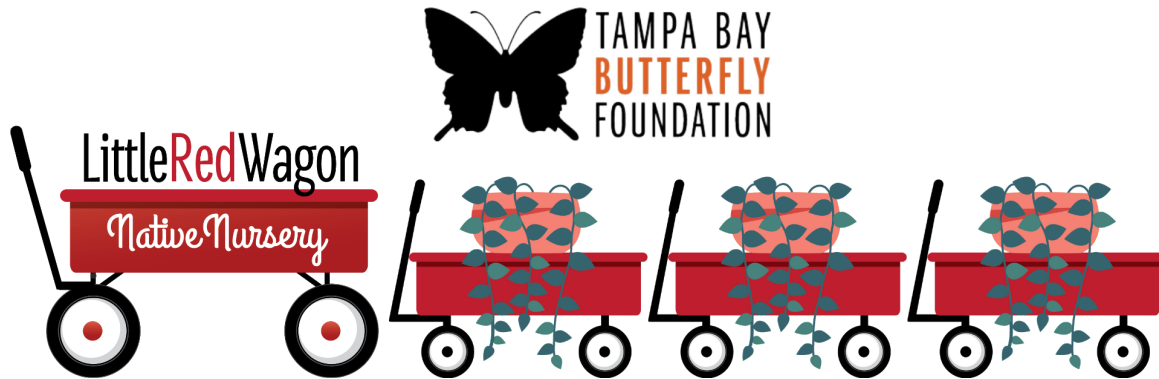


If you cannot see images, please [click here](#)

# LITTLE RED WAGONFUL

*Nurturing Nature One Wagon at a Time*



June 2023

"This is the smell of June . . . honeysuckle, green hay, wet linen hung out to dry." ~Lisa Kleypas

**J**une heralds the official arrival of summer, road trips and vacations are in full swing as school's out!

Looking for something for your Kindergarten to Grade 5 child to do this summer? Check out our Summer Nature Camps which run from June to August. June 21 will be the summer solstice for the northern hemisphere: the day with the most daylight hours...a great day to spend some extra time in the garden! Our nursery is getting shipments every week so come fill your wagon with native plants that are looking for their forever home! Remember...Father's Day is June 18; we have gift cards and a variety of garden accessories to honor Dads on Father's Day.

# Updated Summer Hours

Monday: 11am- 3pm  
Tuesday- Friday: 11am-5:30pm  
Saturday: 10am-5:30pm  
Sunday: 12pm-4pm

Check out our new summer hours! We're now open on Mondays throughout the summer!

## Butterfly of the Month



Julia

Julia Heliconians are graceful, medium-sized (wingspan typically 3 ¼" - 3 5/8") butterflies with long, narrow forewings that remind me of a kayak paddle. Colors of these beauties range from a dull brownish-orange (typically female) to bright orange (typically male). While both sexes have chocolaty brown markings along the outer edges of the top wings, females have noticeably more. (See Photos #1 and 2.)

Adults commonly nectar on *Bidens* spp. and *Lantana* spp. and are known to "trapline." That is, their foraging behavior follows a specific route and predictable sequence of flower visits. (For a fascinating review of this topic, read this [article](#).)

Females lay single, yellow eggs on the tips of vines in the Passionflower family including Whiteflower Passionflower (*Passiflora multiflora*) and Corkystem Passionflower (*Passiflora suberosa*). Caterpillars are black with white lines and spots and black spikes and eat the leaves of their host plant. (See Photo #3.)



Traditionally found in subtropical hammock openings, hammock edges, and nearby fields, Julia Heliconians are more commonly found in areas further to our south (including Naples, West Palm Beach, Miami-Dade, and the Keys), but people have recently seen them in Lakeland at Bonnet Springs Park in Lakeland and at the Fred and Idah Schultz Nature Preserve in Gibsonton. Please let us know if you see any in the Tampa Bay area. Email your photos to [info@ButterflyTampa.com](mailto:info@ButterflyTampa.com). We'd love to see what you find!

## Host Plant Of The Month/Design With Vines



### Whiteflower Passionflower

Whiteflower Passionflower (*Passiflora multiflorus*) is an endangered, climbing 10-foot vine that produces a profusion (think hundreds at a time) of tiny greenish-white flowers. Although tiny and somewhat inconspicuous, these dainty flowers resemble a star-shaped ornament with tiny tassels dangling from the center. With a flowering season that starts in early summer and lasts through the fall, this plant is an easy-to-maintain and interesting addition to almost every garden. It is host to Julia Heliconians, Gulf Fritillaries and Zebra Heliconians. Birds and small mammals also enjoy its dark blue to black fruit.

Whiteflower Passionflower is native to tropical hammocks. It performs best in full sun to partial shade and calcareous soil. Like many of Florida's native plants, once established, White flower Passionflower is somewhat drought resistant. Anita, owner of Little Red Wagon, has this plant growing under an oak canopy in her garden in a large pot and it has been doing well for the past 4 years. So it seems to also do well in shady conditions but it blooms less.

Please note: Given its status as an endangered plant, please ensure you acquire this plant from reputable nurseries to ensure it hasn't been poached from any of remaining wild populations.

[SHOP NOW](#)

**Garden Swag**

**Get Your SwagON!**





June 18 is Father's Day. How about honoring Dad with these Drive products for the dad who likes to golf or spend time outdoors? Or, pick up some native plants and gardening accessories from our Gift Shop.

SHOP NOW



Not sure what to get Dad? Allow Dad to choose by giving him a gift card that never expires so Dad can shop at his convenience. Gift cards are always in stock, never expire and can be purchased online.

SHOP NOW

Nectar Plant of the Month



## Partridgeberry

With tiny, funnel-shaped fragrant white flowers that erupt into bright red berries in late summer or early fall, Partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*) is a delightful (but tiny) evergreen perennial creeping vine. Growing only two inches tall with foot-long trailing stems, Partridgeberry roots where its nodes touch the ground. As a result, the plant can form dense mats, but is easily contained and suitable for smaller sites where it can be used as a groundcover with year-round interest.

Partridgeberry is native to forests, streambanks, and woodlands with rich soils throughout eastern North America from Newfoundland south to Sarasota and DeSoto counties in Florida and west to Ontario, Minnesota, and Texas. In most areas of its native range, the plant prefers dappled sunlight to complete shade and grows in dry, mesic, or moist soils. In our area, the plant cannot tolerate anything but dappled morning sun and is best suited for shady areas that receive regular water.

Partridgeberry's flowers have two forms. In one form, the flower has a short pistil and long stamens; in the other, the flower has a long pistil and short stamens. Flowers must be cross-pollinated to produce berries, with bumblebees being the primary pollinator for the plant. In addition to being a great nectar source for our native bumblebees, Partridgeberry's red berries provide a source of winter food for birds and small mammals.

(Fun fact: According to the [US Forest Service](https://www.usfs.gov/), Linnaeus named the plant's genus (*Mitchella*) in honor of his friend John Mitchell, who developed a treatment for yellow fever. The species name (*repens*) refers to



Patridgeberry's creeping habit.)

[SHOP NOW](#)

## KIDS' CORNER



Sign up for a rewarding summer by mentoring Kindergarten to Grade 5 children during our summer nature camp program. Click the button below to select the week(s) you are available to volunteer. This is a great opportunity for High School students to earn hours for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program and college environmental science students.

[VOLUNTEER](#)



**KIDS SUMMER Nature Camps**

**MAY - AUG. 8 am - 3 pm**

**TAMPA BAY BUTTERFLY FOUNDATION**

**BEST OF FLORIDA 2022 WINNER SUMMER CAMPS**

**BUTTERFLYTAMPA.COM**

**Kindergarten - Grade 5**

**Discover nature through fun and creative activities.**

**4111-A Henderson Blvd., Tampa, FL 33629**

The poster features a vibrant design with a sun wearing sunglasses, a monarch butterfly, and a green leaf with the camp dates. It includes several photographs: a smiling girl, two children in bee suits, and a group of children in a classroom. A red wagon filled with plants and a globe are also depicted. The text is colorful and playful, with 'KIDS' in purple, 'SUMMER' in red, and 'Nature Camps' in blue and green.

Our first two weeks of camps are sold out and only 5 spots left in our June 12 camp: Night Owls & Friends! The rest of our camps are filling up quickly! Register one month in advance of a camp session to get \$25 off the registration fee. Each week of camp will be a different theme, with special wildlife ambassadors to keep campers discovering and learning about nature all summer long! Every camper will have the opportunity to release a butterfly by the end of the camp session.

**REGISTER NOW**





### **BECOME A JUNIOR ENTOMOLOGIST!**

Since insects are so tiny and can be found literally anywhere, they are super easy to study! Get your nature journal or a piece of paper and get to work! Go outside and look for bugs. The best places to look are near lights, under logs, on plants and in the grass. Record what you see and any cool observations! And just like that, you're an entomologist!

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[SHOP NOW](#)

Are you looking for something to read this summer? In *Nature's Best Hope* (Young Readers' Edition), Tallamy empowers kids to use their own yards to help combat the negative effects of climate change. He does so by breaking down complex concepts into simple terms and real-world examples that kids can easily grasp. Black and white photographs help further clarify concepts. In addition to sharing the science, Tallamy encourages kids to take direct action. Some of these ideas include planting an oak tree (one of the most important tree species) at home. If that's too large of a task, he suggests they can plant asters—a beautiful flower whose pollen bees use to feed their young. By helping the next generation see that they have power and agency over our collective future, this empowering book will drive home the positive point that kids are truly nature's best hope. Who knows, maybe this book will empower you or your kid to take up a summer project that transforms your backyard into an oasis for all.

### WACKY FACT!

Bug stings can help you! The most common bug sting people fear is from a bee. These stings often result in the death of the bee which stung you and only a small inconvenience for you. It has been found the bee venom can be used to treat diseases like arthritis!

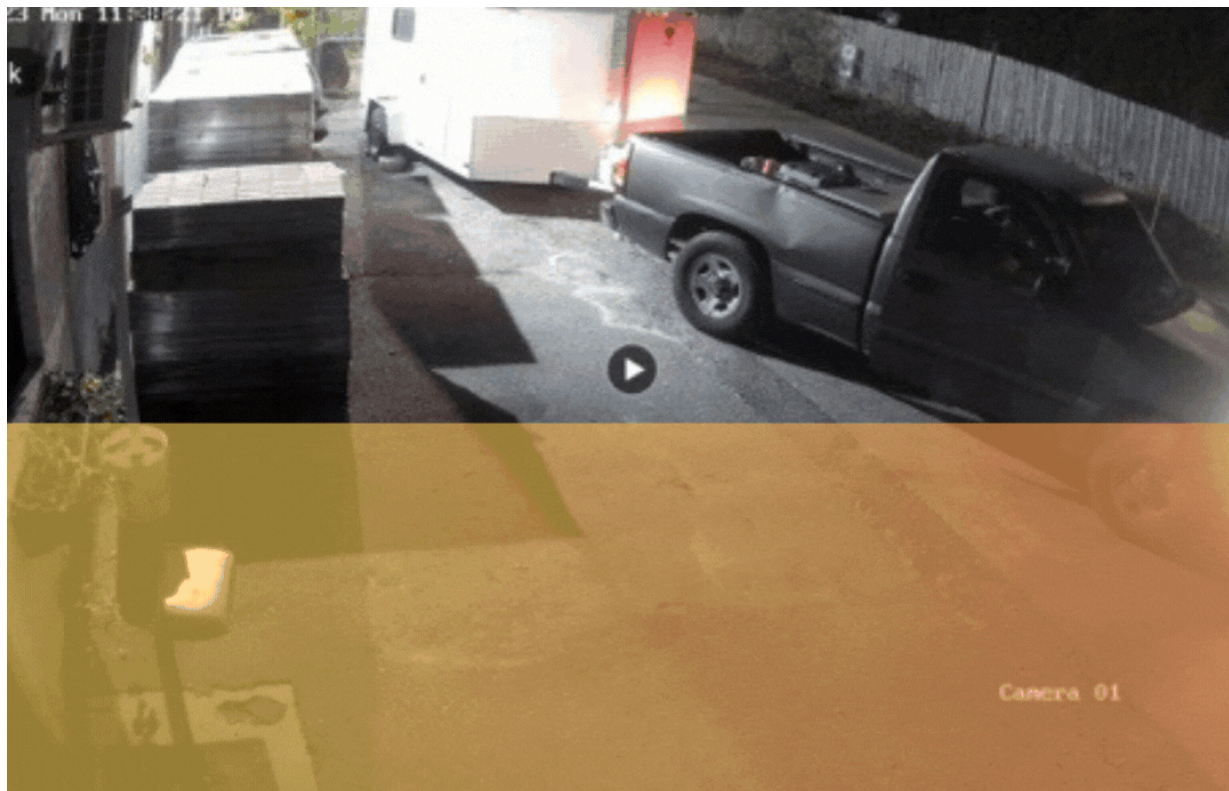


## “Diggin’ in to Restore Butterfly Habitat in Tampa Bay”

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







On the evening of Monday, May 15th, our trailer was stolen. Thanks to our South Tampa neighbors, we were able to recover it after posting the security video footage on our social media pages. Unfortunately, it was damaged during the theft and the initial estimated cost is \$2500. We're asking for donations to help us repair the trailer we depend on for all our community projects. Thanks, in advance, for your generous contribution to this cause that means so much to us! Any additional funds above those needed to fix the trailer will go towards our general conservation efforts.

[DONATE](#)





## 2023 Nature Camp Assistants

We need adults and/or high school students to help with Kids' Summer Nature Camps from 7:45 am to 3:30 pm. A commitment for the full camp session is preferred. All Nature Camps will be held at 4111-A Henderson Blvd. in South Tampa.

**VOLUNTEER: May - August**



## 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.

Keep visiting our website for upcoming dates.



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: June 22**



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).

Keep visiting our website for upcoming dates.

**PALMVIEW PARK****Palmview Park**

Join Little Red Wagon and Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation as we install a butterfly and pollinator garden at Palmview Park next to 605 Bayview Dr, Belleair, FL 33756.

**VOLUNTEER: June 10**

**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

JUNE 1 World Reef Day  
 JUNE 3 The Very Hungry Caterpillar's birthday, Butterfly Education and Awareness Day (BEAD)  
 JUNE 4-10 National Garden Week  
 JUNE 5 World Environment Day  
 JUNE 6 National Animal Rights Day, National Gardening Exercise Day  
 JUNE 8 World Oceans Day  
 JUNE 10 National Herbs and Spices Day -- did you know LRW sells anise plants and other edibles?  
 JUNE 12 World Swallowtail Day  
 JUNE 13 National Weed Your Garden Day  
 JUNE 15 Global Wind Day  
 JUNE 16 World Sea Turtle Day  
 JUNE 17 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought  
 JUNE 18 Father's Day  
 JUNE 19 Juneteenth  
 JUNE 19-25 National Pollinator Week



### Native Edible Plants and Pollinators

Come celebrate Pollinator Week with a talk on our Florida native edible plants and the pollinators that make them fruit.

**JUNE 24 AT 4 PM**

Enjoy light refreshments and mimosas. This adult-only event is only \$15!

**REGISTER NOW**

JUNE 21 Summer Solstice  
 JUNE 22 World Rainforest 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](http://LittleRedWagonNativeNursery.com)

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

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

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

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