



TORREYANA

THE DOCENT NEWSLETTER FOR
TORREY PINES
STATE NATURAL RESERVE

Issue 419

June 2020

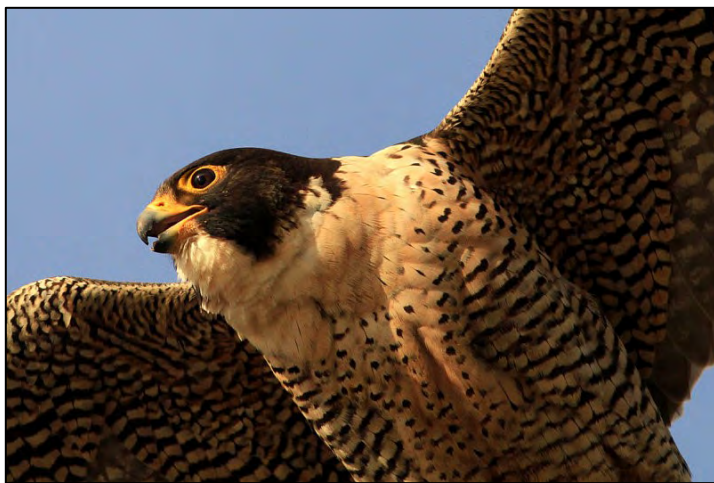
Talon Show

by Dan Hammer

photos by Herb Knüfken

For years, docent **Herb Knüfken** has entertained and educated us with his dazzling nature photographs. At the May 9 TPDS meeting (on Zoom, of course), Herb shared selections from his *magnum opus*: an ongoing photo chronicle of the Peregrine Falcon. For those of you who missed it – and for all of us who want to see it again – here are a few highlights from Herb's presentation. The PDF can be seen [here on Box.com](#).

You can find more falcon photos on pg. 3 and even more in Herb's Peregrine photo gallery at pbase.com/herb1rm/peregrine_falcons



Ready for his close-up

Docent General Meeting

Saturday, June 13, 9 am

Location: Online via Zoom (link to the meeting will be emailed)

Topic: To Be Determined

Due to a personal situation, Johnson Jou and Joy Inton will not be able to give their talk in June about insects and spiders. It will be scheduled for a later month. A notice will be sent via GoogleGroups before the June 13 meeting to announce our speaker.



In the nursery with mom



Flapping away baby fuzz

The Torrey Pines Docent Society publishes the *Torreyana* monthly, edited by Joan Simon and Dan Hammer on alternate months, and is formatted and produced by Roger Isaacson. Submissions are due on or about the 20th day of the preceding month and may be emailed to

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Johnson Jou (Interpreter), Ingo Renner

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FLASH From Joy Inton: Don't
forget to donate your ZooNoz
magazines to the Museum Shop.

President's Message

We docents are all naturalists. We are students of natural history. We gather information through careful observation, using all our senses. We examine the interconnected relationships of flora and fauna in natural habitats. We assess the effects of human activities. We teach people about how our behavior can adversely impact ecosystems, and how we can work together to protect our priceless natural places.



My hero, the naturalist Rachel Carson, helped Americans understand the evils of pollution and inspired the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Other great naturalists such as John Muir, Henry Thoreau, and David Attenborough have inspired us to preserve our natural heritage for our children and grandchildren. Each of us naturalists, in our own small way, can and do make a difference.

Janet Ugalde, TPDS President

Torrey During the Pandemic

by Ingo Renner

I consider myself lucky to have been given the opportunity to experience Torrey Pines in its wild state, devoid of visitors with all the noise and activity they bring. This peacefulness reminds me of days of my youth when I used to hike here with family and friends back in the 60's. It has been a rare chance to see animals in their natural state, with rabbits sprawled out in careless abandon along the roadside, coveys of quail eating seeds on the trails, and squirrels eating Sea Dahlias by the "pawful."

One of my most astounding encounters was when I watched a rattlesnake trying to cross the road while being relentlessly attacked by a very brave squirrel (odds are it was trying to dissuade the snake from finding its burrow of young). I actually interceded to let the snake go by, so it wouldn't accidentally get run over by a car!

It has been inspiring to watch how quickly the native vegetation's vigorous growth closed in the trails. It could swallow all signs of human made trails within just a few years if it was given the chance.

It has been very enjoyable working together with our rangers, fellow park aides, maintenance workers, lifeguards, Border Patrol (who got to ride their horses on the beach!), and other state park workers during this challenging time, making sure everything stayed safe and cared for.

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Talon Show Photos



How does that grab you?



No paparazzi, please!



The world's fastest animal



Move over, DoorDash!



Keeping bigger birds at bay



Turnabout is fair play: The squirrel won!

General Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2020

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by President Janet Ugalde. TPDS President Ugalde welcomed Torrey Pines docents to the GM meeting, conducted again via Zoom.

Speaker: Herb Knüfken

Topic: Peregrine Falcon at Torrey Pines

TPDS Business

- **President's Report: Janet Ugalde** shared that
 - o State Beaches reopened on May 5th for individual active exercise only and with numerous restrictions to ensure social distancing. The conditions of the limited opening call for visitors to stay six feet apart from non-household members on the sand and in the ocean. A number of parking areas, including street parking at the North Beach, remain closed except for disabled spaces.
 - o No information is currently available about possible opening date for TPSNR and other state parks.
 - o The docent roster is now available online.
- **New Business**
 - o **Docent Refresh Training**

President Janet Ugalde shared **Janice Barnard's** proposal to offer a Docent Refresher Training. Although the training materials are available online for everyone to do this themselves, using Zoom would provide an opportunity for social engagement, with the added benefit of keeping docents' brains active. The training would take place as weekly, i.e., every Saturday, Zoom sessions with Q&A and it would roughly follow the new docent training schedule. Janice offered to be the coordinator.

This proposal received unanimous approval.
 - o **Mask Making**

Janet shared that **Molly Allison** and her team sewed twenty face masks. Thank you, Molly and team! The masks were delivered to the TP maintenance staff. However, the need for making additional face masks continues. Janet encouraged docents who have the skills and time to make masks to continue to do so and share masks with TP staff and fellow docents.
 - o **CareTeam Updates**

Annette Ring (CareTeam leader) reported that the CareTeam membership list has been updated. Two new members have been added. The CareTeam created a list showing the buddy-docent assignment.

Annette reminded all docents to reach out to the CareTeam if they need help and or masks.

Docent of the Month

Kristine Schindler is Docent of the Month for May. Kristine organized and was the emcee of the highly successful Talent Show event. She is affectionately known as the trash-lady because she is the organizer and driving force behind the Highway 101 clean-up. Kristine's love for the environment is infectious and her passion and energy for translating that love into concrete action is well known. For example, she created the bike-walk-Solana Beach initiative, and now the bike-walk-Encinitas initiative.

The meeting ended at 10:25 am

CARE Team – Alive and Well

by Sally Whitlock

The TPDS CARE Team was initiated in August 2015. The purpose is to stay informed about the wellbeing of our docent members, and when needed, to offer help and encouragement. These are very trying and difficult times for many of us, and we are here to help in any way we can. Currently the team is spearheading distribution of face masks at the request of TPDS Board of Directors. **Annette Ring** sent an email message to all docents to inquire who might need a mask and who can make masks. **Kristine Schindler** and **Janice Barnard** are coordinating this effort.

Janice is also the coordinator of a new program: Docent Refresh Training presented by the CARE Team. (See article on pg. 8.) CARE is an acronym for **C**ontact **A**nd **R**etain. All docents are encouraged to contact any CARE Team member if you know of someone who would benefit from the comfort of a get well or condolence card, a phone call, or other outreach. Additionally, the Team helps the Membership Committee track members for the purpose of submitting volunteer hours. Of course, this year, the required hours will be fewer due to closure of the Reserve. Information about required hours to be determined. All docents now have access to the CARE Team list at torreypine.org/volunteering/docent-docs/ along with the 2020 roster and the first name roster.

CARE Team: **Janice Barnard, Jo Moeller, Nancy Richardson, Wayne Kornreich, Marie Johnson, Jake Mumma, Karen Lisi, Paul Howard, Medi Denker, Kristine Schindler, Irene Larrimore, Johnson Jou, Lynne Truong, Kathleen Dewhurst, Suzan Potuznik, Chuck Anders, and Diane Coram.** Coordinators: **Annette Ring** and **Sally Whitlock**

We welcome your input and ideas!

Docent of the Month:

Kristine Schindler

Since becoming a docent in 2011, my love for TPSNR continues to grow. It is not just the

place itself (and slowing down in the Reserve), but now also the people I have met and worked with along the way. I have been able to enjoy and give back to the Reserve in many new and different ways.

I appreciate that there are so many ways to serve and that there is the flexibility to think up "outside the box" ways as well.



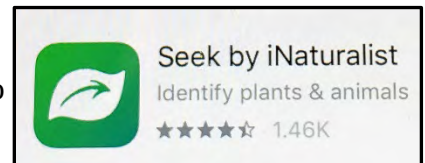
Being a bike commuter riding through the Reserve to/from work in the UTC area, as a newbie docent I first wanted to establish a cleanup effort to tend to the roadside and lagoon edge being trashed out by my fellow bike riders, motorists, and beachgoers, since it is a gateway to the Reserve and should be beautiful and litter free. I truly appreciate all my fellow docents who have pitched in with this activity over the years. Woot woot woot !!!

My love of nature has been with me throughout my life, since my childhood in Michigan, with a curiosity and love of being outdoors and active. The desire to be a strong environmental steward grew out of that early love of nature and a sense of responsibility to our Mother Earth and each other to tread lightly. And now that I have become a volunteer fall prevention coach, I most recently wanted to give back directly to the docent group by offering a free Matter of Balance program to

"Seek" – and Ye Shall Find

by Joan R. Simon

"Seek" has become my favorite app of all time. It was "given" to me as a Christmas present by my



daughter who was tired of answering (or failing to answer) my constant question "What is this plant?" whenever I visited her in Kernville, CA. Technically, she didn't "give" it to me because this is a free app from iNaturalist. It allows you to identify plants, both native and from around the world, and to create your own data base. Here is how it works: You just open the app and point your phone at a plant and wait for it to be identified. It usually starts at the Class designation (Dicot/Monocot) and moves on to Order, Family, Genus and Species. Sometimes it jumps right to the species and you're done, but often you have to change the angle of your phone to get the final determination. Then you take a photo and it is entered into your data base, with a common name, botanical name, and full classification. In addition, you'll see several photos and basic information, including whether it is native, endangered, or introduced. When you scroll down you will see a description of the plant, and if it's not native, what part of the world it comes from.

While I have used it mostly for plants, Seek also identifies mammals, insects, birds, mollusks, arachnids, fungi, fish, reptiles and amphibians. It is a perfect companion on walks around your neighborhood and to whatever parks and trails are open. I use it all the time, but when I'm out for a walk with friends, I have to restrain myself from stopping every two minutes to identify some new species – otherwise no one is willing to walk with me.

support my fellow docents in a new and supportive way. COVID-19 has put that plan on hold right now, but I do want to talk with anyone in need in the meantime to ensure that we all Stand Strong. Call me.

We will get through this together..apart..together and enjoy the Reserve once again. I am honored to be May's Docent of the Month. Thank you.

Docent Talent Share

by Kathy Dickey

We all have been mostly stuck at home for at least 6 weeks during this pandemic, so we badly needed some sharing time and fun. At least 54 docents attended our first-ever virtual talent show meeting on Zoom, hosted by **Roger Isaacson, Kristine Schindler** and **Kathy Dickey**. Many thanks go to Roger, as usual, for minimizing the technical snafus.

After a quick introduction, Kristine led us in a moment of silence to remember all those who have suffered or died from this terrible virus, and those who worked so hard to save us, help us and guide us.

Then we had our talent “Acts.” Kathy led off the show with a display of her antique microscopes, and talked about their history. One was owned by a doctor in London famous for his work on TB (or consumption, as it was called in 1900). Next, she gave a quick look at her collection of floral and portrait porcelain painted pins from the late 1700’s to about 1920. After that, **Marty Hales** gave us a toe-tapping, bluesy rendition on her harmonica.



She really got the crowd cheering. Next, **Nancy Walters** shared her beautiful bonsai plants in their unique, tiny ceramic pots. She included some miniature twisted trees as well as grasses and blooming flowers.

Jeannie Smith is a fabulous artist. She shared many of her tiny and large landscape oil paintings depicting Torrey Pines and elsewhere, as well as some lovely animal and human portraits. Some of her paintings were even done using a toothbrush or shoe polish! **Michael Yang** showed



us his interesting approach to photography he calls “digital painting,” including many photos from the Reserve. His use of light was amazing. **Pete di Girolamo** had a variety of his art work to share with us, including leaded glasswork, gourd art, and some special ceramics.

A highlight of our show was an enjoyable set of Scottish dancing by **Mona** and **Ron Kuczenski**. They did an amazing job dancing in a small space in their house.



Debi Buffington, another wonderful artist, showed us examples of her colorful oil paintings. She also does jewelry and other crafts. Next came photos by **Judith Zyskind** of ancient pictographs done by the Yokut people in the Tule River area in Tulare County. Most amazing was the bright clarity of the pictographs. They had no graffiti on them, thankfully, and were apparently sheltered from the weather. One memorable one in a cave area depicted a woman giving birth.

Frank Burham gave us a lovely rendition of “Take Me Home Again Kathleen” on his harmonica.

Annette Ring showed slides of the 7 years she spent as a teenager sailing around the world in a 48-foot sailboat with her family. Weeks passed with no land in sight, she said.

The worst times, were the “doldrums” when they went for hours or days with no wind. Bathing, brushing teeth and washing clothes was all done with sea water, to minimize use of their 150 gallons of fresh water.



Next, we enjoyed a video Roger played for us of the Class of 2012 **Torreyettes**, singing and playing the ukulele to a song about the Guy Fleming Trail. **Patti** and **Bruce Montgomery** followed that with a showing of their very creative fabric art depicting birds, flowers, and trees. Kristine ended the show by leading us in the Happy Birthday song for all of those who had birthdays during this pandemic.

You can view the entire show here: vimeo.com/413847811

Poem by Rhea Bridy

In the warmth of short-lived Sun in early April,
 catching the opening / of a poppy is a sweet, silent act
 of joy. I have not yet actually seen the / actual
 popping off of the thin, dried cap. The closest I have
 gotten is to / hear the cap's tiny muffled sound, as it
 touched the garden floor. / And that was when I was
 hovering right there to take its picture, but was /
 distracted for a moment, by a close-up adjustment to
 the picture. / Hope is just a little patience, and luck,
 that I will witness that charming little / act of nature.
 I just have to stop looking at the camera phone, stop
 listening to the news cycle, stop being a little
 discouraged, and begin to be present for a natural,
 tiny, hopeful feat of nature.

Park Aides Profile:

Joy Inton and Johnson Jou

by Joan Simon

Anyone who knows Park Aides **Joy Inton** (2012) and **Johnson Jou** (2013) also knows they are almost always together. So it isn't surprising to learn that they both grew up in Diamond Bar, in eastern LA County, and attended the same high school. What is surprising, though, is that their home town is not where they met. In fact, Johnson took a rather circuitous route to California. He was born in Japan, moved to Taiwan at the age of six, and then came to the United States when he was 12.



The day Joy and Johnson got engaged, Arashiyama, Kyoto, Japan

The place they did meet was at nearby Mt. San Antonio Community College – appropriately enough at a coastal cleanup day. At first Johnson thought Joy was “too cool to talk to me,” but it turned out she was just shy. Johnson, as everyone knows, is anything but shy, and soon the two were dating. At the college, Johnson met inspirational professors who changed his life: “They were able to give me an education, a job (as a biology tutor at the school’s resource center), and a girlfriend – all at the same time!”

Both Joy and Johnson transferred to UCSD, where Johnson graduated in 2012 and Joy in 2013. Along the way Johnson did research at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) on the effect of noise pollution on the beluga whales of the Chukchi Sea at the Marine Physical Laboratory. Afterwards, both Joy and Johnson investigated deep-sea microbes from the Mariana Trench at SIO.

Joy took the TPDS docent training class in 2012 and Johnson in 2013. Joy started working as a park aide part way through her training and Johnson joined her the following year. They are coordinators for the Junior Rangers program and have helped with Earth Day celebrations, Art and Nature Festivals, and the Nature Discovery Series. Since 2013, Joy has led the Carmel Valley Project, a weeding program along the edge of the

Los Peñasquitos Lagoon that works with a neighborhood group as well as docents. They both have done many interpretive presentations, both at the Reserve and throughout the county, on insects and spiders (both will be speakers at an upcoming docent meeting on this topic). Nowadays, Joy also works at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park as a tram tour guide.

At their home on Carmel Valley Road, Joy and Johnson are currently raising (“for educational purposes and for personal enjoyment”) some pretty unusual animals: Australian zebra finches, several scorpions (including a Tanzanian tailless whip scorpion and an Asian forest scorpion), a metallic pink-toed tarantula, a California king snake, and numerous beetles (including a “diabolical ironclad beetle”). They also grow vegetables in their small yard, including edible flowers.

“Travel is what we live for!” Johnson says. And indeed, they have been all over the world and have shared their photos and adventures at several docent meetings. They have traveled through most of Southeast Asia, including the Komodo Islands in Indonesia to see Komodo dragons. In Thailand they volunteered for several weeks at an elephant rehabilitation center caring for Asian elephants. They have explored the largest caves in Vietnam and have spent nights looking for coatis and kinkajous in Costa Rica.

On a trip to Japan last year, Johnson and Joy got engaged. They are planning to get married next year on the beach at Torrey Pines. What do they most value in each other? Johnson says “Joy is a very good listener, and I admire her excellent observation skills.” Joy enjoys Johnson’s “easy enthusiasm. I love how he always seems to brighten up the room when he walks in.” And we docents very much value their outstanding service as park aides at the Reserve.

Docent Refresh

by Janice Barnard

The Docent Refresh Training has launched! On Saturday, May 17, **Pao Chau** did a wonderful presentation on “The Torrey Pine Tree.” It was a great opportunity to refresh and enhance our knowledge of the Torrey pine. (To watch Pao’s presentation, [click here: vimeo.com/419461678](https://vimeo.com/419461678).)

On May 23, **Janet Ugalde** offered an informative survey of “Ecosystems.” To watch Janet’s presentation, [click here: vimeo.com/422023491](https://vimeo.com/422023491). The purpose of the Docent Refresh Training is to leverage this “stay at home” time to review our docent training to keep our interpretive skills sharp and ready to use when once again TPSNR is ready for our services.

The training would take place weekly, i.e., every Saturday via Zoom with a Q & A session afterwards, and will roughly follow the new docent training schedule. We have scheduled sessions from now until the next Docent Meeting.

You can receive one hour of continuing education for your participation.

We will be using Zoom for the training. Everyone will be muted for the entire session except for the trainer and the host. Questions will be submitted via Chat to the host, and then directed to and answered by the trainer. The training sessions will be recorded and available for viewing within a couple of days on our website (Volunteering/Docent Login/Docent Documents).

The following is the schedule for the next two training sessions.

May 30: Native Flora by **Margaret Fillius**

June 6: Animal Habitats by **Bruce Montgomery**

We hope you will join us.

Thank you to the trainers, the CARE Team, the TPDS Board, and, of course, **Roger Isaacson** for their support in making this special training opportunity happen.

Torrey Pines Book Club

We will continue to meet via Zoom at our regularly scheduled time. Please notify **Ken King** if you plan to participate and if you need any extra help getting connected.

When: Tuesday, June 9, 1:00 pm

What: *The Botany of Desire: A Plant’s-Eye View of the World* by Michael Pollan

Where: remotely via Zoom

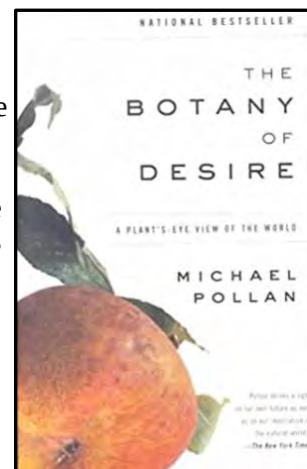
Amazon says:

Every schoolchild learns about the mutually beneficial dance of honeybees and flowers: The bee collects nectar and pollen to make honey and, in the process, spreads the flowers’ genes far and wide.

In *The Botany of Desire*, Michael Pollan ingeniously demonstrates how people and domesticated plants have formed a similarly reciprocal relationship. He masterfully links four

fundamental human desires—sweetness, beauty, intoxication, and control—with the plants that satisfy them: the apple, the tulip, marijuana, and the potato. In telling the stories of four familiar species, Pollan illustrates how the plants have evolved to satisfy humankind’s most basic yearnings. And just as we’ve benefited from these plants, we have also done well by them. So who is really domesticating whom?

July 14: *The Last Days of Night: A Novel* by Graham Moore



Bird of the Month: Doctor Bird

by Jack Friery

Our featured bird this month will never be seen in Torrey Pines Reserve. In fact, it's never been seen in the United States. It's the **Red-billed Streamertail**, whose folk name is the Doctor Bird, seen only on the island of Jamaica, and the national bird of that nation. The scientific name of the bird is *Trochilus polytmus*, and it's a member of the hummingbird family. While the male's body is only 4.5 inches long, its retrices ("tails") add an additional six to seven inches.

The bird is featured in Ian Fleming's James Bond short story *For Your Eyes Only*. The first line of the book reads, "The most beautiful bird in Jamaica, and some say the most beautiful bird in the world, is the streamer-tail or doctor humming-bird."

The folk name "Doctor Bird" has several possible explanations. One is that the streamers reminded people of the tailcoats worn by doctors in early times. But the version I favor is that the Arawak Indians thought the bird had magical powers, and called it the "God Bird," believing it to be the reincarnation of a dead soul. The bird could heal, and that's why I'm writing about it. We're living in a time of pain, and stress, and death. The Doctor Bird reminds us that nature can heal, and we must give it time to do so. Nature can also be healed—with the recent absence of human influence at Torrey Pines Beach and Lagoon, and other local beaches, reports were coming in of flocks of terns and gulls numbering in the thousands on the beaches. And there's another reason I'm writing about it. My lovely wife Tena and I saw this bird on a trip to Jamaica in the mid-1980's. Tena died on April 30. Perhaps her soul now resides in a Doctor Bird.

Sources: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red-billed_streamertail

jis.gov.jm/information/symbols/jamaican-national-bird-the-doctor-bird/

animaldiversity.org/accounts/Trochilus_polytmus/

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commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=38245801



Torrey Pines Docent Society Bird Survey: May 2020

Number of species:44

Cinnamon Teal 1

Gadwall 1

Mallard 11

Ruddy Duck 1

Pied-billed Grebe 3

Western Grebe 18

Eurasian Collared-Dove 1

Mourning Dove 3

White-throated Swift 6

Anna's Hummingbird 9

Allen's Hummingbird 3

American Coot 3

Sanderling 22

Heermann's Gull 1

Western Gull 136

Caspian Tern 53

Elegant Tern 220

Black-vented Shearwater 16

Double-crested Cormorant 5

Brown Pelican 9

Great Blue Heron 4

Great Egret 8

Snowy Egret 8

Black-crowned Night-Heron 2

Black Phoebe 4

American Crow 7

Common Raven 2

Northern Rough-winged

Swallow 10

Bushtit 6

Wrentit 3

California Gnatcatcher 4

Marsh Wren 3

Bewick's Wren 1

European Starling 1

Northern Mockingbird 10

House Finch 28

Lesser Goldfinch 4

American Goldfinch 3

Song Sparrow 21

California Towhee 8

Spotted Towhee 1

Hooded Oriole 1

Red-winged Blackbird 14

Black-headed Grosbeak 2

Observers: David and

Deborah Walker, Gary

Grantham, and Anonymous

Because of the restrictions imposed by local San Diego governments resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and because the State of California closed Torrey Pines State Reserve to the public for the duration of the pandemic, this is very much a partial monthly report. Observations were made only from outside the Reserve by a small number of observers.

View this checklist online at ebird.org/checklist/S69151702

Herb Knüfken's amazing photo gallery, including many birds, may be found here: pbase.com/herb1rm



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