SJLWT Preserves 2 Farms in Carney’s Point

A Tale of Two Farms

Can anyone recall New Jersey as being known by a nickname other than “The Garden State”. In all but the most metropolitan areas of our state, you need not go far to pass by a farm or garden. Some of them are quite small and others stretch to the horizon. Nowhere in New Jersey is our agricultural heritage more pervasive than in Salem County, host to well over 20,000 acres of preserved farmland. Oddly enough though, the northwestern part of Salem County where mostly vegetable crops are grown had slipped through the cracks in the Farmland Preservation Program. Planning for future development and a failure to recognize the uniquely suitable qualities of lighter, well-drained soils for vegetable production combined to leave Oldmans and Carneys Point Townships sidelined from farmland preservation.

This situation prevailed until 2005 when Carneys Point Township and Salem County acted to expand the County Agricultural Development Area (ADA) into Carneys Point Township, enabling farms within the expanded ADA to qualify for farmland preservation funding. By that year’s end, the Sassi Farm was preserved, culminating six years of dogged persistence on the part of the owners. Carneys Point now had 85 acres of preserved farmland and no lack of farmers or farmland owners interested in preservation, but momentum for more preservation was slow to gather. No further movement in farmland preservation would come to Carneys Point until the South Jersey Land and Water Trust, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC), the Federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program (FRPP), and the Township of Carneys Point joined forces to preserve the Yetneck and DiGregorio Farms. In 2008, the SADC awarded a grant for 50% funding to the South Jersey Land Trust, cont. pg 4

SJLWT Awarded for work to Keep SJ Green

At its 9th Annual Celebration of Regional Excellence, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission recognized SJLWT with an award for outstanding assistance with the Keep It Green Campaign. In 2009, SJLWT worked with the statewide New Jersey Keep It Green Coalition to secure legislative and voter approval of a $400 million bond act to ensure continued funding for state and local open space, farmland, and historic preservation efforts. Public Question #1 was approved and will continue to fund preservation for another two years.

INSIDE
- SJLWT News
- Walk in the Woods
- Stream Assessment Update
- Restoration Projects
- Preserving Farms cont..
- Rain Barrels
- Upcoming Events
Officers
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Director
Jim Sassi,  
Land Preservation Consultant
Michael Hogan,  
Habitat Assessment Consultant

SJLWT  
P.O. Box 233  
Glassboro, NJ 08028  
(856) 881-2269  
www.sjlandwater.org

The mission of the South Jersey Land Trust (SJLWT) is to preserve and protect the land and water resources of southern New Jersey – maintaining and enhancing the natural, cultural and historic heritage of the region. It is carried out through five main programs: preserving land, providing education to the public and to teachers and schools, increasing scientific knowledge through data gathering, serving an advocacy role on land and water protection issues, and conducting habitat protection and remediation.

WANTED
Concerned Citizens to serve on the SJLWT’s Committees to assist us in building awareness in the community of the challenge facing protection and preservation of South Jersey’s natural resources.

Water Quality & Habitat Protection Committee
To help organize and implement protection and restoration of habitat in our watersheds including stream monitoring, surveying vernal pools, wildlife assessment, stream and road cleanups and stream remediation

Land Preservation Committee
To advance land preservation throughout the region.

Development Committee
Devising the funding goals and strategies that will enable SJLWT to carry out its programs and initiatives. Assist with fundraising events.

BENEFIT FOR YOU:
• Networking on a more personal scale with professionals and dedicated citizens of southern New Jersey.
• Affiliation with SJLWT, the non-profit working to protect land and water resources in Southern New Jersey
• Partnership with SJLWT working to protect over 500 acres of land and over 1,000 miles of streams per year
• Giving back to your local community

Commitees meet bi-monthly at the SJLWT office located in Glassboro. If you would like further information please contact Christine Nolan, Director, at 856-881-2269 or e-mail her at cnolan@sjlandwater.org.

Share the Harvest 2010 - Sow a Row for Hunger
July 17 - September 25, 2010

Philabundance asks local and community gardeners to grow extra fruits and vegetables or collect any surplus produce from their gardens to donate towards the fight against hunger. Share the Harvest is a great way for neighbors to help the increasing number of families experiencing financial challenges. Bring your excess every Saturday morning to Springdale Farms at 1638 S. Springdale Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ. http://www.springdalefarms.com/

Support SJLWT ~ Become a Member
Basic - $20    Contributor - $35    Supporter - $50
Org/Gov’t/Business - $100    Conservationist - $200    Steward - $500

Make checks payable to: SJLWT
P.O. Box 233  
Glassboro, NJ 08028  
or on-line at  
www.sjlandwater.org
Manumuskin River Preserve
Port Elizabeth, Cumberland County
Saturday, August 28, at 11:00 am

The Nature Conservancy’s Manumuskin River Preserve, at over 3500 acres, includes a variety of habitats including mudflats, upland forest, grassy meadows, wild rice stands, red maple wetlands and large lakes from abandoned sand quarries. In addition to 30 other rare species, the world’s largest population of the globally rare sensitive joint-vetch is protected on the preserve. The tidal wetlands here have never been diked and have great plant diversity. Remains of the 1790s settlement of Fries Mill are also part of the preserve.

The walk will follow along the rail road tracks across the Manumuskin River and tidal wetlands, the trail along the edge of the river and around a portion of one of the large lakes. The trip will include a 1 hour lunch break.

The trail may be wet, so please wear appropriate foot ware. Bring insect repellant, your camera, binoculars, pack a lunch and expect to hike about 3-4 miles.

Directions: Take Rt. 55 to Rt. 49 exit and turn left/east, take Rt. 49 approx. 4 miles and make a right turn onto Port Elizabeth Road. We will meet at the railroad crossing on Port Elizabeth Road 2.6 miles south of Rt. 49. Look for my silver pickup truck. Last public rest room is at the Wawa on Rt. 49 just west of Rt. 55.

Parvins State Park
Pittsgrove, Salem County
Sunday, September 26, at 3:00 pm

Parvin Lake State Park covers approximately 1,000 acres in Salem County and includes Parvin Lake, cabins, an interpretive center, campsites, swimming facilities and many miles of hiking trails. The lake was created in 1783 to provide power for a sawmill and the area was acquired by the state in 1930. In the 1930’s many projects at the park were completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

The walk will follow the trail around Parvin Lake, which passes through pine-oak uplands, red maple wetlands and stands of Atlantic white cedar. We will see many of the fall blooming flowers including asters, goldenrods, cardinal flower, turtlehead and a small population of nodding lady’s tresses orchids. The trail is also an excellent birding location. After the hike we will have lunch at the picnic grove on the lake.

The trail may be wet, so please wear appropriate foot ware. Bring insect repellant, your camera, binoculars, pack a lunch and expect to hike about 3-4 miles.

Directions: Take Rt.47/Delsea Drive south to Vine-land, make a right turn onto Almond Rd./Rt. 540 or Take Rte 55 to exit #35 to Almond Rd./Rt. 540. Follow Rt. 540 approx. 3.5 miles to Parvin Lake Visitors Cen-ter, park in lot on right side of the road. Meet at the circle in front of the visitors center.

Pedricktown Marsh
Pedricktown, Gloucester/Salem Counties
Saturday, October 23, at 3:00 pm

The Pedricktown Marsh is a large saltwater, tidal marsh located on the lower portion of Oldmans Creek. This expansive area of open wetlands contains stands of wild rice, cattails and arum and provides habitat for migratory shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors. It is also a well known endangered species location and is designated as an “Important Bird Area” by the New Jersey Audubon Society.

The walk will cross the marsh on Pedricktown Road/ Rt. 601. It may be windy, so please dress appropriately and bring binoculars. Michael will discuss the history, flora and fauna of the area and SJLWT projects in the Oldmans Creek Watershed.

Directions: Take Rt. 295 south to Exit 10/Center Square Road. Make a right onto Center Square Road west, make a left onto Pedricktown Road/Rt. 601 and follow road through marsh and over the bridge. Park in grassy area on the right side of the road, just over the bridge. Look for my silver pick up truck.
and Water Trust under their non-profit program, specifically to preserve the DiGregorio and Yetneck Farms. The Yetneck Farm is 76 acres adjacent to the already preserved Sassi Farm, and the DiGregorio Farm is 66 acres contiguous with the Yetneck Farm. Rosemary Yetneck and Sam DiGregorio, Jr. are strong advocates of preservation, and both had long ongoing efforts underway to preserve their farms. Rosemary applied for farmland preservation in 2003 and it was nearly twelve years ago that Sam first applied for preservation under the county easement program.

The SADC grant positioned the Trust to see these farm owners finally reach their goal of preservation, albeit with challenges. Funds were needed to match the 50% SADC grant. These funds were granted to the Trust through the Federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program, which provides grants of up to 50% funding for farmland preservation. Additional funds were needed to cover the “soft costs” associated with the project: appraisals, surveys and title work. Carneys Point Township stepped in to cover these costs out of their municipal open space preservation fund. Finally, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, which has partnered and supported SJLWT projects for many years, once again provided the staff and technical assistance to make this project a success. Through these preservation partnership efforts, two farm-family legacies will now continue on.

Rosemary Yetneck grew up on the farm working alongside her parents. Her farm is a longtime family legacy. Rosemary’s father was one of eleven children and purchased the farm from his parents. They were first generation immigrants who settled in Carneys Point in the Depression Era to make a life of farming in their new country.

Cancer claimed Rosemary’s father at mid-life and her mother passed on not much later, at which time Rosemary inherited the farm. Rosemary and her husband maintain an impressive garden, and Maugeri Brothers from Woolwich Township operate the farm, growing peppers this season on the entire acreage under drip irrigation.

Sam’s story is yet another family legacy. He grew up working alongside his parents on a farm that was also purchased from his grandparents. Samuel DiGregorio, Sr. operated a successful auto service shop as well as the farm, and the younger Sam learned the mechanic’s trade as well as farming from his father. It was about thirty years ago that Sam purchased his own 66 acre farm, which historically had been owned by his great uncle. He started out farming with his father, and today grows cilantro, zucchini, yellow squash, green peppers and pickles under drip irrigation. He also continues the mechanic trade at his father’s garage.

The Trust and its partners can be proud that through their efforts these two family legacies will continue in perpetuity. Many thanks and a “well done” to all involved.

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Paddle Wilson Lake

An evening of fun for everyone

August 19 ~ 6:00 pm
(Thurs. evening)
Wilson Lake, Scotland Run Park
(Academy Ave. & Fries Mill Rd., Clayton)

Bring a friend and a dessert
Canoes & Kayaks will be provided
Registration Required
856-881-2269
Habitat Protection

We are pleased to report that the SJLWT Stream Assessment, South Jersey Vernal Pool Project, and restoration projects are producing real results.

Stream Assessments Results

SJLWT staff and volunteers have continued assessing portions of the Big Timber Creek Watershed in its partnership with the Camdeen County Municipal Utility Authority. In Timber Creek Park in Gloucester Township, the main stem of the North Branch of Timber Creek and its small tributaries have been assessed. Upper tributaries including the Tom’s Branch, Slab Bridge Branch and portions of Holly Run in Gloucester Township and Trout Run in Lindenwold have been assessed. SJLWT staff is currently finishing an assessment of the mouth of Timber Creek in Brooklawn and Westville.

Staff has completed visual and marcoinvertebrate assessments on portions of the Salem River in the Woodstown Pilesgrove area with members of the joint environmental commission and worked with NJDEP Watershed Ambassador Shaina Phillips on a project to plant native trees and shrubs around Memorial Lake to help stabilize the banks.

Vernal Pools Results

So far staff and volunteers have documented and recorded data for 75 possible vernal pools (habitat hot spots) locations in Gloucester, Salem and Atlantic Counties. This spring we visited a number of pools and collected enough data to have more pools certified, including a pool in Elk Township that had a large population of wood frogs. SJLWT was assisted by Rowan College interns, Jill Saunders and Matt Bellifemine. SJLWT also sponsored a vernal pool workshop with the Woodstown Pilesgrove Joint Environmental Commission.

All volunteers are encouraged to go out and check on the pools just after it rains in the spring and when it dries up during the summer or fall. If you have a tape recorder, take it with you and record what you hear.

Restoration Projects

West Deptford Library Retention Basin

SJLWT and Library staff and volunteers, along with the Boy and Girl scouts, planted native vegetation that attract birds and butterflies along the retention basin located next to the library. SJLWT received a grant from the Watershed Institute to purchase the plants and construct the garden, which was designed by the Gloucester County architect, Alan Koch. SJLWT would especially like to thank Rock Products for donating the mulch and Ace Paver for delivering the plants.

Williamstown Middle School

SJLWT Staff and volunteers along with the students and teachers constructed a rain garden with native plants to collect stormwater runoff from the teachers parking lot. SJLWT received a grant from the Watershed Institute to purchase the plants and construct the garden created by the Gloucester County architect, Alan Koch. SJLWT would especially like to thank Peach Country Mulch for donating the mulch and Ace Paver for delivering the mulch.
Monarchs will soon be fluttering again through our lives, between our houses, our office buildings, through our parks and farms.

Monarch butterflies time their northward migration so that they arrive just as the first milkweed plants emerge. They lay their eggs shortly after arriving in milkweed country. Withered and tattered from their hibernation and migration, they finally die.

A Monarch that hatches from these eggs will be part of the 1st generation and will go through the full butterfly life cycle in about 6 – 8 weeks. It will have grown inside the egg for about 4 days. It then munches milkweed and grows as a Monarch caterpillar (larva) for about 2 weeks. The caterpillar’s life inside the chrysalis (pupa) lasts about 10 days and its life as a beautiful adult lasts from 2 – 6 weeks. It may follow the milkweed and lay eggs farther north.

Monarch larvae retain poisons (a heart poison) in their tissues from milkweed – poison that discourages predators such as birds who will become sick from eating a Monarch. The Monarch’s bright colors thus warn predators of an unsavory and perhaps unhealthy experience. Two other butterflies—the Queen and the Viceroy—mimic the Monarch’s colors in order to accomplish the same result, although they are not poisonous to birds.

There will be three more generations during the warm weather months in the eastern U.S. A second generation typically hatches in May/June, the 3rd in July/August, and the 4th generation in September/October. This last generation does not mate, lay eggs, or die at this time. It migrates back to Mexico, finds exactly the same trees that its ancestors used, goes into hibernation and lives a total of 6 – 8 months, awakening in late winter to begin the remarkable Monarch cycle again.

Go Green this Summer, Save Water, Save Money & Prevent Pollution

South Jersey residents have a great opportunity to save money and water by constructing rain barrels, thanks to a grant from the Watershed Institute and a partnership with the Gloucester County Master Gardeners. Rain barrels help residents use water more wisely and reduce pollution in local streams by capturing stormwater runoff.

Rain barrels are an easy way to catch and store rain for watering gardens, shrubs and trees. They also help prevent stormwater from flowing over dirty lawns, driveways, streets and parking lots and polluting local streams. By catching the rain and reusing it, residents can help the environment and save money at the same time. We all need clean water, and it’s important that we use water wisely.

• 40% of the average homeowner’s water use is outdoors.
• 700 gallons of water runs off a 1,200 square foot roof after only one inch of rainfall.
• A quarter inch of runoff from an average roof will easily fill a rain barrel. If you have five storms a season, that equals 275 gallons of free water.
• Rain barrel use reduces the stress on municipal water systems and aquifers during the summer months and improves stormwater management.

The rain barrel is designed for watering flowers, vegetables, shrubs and trees either by connecting a garden hose or soaker hose to the rain barrel or filling a watering can. The rain barrels are made from 55-gallon blue plastic recycled containers. The top does not come off, so children or pets cannot get in the barrel. It has a six inch diameter inlet opening covered with a screened louver to keep insects and debris out. The barrels have a brass spigot to allow you to connect a hose for watering. You can join multiple barrels for additional capacity.

Build a Rain Barrel Workshop
September 29, 2010
$25 per barrel - 6:30pm
Gloucester Cty Building
RSVP Required
(856) 881-2269
SJLWT is grateful to these businesses for their donations to SJLWT rain garden projects.

**Ace Paver**
www.acepaver.com

**Peach Country Mulch**
www.peachcountrytractor.com

**Rock Products**
www.rockproductsinc.com

**SJLWT Volunteers**
Matt Bellifemine
Rebecca Livingston
Michael Rettano
Jill Sanders
Suzanne Schatz
for their office administration and field assistance.

The following **nurseries** donate to our annual plant auctions held at Washington Twp. Earth Day and Gloucester County WaterFest. Be sure to tell the nursery that you learned about them from SJLWT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursery</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrowwood Native Plant Nursery</td>
<td>961 Clark Ave. Franklin Twp.</td>
<td>697-6044</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bellone's Nursery</td>
<td>491 Harding Hwy (Rte. 40)</td>
<td>697-4351</td>
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<td>Bloomers</td>
<td>402 Garden Rd. Pittsgrove Twp. 358-3032</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creamy Acres Nursery</td>
<td>448 Lincoln Mill Rd South Harrison Twp. 223-1669</td>
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<td>Cousins Garden Center</td>
<td>355 Center St. Mantua 468-8241</td>
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<td>D'Angelo's</td>
<td>405 Richwood Rd. Ewan 881-6039</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danny Jr.'s. Garden Center</td>
<td>664 Berlin-Cross Keys Rd Sicklerville 629-0016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dougherty's Home &amp; Garden Center</td>
<td>3086 Delsea Dr. Franklinville 694-1216</td>
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<td>Esley's Landscape Service</td>
<td>1535 Tanyard Rd. Mantua 468-5949</td>
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<td>Fazzio's Garden Center</td>
<td>541 Bridgeton Pike Mullica Hill 478-6298</td>
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<td>Ferrucci Nurseries</td>
<td>1745 Piney Hollow Rd. Franklin Twp 697-1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four Seasons Garden</td>
<td>(Rte. 45) Mullica Hill 478-6956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garden Road Greenhouse</td>
<td>402 Garden Rd. Pittsgrove Twp. 358-3032</td>
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<td>Green Planet Nursery</td>
<td>1022 Monroeville Rd. South Harrison Twp. 789-8010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groff's Mill Pond Nurseries</td>
<td>1350 Delsea Dr. Glassboro 589-9600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hillerest Farm &amp; Nursery</td>
<td>123 Thies Rd. Sewell 589-5696</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCloskey's Nursery</td>
<td>419 East High Street Williamstown 307-9652</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael's Greenhouses</td>
<td>305 Pitman-Downer Rd. Washington Twp 881-0009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Piney Hollow Nursery</td>
<td>3653 Dutch Mill Rd. Franklin Twp 697-4959</td>
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<tr>
<td>Platt's Farm Market</td>
<td>70 Cohawkin Rd. Clarksboro 423-7995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prickett Nursery</td>
<td>Mantua Blvd. Sewell 468-0654</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pump House Gardens</td>
<td>1730 Glassboro Rd. Mantua 468-6603</td>
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<tr>
<td>Puglia's Farm Market</td>
<td>301 Fries Mill Rd Sewell 881-0619</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosie's Farm Market</td>
<td>317 Swedesboro Rd. Elk Twp 223-2952</td>
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<td>Stecher's Garden Mrkt</td>
<td>1024 Township Line Woolwich 467-2208</td>
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<tr>
<td>Triple Oaks Nursery</td>
<td>2359 Delsea Dr Franklinville 694-4272</td>
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<td>Visconti Nursery</td>
<td>1459 Centerton Rd. Elmer 358-6644</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walker's Farm Market</td>
<td>105 Porchtown Rd. Pittsgrove 358-3138</td>
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<tr>
<td>Windy Top Nursery</td>
<td>240 Harrisonville Rd. Richwood 478-2127</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zimmerman Country Market</td>
<td>425 Salina Rd. Mantua</td>
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Stop in and take advantage of summer sales going on right now! Be sure to thank them for supporting SJLWT.

**Report an environmental concern or problem to DEP’s hot line**
1-877-WARNDEP (877-927-6337) or www.nj.gov/dep/warnde.htm. Be sure to ask for a case number so you can follow up. It is helpful to have the lot and block number.
Join us at our upcoming events!

Paddle Wilson Lake
Scotland Run Park, Clayton
Thursday, August 19, at 6:00 pm
Canoes & Kayaks will be provided

SJLWT “Walk in the Woods”
All walks are free for SJLWT members
$3 a person for non SJLWT members

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Parvins State Park
Pittsgrove, Salem County - Sunday, September 26, at 3:00 pm

Pedricktown Marsh
Gloucester/Salem Counties - Saturday, October 23, at 3:00 pm

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Gloucester Cty Bldg. in Clayton - September 29, 2010 at 6:30pm
RSVP Required (856) 881-2269 or cnolan@sjlandwater.org

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