Blades and Blooms

Master Gardeners of Clark County PO Box 158, Springfield, Ohio 45501-0158

Volume 30 Number 6 June, 2023



Mark Your Calendar

6	10 - 11 am	Perennial Cmte. meeting SPGA
7	9:am - 12 pm	General SPGA Garden Workday
9	10 - 11 am	Health Nuts Kids Visit - SPGA (Penny Dunbar, NTPRD)
10	9 am - 12 pm	Insect Hotel Workshop - SPGA barn area. Fee: \$20.00 for materials. Pre-registration required.
12	10 am - ??	Tree Cmte. Meeting - Wingert Tossey Pavilion or Barn area.
	11 am - 1 pm 7 pm	Publicity Cmte. Wingert Tossey Pavilion Music in the Garden - Kylene Downes Guitarist and Singer.
13	11 am - 1 pm	Fundraising Cmte. Meeting - Wingert Tossey Pavilion
	1 - 3 pm	Docent Cmte. Meeting - Wingert Tossey Pavilion.
14	5:30 - 7:30 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting - OSUE Lg. Conf. Rm.
15	6 -7:30 pm	Savor the Flavor of Herbs - SPGA Garden of Eatin'.
17	10 - 11;30 am	"Meet Me in the Garden" Public Garden Tour Tour starts in the clubhouse area.
17-23		International MGV Conference - Overland Park, Kansas.
21	9:am - 12 pm	General SPGA Garden Workday.
22	11 am	Education Cmte. meeting - Wingert Tossey Pavilion or Barn area.
1 - 3 pm		SPGA Jubilee cmte. meeting - Wingert Tossey Pavilion or Barn area.
24	9 am - 12 pm	Hydrangea Program - Wingert Tossey Pavilion.
28	9 am - 12 pm	Landscape with Nature Cmte. meeting - LWN Garden Area.
	5 - 6:30 pm	Community Garden Meeting - SPGA Victory

Pioneer Perennial Plants - SPGA Early Ohio

Settler's Garden.

7/1 9:30 - 11:30 a.m Helpline Diagnostic Workshop Walkabout -

Yoga in the Wingert Tossey Pavilion with be every

Monday and Thursday at 11:45 am this month.

SPGA. Start at clubhouse patio.

29 6 - 7:30 pm



Clark County MGVs are eagerly awaiting the 2023 SPGA Plant and Barn Sale.



Flame Thrower Redbud trees planted between the Wingert Tossey Pavilion and the SFFG Perennial beds with the help of the Southeastern HS FFA members.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In the Gardens...

Each occasion I have to be at Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum, I am amazed at the work we have accomplished over a relatively short time. It is all due to the willing hands that our group of gardeners put to any task upon each request for help.

I have recently been gifted with back issues of Blades and Blooms from an old friend of the gardeners, Jane Willeman. I know that Janet Heater also has all the old issues and hope anyone who is interested in this history will request to review these documents. It is so interesting to note the changes and improvements to whatever space we are given and it is transformed into a beautiful sight. Blood, sweat and tears are invested into each project with lasting results. It is a testament to every member, past, present and future.

The Plant and Barn Sale is now over for this year and it was a great success from my perspective. Several people who didn't make it to the early hours were dismayed that there was little left when they arrived, but I have it on good authority that the sale will be larger for next year's date. Please read your newsletter to plan your calendars and keep up with what is happening over each month. We need you!

As I try to attend meetings and workdays each month, I see the plans and hopes of all of you in each garden where you have invested your efforts and am so impressed with the ideas and considerations put into each area. We have a lot of knowledge and education to share with all in this community and we are working to get the word out about one of the best-kept secrets in Clark County—Snyder Park Gardens and Arboretum. Encourage everyone you meet to come out to see what you have all done with a clean canvas and the art you have created. You should be proud! I am proud for you and am determined to become more acquainted with each of you.

Ever thankful, Sue Ann Dill. President



Pam's Postes

Dear MGVs,

You all knocked it out of the park once again this spring. All garden and other projects committees have been busy getting everything planted. The Cultivar Trials team was incredible, knocking out the planting of more than 600 annuals in under two hours. Of course, we were up against the last sprinkling rain that we have seen for awhile so we were pushing it! Thanks to all who participated.

Thanks also to all of the garden committees and their efforts to get the gardens up and running this season. And thanks to those ladies who are also going to continue to work on the fairgrounds entry garden (they received a budget from the fairgrounds to keep this going!). And thanks to those getting the HelpLine up and running and all others who helped with many of the projects we have this spring.

And now we water. Unfortunately this dry spell is going to keep us busy keeping the plants watered. If Dennis and Beth ask for help, please let them know where you might be able to help out in terms of watering. We have irrigation at all of the gardens but sometimes we also have to hand water.

The Springfield Foundation Feature Gardens look amazing. Except for the annuals – we got in unrooted cuttings and rooted them successfully in the greenhouse. Unfortunately, once they were transferred to the barn area, they didn't fare so well in the cold nights. I am currently checking around for annual plants to put in the four display beds. The perennial beds are spectacular and thanks to the committee members who tweaked these beds. Be sure to check them out.

New sidewalks have been added, and we will also be getting concrete pads put in for the benches. Watch for the benches, picnic tables, and new containers coming soon we hope! I am looking for money to extend the sidewalk from the Wingert Tossey Pavilion, south to the Early Ohio Settler's Garden. If anyone knows of someone who would like to help out, please contact me!

I am looking forward to a great summer, full of events in Snyder Park Gardens & Arboretum thanks to the Education and all other committees responsible. If you haven't already received it, you will be soon – the *discover parks* summer activity guide put out by the parks districts. We have a great full page spread of events in the gardens. Be sure to promote these activities to your friends.

WHAT'S GROWING ON

More pictures from Beth this month.



Lois O'Keefe (left) and Peggy Shank showing off their garden workday style. Drew Titone pointing out possible dirty spots. Pam's Posies cont. from pg. 2

Thanks as always for all you do for Clark County and Ohio State University Extension. We have amazing volunteers who are so kind and giving.

PS If you are going to the International MGV Conference in Kansas City, please text me and let me know so I can meet up with you! 937-408-7900

Sympathies

Jo Brown on the loss of her sister. Kathy McConkey on the loss of her sister. Laura Foley on the loss of her husband. Beth Brooks on the loss of her grandpa. Connie Kersey on the loss of her husband.

Pam.

Pamela J. Bennett State Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator Extension Educator, Horticulture Ohio State University Extension



I'd like to thank the many Master Gardener Volunteers for their outpouring of care and compassion during my husband's several months of illness and subsequent hospice care at home. You touched my heart with your large response of cards, phone calls and texts, prayers, flowers and planters, and food for his funeral service. It's comforting to know that there are people I can count on, people who cared when I was as my lowest point, and who made my world a more beautiful place. Our lives are enriched by friends like you who we love and love us in return.

Thank you sincerely, Laura Foley



COMMITTEE REPORTS PERENNIAL COMMITTEE

Good morning! I woke up this morning and realized I did not send out a Perennial Committee "Thank You" and an update on our garden progress we made this week.

We had a beautiful spring workday on Tuesday with lots of sun but low humidity. Perfect! We want to thank Jan O'Neill, Ann Doane, Carolyn Shreck, Joyce Studebaker, Diane Catenacci, Terry Reid, Sally Day, Deb Brugger, and Vicki Ross for all their amazing help that day! What a difference you all made that morning! And we really could not do it without all the help from Dennis and Beth! They are the BEST!! And to Pam Bennett for making sure we were able to get all our plants and trees here this week! Such a great team effort from everyone!!

We tackled many projects - weeding was done, containers were planted, roses and heuchera's were added to the Springfield Foundation Beds and lots of planning and planting in the new triangle beds in the Memorial patio area. WOW!

How great it all looked as we packed up to leave! Just in time for the first big holiday of the summer!

What we still have going on: A workday is planned for Thursday (today) at 9am to plant flowers in the triangle beds.

Many of the plants from the SFG gardens are going in those beds along with some new ideas. We picked up the new Japanese Maple yesterday that is going in on the corner of the building. It is a gorgeous tree!! a WOW tree!! The building landscaping is still being tweaked and some minor changes are being discussed. Our new containers should be here soon, and will also be planted. (I can't wait to see those!) We have the artwork for the walls coming soon too. We want to improve the look of the alcoves and have discussed with Dennis some options using the brick at the Barn. Thank you to Mark Finnigan too for picking up and delivering the 6 new Redbud Flame Thrower trees that are going in at the end of the SFG gardens. And of course we can't forget mulching everything in. Can you believe how great it is all coming together???

If you have not seen the trellis area with the clematis and allium, you must go check it out! The clematis looks so great and are all blooming! The allium are huge and gorgeous. Together they make it all so beautiful! It should be the cover picture of a garden magazine! All your work and ideas are paying off big time with that garden.

Thank you again for all your support, help, ideas, and Advil!

See you soon in the gardens! Marilyn, Sandy and Jerri - Perennial Committee Tri-Chairs

SPGA JUBILEE COMMITTEE

Thanks to everyone who attended our May SPGA Jubilee planning meeting. It was a great meeting with a lot of positive energy. Now is the time when we really get down to some serious planning business. Some things however, like our music, needed to be arranged far in advance and this year we were fortunate to book the very popular Noah Back. Some of you may remember that he performed for us twice before. We will also have the talented Amber Hargett returning. Noah will play from noon to 2:00 pm and Amber in the morning around 9:30 to 11:30.

Also requiring advanced planning are food trucks. DG Coffee Roasters "the Coffee Guy" will be returning, and new this year will be Pitabilities and Nourishing Souls Mobile Juice Bar. As you might guess, we decided this year to try some healthier options for food trucks.

It seems that every year Clark County Master Gardener Volunteers have the good fortune to be dedicating something new- new gardens, our lovely Wingert Tossy Pavilion. This year we will be dedicating our beautiful new garden grounds entryway and the Demana Family Victory Garden. We will share more on those later as details are worked out..

Our next meeting is on Thursday, June 22 1-3pm at the pavilion. We hope to see you all there and if you have any fresh ideas and suggestions about keeping our Jubilee interesting and growing, we would love to hear them.

Anyone interested in volunteering or has ideas to propose, please contact one of the Jubilee co-chairs: Rita Lane, Susan Smith or Christi Lockhart

Thanks everyone. Let's do our best to make SPGA Jubilee better than ever.

SPGA Jubilee Committee Tri-Chairs Rita Lane, Christi Lockhart, Susan Smith

VICTORY GARDEN COMMITTEE

The Victory Garden planting is now complete and now the real work begins with the weeding. We will need a lot of volunteer help for that effort. So bring your hoe and show up any Tuesday at 9:00 am to help show case our garden.

Ed Wosniak, Drew Titone, Mark Finnegan

LANDSCAPE WITH NATURE COMMITTEE

This is our third year for the Landscape with Nature Garden that started as "Pollinator Project" – and it is thriving and increasing its offerings to pollinators. The focus of the garden includes not just the flowers, but all of the habitat needs. Habitat includes all the environmental conditions that an organism needs to survive. That means everything it needs to find and gather food, find a mate, and successfully reproduce. Components of habitat are shelter, water, food, and space. These provide for the next generation and that is what is needed for the sustainability of our ecosystem.

This year the garden is including more host plants for the butterfly larvae. Violets, host plants for fritillaries, are now bordering sections of the Bee Haven. Wingstem – host for 17 Lepidoptera including the silvery checkerspot, senna - host for sulfurs, and spicebush - host for the spicebush swallowtail are now in the Butterfly Buffet.

Habitat was added by planting of honeysuckle shrubs and a seven- sons tree by the pergola. An Autumn Brilliance serviceberry tree will soon be added. We are hoping to be in a position to plant more trees and shrubs.

Landscape with Nature is participating in a USDA IMP/pollinator health grant by planting native perennials in three theme plots: Specialist Bees, Bumble Bees, and Butterflies and Moths. Dennis Latimer has prepared the soil for the area that will include the plots. The plugs for the plants are to arrive at the end of May. So, we will have work to do in potting the plugs and caring for the plants until the plants are ready to be planted in the plots.



Another addition coming to the garden is a black, metal butterfly chair that was once part of Gateway. It was stored in the barn and offered to Landscape with Nature. It would add art to the Butterfly Buffet if painted to represent a monarch butterfly. We followed up on Connie Mitchell's suggestion to contact the STEM Academy about help with the painting. The STEM contact is now in the process of transforming the chair to represent a monarch.

Our next workday is Wednesday, June 28, from 9:00 -12:00.

We have multiple activities of varying intensity for our workday. We have comfortable benches for taking a break and viewing the garden. Join us! Jani Malowney, Tom Davidson, Donna Meister

NIGHT WEEDERS

On May 17th the Night Weeders met for the first time this year. We attacked the weeds in the peony bed, the smoke bush beds, a hydrangea bed and even tidied a little in the trial beds. Drew Titone brought our Night Weeder t-shirts and we generally had a fun and productive time. Our next session will be on May 31st, location to be announced.

Weeding is better with friends! Susan and Tom Miller, Co-Chairs



Drew Titone models t-shirt with Joyce Brenneman and Mindy Hartley.



Night Weeders armed with gardening tools. Susan Miller, Joyce Watson, Sandy Fortstrum, Karen Dunn, Joyce Brenneman, Drew Titone, Mindy Hartley, Christi Lockhart.

PERENNIAL COMMITTEE

Springfield Foundation Feature Garden

I wanted to THANK the fun, hard working crew (Terry Reid, Jo Brown, Jan O'Neill, Diane Catennaci, Deb Brugger and Beth Brooks) for helping with the Springfield Foundation Gardens yesterday! We got so much done! They are looking so good and Beth got everything watered in so those plants are happy!

Diane and Pam Thullen came up with a beautiful design for these gardens last winter, trying to make them even more beautiful and utilizing a lot of the existing plant material but rearranging it and adding some new things for color and bloom times. We are also going to remove some sod to extend the river rock, plant some birch trees and add 3 new Flame Thrower trees to the ends of the new extended beds. I can't wait to see it all done and the difference it will make to highlight those gardens.

We had a beautiful spring day to work! We worked in Beds #2, 4,5, & 6. We planted new shrubs and perennials, and rearranged old shrubs and perennials. If you are helping with the planting of the Field Trials next week, go look to see the changes that have been made. I have another workday planned for next Friday 9am-12pm. We will be working on adding/rearranging the perennials and adding some of the river rock left over from the entrance sign.

Our next PC workday is Tuesday May 23rd. We hope to be working on the new triangle beds and getting our existing pots planted. Our new containers have been ordered but may not be here until midsummer.

As we removed perennials yesterday that will not be used, we potted them up and they are in the Barn area looking for new homes. They are the plants that are along the OUTSIDE of the snow fence. There are daylilies, coreopsis, Bears britches, and iris. All the plants that are inside the snow fence are going to be reused and are not up for new homes.

Thanks again to Diane and Pam Thullen for the beautiful design and overseeing the planting. A huge THANK YOU to the great crew yesterday and to Beth Brooks for all the muscle we used to get so much done!

See you in the Gardens! Marilyn Hinderer

EARLY OHIO SETTLER'S GARDEN

May found the EOS getting ready for another summer season! The straw paths have been strewn, seeds sown, plants planted, and weeds were wiped out.

June will be busy. Two education programs are on the calendar, all MGV are welcome to come. On June 10 at 9 am, we are learning about Insect Hotels, and everyone will make one to take home. It is limited to 15 people, with registration through the Extension Office. The cost is \$20, and will be held in the barn area at SPGA.

On June 29 from 6-7:30, all are welcome at the Wingert Tossey Pavilion to learn about Pioneer Perennial Plants.

To make sure our gardens are looking great, workdays are scheduled on 6/12 and 6/26, starting at 8:30. Any MGV is welcome to join the fun!

Kim Bachman, Judy and Mark Finnegan, co-chairs



Mark Finnegan and Peggy Shank, putting trellises in place.



Watering down the straw paths, with perennials greening up!

Backyard News

Ohio has so many pretty months but none so pretty as May. After our long winters, Spring begins her gradual awakening and then BAM, she unfurls herself in May – everything is in bloom and the world turns green again.

This spring, the Miller Homestead is especially

beautiful, thanks to hard work, good friends and good luck. Last year I mentioned in a column that I hoped to get some Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis). Soon after that, Master Gardener friend Joyce Brenneman showed up to Night Weeders with some Columbine. And they are spectacular - two and a half feet tall with happy red and gold bell-like flowers. They are easy to grow in sun or partial shade, and



Picture 1. Columbine

hummingbirds are said to like them. I hope they, along with the Canada Anemone I planted, take over the Redbud bed. Picture 1.

I also wished for Amsonia (Amsonia tabernaemontana) and our friend Rich Pearson appeared with some. I planted it by the front sidewalk

and as I write this, I am enjoying its flowers. It too is about two and a half feet tall and has the loveliest of blue flowers. Pollinators like this beauty and I'm told deer will leave it alone. Picture 2.

And that's not all. My friend Kim gifted me with some Golden Alexander (Zizia aurea). I planted it with some Heart Leaf Golden Alexander (Zizia aptera) I purchased at a native plant sale. Both have happy yellow flowers



Picture 2. Amsonia

that put me in mind of yarrow. I planted them next to a Ninebark I purchased at the unexpected plant sale Master Gardeners had in 2020. The bronze leaves of the Ninebark are so pretty next to the yellow of the Golden Alexander. These, too, are great for pollinators, especially short-tongued insects. Picture 3.

If you go to the National Wildlife Federation website (www.nwf.org) and search for 'keystone plants' you can find a list of keystone plants for our region. Keystone

plants are native plants that have the highest benefit

local food web. Happily, on that list you will find one of my favorite plant genera, Erigeron, genus to my beloved Common Fleabane (Erigeron Philadelphicus). This pink beauty started popping up in my yard when we first moved in. They look like asters, so I call them 'spring asters'. They are biennials. so I collect seeds and spread them around. Last fall I spread some in my bird feeding bed. Unbeknownst to me, they also spread themselves in the rocks that circle this bed. This spring, they are beautiful! My friend Karen said it looks like I planned the design. I didn't plan for it this year, but I will surely plant them in the same way next year. They are so cheerful and light and airy, and if you look at them closely you will see tiny little bees sipping on nectar.

for our region and our



Picture 3. Golden Alexander



Picture 4. Spring Asters

In most of my life, I love to plan. And I try hard to plan with my gardens. But serendipity brings me so many wonderful surprises, whether it is a gift from a friend or from the earth. And while my ramshackle gardens might not be for every gardener, they bring me nothing but smiles (except for the weeds. Yuck).

Last month I mentioned that work had begun on our wetland. Naively, I said it could be done as of this writing. Alas. Issues have ensued and we are waiting on track trucks to be repaired. The last people to rent the trucks apparently had a very bad accident and the rental company is waiting for parts from Japan. It's never good when parts are on the other side of the world. So. Life presents us with another lesson in patience.

Happy Gardening! Susan Miller

Picture 4.

Gatherings about Gardens

GARDEN TIME by Susan Sides GreenPrints Spring 1990

To get really intimate with time, take off your watch.

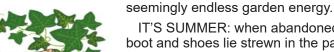
We're all familiar with such time measurements: the kind far removed from calculated accuracy. Not the precise, and aloof paper calendar, but an earthy one with cycles of life, death, and change. Flexible but constant. Spring always comes—and it always comes after winter. It just retains the privilege of choosing which day it arrives.

Gardeners know this. Sweat and ripe sweet corn are increments of summer. The bowed brown heads of sunflower feeders guage the progression of fall. Still our garden calendars are only privately useful, not universally synchronized. March 15th is March 15th everywhere. Such exact standards facilitate human interaction. But when I write my friend in Wisconsin to say how good it felt to dig a bed and get the peas in, I know I'll strike a chord of envy as she walks back from the mailbox in snow boots and woolen scarf. She can relate. Oh, how she can relate. It's just not her turn to flip the page to spring just quite yet.

I thought I'd show you some of the pages in my own seasonal timepiece. A little like cornering you with photos of the kids, I realize. But what better way to meet a new garden friend?

IT'S WINTER: when the mailbox has a mouth full of seed catalogs day after day, its jaws so full, the mailman just leaves the flap hanging down like a huge silver tongue...no one bothers to shut the garden gate against dogs, goats, pigs, and ten-year-olds on bicycles...boots sit by the fire to keep them supple...the toolshed (a converted outhouse) *Note: Just like our SPGA Early Ohio Settlers!* blows over in a good North wind...I can't see my toes. Well, women gardeners have to time these things, you know. (Not tonight honey; nine months from now I'll be in a double-digging frenzy.) We have winter babies. That way, between putting in the fall garlic and the spring peas, we can start real labor.

IT'S SPRING: when last year's tennis shoes look like blown-out retreads...muddy boots stand on the porch like armatures half covered in clay...the wooden tool handles are still slick from their winter coat of oil...a few toys begin sprouting in the nearby sandbox...requests for seed-starting advice make the phone jingle every day...the post office calls at 6:30 a.m. to tell us the little peepers have arrived for our yearly chicken moat—the one that borders our plot in hopes of reducing insects, supplying meat, and keeping weeds back. So far, it seems to do all this (but attract bird-killing, plant-crushing dogs as well)...it's hard to dig a bed for waving to all the neighbors driving by. As long as the branches on our tree-lined border remain bare, we're honked at from dawn to dusk. This season for hat-in-the-air salutations runs from October to nearly May, when those tardy walnuts (the predominant species) finally leaf out. Sometimes when we're not out, the scarecrow takes up the slack and impresses near-sighted friends with our



IT'S SUMMER: when abandoned boot and shoes lie strewn in the paths for days...cukes arrive in choking abundance from a retired husband and wife who have "scaled down" their enthusiasm to a 50-foot-row...I can see my toes once again—except in the shower where the water that runs off my body looks like chocolate syrup...

toys and children have come into full bloom both in the sandbox and the garden proper...the slick of the tool handles comes not from oil, but from human use...a blind friend feels the increase in textural relief on my hands and makes a game of guessing what chore was most pressing last week.

IT'S FALL (or nearly so): when the sight of the farm silage wagon's and sound of the chopper become a daily event...photography for the magazine picks up as everything comes ripe. We find ourselves fussing for hours with an arrangement of vegetables and props to get that 'natural' look, throw them down in despair, then cry "that's it!"...there's less need to start the irrigation pump—a chore that expels much energy, colorful language, and very little water when I attempt it on my own...there's more need to start the tiller for cover cropping the field areas—a spectator's sport I greatly enjoy. My husband cranks, adjusts, cranks, checks gas, cranks, and readjusts 'till his patience is exhausted. He places his hands on hips, then slaps his head in remembrance. Reaching into the depths of the device, he pulls out another mouse nest (the third one this week) and curses me under his breath for never having the heart to kill any of the blind and hairless little boogers I find.

Well, that's a small glimpse of seasons in the Sides garden. Surprisingly, I've even found it possible to hone in on what day of the week it is by the community activity around the place. (Kids line up at the landlord's for piano lessons on Tuesdays, the farm truck carries cattle to market on Thursdays, etc....)

Come to think of it, even the time of day is palpable: When frantic barking down the road signals feeding time at the local kennel, it's nearly 8:00...A sudden air of quiet as the compressor at the dairy barn two miles away cuts off (give or take a few minutes depending on how many they're milking this week) and it's 9:00—almost time to check the mail and break for a snack...I head in for my 12:30 meal when the sight of lunchtime joggers seconds the growling suspicion in my stomach...and escapees racing down the driveway, just released from the maw of the yellow and black school bus, signal 3:30. Any moment now my son should be waking from his nap. Soon he and Dad will join me.

Whether you inherited it as an heirloom from your grandparents or took possession only last week, a garden is an amazing, living, breathing timepiece. You can forget the second hand, though. Gardens just weren't meant to have one.

Til Next Time, Judy Finnegan

PICTURES FROM OUR 2023 PLANT & BARN SALE













SPGA TRIAL GARDEN FROM START TO FINISH

















Pictures From Around the Gardens



New sidewalks go out to the Trial Beds.



Southeastern FFA Members Service Day - Helping MGVs install new Flame Thrower Redbuds at SPGA.



Allium bulbs that were planted last fall have come up beautifully in the Clematis Trellis bed.



TaDa. Work day is completed at the Early Ohio Settler's Garden



One of the newly redesigned SFFG perennial beds. Big thank you to Diane Catenacci and Pam Thullen for their expert bed design skills.



Clematis flowers in full bloom on their trellis.



Ohio State University Extension Clark County 3130 East Main Street Springfield, OH 45505



Missy Hawley in front of one of the almost finished entrance columns.

SPGA Garden
Clean Ups are
June 7th and 21st
9 am - 12 pm

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