations of butterflies in this beautiful park.

**REGISTER TO JOIN US**

November 22-24: *Thankful for Nature Kids' Camp*  
 November 25: *LRWNN Closed - Have a Happy Thanksgiving\**  
 November 26: *Green Friday*  
 November 27: *Shop Local: Small Business Saturday*

\*While Little Red Wagon Native Nursery is closed on Thanksgiving Day, we are back open on Green Friday, November 26 and all weekend. Bring your friends and family so you can start a butterfly garden or add some





cool new natives to your landscape to help butterflies and other pollinators.

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

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

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

This email was sent to [[contact.email]] because you've subscribed on our site or made a purchase.  
[Unsubscribe](#)



Little Red Wagon Native Nursery



@nurturenative

omnisend

Ecommerce Email Marketing