



Dade Chapter

TILLANDSIA

Newsletter of the Dade Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Inc.
- For Miami-Dade County and the Florida Keys -

JANUARY 2017

MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday, January 24, 2017, 7:30 p.m.
Pinecrest Gardens, 11000 SW 57 Ave. (Red Road), Miami
Free and open to the public
(It's the fourth Tuesday, not the last)

Refreshments begin at 7:15 pm., merchandise sales before and after the program. The plant raffle follows the program. Contributions of **raffle items** and **refreshments** are always greatly appreciated.

Please label your raffle plant donations — no mystery plants!

“Rare Plants and Everglades Restoration”
George Gann, Chief Conservation Strategist,
The Institute for Regional Conservation

The Everglades Restoration is one of the largest and most complex ecological restoration projects in the world. Yet, rare native plants are not routinely monitored or considered during restoration planning. Join George Gann as we explore the historical native flora of the main Everglades drainageway, and review some of the rare species that might be affected by Everglades Restoration implementation. We want to 'send the water south', but also ensure that rare native plants benefit from this massive and critically important undertaking.

A native of southern Miami-Dade County, George is a founder of The Institute for Regional Conservation and currently acts as its Chief Conservation Strategist.

He was first author of IRC's landmark book *Rare Plants of South Florida* and is responsible for IRC's many online resources, including Natives For Your Neighborhood and the Floristic Inventory of South Florida. George has spent the last 40 years working on the conservation of rare plants, the restoration of ecosystems and a host of other conservation and sustainability issues. He has played a leadership role in a number of organizations including IRC, FNPS, Tropical Audubon Society, and the Society for Ecological Restoration. He works at both the local and global scales.



• **February 28, 2017:** “South Florida Bats: Importance, Distribution and Conservation” - Gisele L. Colbert and Giselle Hosein, Smart Sciences Environmental Consulting

• **March 28, 2017:** Sea Level Rise - Jim Murley, Miami-Dade County's Chief Resilience Officer

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

January

7 (Sat.): Annual Nature Lovers' Holiday Party
22 (Sun.): Field trip – Chekika (Everglades National Park)
24 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

February

4 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park
25 (Sat.): Field trip – R. Hardy Matheson Preserve
28 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

March

5 (Sun.): 11th Four-Organization Picnic, Virginia Key, 3 pm
24 (Fri.): Setup for Native Plant Day
25 (Sat.): NATIVE PLANT DAY, North Miami
28 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

April

22 (Sat.): Chapter workday, Everglades National Park
23 (Sun): Earthday at Pinecrest Gardens
25 (Tue.): Meeting at Pinecrest Gardens

(Additional field trips and yard visits TBA)

FIELD TRIPS

If the weather is bad, call Patty at 305-878-5705 to confirm. Field trips are for the study of plants and enjoyment of nature by FNPS members and their guests. Collecting is not permitted. Children are welcome.

Time, address and directions are in the newsletter mailed to members. Please join to enjoy all the activities of the chapter!

• **Sunday, January 22, 2017: Chekika, Everglades National Park. 9:15 a.m. - noon.** This area was a private resort, then a state recreational area with a scenic swimming hole (fed by an artesian well gushing sulphur-laden water), and other amenities. In 1985, the artesian well was capped due to concern that the brackish water might contaminate surface wells downstream. The park was transferred to ENP in 1991 and closed seasonally due to high water.

(continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

- **Annual Nature Lovers' Holiday Party**, January 7
- **Native Plant Day**, March 25 – help now!
- **“Comments on Mangroves”** – by Martin Roessler
- **“Pretty Little Fanpetals”** – by Chuck McCartney

In recent years the facilities have been closed due to lack of resources, and nature has been reclaiming the area. However, Chekika is still open to walk-in visitors. Shawn Bawden, Volunteers-In-Parks Program Manager at ENP, will accompany us and explain what's happening at the site. We'll be looking at plants but it's also a great place for birds and butterflies.

Difficulty: Easy/moderate - walking in open areas, on boardwalks, roads, unpaved paths; possible optional walking into open prairie that might be a bit muddy or wet.

Bring: Sun protection, bug spray (just in case), drinks. Long pants and shoes that can get muddy are advised.

Lost/late: Try Patty's cell (305-878-5705)

• **Saturday, February 25, 2017: R. Hardy Matheson Preserve** along the Snapper Creek Canal and Old Cutler Road.

Do you have suggestions for field trip destinations and leaders? Please let us know! (Contact Patty Phares, 305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com)

ANNUAL NATURE LOVERS' HOLIDAY PARTY

January 7, 2017 – 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Home of Don & Joyce Gann in Redland



Come one, come all:

FNPS members, parks personnel, friends from Audubon, and all the tree-huggers you can round up!

This party, begun by Mary Ann Hollingsworth Ogden Bolla, has been held for more than forty years and continues in her memory. Come as early as 5 p.m. to walk on a path through two acres of hardwood hammock transformed from what was agricultural land before Hurricane Andrew. Or come whenever ... stay until you're weary.

You'll be welcomed at one of **Miami architect Alfred Browning Parker's** 1960s houses, built in a hardwood hammock with only one major tree removed, designed to blend into the natural area, and to be cool without air conditioning.

The Ganns will provide their traditional homemade turkey soup and beverages, and you'll cover the table with your scrumptious dishes.

Wear your walking shoes and bring a flashlight. You may drive in through the south gate to drop off food and passengers, then park on the street.

Please RSVP and get directions

Phone/text: 786-423-1881 (Joyce); 786-566-6874 (Don)

Email:

joycedongann@vzw.blackberry.net (Joyce)

donjoycegann@outlook.com (Don)

22nd NATIVE PLANT DAY

Saturday, March 25, 2017

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Elaine Gordon Enchanted Forest Park
1725 NE 135 St., North Miami

As always, the event is FREE.

Co-sponsored by:

The Dade Chapter FNPS and the City of North Miami

Save the date and share with your friends now!

As always, we will have interesting activities, programs and walks for all, great plants and merchandise for sale – all in a wonderful setting for birding and butterfly watching.

How can you help now or before the event?

• **Pot up plants now for the chapter to raffle or sell.** We hope you'll have your **best** specimens for us! Please prep or pot up plants as soon as possible to get them well-established by March. (We can get them there if you can't come.)

Additional special request: Pot up little plants for little native plant enthusiasts. Our children's plant sale or distribution will get kids in on the enjoyment that native plants bring. This has been a big success. Annuals and shorter-lived shrubs are ideal - wildflowers, rouge plant, corkystem passion vines, etc. (non-poisonous, non-thorny species in small pots).

If you need small (or any size) pots, contact Patty Phares (305-255-6404, pharespl@gmail.com).

• **Set aside other non-plant raffle items:** Nature or gardening-related items (books, art, tools, decorative items, etc.)

• **Suggest a speaker or offer to conduct a walk** (contact **Ted Shaffer**, tedshaffer@bellsouth.net as soon as possible.)

• **Volunteer a few hours to help organize the event** (contact Amy Leonard: 305-458-0969, aleonar74@yahoo.com).

• **Stick address labels on postcards** (contact Amy or Gita to volunteer). This will be done in February in advance of the chapter meeting.

• **Deliver a stack of postcards to local businesses and institutions** - available at the February meeting (contact Amy in advance so we are sure to cover as many locations as possible).

• **Plan to help set up on March 24** - contact Amy.

• **Assist in contacting and scheduling volunteers** (contact Gita Ramsay: gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168)

• **Help raise (or find in your garden) butterfly or moth caterpillars** which feed on native plants (contact Patty to find out how to help with this).

Thank you for helping make this the best Native Plant Day!

- Amy Leonard

The 4-ORGANIZATION POTLUCK PICNIC returns! March 5, 2017, 3 p. m. - Save the date for this fun event with DCFNPS, Treemendous Miami, Miami Blue NABA and Tropical Audubon Society. Hosted this year by Treemendous, who will show us their extensive restoration project at Virginia Key Beach Park. Free admission to the park for members of the organizations. **Details next month.**

DADE CHAPTER and FNPS NEWS

Chapter Workday: Everglades National Park
Coe Visitor Center. February 4, 2017 - 9 a.m. – noon.
Help the chapter enhance the entrance to ENP. *New helpers are encouraged to come!* We will do pruning and weeding. Cold water is provided; bring snacks to share if you care to. Gloves and hand tools are available but you may prefer your own. Everyone in your car gets into ENP free after the workday. Contact Patty 305-255-6404 or pharespl@gmail.com, if you have questions (305-878-5705 cell the morning of the workday).

Welcome new members! Bob Ashby, Veronica Sforza

Support conservation of Florida's native plants with a donation to the chapter's "Gann Conservation Fund."

This fund supports the FNPS Conservation Grants and honors DCFNPS founders, Joyce and Don Gann. We have sponsored awards since 2013 and will continue with your help. Please donate at a meeting, mail a check to DCFNPS at the chapter address (note "Gann Conservation Fund" in the memo line), or contact Susan Walcutt (walcutts@bellsouth.net, 305-297-7757).

Broward Chapter FNPS. See <http://coontie.fnpschapters.org/>. Meetings are at Secret Woods, 2701 W. SR 84, Dania Beach.

• **Jan. 11, 2017, 7 p.m.: Chapter meeting.** Alyssa Lavoro of Alexander Landscaping and Plant Farm, speaking on cultivating native plants for landscaping, challenges for native growers and retailers, and the work of FANN (the Florida Association of Native Nurseries).

• See the website for field trips and other activities.

FNPS Awards and Grants – deadlines March 3, 2017

See <http://fnps.org/participate/awards> for more information.

• **Conservation Grants** support applied native plant conservation projects involving rare or imperiled native plant taxa and plant communities.

• **Research Grants** support research that forwards the mission of the Florida Native Plant Society and is funded by donations to the FNPS Endowment Fund.

• **Landscape Awards** are given for high quality native plant landscapes in the categories of residential, commercial, institutional, transportation, preservation, restoration, mitigation and wildflower/butterfly garden - using *primarily* native plants.

Please share the word about the landscape awards and encourage others to apply (including non-FNPS members). Your own landscape may be a great advertisement for natives!

• In addition, a new award will be added in 2018: **Dan Austin Award for Ethnobotany**, limited to graduate or undergraduate students who are studying Florida ethnobotany.

2017 FNPS Conference — Save the date; reserve a room!
37th Annual Florida Native Plant Society Conference, May 18-21, 2017, at the Westgate River Ranch Resort south of Lake Kissimmee. Enjoy amazing field trips, world-class speakers, workshops, social events, plant and merchandise sales. Retreat to an ancient landscape of old beach ridges, wild prairies, panther habitat, and islands of subtropical trees in central-south Florida.

Reserve your lodging, RV and camping spots soon! There is a limited number of each room type available. For the complete details, see www.fnps.org/conference/2017.

WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING

Dade Native Plant Workshop: MDC Kendall Campus Landscape Technology Center. 3rd Tuesdays at 7 p.m. See <http://www.nativeplantworkshop.com> or contact Steve Woodmansee at steve@pronative.com. Bring at least three cuttings (especially in flower/fruit), which need not pertain to the topic. **Novices and experts alike are welcome.** *Join on the website (free) to receive email reminders or to post on the site.*
Jan. 17, 2017 topic: Winter weeds. Please register on the new website to post and receive emails.

FIU course: Flora and Fauna of the Florida Keys – Continuing education class taught by the ever-popular biologist **Jim Duquesnel** and guest experts. **Ten fascinating Saturday morning field trips (beginning Jan 21, 2017) and about 3 classroom hours.** More information at <https://seas.fiu.edu/get-involved/opportunities/2016/ff-flkeys-course/>

Miami Blue Chapter, North American Butterfly Association (www.miamiblue.org; 305-979-9623).

Feb. 5, 2017, 1-3 p.m.: Quarterly meeting at Castellow Hammock Park, 22301 SW 162 Ave., Miami, 33170.

Dr. Frank Ridgley, DVM, Conservation and Research Dept. at Zoo Miami, will discuss conservation activities at the zoo, including the habitat being created to house threatened butterflies as a reservoir for future release. Come early to butterfly or visit the hammock. Feel free to bring refreshments.

Friends of the Gifford Arboretum, Univ. of Miami.

<http://www.bio.miami.edu/arboretum> > visits or 305-284-1302.

Feb. 1, 2017, 7 p.m.: Meeting, Cox Sci. Center, room 166. Charles J. Kropke presents his Emmy Award winning film "*The Unseen Everglades: Inside a Legendary Wilderness*" about the ecosystems, people and issues of the Florida Everglades.



The City of Miami invites you to the Sign Unveiling Ceremony for the **Mabel Fentress Miller Walking Trail**

Saturday, January 7, 2017 – 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Virginia Key Beach North Point Park

For more information contact Gloria A. Antia, Park Naturalist (gantia@miamigov.com)

(3861 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, 33149. From Rickenbacker Causeway, take the first left after MAST Academy onto Arthur Lamb Jr. Rd., about 2.7 miles past the entrance to the causeway, and follow signs to the park.

Mabel Miller is a former environmental educator, long time environmentalist and major advocate for the restoration of Virginia Key. Read more in the April 2016 *Tillandsia* at <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/pastnewsletters/2016/04.pdf>

MLK Day of Service, January 16, 2017: "A Day On, Not a Day Off!" Join Everglades National Park in a variety of outdoor service projects, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the Pine Island and Flamingo districts. Wear long pants, long sleeves and closed-toe shoes. Bring sunscreen, bug spray, lunch/snacks and water. Please RSVP to anna_lee@partner.nps.gov.

Environmentally Endangered Lands Volunteer Workdays.

Adult volunteers are always helpful to guide the teens.

Please pre-register at EEL@Miamiidade.gov; 305-372-6611.

<http://www.miamiidade.gov/environment/endangered-lands.asp>

- **Jan. 14 (Sat.): East Greynolds**, 17530 W. Dixie (cleanup)
- **Jan. 23 (Mon.): Arch Creek**, 1855 NE 135 St. (invasive rem.)
- **Feb. 4 (Sat): Deering Estate**, 16701 SW 72 Ave. (cleanup)

The 26th Annual Lecture Series: *The Delicate Balance of Nature 2017*. Wednesdays, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m., John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, MM 102.5 Oceanside Overseas Hwy.

Gate opens 7 p.m. Free, seating limited. Call 305-451-9570 for more info and topics of weekly programs through March, or 305-451-1202 to get flier with the complete schedule. **Topics range from astronomy to reptiles. Native plant topics are:**

- **Feb. 8:** The Million Orchid Project at Fairchild
- **Mar. 29:** Go Native: The Why and How of Native Habitat Protection in the Keys

GOULDS PINELAND PRESERVE NOW COMPLETE

Through the support and collaboration of **TD Bank** and **The Nature Conservancy**, Goulds Pineland Preserve, a critical 43-acre remnant of the endangered Miami Rock Ridge Pinelands, will be **fully protected and continually managed by Miami-Dade County's Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program**. The globally threatened pine rockland habitat is found only in south Florida and the Bahamas.

Portions of Goulds Pineland Preserve were initially purchased through a partnership between Miami-Dade County through the EEL Program, and the State of Florida through the Florida Forever Program. Recent acquisition of parcels from Morning Star Baptist Church with contributions from TNC and TD Bank complete a contiguous section of the Goulds Pineland Project.

You can visit Goulds Pineland Preserve on SW 120 Avenue south of SW 224 Street in Miami-Dade County. ***As with all remote natural area sites, don't visit by yourself, be aware of your surroundings, and don't leave valuables in your car.***

COMMENTS ON MANGROVES

By Martin Roessler

The November program "The Trouble with Exotic Mangroves" by Dennis Giardina raised the question, **What is a mangrove?**

Perhaps the simple definition is a tree that is tolerant of salt water. Dr. P. B. Tomlinson uses five criteria to define major elements (true Mangroves), minor elements and associates of the mangrove community (mangal) in the 1986 book *The Botany of Mangroves*.

The criteria are:

1. Complete fidelity to the mangrove environment; that is they occur only in the mangal and do not extend into terrestrial communities.

2. High importance* in the structure of the community and

an ability to form pure strands.

3. Morphological specializations that adapt them to the environment such as aerial roots associated with gas exchange, and vivipary of the embryo (bringing forth live young rather than producing dormant resting seeds).

4. Some physiological mechanism for salt exclusion so they can grow in salt water, frequently visibly excreting salt.

5. Taxonomic isolation from terrestrial relatives. True mangroves are separated from their relatives at least at the generic level and often at the subfamily or family level. Minor mangroves are mostly isolated at the generic level.

Using these criteria, Tomlinson lists 54 species from 20 genera as true and minor mangroves. There are 8 species of *Avicennia* including our black mangrove that belong to the monogeneric family Avicenniaceae. They have aerial roots and vivipary, occur only in the mangal and can dominate parts of the mangal. Our white mangrove *Laguncularia* and 2 species of *Lumnitzera* (including the exotic *L. racemosa*) belong to the isolated tribe Lagunculariae in the family Combretaceae. They have aerial roots but lack vivipary. They are mostly restricted to the mangle and can dominate portions of the mangal. There are 4 genera with 17 species in the natural tribe Rhizophoreae in the family Rhizophoraceae, including our red mangrove and the exotic *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*. Both have aerial roots and exhibit vivipary. Both are restricted to the mangal and can dominate parts of the mangal.

There are three species of *Acrostichum*, an isolated genus of ferns in the family Pteridaceae. Our golden leather fern is rather uncommon in the high mangal, but in the Mekong delta in Viet Nam and elsewhere in southeast Asia it can be abundant. The other species are mostly associated with freshwater but may be found in the upper mangle. None have aerial roots or vivipary.

There are 2 species of the genus *Conocarpus*, including our buttonwood. The buttonwood is common in the high mangal but can also occur in freshwater areas, while its African cogenetic is terrestrial. Buttonwood have no aerial roots and are not viviparous. Tomlinson classifies them as mangrove associates.

Although *Nypa fruticans* (Mangrove palm, Nipa palm) occurs only in the Indian and Pacific oceans today, in prehistoric times the genus was known from Brazil and Europe. It generally occurs in estuaries and lagoons with quiet waters and because of its thick rhizomatous root system often occurs in extensive pure stands. It does not have aerial roots but it does have water supported viviparous seeds. It is considered a true mangrove. Other palms of the genera *Oncosperma*, *Raphia*, *Calamus* and *Phoenix* are listed as mangrove associates in Tomlinson (1986). Of these, the native African *P. reclinata* (Senegal date palm) is occasionally found in the Florida mangal. *Acoelorrhaphe wrightii* (Paurotis palm) is not listed by Tomlinson, but our Florida native occurs with mangroves in our saline Everglades and in Belize.

Two genera in the hibiscus family, Malvaceae, occur in association with mangroves. Our native *Pavonia paludicola* (Swampbush) is uncommon in mangal and coastal areas. The exotic *Thespesia populnea* (Portia tree) is an invasive species on disturbed berms, dykes and spoil fill. The exotic *Casuarina equisetifolia* (Australian pine) also occurs on these disturbed features and on sandy beaches.

* “Importance” is a term used in forestry and quantitative ecology to indicate the ranking of a species in a community. Importance is defined to be a function of density (the number of individuals per unit area), the canopy cover or basal area per unit area occupied by a species, and the percent of samples within an area that contain the species.

Dr. Martin Roessler is a retired environmental consultant who has spent about 60 years in Florida and worked from Pensacola and Jacksonville south to Key West. He is an original member and past president of the Dade Chapter FNPS.

WEED, WILDFLOWER OR WEEDY WILDFLOWER?

A new series

Pretty Little Fanpetals - By Chuck McCartney

The late George Avery, one of the great South Florida field botanists of an earlier era, often jokingly and with typical modesty referred to himself as just a “weed watcher.” And Steve Woodmansee, the excellent contemporary field botanist, has given us articles and programs extolling the virtues of weeds. And they are absolutely right. You can learn a lot of botany by watching weeds.



Common Fanpetals - *Sida ulmifolia*

Go out and look in your lawn (if it’s not too “manicured” and sterile) or check along roadside swales and you’re apt to find a pretty little member of the hibiscus family (the Malvaceae). Long known as *Sida acuta* and now called *Sida ulmifolia* (that species name referring to the plant’s elm-like leaves), it has several common names, for folks who are reluctant to use botanical nomenclature.

When I was a kid growing up in Homestead, we called it Tea Weed for reasons I’ve never understood, although the late Dr. Daniel F. Austin in *Florida Ethnobotany* lists Indian Tea as one common name for the closely related species *Sida rhombifolia*. In Dr. Walter Kingsley Taylor’s book *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers*, *Sida ulmifolia* is called Broomweed. However, in the third edition of *Guide to the Vascular Plants of Florida* by Drs. Richard P. Wunderlin and Bruce F. Hansen, it’s called by the two common names under which it is encountered most often nowadays: Common Wireweed or Common Fanpetals.

I favor the latter name because it is evocative of the look of the

pretty little three-quarter-inch flowers. They are a distinctive yellow color, sometimes with just a hint of white or orange. The five petals are unevenly notched at the end, with one of the two lobes much larger than the other, giving the bloom the appearance of a child’s pinwheel, accounting for the Fanpetals name.

In mowed places and locations with heavy foot traffic, the plants can remain fairly low. But given room to expand, they can grow to a foot in height, with reports of some growing three feet tall. Because the plants in yards are low, the flowers are often ignored. But look carefully at them and you’ll come to appreciate their beauty. However, you may have to wait till midmorning to see the blooms because the flowers are “late risers,” opening toward midday. Like many hibiscus relatives, the flowers last just one day. But this species flowers throughout the year.

Besides Common Fanpetals, eleven other *Sida* species, either native or naturalized, are reported for Florida. One that could easily be confused with *Sida ulmifolia* is *Sida rhombifolia*, known as Indian Hemp, among other common names. In Common Fanpetals, the stem holding the flower (called the pedicel) is very short. In *Sida rhombifolia*, the pedicel is much longer, often more than an inch.

Chuck McCartney is a former editor of the American Orchid Society's AOS Bulletin and the Awards Quarterly and was a copy editor with The Miami Herald's Broward Edition, before retiring in 2009. He writes extensively about wildflowers and orchids for numerous publications and is a member of FNPS.

DADE CHAPTER FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

President: Kurt Birchenough (kbirc001@fiu.edu, 202-905-3921)
Vice President: Amy Leonard (aleonar74@yahoo.com, 305-458-0969)
Secretary: Gita Ramsay (gita.ramsay@gmail.com, 786-877-7168)
Treasurer: Susan Walcutt (walcutts@bellsouth.net, 305-297-7757)
At Large: Devon Powell, Surey Rios, Ted Shafer, Jennifer Stine
Eric von Wettberg, Vivian Waddell
Dade Chapter – FNPS Council of Chapters: Eric von Wettberg (ebishopv@fiu.edu, 305-348-2298)
Refreshment coordinators: Cheryl & Ben Morgan (ckmorg@bellsouth.net)
Membership: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)
General chapter information: 305-985-3677
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dadefnps>
Twitter and Instagram: @dcfnps or Dade Native Plants
DCFNPS website: <http://dade.fnpschapters.org/>
DCFNPS e-mail: dadefnps@gmail.com
Mailing address: Dade Chapter FNPS, 6619 South Dixie Hwy, #181, Miami FL 33143-7919
Webmaster: Haniel Pulido (dadefnpsweb@gmail.com)

TILLANDSIA

Editor: Patty Phares (pharespl@gmail.com, 305-255-6404)
Staff needed for general assistance or co-edit. Please contact the editor.

Articles, announcements and news items are invited for *Tillandsia* from Dade and Keys members. Please submit items for consideration by the 15th of each month. Advertising rates from \$12 per month.

FLORIDA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

FNPS office: info@fnps.org, 321-271-6702
FNPS website: <http://www.fnps.org>
FNPS blog: <http://www.fnpsblog.org>
FNPS is on Facebook and Twitter: FNPSonline
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