

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

# Little Red Wagonful

*Nurturing Nature One Wagon at a Time*



September 2022

September... where fall and summer meet. ~Will Wallace Harney

September is the first of the "ber" months to usher us into the fall season and make us take note that the holiday season is around the corner. There are so many things to love and look forward to during this month; even though it may still be hotter than blazes, pumpkin spice is here!

## Butterfly of the Month



© John Lampkin

Barred yellow (Barred sulphur)

Barred Yellows are small beauties (wingspan typically only 1 ¼- 1 ½ inches) that often confound new butterflyers. You see, Barred Yellows have four distinct forms (male and female; summer and winter) and have wings that vary in color from white to light grey to pale yellow to rust. (See Photo 1 for summer form and Photo 2 for winter form) Both males and females have a brownish-black bar along the outer margin of their forewings; males also have a bar across the inner margin of their forewings.



Fortunately, there aren't very many butterflies in our area that look like Barred Yellows. The closest would be the Dainty Sulphur, which is easy to differentiate: the Dainty Sulphur has two strong black spots on the bottom of its forewing. (See Photo 3)

Females lay slender, spindle-shaped whitish eggs singly on the new growth of host plants in the pea family. (In our area, its host plant is Pencil Flower (*Stylosanthes biflora*).) Caterpillars are slender, bright green and have either thin yellow or white lines along its sides. Here in Florida, there are at least three generations each year and caterpillar season is February through November.

(Although I've never seen it, the Alabama Butterfly Atlas notes that Barred Yellow courtship is an amazing sight: "An amorous male sidles up to a potential female partner and unhinges a forewing and then proceeds to wave it in her face while simultaneously releasing sex-inducing pheromones. If she is previously unmated and sufficiently impressed, mating occurs.")

Barred Yellows cannot tolerate freezing temperatures; adults from Florida will populate states bordering us to the north in the early summer; others will return to the state in advance of cold weather. According to the Florida Museum at the University of Florida, adults overwinter in reproductive diapause.

Adult Barred Yellows are generalists that can be found in disturbed sites, sand dunes and dry coastal areas, scrubs, and other sunny, open areas. Here at the nursery, we frequently see them nectaring on Spanish Needles (*Bidens alba*).

According to iNaturalist, people in our area have recently seen Barred Yellows at Fort De Soto, the Skyway Approach, and over in St. Petersburg. In Tampa we have seen them at Picnic Island during our butterfly counts and butterfly walks. How about you? Reach out to us on [Facebook](#) and let us know where you're seeing them.

Fun fact – summer form is lighter as this coloration helps the butterfly regulate temperature by letting heat out, conversely winter form is darker to retain heat during cooler months – additionally both forms help them to camouflage during the seasons better.



## Host Plant Of The Month



© Cori Campos

### Pencil Flower (*Stylosanthes biflora*)

**Pencil Flower** (*Stylosanthes biflora*) is a delicate-looking, evergreen perennial that grows 6 to 12 inches tall. A member of the legume family, Pencil Flowers have very small (less than ½ inch), sunshine yellow-orange flowers whose five petals form the “banner, wings, and keel” so typical of the classic pea flower. Flowers are produced individually from the axils of the leaves and although the plant will only have a few flowers blooming simultaneously, Pencil Flower will typically produce blooms for a month or more from mid-spring to early fall.

Pencil Flower is native to the eastern and central parts of the US from New York west to the eastern parts of Texas and Oklahoma and south to the central part of Florida. It is the larval host plant for Barred Yellows and a leaf beetle (*Sumitrosis ancoroides*). Its flowers attract bees and butterflies. Deer, turkey, quail, and rabbit will eat its leaves.

Pencil Flower prefers acidic, nutrient-poor soils. It will grow in full sun or partial shade. Historically found in well-drained sandy uplands, prairies, and savannas, Pencil Flower can also be seen in old fields and along roadside edges. The plant can tolerate short periods of drought once established.

Pencil Flower is a great alternative to turf in areas without a lot of foot traffic. It can also be used very successfully in rock gardens, on slopes, and as part of a mixed planting in a patio pot. It is symbiotic with bacteria that fixes nitrogen from air and as such can help restore degraded soils.

Why not try planting it with some [Partridge Pea](#) (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*) for a lovely yellow combo to brighten your day, or pair it with [Frogfruit](#) (*Phyla nodiflora*) as an alternative to turf?

(Fun Fact. According to [NC State's Cooperative Extension](#), Pencil Flower's Latin name is derived from the Greek stylo and anthos which translates to style flower. This refers to the plant's stalk-like calyx tube that surrounds flower's pistil. The common name Pencil Flower also derives from the plant structure, since it resembles the wood surrounding lead in a pencil.)

[Shop now](#)

## Garden Swag



### Garden SwagON

Get your Swagon! Celebrate butterflies 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 butterfly decorated planters feature a doublewalled 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](#)





Here are some plants that will be blooming this fall:

- **Blazing Star** - *Liatris gracillis*
- **Elegant Blazing Star** - *Liatris elegans*
- **Scrub Blazing Star** - *Liatris tenuifolia*
- **Spiked Blazing Star** - *Liatris spicata*
- **Pinebarren Goldenrod** - *Solidago fitulosa*
- **Seaside Goldenrod** - *Solidago sempervirens*
- **Slender Goldenrod** - *Solidago stricta*
- **Chapman's Goldenrod** - *Solidago odora* var. *chapmanii*
- **Muhly Grass** - *Muhlenbergia capillaris*
- **Frost Aster** - *Symphyotrichum pilosum*
- **Climbing Aster** - *Symphyotrichum craolinianum*
- **Elliott's Aster** - *Symphyotrichum elliotii*
- **Stoke's Aster** - *Stokesia laevis*
- **Salt Bush** - *Baccharis halimifolia*
- **Chalky Bluestem** - *Andropogon virginicus* var. *glaucus*
- **Tropical Sage** - *Salvia coccinea*
- **Frostweed** - *Verbesina virginica*
- **Giant Ironweed** - *Vernonia gigantea*
- **Narrowleaf Ironweed** - *Vernonia angustifolia*
- **Tall Elephantsfoot** - *Elephantopus elatus*

## Nectar Plant of the Month



### Slender Blazing Star (*Liatris gracilis*)

Slender Blazing Star (*Liatris gracilis*) is a 2- to 4-foot tall, spiky bloomer that provides a full 360 degrees of visual appeal with a foot or more of tiny, star-like rosy-purple disc flowers emerging at the top of a single stem. The most common of Florida's 16 native species of Blazing Stars, Slender Blazing Star is one that tells us fall is here: in our area, it typically begins to bloom in late September or early October and continues to bloom through November.

Slender Blazing Star is natively found in the Southeastern Coastal Plain in habitats that include Longleaf Pine, Palmetto-Scrub Oak, sand scrubs, and mesic to wet flatwoods. It requires full sun but is adaptable to a range of moisture and soil conditions. It is extremely drought-tolerant once established. Slender Blazing Star has been [vouchered](#) in almost every county in Florida and is a beneficial nectar source for our native bees and butterflies.

This Florida native is great in the home landscape at the back of a butterfly garden or cutting garden. It makes equally impressive statements in formal and more natural landscapes. Combine it with [Goldenrods](#) (*Solidago spp.*) and native grasses like [Bluestems](#) (*Andropogon spp.*) and [Wiregrass](#) (*Aristida stricta*) to put a little bit of the Real Florida in your garden.

(Fun Fact: The Latin word 'gracilis' means slender and refers to the plant's single stem.)

[SHOP NOW](#)



## Design With Vines

### Calusa Grape (*Vitis shuttleworthii*)



Calusa Grape (*Vitis shuttleworthii*) is a woody vine endemic to peninsular Florida that is considered a moderately high climber: it will easily grow to heights of 20 to 30 feet. With a common name that refers to the Calusa who were early inhabitants of the southwest coast of Florida from Tampa Bay to Cape Sabal and Cape Florida, the plant has attractive dark red to purple-black berries that can be eaten raw, made into jellies, or used to produce wine (if small mammals and birds don't devour them first!) The plant was also used by the Miccosukee/Mikasuki Seminole Nation to make deer snares.

The Calusa Grape is the direct ancestor of the cultivated "Stover" grape and, given its resistance to a number of diseases and pests, is considered a valuable wild relative to the cultivated common grape (*Vitis vinifera*). (For a fascinating read on Florida's other grapes (including the native *Vitis rotundifolia* and escaped cultivars) please see [this resource](https://nsr.soundestlink.com/view/63124d778781f5001ceeb971/0).)

The Calusa Grape's natural habitat includes moist forests and pinelands, woodland borders, fencerows and thickets. The plant can grow in full sun or partial shade. It grows best in moist, loamy soils or soils with

a humusy top layer. Some resources indicate that the plant requires an intermediate fire interval as burns that are too frequent or absent may eliminate the population.

Interestingly, a [USDA](#) report from 2000 recommends the establishment of four in situ conservation sites in Florida to help preserve the Calusa Grape. Although the recommendations were never implemented, two of the four sites are nearby: one is in Hillsborough River State Park and the other is in Myakka River State Park.

Do you have Calusa Grape in your garden? Why not email your photos to [info@ButterflyTampa.com](mailto:info@ButterflyTampa.com). We'd love to see how you #NurtureNative.

## KIDS' CORNER



Register: Oct. 17



Register: Nov. 11





Fall is here and here are some ways to keep the kids entertained with our Thankful for Nature camps during school breaks. Dive into the world of creepy crawlies during our October camp by learning about spooky pollinators. Or learn why we should remain grateful for nature, and more importantly, bugs during our Nature camps in November. Every camp offers a look into a bug's life and teaches about the fascinating world just below our feet. Every camper will get the opportunity to meet our animal ambassadors and release butterflies (weather permitting).

Register: Nov. 21-23



**REGISTER: January 2-6**



**REGISTER: January 9**



Check out this butterfly finger puppet!

The wings will flap as you flutter around town. It's like having your own butterfly as a pet! With a soft printed fabric design, the extraordinary and realistic detailing of the Folkmanis® finger puppets will surely pollinate the imagination and nurture sweet acts of conservation.

**SHOP NOW**



#### POLLINATOR WORD SEARCH



N Q X Y T L N K T G J K Q F Y  
Q B U T T E R F L Y B I R D V  
H V E S B M M L T A I J B F Z  
A P O L L I N A T E N P P S C  
J F O W U D J I A Z D T V B M  
N U F O L R G Y M O N A R C H  
Z A E X H U M M I N G B I R D  
Z J T B R S W T B L E A Z S U  
F B S U A N L K A E M A L R E  
L E O Q R W X I U L E Q N M M  
O E D Q D E L J Z B J T U F O  
W Q F L I E S O J A J U L B P  
E H J X H P E T S T R I V E Q  
R E G O G Y D T X S R D S V S  
S S M E M N O Q I X C O S H V

Hummingbird  
Beetles  
Flower

Butterfly  
Monarch  
Pollinate

Lizards  
Nature  
Bats

Flies  
Bee



#### Did you know?



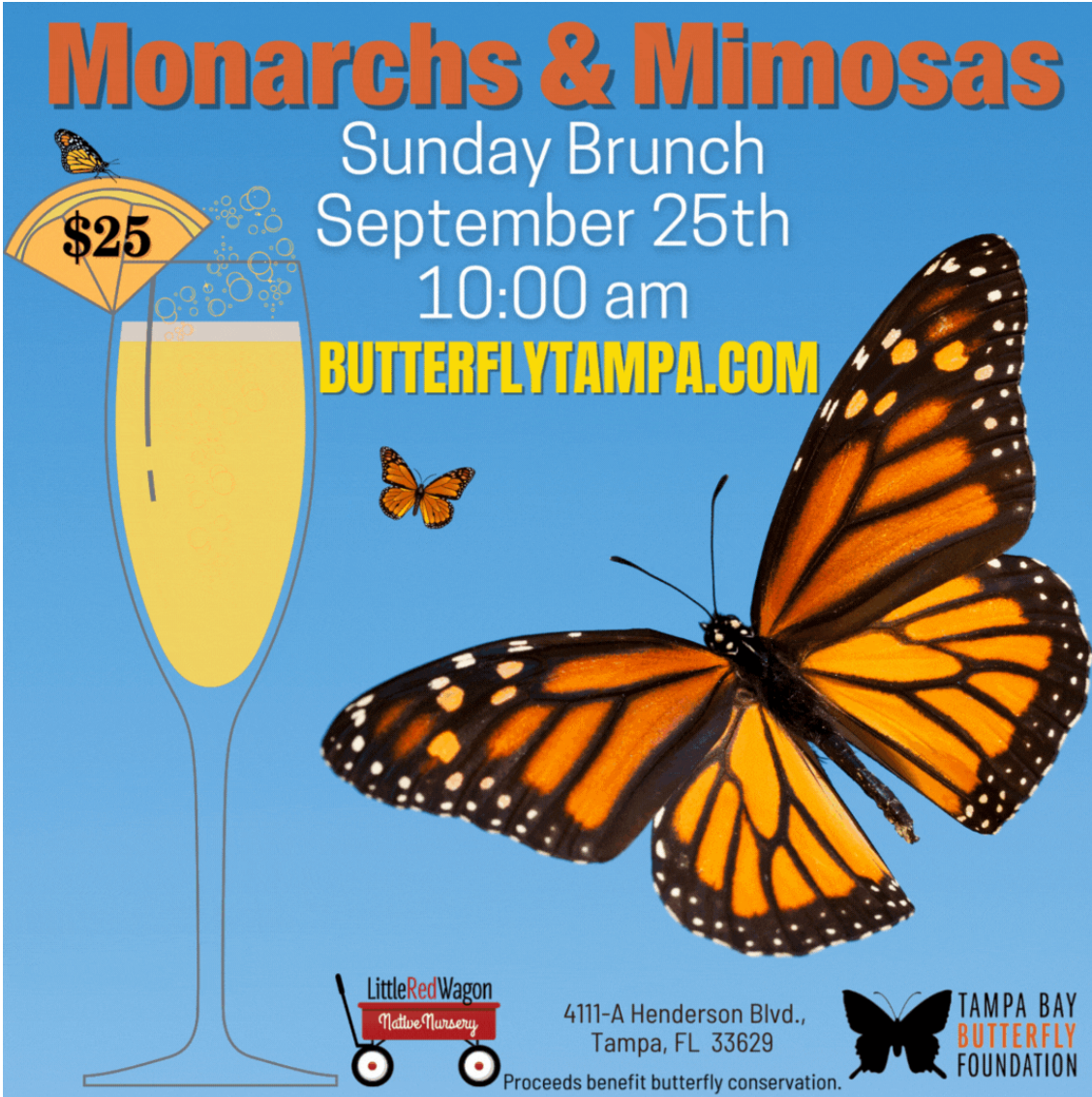
Bees make your strawberries last longer!

This month's wacky fact originates from a recent study that discovered bee pollination is superior to hand or wind pollination. The bees are more thorough at their job making a superior strawberry. When a strawberry is properly pollinated it has the potential to improve the quality and shelf-life. This is another reason to celebrate our beloved bees.

**CLICK HERE**  
to download and print  
the Pollinator word search  
(and answer key).

**Fall Event**





**Monarchs & Mimosas**  
 Sunday Brunch  
 September 25th  
 10:00 am  
**BUTTERFLYTAMPA.COM**

\$25

LittleRedWagon  
 Native Nursery

4111-A Henderson Blvd.,  
 Tampa, FL 33629

Proceeds benefit butterfly conservation.

TAMPA BAY  
 BUTTERFLY  
 FOUNDATION

Every fall, monarch butterflies will travel thousands of miles from Canada to Mexico for the winter. You can make a significant impact by supporting monarchs on their journey. Join us for Sunday brunch and learn about the native plants that will provide nectar for monarchs when they stop to rest and re-fuel. Brunch with mimosas for adults, and a complimentary raffle ticket, are included.

**REGISTER**

## “Diggin’ in to Restore Butterfly Habitat in Tampa Bay”

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



**UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**  
 (All events are subject to change due to weather.)

**Fred Ball Park: Sept. 14 @ 9:00 – 11:00 am**

Volunteers are needed to help maintain the Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation-sponsored butterfly garden at 2621 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33629 (next to the Rose Circle Garden Club).

To volunteer, click or copy and paste into a browser: <https://volunteersignup.org/3Y8AY>

**CFC Butterfly Garden Maintenance: Sept. 22 @ 9:00 – 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/BAJWP>

**Hell Strip Habitat Maintenance: Sept. 24 @ 9:30 – 11:30 am**

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/39EC3>

**Encore! Technology Park: Sept. 30 @ 9:30 – 11:30 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/HJHWJ>

**Kids' Nature Camp Assistants: Fall & Winter @ 7:45 am - 3:15 pm**

We need help in October, November and January. More dates to be announced in upcoming months for 2023.

To volunteer for **Fall Camps**, click or copy and paste into a browser: <https://volunteersignup.org/ARX4F>

To volunteer for **2023 Camps**, click or copy and paste into a browser: <https://volunteersignup.org/9FXAF>

**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.

**VOLUNTEER WITH US!**





**TAMPA BAY BUTTERFLY FOUNDATION** **NABA** North American Butterfly Association

# Butterfly Walk

at **Picnic Island**

**SEPTEMBER 17**  
**10:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Non-NABA Members: \$5**

**BUTTERFLYTAMPA.COM**

7404 Picnic Island Blvd, South Tampa

Join Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation and NABA Tampa Bay on a butterfly walk at Picnic Island. This will be free for NABA members. Non-NABA members fee: \$5. Please bring payment morning of event. Picnic Island is located at 7404 Picnic Island Boulevard in South Tampa. Please register by clicking the link below.

[REGISTER](#)

## Pardon Our Metamorphosis

Visit our temporary butterfly education exhibit inside Little Red Wagon Native Nursery during our normal business hours while the Butterfly Conservatory is in permitting to be built. 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 our website for updates regarding our Grand Opening.

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

## Monthly Calendar of Events



### 2nd Birthday Raffle

Thank you to all of our wonderful customers for coming out this past weekend to celebrate 2 years at our current location.

Congratulations to this year's raffle winner for the Monarch Delight garden in a pot: **Stephanie Simpson!**

We will be having more raffles so continue to stop by our gift shop to purchase raffle tickets.

Proceeds from Little Red Wagon Native Plant Nursery and Gift shop go to benefit Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation's work in our local community. Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation focuses on increasing habitat for butterflies and pollinators, education and research.

September 3: *National Hummingbird Day*  
 September 4: *National Wildlife Day*  
 September 5: *Labor Day*  
 September 15 - Oct. 15: *Hispanic Awareness Month*  
 September 19: *National Recycle Awareness Week begins*

**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](#) | [Edit preferences](#)

