

# Spotlight

## Anita Camacho

### Founder of Little Red Wagon Native Nursery & Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation

Anita is the founder of Little Red Wagon Native Nursery and the Tampa Bay Butterfly Foundation. These organizations are dedicated to environmental education, conservation, and reducing chemical use in our communities. What began as a personal mission has grown into a multifaceted effort focused on pollinator support, native landscaping, and community outreach. Through workshops, partnerships, and hands-on education, Anita works to help individuals understand the connection between everyday choices, environmental health, and human well-being.



#### 1 Can you share a success story that you're particularly proud of?

We were recently awarded a grant through the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council to address stormwater pollution and its impacts on our waterways. This project allows us to engage more directly with the community through demonstrations and education about how pollutants, like pesticides and chemicals, enter our water systems.

It's rewarding because it connects our mission to real-world impact. We're helping people understand that what we put on our land doesn't just stay there - it affects our waterways, marine life, and ultimately our own health.

#### 2 What inspired you to get involved in this work, and what keeps you motivated?

My inspiration came from my mother's diagnosis with Parkinson's disease. As I researched potential causes, I kept coming back to links with pesticide exposure, which was alarming. I've always loved nature, but that discovery pushed me to take action.

What keeps me going is a combination of that personal experience and the belief that change is possible. Some days are hard, but I remind myself that even small steps can make a difference, and that this work matters not just for today, but for future generations.

#### 3 What are some fun or interesting facts about your organization or the work you do that people might not know?

One thing people may not realize is how much our work focuses on the smallest parts of the ecosystem - bugs. While many organizations focus on large animals or marine life, we focus on pollinators and insects, which are essential to everything else.

We also combine education with action. It's not just about awareness, we give people the tools to go home and create their own pollinator-friendly spaces. Even small changes, like planting native species, can have a big impact.

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How has the community supported your efforts, and what impacts has this support had?

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We've received some support through grants, partnerships, and community involvement, and we're grateful for that. At the same time, building consistent support has been a challenge.

What would make the biggest difference is ongoing engagement - more volunteers and continued participation. When people show up regularly, it allows us to expand our reach and deepen the impact of our work.

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What advice would you give someone looking to make a positive impact in the community?

Get out there and connect with people. Making an impact requires stepping outside your comfort zone and talk to neighbors, share ideas, and build relationships.

Even simple conversations can spark change. When people see what's possible, they start to think differently about their own choices and how they can contribute.

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What is one call to action?

Start small, but start somewhere. Plant native flowers, even if it's just in a pot on your patio or a small area in your yard.

By doing that, you're supporting pollinators, reducing the need for chemicals, and helping restore balance to the ecosystem. Every small action adds up, and together, those actions can create meaningful change.

[Learn more about Anita and her work here!](#)