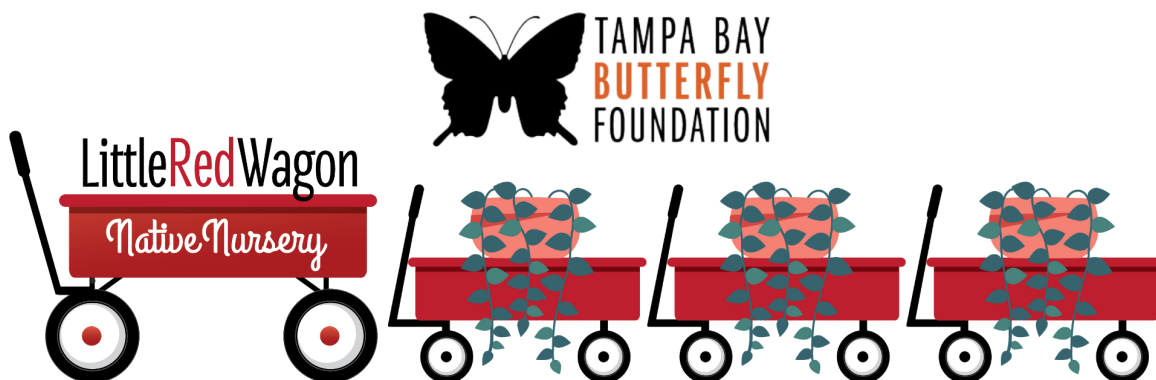


If you cannot see images, please [click here](#)

LITTLE RED WAGONFUL

Nurturing Nature One Wagon at a Time

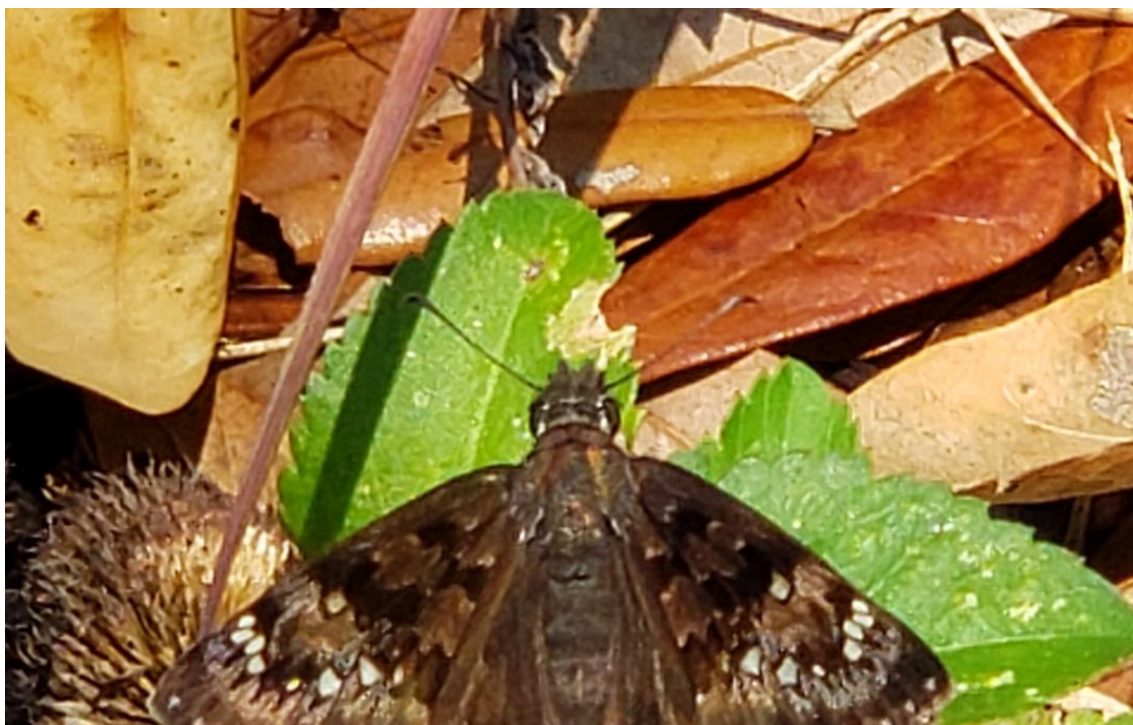


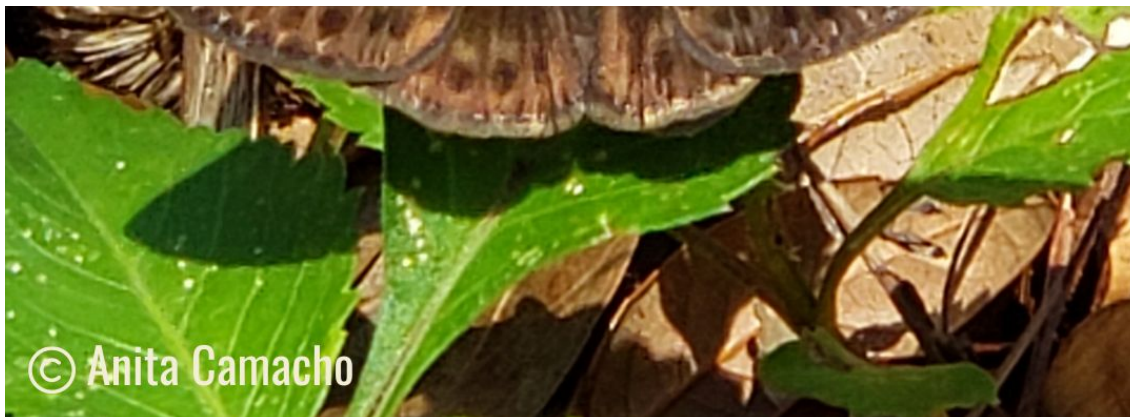
August 2023

Anyone who thinks sunshine is pure happiness, has never gardened in the rain...
wishing for some Happy rainy days! – Anita Camacho

August reminds us it's back to school month and soon the summer heat will be transitioning to Fall weather.

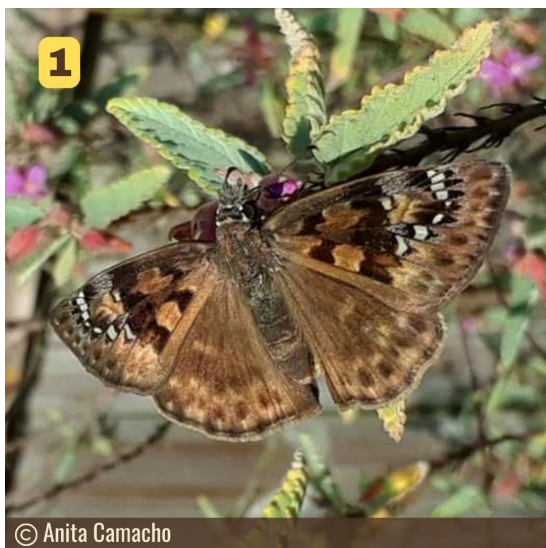
Butterfly of the Month





Horace's Duskywing

Horace's Duskywings are medium-sized brown skippers with a typical wingspan of 1 ½ to 1 ¾ inches. Males are a darker brown and have less of a contrasting pattern than females. Both males and females have four transparent white spots upper leading edge of the forewing and three additional spots that form a triangle slightly towards the butterfly's body. Horace's Duskywings have wing fringe that is light brown or beige. Females are usually lighter brown with larger spots on the upper forewing (see photo 1) while males are typically darker than females, with smaller white spots, and frequently seen puddling (see photo 2).



Puddling is a behavior where butterflies sip moisture from mud puddles and take in salts and minerals from the soils. Males incorporate those extra salts and minerals for reproduction. Females will also puddle, but it is less common. Sometimes butterflies will also puddle in what we call an "enriched sight" aka dung.

Female Horace's Duskywings lay pale green eggs singly on the new growth of oaks. These trees are the requisite food source for her caterpillars. Caterpillars cut these leaves and silk them together to make a place to hide from predators. In Florida we have 3 broods per year and the caterpillars of the last brood of the year will hibernate.

Horace's Duskywings are commonly seen in woodlands and edges, open fields, roadsides and gardens with oak trees in near proximity. They enjoy a variety of nectar sources including goldenrods, Teabush (see photo 1), Sneezeweed, Buttonbush, Fleabane, Bidens alba, and Dune sunflower.

Horace's Duskywings can be found throughout Florida except for the Keys. We regularly see them on our butterfly counts in both Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties.

How about you? Let us know if you see any while you're out and about. Email your photos to info@ButterflyTampa.com. We'd love to know what you find!

Host Plant Of The Month



Southern Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*)

Southern Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*) are long-lived, massive, and picturesque evergreen trees. With horizontal branches spreading as much as 100 feet wide, elbowed limbs that can touch the ground, and a height of 40-60 feet, Southern Live Oaks are the type of tree children love to climb and some adults love to hug. They are incredibly majestic specimen trees and make wonderful shade trees. Southern Live Oaks are also host to a range of epiphytes including orchids, ferns, and Spanish Moss, making them an interesting addition to the landscape both at a distance and up close.

Southern Live Oaks are native to the lower Coastal Plain of the Southeastern United States from southeastern Virginia south to Georgia and Florida west to southern and central Texas and the mountains of northeastern Mexico. They are quite adaptable to a range of soil conditions and can be found growing in the sandy soils of low coastal areas, dry sandy woods, rockland hammocks, moist rich woods, and the edges of floodplains. Their resistance to salt spray and high levels of soil salinity means Southern Live Oaks are great trees to plant near the coast.

While the tree is long-lived and can reach ages of 300 years or more, the [University of Florida](#) notes how important it is to take care “to develop a strong branch structure early in the life of the tree. Be sure to

eliminate multiple trunks and branches which form a narrow angle with the trunk as these are likely to split from the tree as it grows older."

Taking care of your oaks will reward you handsomely. Doug Tallamy, one of my favorite authors and scientists, [notes](#) that oaks are "the most productive plant in the country. Over 900 species of Lepidoptera—and most of them are moths—use oaks and there's no other genus that comes close to that." Indeed, in our area, Southern Live Oaks are the caterpillar host for Horace's Duskywings, Red-Banded Hairstreaks, and White-M Hairstreaks. Hummingbirds eat the tree's pollen. Squirrels, mice, turkeys and a range of other small mammals and birds eat its acorns.

If you're a tree-hugging sort of person, you'll find this [link](#), which lists several of the world's largest oaks, absolutely fascinating. And, if you happen to visit any of them, please take a photo and email it to info@ButterflyTampa.com. We'd love to share your joy!

SHOP NOW

Garden Swag



Get Your SwagON!

Looking for an "Air Bee n' Bee" this summer? Come check out our un-bee-live-able selection of bee houses to encourage these essential pollinators to your garden or outdoor space. Remember, we wouldn't be able to live without the bees! Instead of bees looking for holes in wood or hollow plant cavities, you can provide valuable habitat with a charming bee house. To make your bee house even more inviting to guests, place it next to native plants like Black-eyed Susan, Bee Balm, or Purple Coneflower plants which are all available in our nursery. So, bee line it to our Gift Shop and Nursery to help save the bees!

SHOP NOW

Nectar Plant of the Month



Robin's Plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*)

Robin's Plantain is an easily grown herbaceous biennial or short-lived perennial. With a profusion of tiny daisy-like flowers that top a rough-stemmed stalk, the plant produces blooms for about two weeks in the spring. Although small, (growing only 1.5 feet tall and wide) the plant packs a big bunch: it's a magnet for pollinators of all types ranging from bees to wasps to butterflies. The caterpillars of several moths including the Lynx Flower Moth, Common Pug, and Wavy-Lined Emerald feed on flowers. Mammalian herbivores eat its foliage.

Robin's Plantain is native to the eastern part of the United States from Maine south to some of Florida's northern counties and west to Texas where it is found in open woodlands, stream banks and savannas. The plant performs best in partial sun and average to dry soil moisture conditions.

This plant spreads by stolon and rhizomes, so be sure to plant it in area where you can enjoy its colonizing effort. Mix it with other asters in your garden for a longer bloom season to feed our hungry pollinators.

[SHOP NOW](#)

Design With Vines



Spanish Moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*)

Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*) is a native, perennial epiphytic herb that easily grows to lengths of 25 feet or more and drapes its slender, wiry, branching stems over the host. A quintessential indicator that you're in the south, Spanish moss is native to the coastal plains of the Southeastern United States, along the Gulf west to Texas, and south to Chile and Argentina. The plant will only grow in areas of high humidity and is most often associated with Southern Live Oaks and Bald Cypress, although it can also be found on Pines, Elms, Pecans and occasionally fences and other artificial structures.

Strands of Spanish moss are covered with overlapping permeable silver-grey scales (called trichomes). These trichomes are specially adapted to absorb water and trap nutrients from rain, fog, airborne water vapor, and detritus. Notably, Spanish moss is not parasitic; it has an ability to photosynthesize and uses its host for support only. (However, if Spanish moss grows to be too thick and heavy, it can indirectly harm its host by shielding the host from needed sun and adding too much to the tree's limbs. In this instance, the University of Florida recommends contracting with a professional arborist to remedy the situation to preserve the health and integrity of the host tree.)

Historically, Native Americans [used Spanish moss](#) for a variety of purposes: members of the Houma tribe used Spanish moss to fashion cordage and mats. Seminoles used Spanish moss during the tanning process for hide preparation. [Spanish moss was also used](#) for fire arrows, in plaster made from clay, in canoe-making, and more.

Spanish moss plays an important role in nutrient cycling. Several species of bats roost in its clumps as do Zebra Heliconians; birds gather it to line their nests and yellow-throated warblers and northern parulas nest within living clumps of it. The *Pelegrina tillandsiae* jumping spider only lives in it.

The next time you see this native treasure, why not snap a photo and share it on social media? Help spread the word about its benefits and encourage others to do the same.

KIDS' CORNER



We're sold out of our last Summer Nature Camp but have no fear, we will continue to offer Nature Camps on school breaks for Kindergarten to Grade 5 children. We are currently finalizing our Fall and Winter Nature Camps. Please visit our website soon for dates and details on new camp offerings throughout the school year. Every camper will have the opportunity to release a butterfly by the end of the camp session.

[BUTTERFLYTAMPA.COM](https://www.butterflytampa.com)



Leaf Tracing!

You will need: paper, leaves, and a crayon.

1. Place your leaves under your paper on a hard surface.
2. Use your crayon to color over top of the paper around where you placed the leaf.

Be amazed as you see the leaf's pattern show up on the page!



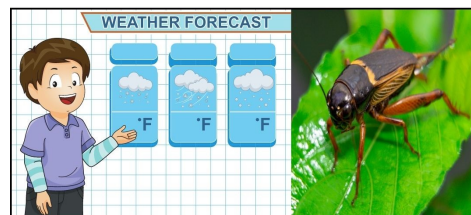
BUTTERFLY LOLLIPOPS

Have fun with this 4" Orange Butterfly after you enjoy this yummy lollipop.

SHOP NOW

WACKY FACT!

Crickets are great weather forecasters. Cricket chirps can help you tell the temperature!



You can manually get temperature outside by counting the number of cricket chirps in a minute and then divide it into 4. The number you get should then be added to 40.

"Diggin' in to Restore Butterfly Habitat in Tampa Bay"

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





Butterfly Alley Maintenance

Volunteers are needed to perform cleanup and maintenance of Butterfly Alley habitat (4110 W. Estrella St., behind Little Red Wagon Native Nursery). We will not be performing maintenance this month but hope you will join us in the future.

VOLUNTEER: August 29



Center for Conservation Maintenance

CFC Habitat Maintenance

The Florida Aquarium, Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation and FWC's Suncoast Youth Conservation Center need 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.

VOLUNTEER: August 17



Encore! Park

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

VOLUNTEER: August 20



Fred Ball Park Maintenance

Fred Ball Park

Volunteers are needed to help maintain the Rose Circle Garden Circle and Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation-sponsored butterfly garden at 2851 Rubideaux St., Tampa, FL 33629 (next to Tampa Garden Club).

VOLUNTEER: August 22

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.

VOLUNTEER

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.

Education Exhibit



Visit our butterfly education exhibit inside Little Red Wagon Native Nursery during our normal business hours. Enjoy seeing 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.

BUTTERFLYTAMPA.COM

Monthly Calendar of Events

- AUGUST 8 National Tarantula Appreciation Day
- AUGUST 10 Hillsborough County Public Schools - First Day of School
- AUGUST 14 World Lizard Day
- AUGUST 19 Celebrate World Honey Bee Day
- AUGUST 20 World Mosquito Day
- AUGUST 22 World Plant Milk Day
- AUGUST 23 World Water Week begins
- AUGUST 26 International Bat Night
- AUGUST 29 Little Red Wagon Native Nursery's 3rd Anniversary



Join us as we celebrate Little Red Wagon Native Nursery's 3rd Anniversary! Purchase raffle tickets to win a \$75 Little Red Wagon Native Nursery gift card. Raffle tickets are \$2.00 for 1 and \$5 for 3 tickets. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Tampa Bay Butterfly Association's conservation efforts. Tickets may be purchased online or in person at our gift shop from now through August 29th. The drawing will take place at 4:00 p.m. on August 29. You do not need to be present to win.

PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS

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

Regular Hours: Mondays: 11-3, Tuesdays - Fridays 11-5:30, Saturdays 10-5:30, Sundays 12-4

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

Visit Little Red Wagon Native Nursery

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