NEWSLETTER OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MARYLAND, INC.

JANUARY 2020



SEMINAR 2020:

Perennially Inspired!
Saturday, February 29, 2020

Sheppard Pratt Conference Center 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Doors will open at 8 a.m. for registration and coffee. Welcome at 8:45 a.m.

TICKETS:

\$110 for members, if purchased by Feb. 1, \$130 after Feb. 1

\$130 for non-members, if purchased by Feb. 1, \$150 after Feb. 1

Ticket purchase deadline is Feb. 14, 2020

Find more information on page 4 or visit our web site: mdhorticulture.org

Get ready for something different at this year's Winter Seminar, co-sponsored by the Perennial Plant Association and the Horticultural Society of Maryland.

Besides the usual expert speakers, the 2020 Seminar, on February 29, will feature a screening of *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf*, the acclaimed 2017 documentary about garden design guru Piet Oudolf.

Oudolf, born in Haarlem, the Netherlands, in 1944, is best known in America for designing The High Line in New York City. In the Mid-Atlantic, he designed a two-acre meadow for Delaware Botanic Gardens at Pepper Creek, which opened in 2019. Other works include the Lurie Garden in Millennium Park, Chicago, and projects for the Serpentine Gallery, London, and the Venice Biennale. He is the co-author of several books, including *Planting: A New Perspective* (2013) and *Landscapes in Landscapes* (2011).

The film, directed by Thomas Piper, shows Oudolf in his own gardens in Hummelo, the Netherlands, and visiting his creations in New York and Chicago. It also follows Oudolf as he designs and installs a garden at Hauser & Wirth Somerset, a gallery and arts center in Bruton, Somerset, England.

According to a reviewer for *The Irish Times, Five Seasons* is "lovely, revelatory and relaxing to behold." "A series of floral, and grassy, still-life paintings brought to life," said *SF Weekly*. "Elegant, poignant and unprecedented," wrote *Gardenista.com*.

Continued on page 4

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

JANUARY PLANT FORUM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Vollmer Center Auditorium

For HSM members only. Free but you must register in advance. Presenters and topics: Brent Figlestahler, *Bulb Lawns*; Kathi Shea, *Viburnums For Your Garden*; Craig Sherman, *Pitcher Plants: Hardy and Tropical*.

PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION & HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MARYLAND WINTER SEMINAR

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sheppard Pratt Conference Center, Towson, MD Please join us for the annual winter seminar. See cover story.

GROWING VEGETABLES IN CONTAINERS

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020

2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cylburn Greenhouse Classroom. Details on page 8.

ANNUAL TOOL DRIVE

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020 6:45 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Same night as May lecture, details to come.

ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2020

Gardens of Ruxton. Watch for details.

IRELAND ADVENTURE TRIP

SEPTEMBER 11-23, 2020

Small-group tour co-sponsored by HSM and the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland. Contact Claire Jones by email at jonesb1@comcast.net or telephone, 443-927-6285, or visit our web site.

SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Tuesday, MARCH 10, 7:30 p.m.

CAROLF BERGMANN

Botanical Bullies

Invasive species have become one of the 21st century's significant environmental issues. Some seemingly desirable species—the hardiest, almost carefree, very ornamental and often "Deer Proof" plants—are the most problematic invasive plants. Join forest ecologist and field botanist Carole Bergmann, to learn which invasive plants are most challenging in Maryland, and why we should be concerned about them. Bergmann, newly retired from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, founded the citizen volunteer WEED WARRIOR program.

Tuesday, APRIL 14, 7:30 p.m.

SAM HOADLEY

Knockout Natives

Sam Hoadley, manager of horticultural research at Delaware's Mount Cuba Center, will highlight knockout native species and cultivars from the center's famous plant trials. Top performers and favorites of *Coreopsis, Baptisia, Monarda, Phlox* and *Helenium* represent some of the best native plants for the Mid-Atlantic region. He will discuss their horticultural and ecological performance and present information on varieties that will make beautiful additions to your garden.

Tuesday, MAY 12, 7:30 p.m.

RENNY REYNOLDS

Chasing Eden: The Story of Hortulus Farm

Renny Reynolds spent two years looking for the right property on which to create splendid gardens. He found it in Bucks County, Pa., in the late 1970s. The original 15-acre farm expanded to 100 acres, with 24 gardens open to the public. The place is called Hortulus Farm Nursery and Gardens, the subject of a book by Reynolds and Jack Staub, *Chasing Eden: Design Inspiration from the Gardens of Hortulus Farm*, to be published in 2020. Reynolds will tell how it all came to be. Book sale and signing to follow.

Lectures are held in the Vollmer Center auditorium, Cylburn Arboretum, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21209. Lectures are free for current members; non-members pay \$10 at the door. Seating is limited, first come first served.

For more information, visit mdhorticulture.org

ALERT: Spotted Lantern Fly

he Spotted Lanternfly, scourge of trees and fruit crops,



was found in Cecil County in 2019, causing the Maryland Department of Agriculture to quarantine shipments of plant material and construction waste in Cecil and Harford counties to try to block the predator's advance.

Native to China, India and Vietnam, the Spotted Lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula*, arrived in the United States in 2014 as eggs attached to a shipment of stone from China. Soon after the stone arrived, in Bucks County, Pa., the bugs escaped and multiplied, damaging trees and crops in eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey.

Ailanthus altissima, Tree of Heaven, native to Asia but found along many Maryland roadsides, is considered the host tree for Spotted Lantern Fly. But a female will lay eggs on other trees, on stones, on vehicles, almost any "flat vertical surface," according to a MDA fact sheet. Come spring, nymphs emerge and begin sucking juices from leaves. As they eat, nymphs and adults excrete "honeydew" that blackens, damages and may destroy trees.

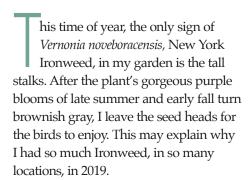
For details and the latest on the quarantine, visit mda.maryland.gov.

PLANT PROFILE

Vernonia noveboracensis, New York Ironweed

By Harry Merritt





New York Ironweed is native not just to the Empire State but to the eastern and southeastern United States, from New England to Mississippi. The "New York" of the common name traces to a New York plant enthusiast who sent a specimen to the naturalist Linnaeus in the 18th century. According to Thomas Meehan in his *The Native Flowers and Ferns of the United States in Their Native Botanical*, Horticultural and Popular Aspects, noveboracensis means "belonging to New York."

There are a few versions of how the Ironweed designation came about: the plant's sturdy, erect posture, its seeming invincibility, even its seed clusters looking a bit rusty. Because it is so tall—5 to 8 feet—it works best at the rear or sides of a garden, not the front. Several sources say it grows 3 to 4 feet wide, but it's mainly a vertical plant.

I've grown New York Ironweed for the better part of a decade, worry free. Several Ironweeds flourish in my rain garden, alongside *Hibiscus* 'Lady Baltimore' and *Zizia aurea*, Golden Alexander (and some *Sambucus canadensis*, Elderberry, that I keep trying to remove). Others are in various beds, courtesy of the birds or the wind.

PHOTOS: Left, top center and right, rockerBOO/CreativeCommons; bottom center, SteveGuttmanNYC/CreativeCommons







New York Ironweed is very attractive to butterflies and humans, while birds love its dried seed heads.

The genus *Vernonia* was named in 1791 to honor William Vernon, a Cambridge-educated botanist and entomologist from Hertfordshire, England. Vernon, who lived from the 1660s to sometime after 1711, had a connection to

Maryland. He visited the colony in 1697-98, collecting plants for the Royal Society. New York Ironweed was not among them.

PLANT FACTS: Vernonia noveboracensis Common name: New York Ironweed Hardiness: USDA Zones 5 to 9

Family: Asteraceae

Culture: Full sun. Moist neutral to acidic soil. Tolerates drought.

Bloom time: Late summer into early autumn Potential problems: None in my experience.

REFERENCES:

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, wildflower.org
Missouri Botanical Garden, missouribotanicalgarden,org

Mount Cuba Center, mtcubacenter.org

Mark Lawley, "William Vernon, 1666/7-c. 1715," google.com

Thomas Meehan, The Native Flowers and Ferns of the United States in Their Native Botanical, Horticultural and Popular Aspects (L. Prana & Co., 1870)

Popular Aspects (L.Prang & Co., 1879)

Harry Merritt is the editor of THE HORT REPORT.

SEMINAR 2020: Perennially Inspired!

FIVE SEASONS will occupy the third slot on the Winter Seminar's morning program, after welcoming remarks from the PPA's Janet Draper and Society president Peter Bieneman and a lecture, Biodiversity by Design, by Ethan Kauffman, director of Stoneleigh, the newest public garden in the Philadelphia area. In his talk, Kauffman will reveal "the rich history of the landscape" and provide "insight into the process of creating this unique community treasure."

AFTER THE SCREENING of *Five Seasons*, Hanna Packer, a New York landscape designer, will present *Seeing Gardens Through Piet Oudolf's Eyes: Beauty in Unexpected Plant Combinations*. Packer, principal of Hanna Packer Design Inc. on Long Island, has worked with Oudolf on residential projects in New York and elsewhere on the East Coast.

AFTER LUNCH, Piet Oudolf's design for Delaware Botanic Gardens will be discussed by landscape designer Barbara Katz and Gregg Tepper, the garden's former director of horticulture. According to them, "Receiving a complex planting plan from ... Piet Oudolf is a very exciting milestone in the life of any public garden. But preparing the site, sourcing each ... plant, and coordinating a volunteer effort (with volunteers from far and wide), to implement the design and find the right placement for 65,000 plants, is an altogether different challenge." They will share details of bringing the design to life, including "some of the many memorable lessons learned."

THE FINAL SPEAKER, Jared Barnes, assistant professor of horticulture at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas, will present *The Butterfly Effect: Micro Plantings for Macro Impact.*

Meet the speakers-

PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION &
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

Saturday, February 29, 2020

Sheppard Pratt Conference Center 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Seminar Sponsors



















ETHAN KAUFFMAN, a public garden professional and horticulturist, is the director of Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden,

a 42-acre former estate located in Villanova, Pa., which opened to the public in May 2018. At Stoneleigh, he enjoys creating a garden experience that inspires others to garden for beauty, biodiversity and ecological function. Previously, he was director of Moore Farms Botanical Garden in Lake City, S.C., where he led the transition from a private pleasure garden to a non-profit botanical garden. Kauffman believes that horticulture connects us to the natural world, and exploring this relationship is vital to understanding and defining our place in it. (For more about Stoneleigh, visit stoneleighgarden.org.)



HANNA
PACKER, of
Hanna Packer
Design Inc., Great
Neck, N.Y., is an
award-winning
landscape
designer known

for creating stunning gardens that are harmonious, sophisticated and functional. Her projects benefit from direct involvement at all phases, from design through installation and upkeep. Packer's work has been featured in magazines such as Architectural Digest and Dwell, as well as landscape specialty books. As a member of Piet Oudolf's design team, she is responsible for plant procurement and project management. Packer is passionate about sustainable landscape design and how it can help fight global warming. She is an instructor at The New York Botanical Garden and has taught classes for aspiring landscape designers, including green roof design, green wall design and city roof design for the past 10 years. For examples of her work, see hannapackerdesign.com.

GREGG TEPPER

is a professional horticulturist, lecturer, consultant and life-long native plant enthusiast. After studying ornamental horti-

culture at the University of Delaware and several years creating his own ornamental and native plant gardens, Tepper started a horticultural maintenance business designing and managing private gardens in the Delaware Valley. Thereafter he worked at Mount Cuba Center in Hockessin, Del., as horticulturist, woods path horticulturist and director of horticulture. For six years, 2013 to 2019, he was director of horticulture and a board member of Delaware Botanic Gardens, where he was instrumental in developing the initial gardens including a two-acre meadow designed by Piet Oudolf. In 2019, he became the horticulturist at the historic Laurel Hill and West Laurel Hill cemeteries in Philadelphia. He is a frequent speaker on horticultural topics.



BARBARA KATZ, a member of the advisory board for Delaware Botanic Gardens, has been working in the landscape industry for more than three

decades. While living in the United Kingdom, she studied with garden designer John Brookes, and then joined Blooming Gardens UK, as the principal designer. Upon her return to the United States in 1986, she founded London Landscapes LLC, a design and build company in Brookmont, Md., and began designing gardens in Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia. She is known for her knowledge of the full range of plants for successful gardens, but perennials are her passion. Her gardens have been featured in magazines such as Southern Living, Better Homes and Gardens, and Country Living. She is a past president of the Landscape Designer Group. Samples from her portfolio may be seen at londonlandscapes.com.



JARED BARNES

started gardening when he was five years old, and since then he has enthusiastically pursued how to best

cultivate plants and cultivate minds. He currently fulfills those passions teaching horticulture at Stephen F. Austin State University. He obtained his Ph.D. in horticultural science from North Carolina State University. He interned the summer of 2008 at The Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pa. He has travelled around the United States and into 11 countries to gain a national and global perspective of horticulture. Recent awards include the 2019 PPA's Academic Award and 2016 PPA's Young Professional of the Year. His articles have appeared in Fine Gardening and Carolina Gardener.

One CEU credit for each session is available through the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD).



To register online, go to https://perennialplant.org/page/Mid-AtlanticRegional

You can find more information and a link to the registration page on our web site: mdhorticulture.org



To register by mail, send this form with your check, made out to Horticultural Society of Maryland, to the address below.

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2020. A refund of all fees, minus a \$50 administrative fee, will be given for cancellations received

by that date.

QUESTIONS? Visit our website, call 410-821-5561 or email winterseminar@mdhorticulture.org

February 14, 2020.

No tickets will be available at the door.

TRIBUTE TO A HORTICULTURAL GIANT

Jack Lowry

By Peter Bieneman



ack Lowry, who spent his career fostering relationships with many customers in the nursery business, died at the age of 87 on July 27. Highly regarded in the industry, he provided top-quality service and plants to nurseries in the Mid-Atlantic region for more than 55 years.

With Jack's passing, an era of personal service to his

customers is gone. He was an "integral link between obscure growers on the West Coast and nurseries on the East Coast," adds his daughter Nancy Lowry Moitrier, a professional landscape designer.

Born on June 27, 1932, in Bethel Park, Pa., John Cathcart Lowry graduated from Pennsylvania State University in 1958, with a degree in horticulture. His early work was for Towson Nurseries on York Road as a designer.

In 1964, Jack and his wife, Jean, started Lowry and Company, Inc. With a catchy slogan, "Big plants, small plants, and rare plants too. We find specialty plants for you," he began a career that put local nurseries in touch with unique growers and their material.

Early in his career on a purchasing expedition, he visited Teufel Nursery in Oregon and other nurseries on the West Coast. Karen Offutt, a longtime friend, recalls a buying trip with Jack, where "we visited over 20 gardens and nurseries in five days. Our last afternoon was a visit to the Far West Show. Much to my surprise, it was not a western rodeo like I was expecting, but instead it was the West Coast equivalent to our Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show."

Jack would locate a boutique grower of Japanese Maples and help market the material to the East Coast. "A lot more interesting material came here that we may not have seen," adds Nancy Moitrier.

People in the industry remember Jack as the guy who was able to source plant material for nurseries and landscapers. He conducted business with honesty and integrity.

As a supplier of plants to many garden centers and landscape firms in Maryland, Jack may well have provided specimens that are in your garden today. Companies such as Behnke's, Green Fields, Merrifield and Valley View were longtime customers. Traveling from one garden center to the next on sales calls, Jack observed how each one merchandised its

plants. He would then share this information with another garden center.

Jack's success was due in part to his vast knowledge of plants and willingness to share his observations with others. For anyone who met Jack, it was clear that he enjoyed interacting with people and helping them become successful.

A tireless promoter of horticulture, he helped kick-start the Mid-Atlantic Nursery Trade Show, now one of the largest private trade shows of the horticulture industry. His booth on the show's main floor was always well stocked with beautiful plants presided over by Jack and Jean. He also served on the board of the Maryland Nursery Landscape and Greenhouse Association and received its lifetime achievement award. He was also on the boards of the Landscape Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington and The American Horticulture Society.

Then there was his magnificent garden. Located in northern Baltimore County, in a suburban development abutting a golf course, it was a botanical masterpiece. It was featured on a past Horticultural Society garden tour, with members wowed by the diversity of plant material and compelling design.

In 1966, when Jack and Jean moved to the property, there was nothing there. Jack moved a sapling *Metasequoia* (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) to the site where the 3-inch caliper tree grew large and statuesque. Yet of all the trees on the property, his daughter Nancy says that the stately Nordmann Fir (*Abies nordmanniana*) was his pride and joy. Its towering presence in the front yard is still a dominant feature. (Jean Lowry died in 2018.)

Even as Nancy prepares to sell her father's lovely garden, she characterizes it as "a garden for sale with a house in the middle." She emphasizes that it needs someone who would like it to carry on in some form.

When asked to name her father's favorite plant, Nancy says he loved plants and people without exception. "I realized that his tastes changed over the decades. It would be safe to say that his favorite plant/plants of the '80s and early '90s would be any of the many cultivars of Japanese Maples, especially *Acer palmatum dissectum* 'Red Filigree Lace'. His more recent passions have been for yellow Magnolias (and any new cultivars), Ginkgos and Daphnes."

A nurseryman, a traveler, a gardener, Jack left a profound mark on those who knew him, and the industry will mourn him for years to come. Karen Offutt adds, "Jack was one of the last breed of plantsmen who could share, inspire and educate people to love plants."

Peter Bieneman is general manager of Green Fields Nursery and president of the Society.

РНОТО: Paula A. Simon

VOLUNTEER PROFILE Nancy Grabowski

he beautiful arrangement that shows up without fail at the Society's monthly lecture is the work of a talented designer and volunteer, Nancy Grabowski. Once you meet her you won't soon forget her enthusiasm. "I started making the flower arrangements because I noticed that they used a silk arrangement at the refreshment table and it just didn't seem right for the Horticultural Society to be using silks. Just sayin.""

Nancy got an early introduction to the Society from Rose Wolford, who was president from 1988 to 1990. Rose was her design mentor at Wilson's Garden Center in Columbia. A member of the Society since the 1980s, Nancy recalls an early visit to Jean Worthley's garden in Finksburg. "I took my kids as toddlers and they were impressed with the parrot she kept in a tree outside of her house."

Nancy's volunteering for the Society includes writing for The Hort Report and helping with the garden tour. She has previewed gardens, described them for the tour brochure and helped at the preview party. She also worked at the Silber plant sale in 2015. "I volunteered when we did the big sell-off," she said. "That was fun."

Volunteering for the garden tour committee is the right match for Nancy, a landscape professional with almost 40 years of experience. Nancy graduated with a bachelor's degree in horticulture from the University of Maryland College Park in 1979. Her early work included designing for a landscape contractor in Howard County. In 1987, she left to start a solo career. "I did a design for the entire eight-acre property at the Elkridge Furnace Inn and then I oversaw the installation. Somehow I got sucked into being their professional gardener for several more years... all the while doing designs for landscape contractors." Upon leaving the gardening position, Nancy focused on design. She has worked with many landscaping companies, pond installers, arborists and masonry contractors.



Nancy and her mother, Connie Bauman, on the 2019 Garden Tour.

She also taught in the horticulture program at the Community College of Baltimore County in Dundalk. Taking her college-aged son to learn more about the program led to a spontaneous job offer. The staff asked Nancy to teach Horticulture 106 and Introduction to Landscape Design. "I explained

that I wasn't a teacher, but they said if you have a degree in horticulture and have worked in the industry for 25 years you can be an adjunct teacher." She taught two semesters until CCBC was able to fill the position.

A dedicated gardener, Nancy has a two-acre garden around her Victorian house. The property was once a farmette, with a chicken coop, stables and a smokehouse. "The amazing thing is there were originally no beds whatsoever on the whole property, only turf grass," Nancy said. Since the property borders 12 neighbors' properties, she started with privacy plantings and expanded beds year after year.

Her garden features a paved terrace at the back, a stone fire pit, and a patio with two adjacent ponds with small waterfalls. "I put a brick sidewalk and a terrace in front with another pond. I installed a four-square-style vegetable garden with decorative fence, paver walkway and tuteurs." Familiar favorite trees like Cornus florida (Flowering Dogwood), Cercis canadensis (Eastern Redbud), Sassafras albidum (Sassafras) and Abies concolor (White Fir) provide structure. Shrubs like *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle' and H. paniculata cultivars coexist seamlessly with Acer palmatum (Japanese Maple) and Vitex agnus-castus (Chaste Tree). "A gardener's work is never complete," Nancy said. "Of course it's still a work in progress."

−by Peter Bieneman

PHOTO: Paula A. Simon

A New Head Gardener for Cylburn Arboretum **BRENT FIGLESTAHLER**

Brent T. Figlestahler, a 2015 Master's in Landscape Architecture graduate of Morgan State University, is the new head gardener at Cylburn Arboretum. Figlestahler, known to friends as Fig, took over the Cylburn job on Aug. 5, 2019, succeeding HSM board member Pat Sherman.



If his face looks familiar, it may be because he is a past Cylburn garden intern (2014) and a member of the Society. Before joining Cylburn full time, he was a designer for Campion Hruby Landscape Architects in Annapolis.

PHOTO: Brent Figlestahler

Welcome New Members!

Dorothea Abbott Cheryl Marocco Kate Carski Diana Pietrowiak Rachel Fischer Kathleen Pulcinella **Emily Hanson** John Stevener Jacqueline Leach Lloyd M. Thomas Jr. Brenda Ames Ledbetter Joanne Timmel **Bruce Lyons** Katherine Van Dommelen

Anastasia Mahan

Renew your membership today! mdhorticulture.org/join-us/membership

GROWING VEGETABLES IN CONTAINERS

with expert Marty Gottlieb





PHOTO: Marty Gottlieb

Container gardening enthusiasts may want to mark Saturday, March 14, 2020, on their calendars.

On that day, horticulturist MARTY GOTTLIEB will present a talk on four-seasons gardening with an emphasis on growing vegetables in containers.

Gottlieb, a frequent speaker on gardening topics, says he has been a "passionate" gardener most of his life and has worked in the lawn and garden industry for more than 50 years.

After earning a degree in horticulture from Cornell University in 1967, he worked as an agent for what is now known as Cornell Cooperative Extension. Over the years, he has "been involved in practically every aspect of horticulture, including research, new product development and introduction," commercial growing and gardener education.

He owns a marketing and development business, M. Gottlieb & Associates Inc., in upstate New York, that advises lawn and garden and horticulture businesses. He's a member of the Cornell-New York State Greenhouse Advisory Committee.

You can expect Gottlieb to mention *Smart Pots*, the soft-sided, sturdy but porous, reusable fabric containers in which he grows herbs. (For more on the pots, see smartpots.com.)

Place and time: Greenhouse Classroom at Cylburn Arboretum, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$10 for Society members, \$15 for non-members

Registration deadline: Saturday, March 7 – space is limited

Sign up at mdhorticulture.org/workshops or fill out and mail the form below.

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MEMBERSHIP

For information about membership or to join, please email Lauren Winship at hortmembership@gmail.com.

Benefits of Membership

Newsletters and membership directory; admission to the spring and fall lectures and the annual garden tour; and discounts on workshops, trips and special events.

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