

Pulaski County Master Minutes

April, 2008 ~~2009~~

<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>, <http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/>

Volume 18, Issue 4

April Meeting



Jane Gulley will be the speaker at our April meeting and she will be discussing "Native Plants-The Good, The Bad & The Ugly."

Jane was a graduate of the second class of Pulaski County Master Gardeners in 1988 and has served as president of the Pulaski County Master Gardeners, in addition to chairman of several different Pulaski County Master Gardener community gardens. She started the gardens at Pinnacle Mountain State Park and the Pulaski County Extension office.

Jane has spoken at numerous garden shows, including the Arkansas Flower and Garden Show and the State Master Gardener meeting. Jane has almost 100 heritage roses and 140 different native plants in her yard and it has been featured on local affiliates of ABC, NBC, and CBS. It was also the setting of one of Janet Carson's television programs. Jane has served on the board of Central Arkansas Audubon, The Arkansas Nature Conservancy, the Greater Little Rock Wildlife Federation, the Little Rock Zoo and the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Board. Jane started a program on the conservation of bald eagles that became a nationwide model and has appeared on Good Morning America, The David Letterman show and was inducted into the Arkansas Outdoor Hall of Fame.

Trading Post



Linda Moyer, 985-2454,
Thorn-less blackberry plants



Fran Lopata, 223-8099
Variety of daffodils

UPDATES

Corrections to 2009 Pulaski County Master Gardener list:

* Kate Althoff -

Corrected phone number 223-2744

Nora Ann Lawrence is now Nora Ann Goss. Her new address is 210 Turkey Trot, Jacksonville, AR 72076, Phone number 416-7573, nagoss@comcast.net

Joan Humphries - new address 2221 Wentwood Valley #29, LR 72212, phone 650-1022

Elaine Fletcher - new address 15 Somerset Drive, Roland, AR 72135

Carolyn Nagel and Phyllis Richmond have had to resign.

Pulaski County Master Gardener Greenhouse Plant Sale



Pathfinder - Jacksonville

Pathfinder Greenhouse

2520 W. Main, Jacksonville

Sat., April 11th 8:00 am-12:00 am

All 6-packs \$1.75

\$10.50 per flat

State Hospital Greenhouse - Little Rock

Sat., April 25th 8:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.

and

Sat., May 2nd 8:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.

At the State Hospital Greenhouse

The greenhouse is located on the corner of Palm and 7th St. on the State Hospital grounds.

Friends and neighbors are welcome!
Remember - sales support our projects.

Arkansas Is Our Campus

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer.

Plentiful Harvest

Submitted by Claudia Utley

Location, location, location—this mantra doesn't only apply to real estate, but as the master gardeners volunteering at the Governor's Mansion found out also to vegetable gardens.

The past year yielded a bumper crop unmatched by any other harvest since the Vegetable Garden project was first established in the mid-1990s. The reason: its new location, a significantly larger, sunnier area than the plot used before. It was moved there in 2007 as part of a complete overhaul and remodeling of the landscape grounds at the mansion under the tutelage of P. Allen Smith.

Here are some impressive numbers: In 2008, the master gardeners harvested more than 30 lbs each of beans and Swiss chard, almost 40 lbs of beets, almost 50 lbs of cucumbers, almost 55 lbs of cabbage and more than 100 lbs of tomatoes. Plus buckets full of potatoes, radishes, carrots, winter greens, lettuce, squash and more.

Work for the new growing season resumed at the vegetable garden on March 1 and the master gardeners hope to emulate, or even surpass, last year's crop. They expect to harvest for the first time some asparagus and strawberries.



Master gardener Debbie Mickel proudly presents heirloom tomatoes.

Come check us out some time. We usually meet at 9 a.m. each Monday. Enter via Louisiana Street and sign in with security right past the gate.

The Pulaski County Master Gardener Travel Committee's first trip will be April 24th.

We will meet at the Shackelford Crossing Shopping Center in the parking lot behind the Edwin Golf Store. The lot faces J.C. Penney. We will meet at 9:15 am and leave there at 9:30 a.m. going to Joy Wheeler's Garden at 18611 Burlingame Rd. She will give a short talk, and then tour the gardens which encompass about two acres and then she is having a plant sale with very good prices she says. Life Quest toured her gardens and everyone loved them. She is an accomplished artist also and a good speaker. She will provide refreshments for us. The Travel Committee will be handing out this year's trip schedule at our April 21st Master Gardener Meeting. Join us for the tour and great fellowship.

Continuing Education Subject Preferences

The Continuing Education Committee would like to have your suggestions for subjects to be considered for future half-day training classes as well as for our future Advanced Training seminars. All suggestions will be considered and we will select options that generate the most interest. Please list your subject preferences and bring your choices to the April 21, 2009 PCMG meeting. We will have a drop-off basket in the registration area where you may leave your preference sheet.

Half-day training class:

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

3rd choice _____

Advanced MG training:

1st choice _____

2nd choice _____

3rd choice _____

Dividing Perennials

By Lorraine Hensley



This is one garden chore that pretty much follows the rules for pruning. This may seem strange because they are two totally different procedures; however, both perennial division and pruning have the same ground rules. They both need to be done at an appropriate time for the plant and the gardener needs to know exactly what he can expect from the "finished" project.

Perennials are usually divided for one of the following three reasons—to control plant size, to help the plant rejuvenate or to increase their number. Some perennials spread rapidly and dividing and replanting helps keep them under control. Dividing older plants is great for keeping them healthy and blooming well. Giving leftover plants to neighbors can also mean new friendships develop. Flower power is a great way to foster new friendships.

A general rule of thumb is to divide spring and summer bloomers in the fall and fall bloomers in spring. Since anything that lives needs energy to grow we divide these plants when they are not producing blooms so that plant's energy can go to root and leaf growth. If plant division is done in the spring your plants will thank you for allowing enough time for their roots to get comfortable in their new home prior to the summer heat. Try to divide as soon as the growing plant tips can be seen. If fall division is necessary do so about 4/6 weeks prior to the ground freezing. No matter when you divide those perennials don't do so on a hot and sunny day instead wait for a cloudy or overcast day even if you have to postpone your planned division.

Some perennials should be divided every year or so while others can remain undisturbed for three to five years. It isn't difficult to tell when plant division is needed - just watch your plants. If the flowers are smaller than normal, if clump centers are hollow or dead, or if the bottom foliage is scarce and unsightly these are the

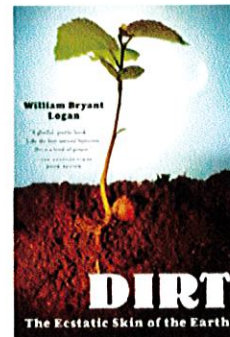
plant's way to tell the gardener it's time for a change here. Those that are growing and blooming well should be left alone. That plant is telling the gardener its happy right where it is.

Those signals from your plants tell you its time to quit fooling around and get ready to get ready to divide at least a day or so before you plan to do so. Prepare both areas—the one where you are going to plant and the bed where the parent plant is waiting to be lifted. Water both areas well and prune both stems and foliage about six inches from the ground. The reason for this is to not only save plant moisture but it also makes division much easier for the gardener. We get to lift the parent plant and how to separate the various root systems next time.

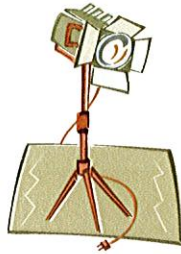
Debra's Book Club

By Debra Redding

Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin Of The Earth
William Bryant Logan

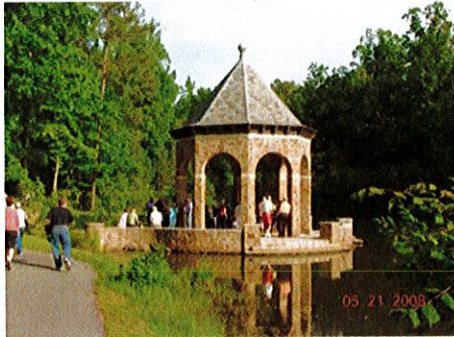


Every Spring I realize how much I love dirt. I love the feel of it in my hand and the earthy smell of it. That is why the title of this book caught my eye. A well-written and researched tribute to the mysterious medium that provides the foundation for life on Earth. Dirt is a series of short stories that paint a colorful picture of how soil evolved with the Earth. Logan notes that dirt is the source of many drugs that work against infectious diseases. He examines the agricultural practices of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Logan is an Author and Columnist for the New York Times. He lives and gardens in New York.



COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT
By Carol Randle

The first mention of a Social Committee in the Master Minutes was in 1993. This was also the year Beth Phelps became the County Extension Agent in charge of the Master Gardeners. Marie Flickinger, Lois Corley, and Mary Frances Roman were members of that first committee. That year a family picnic and a Christmas Party were held.



Many chairmen and co-chairmen have worked since then and other events have been added since then. Carolyn France and Sandy Harrison are the co-chairmen of the current Social Committee. Committee members are: Fran Ables; Glenda Arledge; Karen Baris; Phyllis Barrier; Jane Blackall; Bonnie Bradford; Melanie Bradford; Linda Chakales; Carol Chappell; Ann Cooper; Kay Crafton; Susan Crisp; Phoebe Crocker; Richelle Daniel; Dena Dixon; Liz Edwards; Theresa Funkhouser; Mary Bea Gross; Betty Henderson; Don Henderson; Tish Henslee; Sharl Henslee; Wincie Hughes; Arline Jackson; Gina Jenkins; Bernice Johnson; Jan King; Trudy Kumpke; Kay Lavey; Sharon Mayes; De Ann McNeely; Dana Minton; Jan Paulus; Lynn Phelps; Suzanne Potts; Maxine Ramage; Kathleen Ramsey; Mary Roark; Cissy Skarda; Cathy Spivey; Lou Ellen Treadway; Ted Treadway; Dorothy Veirs; Susan Wilcoxsen; and Mary Wildgen.



Ice Cream Social

The Social Committee is responsible for planning and carrying out six events each year. These include: Committee Chairmen Orientation held in late January; Picnic held in the Spring; July Social held at the time of the July meeting; New Master Gardener Class Welcome held the first day of new Master Gardener Training in September; New Master Gardener Class Reception held the third Tuesday in November after the general meeting; and the Christmas Party held in early December.



Welcome for the new Master Gardener class

The goal of the Social Committee is to help everyone have a good time; be entertained; and learn from many of our speakers. Thank you, Social Committee, for your hard work and for making things fun and informative.

Photos for this article courtesy of Carolyn France





APRIL CHECKLIST

By Carol Randle

A TIME TO SOW

Sow these seeds: early Asters, Basil, Canterbury Bells, Celosia, Columbine, Cosmos, Foxglove, Gomphrena, Grasses, Hollyhock, Marigolds, Melampodium, Morning Glories, Petunias, Sunflowers, Sweet Peas, Sweet William, and Zinnias.

VEGETABLES

When starting a vegetable garden, choose a site that gets plenty of sunlight and that is well drained, but near a water source. Gardens in Arkansas won't survive without supplemental water, and if it is difficult to do, many gardeners either don't have the time or the energy to make it work. Raised beds are an excellent way to deal with rocky soils. You bring in the compost and soil yourself. Plant perennial plants such as asparagus and strawberries on the edge of the garden, to keep them undisturbed. Divide the garden into thirds and practice crop rotation, not planting in the same quadrant with the same vegetable for at least three years. You have until mid month to plant even the cool season crops like Broccoli, Lettuce, and Kale, along with Green Beans and early Sweet Corn. Hold off on tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant until mid to late April - giving the soil time to warm up. Plant corn in several short rows to aid in pollination, versus one long row. A national program called Plant a Row for the Hungry asks gardeners to plant an additional row of vegetables for those in need.

ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS

If you still have Pansies, Violas, and other winter annuals in bloom, enjoy them for another few weeks before converting to summer annuals. Consider where your color displays can make the biggest impact and load the color there. Some early spring perennials may already be finished flowering, but Peonies, Bleeding Heart and Foxglove are all in their glory now. This is a great time to plant perennials as most garden centers have their biggest amount of stock this month. Garden centers are wild places this time of year, but take time to choose

plants that will grow well together. Look at some of the hot new plant introductions. For annuals you can't beat Angelonia (called Summer Snapdragon), or Titan series Periwinkle, Supertunia Vista Bubblegum Petunia. Or try some of the new Coleus, Callibrachoa, and Cupheas. This is a good time to look for new perennials. Plants don't need to be in bloom to be planted. Whether you have sun or shade, you should have plenty to choose from.

SHRUBS

Monitor your Hydrangeas this month. New growth should be sprouting from the tops, not the base. If winter damage occurred, prune it out, but don't be too quick to do so. Wait until mid to late in the month to give plants a chance to start growing on their own. If you see no signs of new growth by the end of the month or early May, it won't be coming. Unless you grow the re-blooming Hydrangeas like Endless Summer, you won't have many (if any) flowers on winter damaged plants. Know what kind of Hydrangeas you are growing, so you will know when to prune.

Many spring blooming shrubs are still in bloom, but some have finished their blooming cycle. Once they are finished, prune if needed. If you grow Forsythia, remove one third of the older canes at the soil line now to rejuvenate the plant for better flowering next spring. Azaleas that need pruning should have it done as soon after flowering as possible. Then fertilize all spring bloomers with a slow release fertilizer. On established plants, one application a year is all that is needed. Don't be alarmed if you notice thick waxy leaves on your Azaleas or Camellias. Cool Spring weather can cause an outbreak of Azalea Leaf Gall. These thick waxy leaves look worse than they really are. Simply snap them off and dispose of them (not in the yard) and the problem should stop with warmer weather.

LAWNS

It is too late to worry about winter weeds now, so concentrate on getting your lawn off to a good growing season. If you haven't used a summer pre-emergent, you can still do it. You will have missed some of the earlier germinating weeds, but can still get some control. When your lawn has greened up, apply a slow release high nitrogen fertilizer on it. Don't be too quick to fertilize. If the lawn isn't fully growing, it won't be able to utilize as much of the fertilizer as it could. Watch for summer weeds, water when needed, and practice good mowing practices - never removing more than one third of the leaf blade at a mowing.

Forsythia Blooms, Inside and Out

By Andrea Bevernitz

As a child I knew that winter was coming to an end when my mother would pick up her garden shears and head outside to clip some branches from a forsythia bush. It was such a pleasure to watch her arrange the seemingly (to me anyway) dead branches and put them in warm water in a vase, cover it all loosely with a plastic bag and put it in the storage room. Before too long, Mom would announce that it was time to uncover the vase and move the branches into a sunny window. How we loved to watch the yellow blooms open, bringing spring into our home and our hearts



while winter was still outside.

As a new Master Gardener (class of 2008), answering telephone calls at the County Extension Agency was a particular challenge.

I was anxious about answering that first phone call so Tommy

Mertens, who was training me, said he'd handle the call. I listened closely. That first call was from someone who wanted to know how to grow forsythia plants. Mr. Mertens explained that all she had to do was prepare the ground where she wanted her bush to grow, find an existing forsythia bush, wait until its blooming period had ended, clip a few branches, strip off the lower leaves and stick the branches into the prepared ground.

He advised that she keep the ground moist to encourage root growth and that she'd have a growing plant before too long. He recommended that she start more than one branch just to be on the safe side.

The caller wasn't the only one who learned how to start her own forsythia plant. I did too. The first thing I did after getting home that day was to call my neighbor who has a magnificent forsythia bush (shown in the photo). I asked her if I could clip a few branches from her bush after the blooming period ended.

"Of course" she said. Right now I'm enjoying the blooms on that bush but once they fade and the green leaves come out I will walk to her house, clippers in hand so I can get a few branches, thinking of my mother and future spring blooms, indoors and out.

If you'd like to read more about starting forsythia from softwood cuttings, you can look at

http://www.uaex.edu/Other_Areas/publications/PDF/FS-A-6024.pdf

I finally figured out a way to be neat about cleaning up those huge ornamental grass clumps in yards. I have two large maiden grass clumps.

Take one or two trash bags (I used 2 30-gal bags), slit down the long sides, tie them together, wrap around the clump, tie as tight as you can get it, use the hedge trimmers to prune the dead part off, and when it's done the grass is tied securely enough to lay to the side. I retied mine tighter, and then carried them to the curb. Took me less than 5 minutes to accomplish!

Very neat and not all that grass mess spread around the yard!
Sallie Robert

Plant a Garden

Edgar A. Guest

If your purse no longer bulges
and you've lost your golden treasure,
If times you think you're lonely
and have hungry grown for pleasure,
Don't sit by your hearth and grumble,
don't let mind and spirit harden.
If it's thrills of joy you wish for
get to work and plant a garden!

If it's drama that you sigh for,
plant a garden and you'll get it
You will know the thrill of battle
fighting foes that will beset it
If you long for entertainment and
for pageantry most glowing,
Plant a garden and this summer spend
your time with green things growing.

If it's comradeship you sight for,
learn the fellowship of daisies.
You will come to know your neighbor
by the blossoms that he raises;
If you'd get away from boredom
and find new delights to look for,
Learn the joy of budding pansies
which you've kept a special nook for.

If you ever think of dying
and you fear to wake tomorrow
Plant a garden! It will cure you
of your melancholy sorrow
Once you've learned to know peonies,
petunias, and roses,
You will find every morning
some new happiness discloses

April Events



Friday, April 3 6:00 P.M.	The Hot Springs Documentary Film Institute dinner (black-tie optional) honoring P. Allen Smith at the Statehouse Convention Center. Governor Mike Beebe will be the keynote speaker along with Warren Stephens. Keyboardist Chuck Leveall will be providing entertainment. Tickets for Master Gardeners are available for \$75.00
Saturday, April 4 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.	Arkansas County Home & Garden Show, 2009 Arkansas County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building, 16th Street, DeWitt, Arkansas. For more information contact Beth Carter at 870-946-3272 or 870-946-1410, or AR Co. Extension Office at 870-946-3231
Thursday, April 9 10:00 A.M.	Little Rock Garden Club presents Bart Brechter, curator of Gardens at Bayou Bend in Houston, at the governor's mansion.
Thursday, April 9 9:30 A.M. to Noon 1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.	Gardening 101 Workshop at Garvan Woodland Gardens Planting for Continuous Interest - 9:30 a.m. to Noon Azaleas and Tulips - 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 18, 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.	Advanced Master Gardener Training: Vines of All Kinds, Jonesboro Extension Office. Registration form available soon
Tuesday, April 21 11:30A.M.	PC Master Gardeners' meeting at St. James Methodist Church
Tuesday,	Gardening 101 Workshop at Garvan

April 21 9:30 A.M. to Noon 1:00 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.	Woodland Gardens presented by Master Gardener Bob Warner Vegetable Gardening The Earth-Friendly Way - 9:30 a.m. to Noon Herbs 1 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 21, 2009 10:30 A.M.	Lecture by P. Allen Smith on his new book, <u>Bringing the Garden Indoors</u> at 10:30 A.M. at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion Luncheon in the Mansion Gardens at 11:30 A.M. followed by a leisurely tour of the Gardens Tickets are \$60 each. To order online go to: www.friendsofthemansion.org

May Events

Saturday, May 2 9:00 A.M. to 3:45 P.M.	"Spring--A Time to Till" presented by Nevada County Master Gardeners, Central Baptist Church, Stokes Center, 605 East 2nd Street South, Prescott, AR. For more information contact Jan Huett (870) 887-5148, Sue Bryson (870) 887-6286; or, the Extension office at (870) 887-2818
Tuesday, April 21 11:30A.M.	PC Master Gardeners' meeting at St. James Methodist Church

October 1-6, 2009, Annual Master Gardener trip to Charleston, SC, with the Illinois Master Gardeners.

Work Day at the Contemplation Garden

Photos Courtesy of Martha Bowden



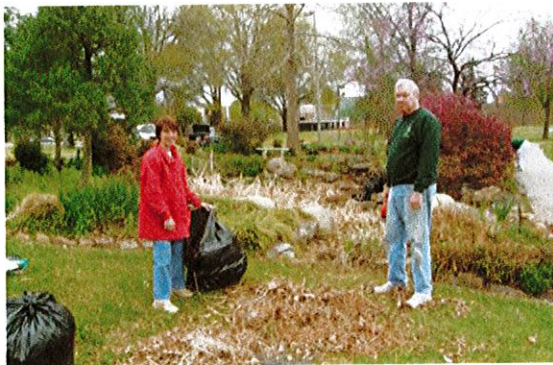
Theresa Crowson and Kathy Scheibner



Jennice Ratley



Debra Moore



Anita Walker and Murray Harding

Pulaski County Master Gardener Board Meeting

March 17, 2009, St. James United Methodist Church at 10am

Members Present: Martha Basinger, Jet Cuffman, Don Davis, Mac Huffman, Beth Phelps, Mary Roark, Marilyn Tilley and Judy Woodard

Minutes were approved
Treasurer's Report was approved

1. Memorials for both Pat McDonald and Jim Dyer are in the works. Mac Huffman made a motion, which was approved, that \$50 from the treasury be added to member memorials. We currently have received \$135 for Jim and are waiting for approval from Cammack to place a bench there.
2. Money is still coming in for Richard Henry "Dick" Phelps and Lois Corley.
3. Judy Woodard reported \$3,990 dues have been received.
4. Mac reported on the Budget Committee meeting. After discussion about the reserve account needing to be more transparent, this was tabled until next month.
5. Reinstatement for Suzanne O'Donoghue was approved.
6. Curran Hall wants edging for front beds and have secured a bid of \$1,200. They submitted a special funding request to us for up to \$600. This was approved. Curran Hall Foundation will pay the balance.
7. A meeting is needed next week for design ideas at the Pulaski County Court House. Marilyn, Jet, and Martha volunteered to assist Beth.
8. Martha made a motion and Judy second that we go with David Werling's idea of postcards showing 22 garden projects...Approved
9. Jet met with NLR Council regarding Argenta project. They were given a budget of \$5,000 which was approved. A motion was approved to change sponsor to Argenta Downtown Partnership.
10. Arline Jackson is working on plans for the picnic which will be at Burns Park.
11. Judy reported that 83 Master Gardeners from around the state have registered for the Edible Landscape training class with \$4,150 in fees collected.
12. There will be a workday at St. James after the April 21st meeting.



DIG IN HERE...

For answers to your gardening and horticultural problems, try these helpful resources:

➤ Master Gardener Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/mastergardener/mastergardenersonly>

Username: mastergardener
Password: compost

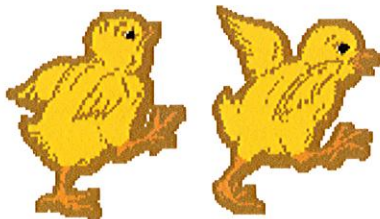
➤ PC Cooperative Extensions Website:
<http://www.uaex.edu/pulaski/mastergardeners/default.asp>

➤ U of A Cooperative Extension Website:
<http://www.arhomeandgarden.org>

Pulaski County Cooperative Extension Service
2901 W. Roosevelt Road
Little Rock, AR 72204
501-340-6650



Pulaski County Master Gardeners are trained volunteers working with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Service and Pulaski County Government to provide demonstration gardens and horticultural-related information to the residents of the county. In 2008, these volunteers gave **23,000** hours of service. Elisabeth J. Phelps, County Extension Agent, Staff Chair



Everyone is encouraged to submit interesting information, committee reports, newsworthy photos, etc. to the newsletter. Bring your information to the Master Gardener meeting, or

send it to:
Jennice Ratley
22 Cobble Hill Road
Little Rock, Ark. 72211
gardenrat@comcast.net
412-8299

The deadline is the **second Friday** of each month. For late breaking news after the deadline, send information to:

Beth Phelps
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2901 W. Roosevelt Road
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bphelps@uaex.edu
340-6650

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