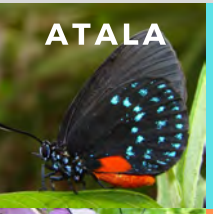
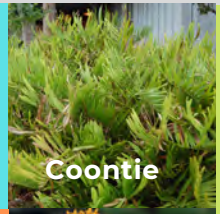
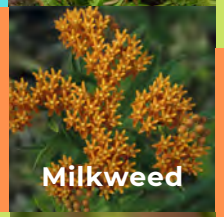
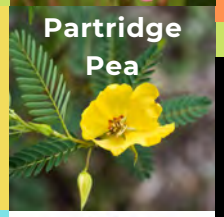
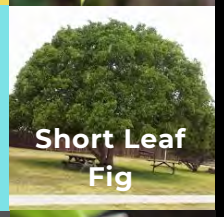
IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME.

The right host plant in your yard will bring them.

Right Plant; Right Place. Always check your soil conditions and lighting before planting.

 ATALA	Imperiled	 Coontie
MONARCH		 Milkweed
QUEEN		Milkweed
CLOUDLESS SULPHER	Bahama Cassia	 Partridge Pea
RUDDY DAGGERWING	Rare Declining	 Short Leaf Fig
ZEBRA LONGWING	Maypop Passionvine	Corkystem Passionvine

RIVER CENTER

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BUY LOCAL

Purchase plants from local, native nurseries. Native plants sold in big box stores are often treated with systemic pesticides. This means that the plants meant to help will actually kill the butterflies that use them. Native nurseries typically do not use pesticides. Always ask.

NECTAR FOOD PLANTS

Always check your soil type and light before planting.

In addtion to host plants for the caterpillars, you will need nectar (food) plants for the adult butterflies. Here are a few to start:

Wild Coffee

Fire Bush

Tick Seed

Loxahatchee River Center's

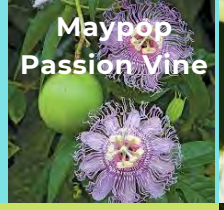
ATALA BUTTERFLY

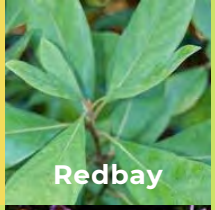
FESTIVAL

Celebrating a return from the brink of extinction.

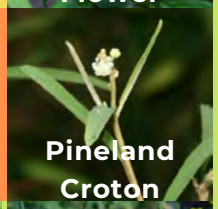
HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

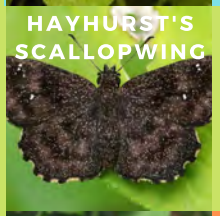
www.lrdrivercenter.org

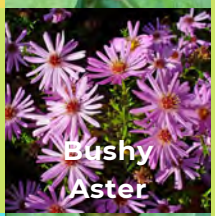


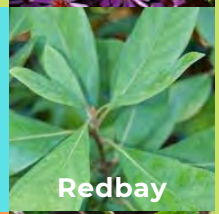


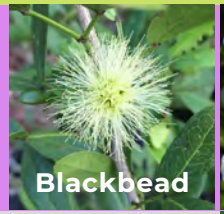
Endangered
Population restoration has started in the Keys.

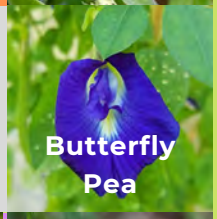




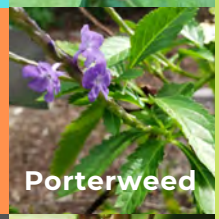




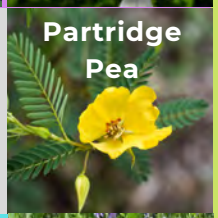


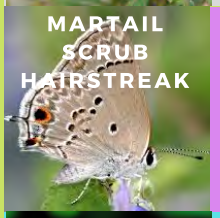


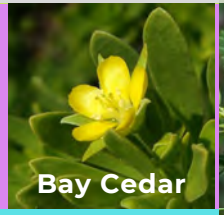
Rare

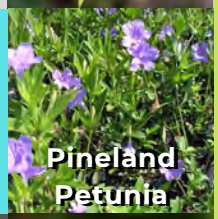


Threatened









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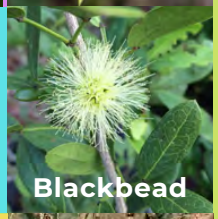

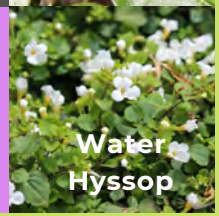

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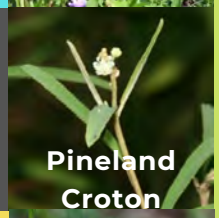
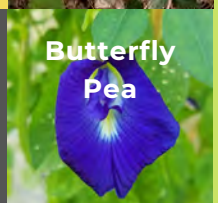


Native Citrus (Wild Lime) is also a host plant.



All plants listed are native to south Florida and can be found in our garden.

LET'S SAVE THE BUTTERFLIES

By planting host plants, we are creating a good habitat for imperiled butterflies that may migrate into our area, similar to the Atala Butterfly's story.

LIFECYLE OF THE ATALA BUTTERFLY

Eumaeus atala

STAGE 1: BUTTERFLY EGGS

Female butterflies lay eggs on the leaves of a host plant. The atala's host plant is the Coontie. These plants then become the food for the hatching caterpillars.

STAGE 2: CATERPILLAR

The caterpillar stage is all about food! These bright red caterpillars munch and munch and grow a lot during this phase. They will molt or shed their skin anywhere from 3 to 5 times during this phase.

STAGE 3: CHRYSALIS

Once fully grown, the caterpillar forms itself into a "pupa" (or chrysalis) – a kind of vessel in which the caterpillar changes into a butterfly. During this time, a hardened case forms around the pupa to protect it from predators and extreme weather conditions. And inside, the tissue, limbs and organs of the caterpillar transform. The result? A wonderful winged butterfly!

STAGE 4: WINGED ADULT

Once the butterfly is ready to emerge, the case around the pupa splits open. But it's not time for take off just yet, as the wings are at first wet, soft and wrinkled against its body. The butterfly waits for its wings to dry, and pumps a liquid called hemolymph into them so that they become big and strong. Once the butterfly is ready for flight the cycle begins all over again.

Flutter on over
to your native nursery

BUY LOCAL

Purchase plants from local, native nurseries.
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Palm Beach County Native Plant Nurseries

(always call first to make sure nursery is open)

Meadow Beauty Nursery [Nursery and Design]
(561) 601-9673
Indian Trails Native Nursery [Nursery and Design]
(561) 641-9488
Native Choice Nursery [Nursery and Design]
(561) 756-4370
Lorax Designs [Nursery and Design]
(954) 592-2980
Southern Native Nursery [Nursery Only | Non-native too]
(561) 798-1172
D.R. Bates Liners and Gallons [Nursery Only]
(561) 790-3246

www.LrdRiverCenter.org/atalafest

For more information please call 561-743-7123

RIVER CENTER
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I am a butterfly attracting plant that grows low to sand, I like lots of space to take over the land. The flower heads always follow the sun throughout the day, while bees collect the pollen then fly away.
Can you find me?...
DUNE SUNFLOWER

I am a tall tree with large broad leaves, the grapes I produce are loved my raccoons, those thieves! I am a plant that likes full sun, and can handle being by the beach, what fun!
Can you find me?...
SEA GRAPE

My leaves are soft and feel like velvet, while my seed pods are strong just like a helmet.
Many folks say I'm growing a necklace, but butterflies and bees know I'm not that reckless.
Can you find me?...
NECKLACE POD

I am a plant that blankets the ground, with the most beautiful flowers anywhere around. They are reddish purple with yellow tips, that grow on long stems and act like a whip.
Can you find me?...
BLANKET FLOWER

I I am a bush that likes the shade, Atala butterflies use my flowers for aid. The deep veins in the leaves help to catch water, my red berries are for birds and their daughters.
Can you find me?...
WILD COFFEE

I might look simple, but do not frown, Atala caterpillars can be found. I grow from a cone low to the ground, and you will not find any flowers or fruits around.
Can you find me?...
COONTIE

My flowers look like they are on fire, I am bush that reaches higher and higher. Hummingbirds and butterflies are attached to me, this plant is perfect for a garden, guarantee.
Can you find me?...
FIREBUSH

I am a plant with red peeling bark, with branches that twist and turn to make their mark. My leaves are small and brightly green, lizards and bird are seen sunny in between.
Can you find me?...
GUMBO LIMBO