



HAPPENINGS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Arizona Native Plant Society
Our mission is to promote knowledge, appreciation, conservation
and restoration of Arizona's native plants and their habitats

Join Any Chapter E-List

The best way to keep up with the latest AZNPS events is to join the chapter e-list, which notifies members about meetings, events, conferences, field trips, workshops, and volunteer opportunities in the area. Don't forget to keep us updated on e-mail address changes. To be added to any chapter e-list, send your name and e-mail address to:

Cochise	Doug Ripley	aznpscochise@gmail.com
Flagstaff	Susan Holiday	naris123@cs.com
Peach Springs	Carrie Cannon	Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov
Phoenix	Lisa Rivera	aznpsphoenix@gmail.com
Prescott	Sue Smith	PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com
Santa Cruz	Robin Kulibert	santacruz.aznps@gmail.com
Tonto Basin	Becky Settje	tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com
Tucson		nativeplantstucson@gmail.com
Upper Gila		uppergilaaznps@gmail.com
White Mountain	Jess Rollar	aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com
Yuma	Valerie Morrill	yumaaznps@gmail.com





**Arizona Native Plant Society
Desert Botanical Garden
Phoenix, Arizona**



**21st Annual Arizona Botany Meeting
1-2 March 2025**

**The Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, Arizona**

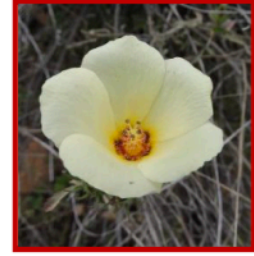


The Desert Botanical Garden
Theme: *Exploring the Botanical Diversity, Ecology, and History of Arizona's Native Flora*

See AZ Native Plant Society Website for Details and Registration: www.aznps.com or Use the Attached Registration Form



Arizona Botany Meeting 2025



Please plan to attend the 21st Annual Arizona Botany Meeting on 1-2 March 2025 sponsored by the Arizona Native Plant Society and held at the Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix. This year's theme is:

***Exploring the Botanical Diversity,
Ecology, and History of Arizona's Native Flora***

A wide range of papers and posters will be presented covering many different aspects of Arizona's native flora.

Meeting Details

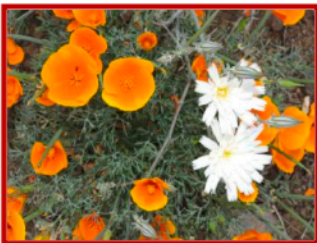
Saturday, March 1, 2025

2:00 PM to 4:00 PM: Pre-meeting guided tour of new Garden displays and research facilities with free admission. Assemble near inside in front of the main entrance for tour. Participants are welcome to stay afterwards and enjoy the main garden grounds as part of free entrance.

Sunday, March 2, 2025

8:00 AM to 6:00 PM: The meeting's presentations and posters will be held in the Garden's Dorrance Hall. Free admission for all registrants at main entrance. Follow signage to Dorrance Hall to the left of the entrance for the meeting.

Our continuing goal for the meeting is to foster a spirit of cooperation for the sharing of ideas among, and facilitating collaboration between, all individuals from academic institutions, local, state, and federal government agencies, and non-governmental organizations from across the state of Arizona, and to provide a forum to meet others who share an interest in the flora of Arizona and surrounding areas within the Southwest.



The meeting registration fee is: **\$35.00**
Which includes a Continental breakfast, box lunch, and refreshments (coffee, tea, and soft drinks). A reduced fee of **\$17.00** is offered to undergraduate and graduate students.
The registration fee also includes free admission to the Gardens on 1 and 2 March.





Registration Form

Arizona Botany Meeting 2025
1-2 March 2025

Desert Botanical Garden
1202 N. Galvin Parkway
Phoenix, Arizona

Name: _____

Address: _____

e-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Type of Registration:

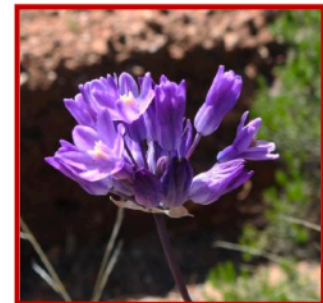
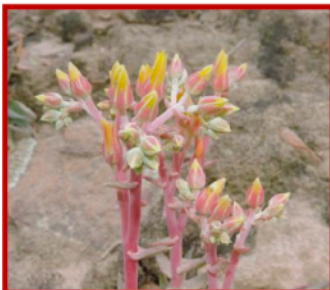
- 1. Pre-Meeting Garden Tour on Saturday, March 1, 2025, 2:00 PM: _____
Tour Only: Free
- 2. Conference Meeting on Sunday, March 2, 2025:
Regular \$35.00 _____
Student \$17.00 _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Registration

Register online (aznps.com) or mail
completed form with
payment to:

Arizona Native Plant Society
P.O. Box 41206
Tucson, AZ 85717



**Box Lunch Menu Selections
Sunday Noon, March 2, 2025**

1. Panini Lunch Box:

Chicken _____
Beef _____
Vegetarian _____
Vegan _____

2. Cibata Lunch Box:

Chicken _____
Beef _____
Vegetarian _____

2. Panini Gluten Free Lunch Box:

Chicken _____
Beef _____
Vegetarian _____

Plus: Various beverages and dessert items

Chapter News

Cochise Chapter



Unfortunately, the Cochise Chapter remains in an inactive status, as explained in previous “Happenings” reports. Chapter president Doug Ripley has continued to try and find a way to return the Chapter to an active status but without success. The principal need is for volunteers to serve in the various officer positions, especially the president. Doug Ripley has been the chapter president since its inception in 2010 and now finds it extremely difficult to continue in that role single-handedly. Furthermore, he plans to move from Cochise County shortly. However, one interested individual has come forward with an interest in reviving the chapter and Doug and she met recently to discuss revitalization strategies. Doug will continue collaborating with her and keep the chapter members informed of any progress. However, for the time being the Cochise Chapter will remain in an inactive status. Individuals who would like to help restore the Cochise Chapter to an active status should

Chapter Offices

President: Douglas Ripley (jdougripley@gmail.com); Vice President: vacant; Secretary: Deann Sanner (longeyesone@gmail.com), Treasurer: Pat Sullivan.



Superstition Mountains. Photo: Shelley Silva

Flagstaff Chapter



The Flagstaff Chapter will offer in-person meetings this year with the option to watch from home via Zoom. The meetings will still take place on the third Tuesday of the month, March through October, at 7:00 PM. **We have a new location for 2025!** The meetings are now being held at the Northern Arizona University Biology Sciences Building, Room 328. Street parking is available nearby. The doors will be locked in the evening, so please meet at the southern door (the end with the NAU herbarium) to be let in.

Some of the meetings have been recorded and can be viewed the Flagstaff Chapter's Facebook or at The Arizona Native Plant Society. For details about upcoming meetings, please see our email distribution list (naris123@cs.com), Facebook page, or AZNPS.com.

Register in advance once in order to attend any of the meetings virtually:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/fCOeo-qlSZmMeGZNsNfV_A

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Use the link Zoom sends or the passcode 242464 to join the meeting.

Chapter Offices

President: Kirstin Phillips (flagstaffAZNPS@gmail.com); Chapter Contact: Melissa Amberson (azmelissa@yahoo.com); Email Distribution: Sue Holiday (naris123@cs.com); Hike Information: Barbara Phillips (bagphillips@yahoo.com)

Meetings

Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 PM: Catherine Young. *Analysis of Potential Hazards to the Future Conservation of the Endemic Alpine Species Packera franciscana*



Catherine Young, a junior at the NAU School of Forestry, will present the important conservation breakthroughs that she has made for the threatened alpine sunflower, *Packera franciscana*. The species is only found near Flagstaff, above the treeline of the San Francisco Peaks. She successfully established the first captive population of these plants outside of a greenhouse setting. Her observations in the field suggest that a new hybrid zone has formed within the last 10 years. She has also created the first tissue culture protocol to produce genetically identical plants to those in the wild. The most recent developments are laying the foundation for her future project that will attempt to predict the response of the species to potential hazards such as climate change, competition with hybrids, and wildfire. **Hybrid meeting: in-person and via Zoom.**

Tuesday, April 15, 7:00 PM: Amelia Blake. *Propagating Native Plants*



Growing uncultivated plant varieties can be challenging. They often have seed dormancy, unique soil needs, and don't grow well in containers. Because of this, many native plants are not available in the nursery trade and native plant enthusiasts are left to cultivate their own. Amelia will discuss strategies for successful native-plant propagation.

Amelia is co-owner of Lily of the Field Nursery, which focuses on growing native and heirloom plants that are especially well-adapted to the Flagstaff area. Amelia spent her childhood working with plants at the NAU Research Greenhouse during her father's tenure as greenhouse manager. She received her B.S. in Plant Sciences from the University of Arizona. She then worked at Native Plant and Seed for three years before opening Lily of the Field Nursery in 2020 with her husband. She sells at most local markets, runs the Gardeners' Market in east Flagstaff each spring, and sells by appointment from her home in the Upper Greenlaw neighborhood. **Hybrid meeting: in-person and via Zoom.**

Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 PM: Dr. James Smith. *Recent Molecular Phylogenetic Analyses of Alpine Spring Parsley, Pseudocymopterus montanus*

Alpine spring parsley (*Pseudocymopterus montanus*) is known to be highly variable morphologically and in its phenology. Dr. James Smith will present preliminary results that separate what we commonly call *Pseudocymopterus montanus* into several separate well-supported clades.

Dr. Smith is the Director of the Snake River Plains Herbarium at Boise State University. His research interests include the phylogenetics of western North American Apiaceae and using Sanger sequencing techniques to discover cryptic or near cryptic species within many widespread species.

This will be a virtual event with Dr. Smith presenting from Idaho. The presentation will not be recorded.



Field Trips

Field trips generally leave from south end of the Walmart parking lot on Woodlands Boulevard on Saturday following the talk, April-October. Carpooling is usually available. Please watch for specific details.

Hakdagwi:va Peach Springs Chapter



For information on chapter activities, contact [Carrie Cannon](mailto:Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov) (Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov).

Chapter Offices

President: Carrie Cannon; Secretary: Shaileen Gonzalez; Treasurer: Alicia Cesspooch

Phoenix Chapter



To stay up-to-date on chapter activities and announcements, please subscribe to our email list by writing to our chapter email (aznpsphoenix@gmail.com).

We also share a variety of native plant news and information on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/aznpsphoenix](https://www.facebook.com/aznpsphoenix)) and our Chapter web page (aznps.com/chapters/phoenix).

Follow our chapter on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/aznpsphoenix/>) and use the hashtag #aznativeplants on your plant photos to help us showcase the beauty and importance of Arizona native plants!

Chapter Offices

President: Lisa Rivera; Treasurer: Danielle Carlock. We can be reached at aznpsphoenix@gmail.com.

Upcoming Activities

The Phoenix Chapter hosts events periodically throughout the year. Chapter events will be announced to our email list subscribers at least two weeks in advance.

We are in need of members to help plan our activities. If you are interested in assisting with the planning, organizing, or facilitation of Phoenix Chapter events, or would like to learn more, please contact Lisa Rivera (aznpsphoenix@gmail.com).

Prescott Chapter



The chapter continues to manage species growing in Walnut Meadow at the Highlands Center for Natural History, to provide workshops on plant families, to make seed balls to help with Prescott National Forest restoration, and to schedule evening programs.

Chapter Offices

President: Sue Smith; Steering Committee: Jeannie Tutone and Sara Vincent. We can be reached at PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com.

Santa Cruz Chapter



For information on chapter events, you can be added to our email list and/or follow our [Facebook page \(https://www.facebook.com/aznpssantacruz\)](https://www.facebook.com/aznpssantacruz). Send an [email \(santacruz.aznps@gmail.com\)](mailto:santacruz.aznps@gmail.com) to join our mailing list or for any other questions.

Chapter Offices

President: Robin Kulibert; Vice President: Rick Kulibert

Tonto Basin Chapter



The AZ Native Plant Society Tonto Basin Chapter invites anyone interested in learning about native plants in Gila County to join us for chapter meetings, botany walks, and conservation activities.

Our chapter meets on the first Friday of each month, October through May, and includes guest speakers, botany walks, and field trips. Please join our email list (tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com) to receive up-to-date information and meeting reminders. You can also visit our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts for additional information.

Chapter Offices

President: Becky Settje; Vice President: Teri Balaska; Lead Botanist: Eric Sjoden

Upcoming Activities

Friday, March 7, 10:00 - 11:30 AM. Ashley Hall, Rangeland Management Agent

Ashley will share her work on the Tonto National Forest. This presentation will be held at the Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce, 45675 N Arizona Highway 188, Tonto Basin.

Thursday, April 3, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Liz Makings, Research Specialist & ASU Herbarium Collections Manager

Liz will lead a botany walk at Bushnell Tanks, located in Sunflower off State Highway 87. Pack a snack and water and wear sturdy hiking shoes.

Friday, April 4, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Patti Fenner, Executive Director of the Friends of the Tonto National Forest

Patti will share information on how to ID, remove, dispose, and report Stinknet, an aggressive, nonnative invasive weed that has arrived in the Tonto Basin. We will meet at Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce, 45675 N Arizona Highway 188, Tonto Basin.

Friday, May 2, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Laird Blackwell. *Wildflower Adventures*

Laird is the author of numerous wildflower books. He will share his field work in this inspiring presentation. A year-end potluck will follow in the Chapter President's garden/arboretum, 268 E Stephens Way, Tonto Basin. Please bring a dish to share.

Volunteer Opportunities



YOU can be a citizen scientist and help monitor the health of saguaros. The Tonto Basin Chapter is monitoring saguaros in the Tonto Basin and Lake Roosevelt areas. If you would like to help collect data, please go to [Saguaro Monitoring - Friends of the Tonto National Forest](#) and submit the Interest Form. Upon completing a 1 1/2 hour YouTube training session in the comfort of your home, we will take you to the monitoring sites for in-field training. All data is collected on the ARCGIS Field Maps App and a smartphone is required. Ten acre grids are available for adoption and are easily accessible. *This is a fun project for the whole family!*

NEW! Beginning in March 2025, the Tonto Basin Chapter, in collaboration with the Friends of the Tonto National Forest, will be kicking off the "Tonto Basin Stinknet Patrol." For volunteer opportunities, please visit [Friends of the Tonto National Forest Volunteer on the Tonto!](#) for more information.

Chapter Report

The Tonto Basin Chapter was honored to have Wendy Hodgson, Senior Research Botanist at the Desert Botanical Garden, for our January guest speaker. She presented *Pre-Contact Agaves in the SW United States: Rediscovering Lost Crops Among the Hobokam & Other AZ Cultures*. A small group of scientists and plant enthusiasts spent two days surveying the status and health of agaves that Wendy had recorded in 1988. Agaves were an important food and fiber source for the ancient cultures in Arizona, and we were successful in locating some of the clones during our agave adventures.



Tucson Chapter



The Tucson Chapter meets on the second Thursday of each month, from September to May. We resumed in-person meetings in a hybrid format that allows folks to join us on a Zoom interface if they prefer. Watch our [chapter page](https://aznps.com/chapters/tucson/) (<https://aznps.com/chapters/tucson/>) on the website for more information.

If you are not on our mailing list and would like the link for a meeting, [email](mailto:nativeplantstucson@gmail.com) (nativeplantstucson@gmail.com) us the week before the meeting requesting the zoom link. Videos of past meetings can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVBSV1oOi6enVYcI2CShTfw) (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVBSV1oOi6enVYcI2CShTfw>).

Chapter Offices

President: Vacant; Treasurer: Andrew Gourevitch; Secretary: Matthew Lutheran

Upper Gila Chapter



To keep up-to-date on chapter activities, please contact us at our [chapter email](mailto:uppergilaaznps@gmail.com) (uppergilaaznps@gmail.com).

Chapter Offices

President: Nathan Cline; Vice President: Diane Drobka; Secretaries: Julie Plath and Clara Gauna; Treasurer: Julie Davis.

White Mountain Chapter



Our chapter covers all of Navajo and Apache counties, but welcomes native plant enthusiasts from Greenlee and northern Gila Counties also. For more information, contact the [chapter](mailto:aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com) (aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com).

Chapter Offices

President: Jess Rollar; Education Coordinator: Anita Thompson; Treasurer: Bob Rollar; Master Gardener: Michelle Straight.

Yuma Chapter



Yuma will forgo regular monthly, in-person meetings for the foreseeable future. Instead, we will focus on outdoor activities, such as field trips and work projects, with a virtual format for meetings and similar indoor activities.

Announcements of these events and other news updates will be posted via email. If you would like to receive updates, please contact us at our [chapter email](mailto:yumaaznps@gmail.com) (yumaaznps@gmail.com) and ask to be put on our list.

Chapter Offices

President: Valerie Morrill; Vice President: Karen Reichhardt; Secretary: Deirdre MacDonald; Treasurer: Tom Fox

AZNPS Conservation Efforts

Waterman Restoration Site



Tucson Daily Star. Photo: Grace Trejo

2025 marks the 15th year of ongoing restoration of buffelgrass infested site to a Saguaro-Palo Verde upland Sonoran landscape.

In September 2022, a freak microburst with 3.5 inches rainfall carved a 500ft erosion ditch down the upper length of the site. Starting in January 2023, AZNPS volunteers have been plugging the gash with recycled Christmas trees. A report of our 2025 Christmas tree effort was published in the Arizona Daily Star in January: [Desert restoration project has 99 problems but a ditch ain't one.](#)

Riparian Restoration in Catalina State Park

Since 2016, AZNPS volunteers have been steadily removing invasive plants (11 different species) from five riparian canyons in Catalina State Park. Invasive removal has resulted in an impressive resurgence of native plants. The keystone restoration species is deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*). Following the very wet 2023-4 winter, we are witnessing an impressive recruitment of deergrass in this dry 2024-25 season. This dry cold winter has been an opportunity to differentiate the relative cold tolerance between species. To our great surprise, Deergrass is very cold tolerant despite its classification as a "warm season perennial bunchgrass"!



Emergent deer grass

We continue to manually remove fountaingrass (*Cenchrus setaere*) and African lovegrasses (*Eragrostis curvula*) in remaining persistent stands with the help of CSP volunteers. Here is an example of one day's work:



Before

After

Welcome New Chapter Members!

Flagstaff: Matt Lau, Anita Hilliard

Peach Springs: Pear Sullivan, Kavoka Jackson

Phoenix: Barbara Guthrie, Joan LaMoure, Mary Nolan, Amy Richerson, Mohammed Sahal, Bloom Sanchez, Sam Tan, Zane Robertson, Kara Rosseaux, Debra Magadini, Mary Dokes, Cindy Larsen, Anmarie Stone

Prescott: Zachary Cousino, Fiona Reid, Karina Rohrer, Malora Nichols

Tonto Basin: Patti Carlson, Veronika Countryman, Frederick Weimann, Shauna Smith, Grace McMahon, Kathy Lloyd

Tucson: Ann Audrey, Robert Pitcher, Sarma Spitzer, Jacquelyn Smith, Ken Kertell, Gail Rottman, Steve Watts

White Mountain: Mary Deja, Janice Pertruzzi

For More Information, Contact the Chapter OfficersOr visit the AZNPS [website \(www.aznativeplantsociety.org\)](http://www.aznativeplantsociety.org).**AZNPS Headquarters**Administrator: [Pat Sanchez](mailto:PatSanchez@aznativeplantsociety.org) arizonanativeplantsociety@gmail.com**Cochise Chapter**President: [Douglas Ripley](mailto:DouglasRipley@aznpscochise.com) aznpscochise@gmail.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary Deanna Sanner

Treasurer: Pat Sullivan

Flagstaff ChapterPresident: [Kirstin Phillips](mailto:KirstinPhillips@flagstaffaznps.com) flagstaffaznps@gmail.comContact: [Susan Holiday](mailto:SusanHoliday@cs.com) naris123@cs.com

Treasurer: Patti Van Tuyl

Presentations/Field Trips: Barbara Phillips

Peach Springs ChapterPresident: [Carrie Cannon](mailto:CarrieCannon@hualapai-nsn.gov) Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov

Secretary: Shaileen Gonzalez

Treasurer: Alicia Cesspooch

Phoenix ChapterPresident: [Lisa Rivera](mailto:LisaRivera@aznpsphoenix.com) aznpsphoenix@gmail.com

Treasurer: Danielle Carlock

Prescott ChapterPresident: [Sue Smith](mailto:SueSmith@prescottnativeplantsociety.com) PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com**Santa Cruz Chapter**President: [Robin Kulibert](mailto:RobinKulibert@santacruz.AZNPS@gmail.com) santacruz.AZNPS@gmail.com

Vice President: Rick Kulibert

Tonto Basin ChapterPresident: [Becky Settje](mailto:BeckySettje@tontobasinnativeplants.com) tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com

Vice President: Teri Balaska

Lead Botanist: Eric Sjoden

Tucson ChapterPresident: Vacant nativeplantstucson@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andrew Gourevitch

Upper Gila ChapterVice President: Diane Drobka uppergilaaznps@gmail.com

Secretaries: Julie Plath and Clara Gauna

Treasurer: Julie Davis

White Mountain ChapterPresident: [Jess Rollar](mailto:JessRollar@aznpswhitemountain.com) aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com

Education Coordinator: Anita Thompson

Treasurer: Bob Rollar

Master Gardener: Michelle Straight

Yuma ChapterPresident: [Valerie Morrill](mailto:ValerieMorrill@yumaaznps.com) yumaaznps@gmail.com

Vice President: Karen Reichhardt

Secretary: Deidre MacDonald

Treasurer: Tom Fox

AZNPS Happenings is a forum to promote chapter news and activities throughout the state. Please contact your chapter president or program coordinator to contribute information, or email the *Happenings* editor, [Shelley Silva](mailto:ShelleySilva@gmail.com) (shelley.a.silva@gmail.com).



ARIZONA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
P.O. Box 41206
Tucson, AZ 85717

Address Service Requested

Arizona Native Plant Society
AZNPS is a 501 (C) (3) organization
Your membership is tax-deductible, minus \$12 for *Plant Press Arizona*

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone/Email:

Membership Level:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> New | <input type="radio"/> Renewal |
| <input type="radio"/> \$15 Student | <input type="radio"/> \$30 Individual, \$50 Individual for 2 years |
| <input type="radio"/> \$35 Family, \$60 family for 2 years | <input type="radio"/> \$50 Organization |
| <input type="radio"/> \$75 Commercial | <input type="radio"/> \$100 Plant Lover |
| <input type="radio"/> \$500 Patron | <input type="radio"/> \$1,000 Lifetime |

Preferred Chapter:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Cochise | <input type="radio"/> Flagstaff | <input type="radio"/> Peach Springs | <input type="radio"/> Phoenix | <input type="radio"/> Prescott | <input type="radio"/> Santa Cruz |
| <input type="radio"/> Tonto Basin | <input type="radio"/> Tucson | <input type="radio"/> Upper Gila | <input type="radio"/> White Mountain | <input type="radio"/> Yuma | |

Members with email access will receive email notice when new *Happenings* newsletter and *Plant Press Arizona* issues are posted online. **Please indicate if you prefer to receive *Plant Press Arizona* via postal mail.**

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