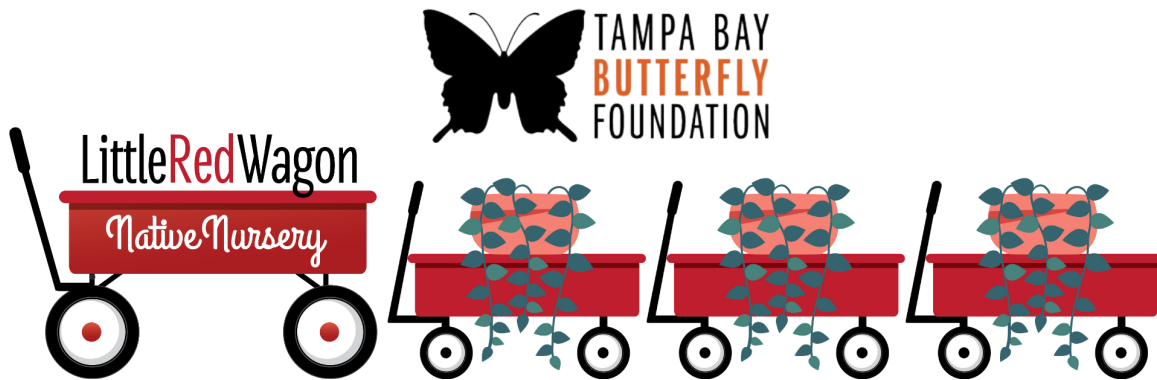


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LITTLE RED WAGONFUL

Nurturing Nature One Wagon at a Time



November 2023

"It fluttered past an autumn tree
In yellow-gold it caught my eye
The last of summer's fleeing warmth
A lovely little butterfly."
~Laura Jaworski



This month we get an extra hour of sleep, as Daylight Savings ends, and November reminds us we have so many things to be thankful for with Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. We would like to sincerely express appreciation and gratitude to our loyal customers who voted us Guide to Florida's Best Home & Garden Shop in 2023. Register for our November 4th workshop to create your own Butterfly Garden in a

Pot, which will make a great holiday gift or a great treat for yourself. Then join us for a fun family event with our Fall Festival on November 18 (detailed events in our Calendar of Events section below). Gift cards are always in stock so please stop by on "Green" Friday and Small Business Saturday as the holiday shopping season begins.

Butterfly of the Month



Orange-barred Sulphurs

With wingspans that can approach 4 inches, Orange-barred Sulphurs are Florida's largest sulphur. These gorgeous beauties are sexually and seasonally dimorphic: males are a bright yellow with vibrant orange forewing patches and orange hindwing borders that are visible in flight. Summer form females are either a golden yellow with a pinkish tinge or a creamy white. Winter form females appear to be a deep reddish-orange when their wings are closed. Both summer form and winter form females have brown-edged wingtips and pale orange hindwing borders that are visible when the butterfly is flying. (This Alabama Butterfly Atlas [resource](#) is a great identification help.)

Female Orange-barred Sulphurs lay single, slender yellow eggs on the new growth of Cassia species in the Pea family, which, in our area, includes Bahama senna (*Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii*) and Wild Sensitive Plant (*Senna ligustrina*). Caterpillars that eat the plant's flowers are yellow; caterpillars that eat the plant's leaves are green. Both have large black spots and black spikes. There are typically three or more generations each year.

Orange-barred Sulphurs are similar to two other butterflies in our area: the Cloudless Sulphur and the Large Orange Sulphur. Orange-barred Sulphurs have a strong, high, and rapid flight pattern and typically fly higher than other giant-sulphurs. Additionally, Cloudless Sulphurs and Large Orange Sulphurs lack the orange bands and patches that Orange-barred Sulphurs have.

We regularly see Orange-barred Sulphurs on our butterfly counts in both Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. According to iNaturalist, there have been very recent sightings of these beauties at both Sawgrass Lake Park and Boyd Hill Nature Park.

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



Bahama Cassia (*Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii*)

Bahama senna (*Senna mexicana* var. *chapmanii*) is a short-lived evergreen shrub that is native to the pine rocklands, coastal stands, and hammock edges of extreme south Florida. With stalked clusters of ½- to 1-inch-wide buttery-yellow, five-petaled flowers, this legume is a statement piece that will typically grow to 4 feet or more with a spread that can be much wider than its height. The plant thrives in nutrient-poor limestone soils and full sun. It is moderately drought-tolerant and is suited to gardens in USDA Zones 10-11 since it is not cold-tolerant. (South Tampa and much of Pinellas County is zone 10A.)

Like other sennas, Bahama cassia is the food source for Cloudless Sulphur, Sleepy Orange, and Orange-barred Sulphur caterpillars. The plant is also a great nectar source for numerous species of bees (including sweat, cuckoo, leafcutter, and bumble bees) and butterflies (including Sleepy Orange, Little Yellow, Cloudless Sulphur, Orange-barred Sulphur, and Statira Sulphur).

This plant pairs well with other legumes, including Partridge pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), Sensitive pea (*Chamaecrista nictitans*) and Sunshine mimosa (*Mimosa strigillosa*). It makes a fantastic specimen plant or, if planted en masse, can be used as a privacy screen. Occasional pruning and removal of seed pods will help to maintain the attractive nature of the plant and minimize the risk of unwanted seedlings.

Please note: This native is listed as a threatened species in Florida due to its limited range. Additionally, the similar-looking non-native butterfly senna (*Senna pendula*), which is sold at various big-box stores as a plant appropriate for butterfly gardens, has been identified by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council as a Category I invasive species that is altering our native plant communities. Please #NurtureNative and plant the original!

SHOP NOW

Garden Swag



Get Your SwagON!

During November we will have a mark down sale of some of our retail merchandise to make room for our Bug Bungalow exhibit! Whether you're hosting or attending a gathering this Thanksgiving, visit our Gift Shop and select from our nature-themed merchandise to adorn your home, entertain your guests, or give as hostess gifts.

Little Red Wagon Gift Shop



LITTLE RED WAGON GIFT CARDS

Beginning at \$10, Little Red Wagon gift cards are available in various denominations. Always in stock, LRW gift cards can be purchased online, and never expire!

Make your holiday shopping easy on yourself by allowing those on your gift list to choose for themselves and shop at their convenience!

[SHOP GIFT CARDS](#)

Nectar Plant of the Month



© Anita Camacho

Salt and Pepper - (*Melanthera nivea*)

Salt and Pepper (*Melanthera nivea*) is an herbaceous, bushy, sometimes rangy, perennial in the aster family. Growing up to 5 feet tall and 4 feet wide, this plant's showy white flowers (which have prominent black anthers) are a nectar magnet for butterflies, bees, and wasps. It is also the caterpillar host plant for Florida Whites. Typically blooming from the summer through the early winter across ranges 8A and 8B, the plant may bloom year-round further to the south.

Salt and Pepper is native to flatwoods, prairies and disturbed open habitats from Florida west to Louisiana and north to the southern parts of coastal plains of Georgia and South Carolina. It is also found along the Mississippi River in Tennessee, Kentucky, and southern Illinois. Salt and Pepper grows best in full sun and somewhat moist loamy or sandy soil. It can tolerate clay soil and is drought resistant once established.



Photos by: Anita Camacho

Salt and Pepper is most appropriate for butterfly gardens and natural planting areas and pairs well with other asters and Forked Bluecurls (*Trichostema dichotomum*). To keep it looking its best, trim new growth off the plant when it reaches 2 feet high. Why not stop by our nursery and talk to one of our specialists to see where it will look best in your garden?

(Fun fact: According to the [Florida Wildflower Foundation](#), "The genus name *Melanthera* is from the Greek *melanós*, or "black" and *ánthos* (or *anthérós*) meaning "flower," referring to the prominent black anthers. (The word "anther" is derived from the Greek *anthérós*.) The species epithet *nivea* is from the Latin *nivis*, meaning "snow.")

[SHOP NOW](#)

Design With Edimentals



© Anita Camacho

Bird Pepper (*Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*)

Bird Pepper (*Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*) is quite the fun plant. With ¼ inch white 5-petaled flowers that become bright red Christmas light-looking peppers, this perennial evergreen shrub packs quite the punch. Reaching a size of 3-feet high by 3-feet wide, the heat level of a Bird Pepper can reach 50,000 to 100,000 units on the Scoville scale, making it a great ingredient to spice up some of your favorite recipes. (By comparison, jalapeños reach 8,000 Scoville Heat Units (SHU) and habaneros reach 350,000 SHUs.) In addition, the white flowers are a great nectar source for our native bees, and, as the common name indicates, the unripe peppers are a favorite treat for birds.

Bird Pepper grows best in full sun in well-drained soil. Grow it in your food garden with companion plants like Basil, Nasturtium, or onions, as a low hedge row, or as a pop of color in pots on your patio. Any way you grow it, the plant will add some spice to your life!

SHOP NOW

KIDS' CORNER



TAMPA BAY BUTTERFLY FOUNDATION
 Early Release Mondays
 1:30 - 3:00 pm
 September to May
 4111-A Henderson Blvd,
 in South Tampa

BUG CLUB

Kindergarten - Gr. 5

BUTTERFLYTAMPA.COM

SCAN ME

Our monthly Bug Club will be held during the school year on Early Release Mondays for Hillsborough County Public Schools. From 1:30 to 3:00 pm, Kindergarten to Grade 5 children will participate in various activities exploring nature and will meet animal ambassadors too! There will be no Bug Club activities on non-student days.

Each month, we will have a different theme and focus for kids to continue learning and discovering nature.



NOVEMBER BUG CLUB:

As temperatures are cooling, seeds are dispersing and wildlife is busy collecting food for the winter everyone in Bug Club will be learning about the changing season around them. From taking time to hear birds calling or finding different types of leaves to learning about photosynthesis! Bug clubbers will be able to make sense of the changes around them and learn how our native wildlife adapts to them. While we may not have trees that lose their leaves, we have plenty of awesome changes happening all around us!

REGISTER NOW



VOTED BEST SUMMER CAMP TWO YEARS IN A ROW!

From 8:30 am to 2:30 pm on non-student days this month, Kindergarten to Grade 5 kids will learn about nature, enjoy animal encounters, arts and crafts and more, during our Fall Nature Camps.



Get ready for Veterans day with some nature fun! This camp will take a blast to the past where campers will discover prehistoric food chains. Campers will learn to infer if an animal is a carnivore, omnivore, or herbivore based on animal's teeth shape! Additionally, as a special activity campers will be able to dig for their very own fossils! As always, campers will have an opportunity to release a butterfly (weather permitting) and meet our amazing ambassador animals!

REGISTER: NOVEMBER 10

It's a great time to be thankful for nature! Campers will learn about native bugs they can find in their own backyard through their very own bug hunt. They will also be able to plant a Florida native flower to bring home as a way to show their appreciation for nature! This camp will also dive into all of Floridas camouflaged critters- insects and reptiles! Campers will know how to look for camouflaged animals and how to camouflage themselves! To wrap up our week, campers will learn the differences between domesticated turkeys and wild turkeys.

Be sure to ask your little nature experts about the turkey calls and turkey struts they made-up on the last day. As always, campers will have the opportunity to release a butterfly (weather permitting) and meet our reptile or insect ambassador animals.

REGISTER: NOVEMBER 20-22

Next time you go on a walk, grab an egg carton and keep your eyes peeled for different types of seeds. Each new seed you see will go into a different section of your egg carton until it is all full! When you get home, look at the seeds and think about how the seeds got there. Seeds can be dispersed by wind, water, animals, fire or gravity. As you look at your seeds you will see different characteristics that allow them to be dispersed in different ways.

If you have time, draw your seeds and write how you think they are dispersed next to it!



SNAKE SKIN SHED

Stop by and pick out one of our snakes skin shed. Snakes shed their skin as they grow. From Steve our 8 foot Red-tailed Boa, to Ivy our small rough green snake, you get to choose which snake shed you want to take home!

SHOP NOW

WACKY FACT!

While Florida doesn't get super cold during the winter, our larger warm blooded animals still prepare for winter by eating more. These animals include black bears, white-tailed deer, eastern cottontails, bobcats, fox squirrels, possums and more!



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

Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation regularly has a number of single-day and ongoing monthly 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: November 17



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: November 16



Encore Park! Maintenance

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

VOLUNTEER: November 25



Nature Camp Volunteers

Sign up for a rewarding experience mentoring Kindergarten to Grade 5 children during our Fall Nature Camp programs. Click the button below to select the date(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: Fall Camps



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 every day of the week!

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](https://www.butterflytampa.com)

Monthly Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 1 Stress Awareness Day

NOVEMBER 3 One Health Day



Do you have a patio or small outdoor space to incorporate a native butterfly garden? Join us to learn how to create a butterfly garden even if you don't have a yard! This workshop will include step by step instructions, the pot, soil and 3 native plants that will bring butterflies to your outdoor space. Register for Little Red Wagon Native Nursery's container gardening class to learn how to use native plants for butterfly container gardening! We will be working inside nextdoor to Little Red Wagon at the Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation Gallery space located at 4111 Henderson Blvd Saturday, November 4th 10am – 11am. We are planning a butterfly release at the end of the workshop (weather permitting). Parking available nextdoor at Joan's catering and the entire plaza around to Forge Gym.

REGISTER NOW

NOVEMBER 5 Daylight Savings Ends
NOVEMBER 8 National STEM Day
NOVEMBER 10 World Science Day for Peace and Development
NOVEMBER 11 Honoring our Veterans
NOVEMBER 15 National Recycling Day
NOVEMBER 18 LRW Fall Festival



FREE ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS THROUGHOUT THE DAY!

9:30am – TOOL SHARPENING

Bring garden tools, knives, shovels, etc. to get sharpened. Put tools into a bucket and your name on masking tape on each tool handle. Tools can be dropped off the week before and will be ready for pickup on Saturday or you can bring tools that day.

10:00am – LIVING WITH SNAKES – presented by Shiv Shakula

Shiv earned his B.S. in Environmental Science with a minor in Biology from the University of South Florida in 2021. Now, he is a M.S. candidate and researcher at USF in the lab of Dr. Sean Doody, where his research revolves around the intersection of conservation biology and disease ecology, specifically as it pertains to ophidiomycosis in native snake populations. At TBBF, he is a lead reptile curator, and his favorite animal ambassador is Brooks! In his free time, he enjoys hiking, rock climbing, kayaking, playing/watching cricket, and cooking.

\$10 / person (includes 3:15 pm Butterfly Release)

REGISTER

2:00pm – MONARCH MIGRATION IN FLORIDA!

Anita Camacho, President and CEO of Little Red Wagon Native Nursery and Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation will present new research discussion.

\$10 / person (includes 3:15 pm Butterfly Release)

REGISTER

BUTTERFLY RELEASE after 2pm talk is finished (weather permitting) – estimated 3:15/3:30 (\$10 per person or free if attending another paid event that day.)

NOVEMBER 19 National Camp Day

NOVEMBER 20 Universal Children's Day



From all of us at Little Red Wagon Native Nursery, we wish you a happy Thanksgiving. Thank you for being a valued customer. We are grateful for your business. May the coming holiday bring an abundance of good fortune to you and your family.

Please shop local by rolling by Little Red Wagon Native Nursery on "Green" Friday. Put your money where home is and support us on Small Business Saturday!

NOVEMBER 24 "Green" Friday at Little Red Wagon Native Nursery

NOVEMBER 25 Small Business Saturday

NOVEMBER 27 Cyber Monday

NOVEMBER 28 National Giving Tuesday

Little Red Wagon Native Nursery is Tampa'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](https://www.LittleRedWagonNativeNursery.com)

Email: Info@ButterflyTampa.com

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

[Visit Little Red Wagon Native Nursery](#)

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