Happy New Year!

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING
January 15, 2019
Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park

6:30 pm – Natives for Novices.
7:00 pm - Refreshments, browsing, & socializing.
7:30 pm – Announcements and Main Presentation.
Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

Main Presentation
Seed Banking for the Future:
Conserving San Diego’s Native Plants
by Stacy Anderson & Joe Davitt

San Diego Zoo Global’s Native Plant Seed Bank has been making seed collections for restoration and conservation purposes since the early 2000’s. The seed bank houses over 750 seed collections from plant populations located throughout the county and beyond. In recent years the program has become an integral part of the California Plant Rescue project (CaPR). Focusing on rare and imperiled plant populations, our seed banking efforts have resulted in over 115 seed collections in the past 4 years, from San Diego’s most endangered plant populations. We’ll discuss our process from collecting, drying, and freezing, to germination testing and propagation research, as well as many of the fascinating species we’ve been working with recently.

Stacy Anderson began collecting seeds for the Native Plant Seed Bank in 2004 as part of a collaboration with the Millennium Seed Bank at the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens in London. Joe Davitt began in early 2015 as the program began making CaPR rare plant seed collections.

Natives for Novices
San Diego Natives for San Diegans: How the CNPS-SD Seed and Bulb Committee Can Help You Plant Local
by Cindy Hazuka

The CNPS-SD Seed and Bulb Committee acquires, packages, and sells California native seeds primarily from the San Diego area. 100s of volunteer hours go into maintaining our inventory of over 100 species that are available to the public for purchase. This talk will cover the steps we take to acquire and prepare our seeds, as well as how to cross reference the current inventory list with plants that are known to grow close to your home using the “What Grows Here?” tool in https://calflora.org/.

Cindy Hazuka has been the Coordinator of the CNPS-SD Seed and Bulb Committee since 2016. She has been a member of CNPS since the early 1990s and been involved in many native plant gardens and propagation efforts. She holds a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Physiology from Stanford University.

Both Stacy and Joe were raised in rural sections of San Diego County and native plants and animals hold a special place in their hearts. “We are so happy to be working to conserve the native plants of this important and unique
region for future generations, and we’re excited to share our work with you!”

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, January 13, 2019
Mission Trails - Fortuna Peak Resolutions Hike
7:00 am to 2:00 pm

MEETING LOCATION: Mission Gorge Visitor Center, One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA. Meet near the entry to the Mission Trails Visitors Center. If the entry gates are closed, meet near them. Look for group with sun hats and hiking gear. Justin will be there.

DIFFICULTY: HARD; 7 miles

PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Beginner to Novice, Professionals always welcome!

ACCESS: Free

[RAIN CANCELS THIS EVENT!]

2019 is promising to be one heck of a roller coaster ride and the best way to start that off is to begin hard and fast so the rest of the year doesn’t look so bad. For anyone looking to check off one of the Fortuna peaks on the Mission Trails 5 Peak Challenge, this may be the hike for you. (The hike will probably not last seven hours, but I’ve provided plenty of buffer in case our pace slows significantly).

This hike aims to:
1) Help identify and classify native and non-native vegetation communities and their relative sensitivity to urban encroachment,
2) Point out a few of the rare plants found in and around San Diego, even though many will not be in bloom, and
3) Get your new year’s resolution checked off so that you can get over regretting having made it in the first place.

This is a hike with a high difficulty due to the elevation gain and distance. It is not going be like our normal trips where we stop to identify each native plant that catches our eyes, but I will (try to) answer any questions about those species that interest you.

Essentially, from the plush amenities of the not-yet-open-for-the-day Visitors Center (9 am to 5 pm) on Junipero Serra Dr (off Mission Gorge Rd) we will head through many of the native habitats found in urban and inland San Diego County. Starting with Coastal Sage Scrub and down through the Southern Mixed Riparian Woodland, we’ll then climb into different types of chaparral, finding points of interest like ridges and rocky outcrops as we head up to either North or South Fortuna Peak from the saddle. Then we go down to the grasslands below to perhaps come across the few vernal areas (too early for species) and then back across the Freshwater Wetlands at the Old Mission Dam to the paved surface of the Junipero Serra Dr. We’ll return to the Visitors Center viewing Riparian Oak Woodlands from the flat road above.

WHAT TO BRING: You will need to be able to pace yourself and have the gear to do this. Pack light, with most of your carried weight being water. Good hiking shoes will be essential, since parts of the trail are rocky and will be slippery and/or muddy. Bring sun essentials, light snacks, and a hiking stick if that’s your thing. It will likely be very cold when we start out, but the brisk pace should keep us warm. Still, have covers for your ears to avoid earaches in the cold morning air. If you bring gear, be able to stow it or carry it while ascending and descending steep trails.

CARPOOL: We’ll be starting early, but parking space will fill up quickly. Consider carpooling. I will provide my truck (black Toyota Tundra) with three (maybe 4) seats from Fashion Valley Mall Transit Center parking area nearest Fashion Valley Rd (west end of the mall) from 6:20 to 6:35 am. Be prepared to drive if space fills up. Parking at the Transit Center parking lot is free for 24 hrs and is occasionally patrolled by security. That being said, the same risks apply there as to regular street parking. Donations for gas are welcome, but not required.

Trail to Fortuna Peak

Saturday, January 19, 2019
Escondido Creek – Elfin Forest to Olivenhain Overlook
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

MEETING LOCATION: Elfin Forest1 Recreational Reserve, 8833 Harmony Grove Rd, Escondido, CA. There are two parking lots for the location. We will meet at 9 am at the bottom (western) lot where there is a restroom & information kiosk. Justin will be wearing a nametag and carrying a clipboard for the sign in sheet.

DIFFICULTY: Moderate to hard (steep terrain); 4 miles.

PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Beginner to Expert. Professionals always welcome!

1 Elin forest is another name for chaparral. The word “chaparral” comes from the Spanish word chaparro, which, in botany, means dwarf or scrub oak.
ACCESS: Free. However, donations to the Escondido Creek Conservancy provide valuable support for local native lands.

[RAIN CANCELS THIS EVENT]

This pocket of San Diego County is known locally for its extraordinary beauty and history. If the difficulty didn’t already scare you off, the dangers are wildfire, rattlesnakes, falls, the vapors, mountain lions, and definitely poison oak. Only a few of those issues should be any concern this time, since we’ll be headed up the trail in the San Diego winter.

I chose this location because late January is the blooming period for mission manzanita (Xylococcus bicolor), white coast canthus (Ceanothus verrocosus), southern mountain misery (Chamaebatia australis) [Keir found one in 2013], Encinitas baccharis (Baccharis vanessaee) [near the top, maybe], and white currant (Ribes indecorum). Summer holly (Comarostaphylis diversifolia) is also found along the way if we take a quick detour off the main trail onto the loop trail. Once we can make it up to the reservoir overlook, there are a few rare habitats that contain not only seen annual plants, though it will be too early for most species.

WHAT TO BRING: Bring your usual gear and a picnic lunch as I hope to stop for a bite to eat before we head down. The trail is steep in parts so wear excellent hiking shoes that you might not mind getting a little muddy.

CARPOOL: There will be at least one vehicle (Black Toyota Tundra) that can fit an additional two people (seating preference always given to mass transit riders) available from 7:50 to 8:05 am at the Fashion Valley Transit Station parking lot (near Fashion Valley Rd). Parking in the transit area lot is free for 24 hrs and has an occasional security guard on circuit, but keep in mind there are the same risks to parking there as on any public street. If the seats fill up, be prepared to drive. Roundtrip from Mission Valley is about 60 miles. Donations for gas are not necessary but are appreciated ($5-10 per person).

~ Justin Daniel, Field Trip Chair  
fieldtrips@cnpssd.org

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**CNPS WORKSHOP**  
Create Habitat and Give Back to Nature with CA Native Plants  
Saturday, January 26, 2019, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm  
For tickets go to:  
cnpssd.org/events/winterworkshop2019

**LOCATION:** Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park, Joan and Irwin Jacobs Theater

**COST:** $45 per ticket in advance, $50 per ticket at door, $25 student ticket (maximum 10)

**LUNCH:** Participants can purchase lunch at six nearby park venues or bring their own lunch to picnic in the park.

**PARKING:** Free in the park.

Free admission for workshop participants to the Museum of Photographic Arts exhibits.

**SCHEDULE**

8:15 am Outdoors: Registration, Selfie Station. Indoors: Books and Seeds for Sale, (Coffee and Muffins at Cafe in the Park, adjoins museum)

9:00-9:50 am OPENING ADDRESS: PRESENTATION ON INSECTS AND NATIVE PLANTS, title TBD. By Bob Allen (Adjunct Professor of Biology, Santiago Canyon College & Orange Coast College and Research Associate in Entomology, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County; Co-author of “Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains”)

10:00-11:40 am BRINGING SAN DIEGO HABITATS HOME TO THE GARDEN. By Clayton Tschudy (Owner of Tschudy Ecological Designs and Former Director of Horticulture & Exhibits at Water Conservation Garden). Everything you need to create vibrant, local habitat gardens in San Diego. This talk will take you through concept to the practical aspects of creating localized habitat for San Diego County, providing real life examples and utilizing powerful online tools.

11:40 pm LUNCH: Picnic in the Park or dine at your choice of Park restaurants and cafes.

1:00-2:05 pm USING PERMACULTURE TO INTEGRATE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS INTO YOUR HABITAT GARDEN. By Diane Kennedy (Founder, Finch Frolic Garden Permaculture) & Miranda Kennedy (Native Plant and Wildlife Expert and Photographer). Permaculture is based on natural systems and native plants are integral to any planting design. In this talk we'll see permaculture being integrated into a public habitat garden, and talk about plant communication and value for wildlife.


This workshop is being organized by CNPS-SD members Torrey Neel, Judie Lincer, and Joseph Sochor in conjunction with the CNPS-SD Garden Committee.
BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 2, 6:30 – 9:00 pm. 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). CNPS-SD Executive Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month, except when the 1st Wednesday falls on a holiday. Members are welcome to attend as observers. To add an issue to the agenda, please email president@cnpssd.org.

Board officers for 2019 were elected by the Board at the December 5, 2018 meeting. The Chapter President for 2019 is Justin Daniels who will also continue as the Field Trip Chair; Vice President for 2019 is Bobbie Stephenson who will also continue as Newsletter Editor; Secretary is Maggie Loy and Treasurer is Connie di Girolamo. Contact info for these officers is on the last page of this newsletter.

The board will miss Tom Oberbauer and Mike Evans who leaving the board and have served for several recent years on the CNPS-SD Board. Both served on the Board in other years, before the year 2000 with Mike being the 1980 Chapter President and Tom being the 1981-1982 Chapter President. Each comes from a strong conservation perspective with a wealth of knowledge they gained over years hiking and surveying in San Diego. Mike would try to herd the cats (the Board) into setting priorities so that our actions and fund distributions would align with our priorities. This sometimes led to the need to have a retreat so that new and old Board members could decide what we are trying to achieve which was always more than we have active volunteers to tackle. Mike kept minutes of Board meetings for years as Chapter Secretary and was patient with suggested revisions. He was forever having to differentiate himself from the other Mike Evans (Tree of Life) and our shorthand was he is the birder Mike Evans when someone would ask (he is a very good birder). He helped try to highlight the specialness of Baja CA, Mexico starting years ago in hopes of helping spur conservation of undeveloped lands in Baja.

As you all know, Tom spent a great deal of time crafting articles for our newsletter to share the wonders he has seen in the county over the years and on the off-shore islands from Santa Barbara south wrapping around Baja CA, Mexico. Tom is older than he looks and he started in CNPS in 1975. Joe Slocro posted Tom’s responses to Carol Greentree’s 1989 Chapter History Project on the website and you didn’t get asked to write anything for that project unless you had been around a while before then. Tom specialized in rare plants and vernal pools from his beginning with the Chapter and took great delight in reading Fremontia articles. He enjoys giving talks, writing articles for both the chapter newsletter and Fremontia and has done a series of videos about the Baja islands he has visited. He clearly likes to educate. I do recall being frustrated at not being able to find a reported rare plant population in Chula Vista when I lived there. I finally asked Tom if he could show me where it was as his name was associated with the reporting of the population. His response was he would prefer not to go back there unless I really needed his help as in his mind he still sees the beauty of the hillsides and canyon bottom covered in bloom prior to any houses being built in the area and he knew if he went back, that image would be diminished by the canyon rim lined housing that now exists there. I knew what he was talking about and kept looking on my own. I knew Tom in those days mostly from fieldtrips as we both liked to attend those and I was not involved in CNPS when he was on the Board his first go round. We both attended SDSU but I did not know him from there. His thesis is titled Distribution and Dynamics of San Diego County Grasslands (or something close to that) that was published in 1978. He is currently one of the instructors for the SDSU Extended Studies Field Botany Course. You might enjoy a couple of his stories in Plant love Stories that you can find on-line (www.plantloestories.com).

~ Cindy Burrascano

GARDENING WITH NATIVES

Gardening Committee Meeting

January 9. The Native Gardening Committee meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at various locations. Contact gardening@cnpssd.org for location and time.

Native Plant Landscape
Old Town State Historic Park

No work party until further notice. Contact Kay or Peter at: OldTownLandscape@cnpssd.org

Save the Date!
CNPS-SD
2019 Spring Garden Tour
April 13 & 14

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee Mtg

Contact Frank Landis at conservation@cnpssd.org for details about January’s meeting.

The 2019-2020 Forecast

Looking back, the January 2018 column was titled “Can San Diego Grow Up,” a thought piece on the problem of densification versus sprawl in San Diego County. One year
later, sprawl is winning, although that might not be true by the time you read this column, due to a possible court ruling on the County Climate Action Plan (CAP) on December 21, 2018.

So going forward, what conservation issues will be important in 2019?

Mission Bay
The City of San Diego has three project-level EIRs in process in and around Mission Bay: the Balboa Avenue Station Area Specific Plan; the Mission Bay Master Plan Fiesta Island Amendment; and the De Anza Cove revitalization project. Of these, Balboa Avenue Station is already past the City Planning Commission and headed for the City Council. The PEIR on Fiesta Island is out for review (comments are due by January 21, 2019; email conservation@cnpssd.org if you want to know more or get involved), and the City is still working out what to do with de Anza Cove.

Balboa Station is about increasing housing density and allowing transit-oriented development next to the Balboa Trolley station. The major part I have trouble with is that the area is adjacent to Rose Creek and depends on a trail next to the Creek for access, but City Planners stopped the project boundary right next to Rose Creek, so that they wouldn’t have to analyze their impacts to the Creek. This is arguably against CEQA’s directions against “piecemealing,” and if some litigant wants to cause trouble, this is the obvious issue to do it over.

As for Fiesta Island, our main issue is that there are rare plants on the island. We need to make sure that they get protected.

De Anza cove and enlarging Kendall-Frost Marsh are things that San Diego Audubon has been working on for years. Unfortunately, the City has run the revitalization of De Anza and the ReWild plan on separate tracks, so we will see what happens when they bring the two together. Salt marsh doesn’t vote, but it does serve as a really good storm surge barrier to protect new buildings. Hopefully, the planners will understand this. And yes, I’m very much for maximizing the amount of marsh in Mission Bay, along with providing habitat for all the Bay’s plants, animals, and other life forms. To be polite though, the City and I have very different views about environmental ethics and the value of species and ecosystem services, so I try to advance arguments that will resonate with them. Like using salt marsh to protect new restaurants, instead of building these things over the water.

Centennial and other fiery spraows
Old news for you by now, but new for me: yesterday LA County approved the sprawling Centennial development 4-1, with the one holdout being the Supervisor whose district got burned in the Woolsey Fire. The only reason I bring up Centennial is its nickname, “Earthquake, Wind, and Fire,” because that’s how suboptimal remaining development sites are in southern California. Centennial’s on the San Andreas fault, in an area with consistently high winds, and 31 fires have burned near or through the site in the last century. It’s bigger (40,000 people) and badder than anything we have in San Diego at the moment. It takes homeowner caveat emptor to a whole new level.

As I write this, Tejon Ranch has highlighted a whole controversy that flared up after the Woolsey and Camp fires: if we can predict that a development will burn, what do we do? Currently, the Counties approve them anyway, hiding behind the notion that current building codes and evacuation plans will make the developments safe enough, despite the fact that recently built, up-to-code homes burned in the 2017 Thomas and Tubbs fires. Many people, including some well-known fire ecologists, dispute this. Even retiring CalFire Chief Ken Pimlott weighed in, saying that “‘we owe it’ to homeowners, firefighters and communities ‘so that they don’t have to keep going through what we’re going through.’” (source: https://www.kcra.com/article/calfire-chief-state-must-adapt-to-new-wildfire-norm/25475297.) It’s telling that he waited until he was about to retire to say this, though.

I’m sure 2019 will see continuation of the discussion about what to do about fire-sprawl. Are there technical fixes to make buildings safer, such as roof and under-eave sprinklers, next generation fireproof buildings, or possibly subterranean hobbit holes? Possibly. But even they aren’t panaceas.

The bigger problem, as Emily Guerin pointed out in Laist.com, is that the incentives for protecting people from fire are all misaligned. Municipalities get far more property taxes from new development than they do from old ones, thanks to Proposition 13. They also get more tax money from expensive homes than from cheap ones, no matter that we desperately need affordable housing. Developers are often generous donors to political campaigns, with all that suggests. Fire departments say that proposed developments meet current codes, giving cover to their bosses. And when homes in the hills do burn down, taxpayers backstop the insurance companies and firefighting...
costs, so that people can rebuild on the same site that burned. This is known technically as a moral hazard, as the risks and costs are not borne by those who profit from or decide on the development. People have been seeing the problem for a long time too, as it was discussed in the 2006 USDA report Forest Service Large Fire Suppression Costs. (Source: https://laist.com/2018/09/24/why_do_we_keep_building_houses_in_places_that_burn_down.php)

And there is an environmental justice component to sprawl and fires. After the Camp fire burned the town of Paradise to its foundations, the LA Times suggested that perhaps this modest town shouldn’t be rebuilt. But when the Woolsey fire burned million-dollar mansions of A list stars? Silence. They get to rebuild. Well-known urban theorist Mike Davis has pointed out for years how much tax money goes to protect and rebuild homes in fire-prone hills, especially when these people tend to have wealth well above the state median. If we’re willing to subsidize fire protection and rebuilding for a mansion that burns in a wildfire, why not rebuild a shabby inner-city home if it burns by accident? That’s the environmental justice issue, that who gets rescued from their planning disasters depends in part on how wealthy they are. (source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/dec/04/california-wildfires-paradise-malibu-wealth-class ).

This is a discussion that won’t go away. And neither, I’m afraid, will the projects that spawn it. Speaking of which, here’s what’s going forward into 2019:

- The referendum on whether to repeal Newland Sierra’s EIR certification will likely be on the March 2020 ballot, unless a judge makes a very surprising decision before you read this.
- Litigation to repeal the Newland Sierra EIR certification is moving forward.
- The County will be approving Lilac Hills Ranch, Warner Springs Ranch, Otay Ranch Village 14 and others next year, unless another judge throws out the County Climate Action Plan on December 21. This might also disqualify Newland Sierra and any other project approved with the County’s CAP. Whether we’ll deal with yet another round of General Plan Amendment batching is something I also do not know.
- Just to keep everyone busy, the city of Escondido is set to decide on approving Safari Highlands, another fire/sprawl development just north of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. Fortunately for the environmental community, the mayor and a majority of the Escondido City Council are now democrats, and they appear open to discussing the problems with Safari Highlands.
- The Preserve at Torrey Highlands in the City of San Diego might move forward. It’s facing local opposition, primarily on fire issues. Even though this is a single office complex, it juts into Del Mar Mesa, with no fire clearance, and it puts 1,400-odd people where they’ll have to race to get out if the mesa top ever burns with an on-shore wind pushing it east (as happened in the Cocos Fire). This one office complex would house half as many people as Newland Sierra, and they have no fire evacuation plan. Hopefully, the developers just let this one die, but they may try to ram it through the City Council. If they do, those of you who live in the City will get messages from me asking for you to talk with your councilmembers about why you don’t like putting people at risk.

So happy 2019. Given the list above, I hope it’s a really uneventful for all of us.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

HABITAT RESTORATION

Continuing our efforts of the last several weeks, in December the team cut and treated eucalyptus and tamarisk at the Arroyo Preserve as well as at Fairbanks Ranch. The importance of this concerted effort on these particular target invasive species is due in part to the January deadline imposed under the terms of the funding grant obtained by our partner agencies. We need to show the work is done before money can be given to us. The fact that raptors start nesting in eucalyptus in January is also a factor in this time sensitivity. We don’t want to disturb their nesting activities.

Workers of the Rancho Santa Fe Parks and Recreation Department helped a great deal recently. They chainsawed trees down and chipped them. Also helping were Committee members Heidi and Kelly, and San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy Manager Jonathan Appelbaum. Thanks also to Caitlin and Samantha from Parks and Rec for bringing pizza!

~ Bob Byrnes, Restoration Co-chair
The basic environmental course through teaching Dr. Scott Jon Michael Rebman, Dr. Margaret McMillan, and Dr. Tom Oberbauer will complete the Botany Certification Course – a 12-week series of classroom sessions and outdoor hands-on field trips on Mondays (usually 9 am to 3 pm) January through March. The next course begins January 7, 2019.

http://www.anzaborregobotany.org/join-us

Anza Borrego Desert Botany Society

The Botany Society is a volunteer organization that assists Park staff to preserve, document and interpret the Park’s flora. New Botany Society members must complete the Botany Certification Course – a 12-week series of classroom sessions and outdoor hands-on field trips on Mondays (usually 9 am to 3 pm) January through March. The next course begins January 7, 2019. http://www.anzaborregobotany.org/join-us

Email Addresses: If you are not receiving our email communications, or you would like to update your address, please send updated information to membership@cnpssd.org.

Related Activities

Field Botany Course

Dr. Michael G. Simpson, Dr. Lluvia Flores-Rentería, Scott McMillan, Margaret Mulligan, Tom Oberbauer, Dr. Jon Rebman, and Dr. Sula Vanderplank will be teaching Field Botany of San Diego County spring 2019, through the College of Extended Studies at SDSU. Course details and a first version syllabus are at: http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/plants/fieldbotany/index.htm

The course is designed for the serious amateur botanist, environmental consultant, or employee of an environmental government organization to acquire the basic knowledge and skills of plant taxonomy, native plant identification, and plant community assessment. The primary objectives of this course are both to learn the native and naturalized vascular plant species of our area (primarily our county) and to learn how to know these plants. Thus, the basic training will go beyond simply memorizing names and will encompass the four components of taxonomy: description, identification, nomenclature, and classification. The class is NC 0301, and runs from Jan 26 - May 11, 2019. Visit this website for more info about the class: http://www.sci.sdsu.edu/plants/fieldbotany/index.htm

The link to sign up for the class is here: https://ces.sdsu.edu/science-computers-technology/field-botany-san-diego

Contact Dr. Michael Simpson (msimpson@sdsu.edu) for further information.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_Student or Limited Income $25; _Individual $45; _Family $75
_Plant Lover $100; _Patron $300; _Benefactor $600; _Mariposa Lily $1,500

Name(s):
Address:
Phone:
e-mail:

Mail check payable to "CNPS" and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter
C/o San Diego Natural History Museum
P. O. Box 121390
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January 2019 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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