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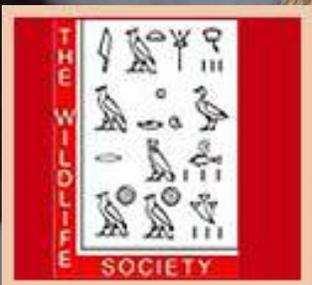
WILDLIFE SOCIETY
Wyoming Chapter



2015 Winter Edition Newsletter

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Cover: A cottontail rabbit is alerted by the photographer's presence. Stan Harter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – FIRE FROM ICE



Every winter, about 23,000 elk descend upon feedgrounds in west-central Wyoming. In settings akin to smorgasbord cafeteria, elk jockey for position as hay or pellets are distributed to maintain elevated populations and help prevent them from raiding haystacks, spreading brucellosis, and ultimately reaching historic winter range. Fighting over food distracts them just long enough for our work unit to dart, immobilize, collect biological samples, and mark them in a variety of ways. Yet sedating elk for the sake of data we use to persuade managers and administrators to change management is meaningless unless you can get them upright before death. I often wonder what it takes to get us upright after getting slowed down or even knocked out by misunderstanding, micromanagement, or other measures.

Since our last newsletter, our board and committees have taken advantage of the cold weather and (mostly) indoor time with action and results. I sincerely appreciate their enthusiasm, responsiveness, flexibility, dedication, and above all else, honesty. What's been going on? Money talks, but not as much as our board talks about it. Testing the economic philosophies and plasticity of our board, and thinking we might win chapter of the year or entice some of you to run for office or take on chair positions, I pushed to spend a lot more money on loaded travel opportunities to Winnipeg. After substantial debate and acknowledgement that our financial resources are getting thin as spring ice, we adopted an operating budget of \$21,990 (down \$385 from last year). For specific use on our Fellowship Program, we successfully acquired a Wyoming Game & Fish Commissioner's license thanks to the generous donation of Commissioner Aaron Clark. This will be auctioned March 14 at the Muley Fanatics banquet in Casper. Policy is used to help guide us, and after thoroughly reviewing language from Parent's bylaws, I've proposed language regarding the immediate past-president. This will provide you with opportunities for education and empowerment by reviewing and voting on these laws in the coming months. And if you haven't seen via email or our website, president-elect Hayes is working closely with Pat Anderson of WLCI, CMPS council-rep Bob Lanka, our Board, and several WYTWS members to solidify a stacked agenda and preparations for our joint WLCI/WYTWS conference in Lander.

Our esteemed Science Committee assisted Wyoming Wildlife – The Foundation by reviewing Memorial Bear Fund proposals, reviewed the governor's proposal to add \$95,000,000 to the WWNRT, and has accommodated Parent by adopting a liaison position (occupied by past-president Mong) for the Conservation Affairs Network. The fruits of these labors have been a stronger partnership with WWTF, a letter of support to Governor Mead, better communication with our section, drafting of more bylaws by member at-large Monteith, and a bigger shadow of influence. Our Nominations and Awards Committee, chaired by Anna Chalfoun and assisted by treasurer Hartman, reviewed several strong applications and bestowed the \$1000 graduate student award to UW PhD candidate and WYTWS webmaster Jason Carlisle. With member at-large Wise providing a solid template, they've developed an application for travel to our GIS workshop (led by president-elect Hayes) in May. Our ad-hoc Fellowship committee chaired by Edmunds has persevered by marketing the program statewide, soliciting applicants, and is currently reviewing applications and scheduling interviews. Again, a larger shadow of influence and relevance from our chapter. Although dead at the Parent level, our COWCH Committee has a \$3,300 budget and I encourage you to contact chair Orabona and make use of this to travel and interview your local wildlife heroes and heroines. Our Communications Committee is holding its own with many members and products, particularly our beefy

...PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

website as well as likeable Facebook page. In attempt to expand membership beyond the usual wildlife-oriented folks, I stopped by UW's College of Journalism office a week before Thanksgiving to engage their non-fiction staff. It's hard to get past a receptionist that's as friendly as a bag of rusty nails, and my vain attempt to recruit new folks was temporarily stifled. Our Legislative affairs committee has kept abreast of the session, and many thanks to Ben for encouraging all of you to contact your legislators regarding some major bills.

After a few months of being president, I have to say that leading our chapter has been as frustrating as it has awesome. The challenges have definitely helped me grow in ways I'd never anticipated, particularly diplomacy and conflict resolution. Have a great winter, and please don't hesitate to contact myself or any board member or committee chair if you want to see action. Fair warning, we might ask the same of you.

E. Maichak, WYTWS President

WY TWS BOARD MEETINGS: WINTER BULLETS

Since the autumn newsletter, the Board has met two times: once at an in-person meeting in Laramie (October 23) and via webinar/conference call (January 5). Below is a list of some of the topics discussed and decisions made. Board meetings are open to the membership, so participation is always welcome! For complete meeting minutes, please contact Daly Edmunds at dedmunds@audubon.org.

- Based on a request brought forward by membership in 2013 regarding the need for defining and improving management of migration routes for ungulates, the Science Committee developed new definitions of migration route and corridor. The new definitions have been accepted by Wyoming Game and Fish Department and will be incorporated into seasonal range definitions.
- Science Committee reviewed Memorial Bear Fund Proposals and the Governor's Guidance on fully funding the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust.
- The balance from annual conference (August 2014) was reported. Expected profit at October meeting was \$5,329.71 with half going to Central Mountains and Plains Section, as it is a standing policy to split net profit (or loss) by 50% with the Section during joint meetings. An on-line survey was distributed after the annual meeting to gauge the event, which was especially helpful given new approaches taken this year with workshops and online participation option. 46 people responded to 7 questions. The Board saw value in having a survey to get feedback and will consider doing this again.
- Board voted to consistently provide \$1,000/year to the Student Chapter (as resources allow). If special circumstances require more, then the Student Chapter will need to provide justification.



Daly Edmunds, WYTWS Secretary

...Winter Bullets, Continued

- President-elect Matt Hayes is continuing to work with Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI) on partnering for joint 2015 annual conference. Dates selected are Dec 1-3 in Lander at the new conference center. Benefits of this partnership include increased attendance (anticipate twice our usual size), potential new members/Chapter exposure, and reduced expenditures for WY-TWS in hosting a joint-annual meeting. Annual meeting will include workshops and at least 1 special session.
- WY-TWS is also hosting a 2-day GIS workshop as part of a membership skills development opportunity May 6-7, 2015. The course will be taught by Matt Hayes who works as a spatial analyst at the Coop Unit and Wyoming Migration Initiative. Space is limited to 16. Content and dates were based on online survey responses provided by members. Board voted to offer 1 \$350 scholarship to offset travel costs.
- Victor Villalobos, 2014 Fellow, graciously agreed to frame a print of his watercolor logo from 2014 annual meeting (at no cost to the chapter) to give to anonymous donor as a thank you. Fellowship Committee Chair (Edmunds) and Fellowship Coordinator (Riginos) wrapped-up the 2014 Fellowship and are working on 2015 application materials. They noted that no federal or consultant mentors stepped up for 2014 – we can all strive to fill that niche.
- New editor still needed for Communications Committee! Eric Maichak has been not only filling duties as President but also developing the newsletter – he needs help from membership. Please contact Eric if you're interested in taking this position.
- In line with the 2011-2014 Strategic Plan, Objective V is to “Identify, support, and promote opportunities to increase and diversify finances of the Chapter to secure its financial future.” Board members are currently brainstorming ideas for further discussion.

D. Edmunds, WYTWS Secretary

The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society strives to:

- ♦ *Provide an organization of wildlife management professionals from which statements affecting wildlife can be made exclusive of agency limitations.*
- ♦ *Provide for the exchange of ideas and information between wildlife workers without agency consideration.*
- ♦ *To strengthen The Wildlife Society, its objectives and goals.*
- ♦ *To promote and provide for intradisciplinary communication and training to keep abreast of modern needs and technological developments.*
- ♦ *To promote awareness of and continued improvement in wildlife management.*

WYTWS Science Committee: Filtering “Reality”. Influencing the Public Trust



Until recently I felt strange saying this was anything but a Spring or even early Summer Update as I listened to the house finches sing...but hopefully all of you friends of the feather knew better. Henry David Thoreau stated “*Our inventions are wont to be pretty toys, which distract our attention from serious things. They are but improved means to an unimproved end, an end which it was already but too easy to arrive at...We are in great haste to construct a magnetic telegraph from Maine to Texas; but Maine and Texas, it may be, have nothing important to communicate.*” For the purposes of this discussion one could substitute social network for magnetic telegraph. I am not trying to come off as full-on curmudgeon or completely anti-technology but the closing of this quote has been something that has been bouncing off the synapses lately as we embrace social media, twitter, and notions of real-time updates as a scientific community. (I honestly won’t even get into the realm of blogs – there’s a great Science Fair Project on the living metmorphosis of human thought to perceived reality.) There seems to be a lot more

“information” being spewed forth on all topics from trophic cascades to erectile dysfunction, but the screening process to get to anything based on truth (data) or reality creates a virtual labyrinth to reach the end goal of scientific discovery and progress. When used correctly, social media are a great asset and tool for wildlife managers; when used nefariously by those that would impede what we have devoted our lives to, they change the entire profession...just something to ponder.

Enough psychobabble.. Recently we provided a letter of support on behalf of the Committee and our State Chapter to Governor Matt Mead for his belief in the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Fund; monies that are used for the viability of wildlife populations and habitats and harken to the true importance of wildlife to our State. For a program such as the Trust Fund to work, a healthy congruence of Top-Down AND Bottom-Up understanding and involvement are vital for forward progress. And for a shameless plug, letters such as this and many other tidbits from the Science Committee are now available on our WYTWS Chapter Website thanks to the President and Board...gives you a little insight into what stokes the fires of the Committee.

“Nonconformity is the highest evolutionary attainment of social animals.” A. Leopold

D. Thompson, Science Committee Chair



Story Behind the Photo: Sharing Space

This yearling moose and her mother strolled through our neighborhood the other day. Being in the wildlife field, I can’t help but feel some remorse that these moose have to deal with the traffic, barking dogs, and onlookers toting cameras because we have decided we wanted to live here on their traditional winter range. Yes, we will continue to fight the good fight by trying to save some other remaining winter range, continue to dart animals to remove Christmas lights from their antlers, and continue to talk to the public/media about how to prevent such conflict. But sometimes you have to just stand and be fascinated when given a closer glimpse into these wild animal's lives, even if they are just drinking out of a street puddle.

M. Gocke, WGFD I&E Specialist



Where Have All the Naturalists Gone?

Jason is the recipient of the 2015 WYTWS Graduate Student Scholarship, PhD student in the Wyoming Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Wyoming, and webmaster for WYTWS. He welcomes your feedback or discussion about this article at jason.d.carlisle@gmail.com.

Wildlife Science: Built on the Foundation of Naturalists

Are you a naturalist? If so, you may be rarer than you think. Our profession was founded by men and women who, by all definitions of the term, were "students" of the land. These were the kind of people who could stroll through the woods, perceptibly noting the meaning of each sight, sound, or smell. These were the kind of people who could read a landscape like a book. These were the kind of people prone to mosquito bites, bumpy truck rides, and a good sunburn now and again. And perhaps, one of them was the person who first kindled within you an awe and appreciation for the wonders of nature. But that was a long time ago, right? The introductory quote by Reed Noss may initially seem disturbing, but perhaps it is even more alarming to realize that it was penned nearly 20 years ago. Have naturalists since gone extinct?



Wildlife technicians in search of pygmy rabbits near Crook's Gap, Wyoming in June 2012. Photo J. Carlisle.

Are You a Naturalist?

After perusing a few dictionaries, I concluded that a "naturalist" is a serious student of the natural sciences, namely (but not restricted to) botany and zoology. Would you consider yourself such a student? I, like perhaps many of you, spend part of the year in the field studying wildlife, but the majority of the year within an office behind a computer screen. Am I a naturalist? Or am I what Noss calls a "keyboard ecologist" (Noss 1996)? I'm currently a PhD candidate in the Wyoming Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit at the University of Wyoming, and we grad students are an odd bunch. Our lot is to fret over imperfect datasets, to puzzle over analytical methods, and to hope beyond hope that somewhere down the line our labors will yield the fruit of novel, high-impact thesis chapters and peer-reviewed publications on the cutting edge of science. Oh, and yes, most of us do spend several months or more immersed in the study of wildlife in the field—a time when it seems the title of "naturalist" comes most easily.

...Naturalists. Continued

“I cannot help feeling uneasy in the knowledge that the middle-aged biologists of today may be the last generation to have been exposed to truly wild places and to have been taught serious natural history as part of their professional training. The naturalists are dying off and have few heirs.”

Reed Noss, 1996

The Future of the Wildlife Profession

In some ways, the current state of the wildlife profession reminds me of the FFA (Future Farmers of America). According to a recent news article (Runyon 2014), the FFA program has shifted its focus in recent years away from traditional production agriculture. While this has helped FFA stay relevant in modern times (indeed, enrollment is at an all-time high), it also means that few students completing an FFA program these days have ever even ridden a tractor—something once viewed as a staple skill of the profession. Will there come a time when our profession is full of people who have never donned a pair of binoculars, carried a worn field notebook, or paused to contemplate a migrating flock of cranes passing high overhead? I’m hopeful it won’t, but I’m left to wonder: are we, in our hi-tech, fast-paced, and data-driven profession, losing touch with nature? If so, my challenge to all of us is to consider how to be well-rounded and holistic wildlife scientists who still dare to call themselves students of the land.

References

Noss, R.F. 1996. The naturalists are dying off. *Conservation Biology* 10:1-3.

Runyon, L. “No plows, cows, sows: not your (grand)father’s youth farm group.” NPR – the salt. 10 Apr 2014. <http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2014/04/10/298890213/no-plows-cows-sows-not-your-grand-fathers-youth-farm-group>



Matt Hayes,
WYTWS President
-Elect

Prepare for the 2015 WYTWS-WLCI Conference!

The Wyoming Chapter of The Wildlife Society is pleased to announce our 2015 annual conference. This year, the conference will be a joint event with the Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative. This strategic partnership will ensure that this year’s meeting is better than ever, and as a result of sponsorship from WLCI, registration fees for the main conference will be waived!

The meeting is scheduled to take place at the new Lander Community Center December 1st through December 3rd, 2015. November 30th and December 4th (Monday and Friday that week) are marked as travel dates. Be sure to save the date!

Please pass this message on to anyone you think may have an interest; more information will follow as we continue with planning and developing a website for registration. Activities already in preparation include: student/professional poster and oral presentation sessions, quiz bowl, various mixers, special sessions, topic sessions, workshops, and more!

If you have a bit of time and want to help plan/organize, or have other questions regarding the conference, please contact President-Elect Matt Hayes: mhayes1@uwyo.edu

The 2014 Parent Conference: Highlights from Pittsburgh

This would be the 21st year of Parent's annual conference, and this year the bustling city of Pittsburgh, PA and the David L. Lawrence Convention Center hosted the event along the shore of the Allegheny River. Past-president Tony Mong and president Eric Maichak had the honor of representing WYTWS and immersing themselves in conference activities and all the city of steel had to offer. Eric gained invaluable knowledge from a workshop on writing, submitting, and publishing manuscripts in JWM, Tony constantly networked with Council and the Board to address specific needs for the future, and both would engage individuals from students at the mixer to President Hafler in his suite on wildlife research, job opportunities, policy, and upcoming changes to and needs for TWS.

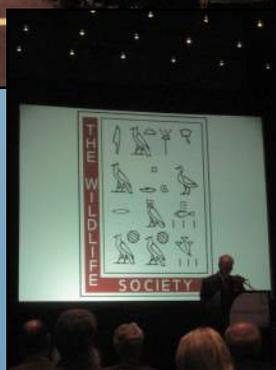
What follows are snapshots from start to finish of the conference. In this environment sleep was difficult to acquire, and Tony and Eric have done their best to provide accurate captions to the photos. Both are forever grateful to the WYTWS board for sponsoring travel and lodging costs. It was an unforgettable time.



Curbside greetings from the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.



President Hafler provides opening remarks at the membership meeting. Members then provided the president with concerns and comments just before the president handed the gavel to president-elect Baydak.



Rolling with the punches of technological glitches, newly elected TWS president Baydak rounds out the session on diversity in the wildlife profession with a stellar presentation sans powerpoint.

...2014 Parent Conference, Continued



Diversity in settings and venues provides diversity in networking and learning opportunities. The student-professional mixer in the plush William Penn Hotel (left) facilitated interpersonal interactions among those seeking job and grad school leads with those pursuing techs, students, or short-term mentoring interests. The high-paced TWS Ignite! session (right) gave presenters 5 minutes to discuss topics with limited prep time, no control over slide advancement, and ample Q&A from the audience. Topics ranged from female discrimination to public communication to legislation legalization of sale of wild game meat.



Left side, perspectives of Pittsburgh. Looking toward the William Penn Hotel mid-day from the convention center (top), atop the riverboat gazing at the convention center and downtown skyline during the start of the banquet (center), and inside the very comfortable Ten Penny Pub for a night cap to close out the conference (bottom).



Right side, dining and drinks. Tom Serfass digs in under natural light as we were lucky to get a table for 8 at noon and luckier still to experience fine Asian cuisine and serious discussions among grad students, professionals, and professors (top). Cheers with beers as dark and thick as the Pittsburgh night air, WYTWS representatives Tony and Eric enjoy a round at the Red Rooster Lounge (bottom)

WY-TWS Nomination Form for Awards and Officers



Anna Chalfoun, WYTWS Awards & Nominations Chair and Professor at University of WY.

It is not too early to start thinking about deserving nominees for our WY-TWS awards and officer positions. Please take a few minutes and give some thought about those who are working hard for wildlife and should be recognized for their efforts, as well as those who would make strong candidates for board members. At next year's annual conference in Lander, awards (Professional and Citizen of Year) will be presented to recognize outstanding efforts by individuals in the state who conserve and manage wildlife and wildlife habitat. Successful candidates for officers are also announced at this time, and by October 2015, positions available will include **President-elect, Treasurer, Secretary, and Board Member At-Large.**

To submit a nomination, please fill out the biographical information listed on the form below and write up a short summary of the nominee's accomplishments in the wildlife conservation/management arena. Nominations can be mailed or e-mailed to the following:

WY TWS Awards and Nominations
Anna Chalfoun
University of Wyoming
Dept. 3166, 1000 East University Ave
Laramie, WY 82071
307-766-6966
achalfou@uwyo.edu

Nominee:

Award (circle one): Professional Citizen Lifetime Achievement

Officer (circle one): President-elect Secretary Board Member At-Large

Address:

Present Position (i.e., Specific Job Title):

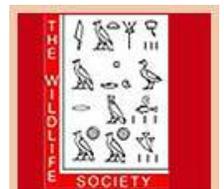
Academic Background:

Professional Background:

Submitted By:

Address:

Phone:





WY TWS Membership Form

Change of Address

New Member

Membership Renewal

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AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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Dues are \$10.00 per year or \$25.00 for 3 years.

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- I wish to receive the newsletter via E-MAIL or at the physical address listed above

If you would like to receive your newsletter other than via e-mail or the web page, please let Therese know.

Existing WY TWS members can log in and pay dues on-line! Check out the WYTWS website at <http://wildlife.org/Wyoming/>

If you are not an existing WY TWS member and pay dues on-line, Please also complete and send this form to Therese Hartman

Therese Hartman P.O. Box 850 Pinedale, WY 82941
Email: WYTWS.Hartman@gmail.com
Fax: 307-367-4403

Please support your WY-TWS Chapter by paying your membership dues!



APPLY NOW FOR 2015 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Wildlife Society (TWS) is currently accepting applications for its Leadership Institute. The Institute's goal is to facilitate development of new leaders within TWS and the wildlife profession. The Institute will recruit 10-15 promising early-career professionals for a series of intensive activities and mentoring relationships. The focus will be on exposing the participants to the inner workings of TWS and increasing the number of active leaders in TWS and the wildlife profession.

From May until October, participants will engage in a series of activities to develop and expand their leadership skills. Institute members will attend the TWS Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada (October 16-21, 2015) and participate in various activities, including mentoring and leadership workshop sessions. The Institute is free, and participants receive free registration and a travel grant for the conference.

Participation in the Institute is geared toward early-career professionals, individuals 2 to 3 years out of school (either undergraduate or graduate school), currently working full-time in a wildlife professional position, and with demonstrated evidence of their leadership potential. Also eligible are more recent graduates who have shown strong evidence of their leadership potential and those who are working while concurrently pursuing a graduate degree. All applicants must be dues-paying members of TWS and a Chapter or Section of TWS. The selection committee will be seeking to create a diverse group with participants of varying gender, ethnic, and regional diversity. Selection will be based upon:

- An excellent academic record
- Demonstrated leadership capability or potential
- Demonstrated level of excellence in current position
- Commitment to and involvement in TWS

Preference will be given to individuals who are certified as Associate Wildlife Biologists® or Certified Wildlife Biologists®, or who have submitted such an application to TWS.

Applicants must submit (in one PDF, excluding online application form and recommendation letters):

Application form (available at <http://wildlife.org/LIApplication-2015>)

- Cover letter with evidence of leadership capacity or potential, such as previous leadership positions held in TWS Chapters or Student Chapters or in other organizations
- Résumé including a list of publications, awards, etc.
- Academic transcript/s
- 2 letters of recommendation from supervisors, academic advisors, professors, or others in leadership positions with whom you have worked and who are familiar with your leadership potential, commitment to TWS, and commitment to wildlife management and conservation
 - Letters should be emailed directly to leadership@wildlife.org, subject line "Leadership Institute Recommendation for [applicant last name]"
- An essay (1000 word limit), which succinctly summarizes (1) your concept of leadership, (2) your aspiration for your role within TWS in 5 to 10 years, and (3) why you are an ideal candidate for the Institute

Application deadline is March 27, 2015. Email all materials (except the application form, which is submitted online) in one PDF to: leadership@wildlife.org Visit www.wildlife.org for more information (click on 'Next Generation').

Note from the Editor....

Winter and the land is random smattering of brown and black contrast against rolling white monotone. The long shadow of an ancient subalpine fir at noon gauges sunlight's vain attempt to overcome Earth's tilt. Within the shadow of the fir, hoar frost clings to a frozen willow as much as compromise clings to convenience. At the foot of the willow, 6 sets of wolf tracks meandering over top a dozen elk tracks tell the tale that resources, and especially peace of mind, dwindle for all animals in this crisp setting. As I thumb the throttle on "the people's" 800 Arctic Cat, returning to a comfortable 60 mph on a machine buzzing like an overgrown angry hornet, time behind the goggles gives me time to reflect and ponder this scene. A week later, cruising at 400 mph amidst the muffled roar of a 747 enroute to Maui gives me even more time.

No matter where you are this winter, take a few moments to remember and appreciate the land we call home. With spring just around the corner, flora and fauna will awaken and provide countless opportunities to inspire photographic and literary beauty every bit as majestic as our Wyoming. Capture it and pass it on.

E. Maichak

More formally and specifically, we accept appropriate articles and information related to WYTWS, wildlife and habitat management, as well as conservation activities in Wyoming. Articles, photos, announcements, and other submissions can be sent to:

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ERIC.MAICHAK@WYO.GOV

Nicole Cudworth
NICOLE.CUDWORTH@WYO.GOV

Ian Abernethy
FISHER@UWYO.EDU

Newsletter Deadlines for 2015:

February 15 (Winter Edition)

May 15 (Spring/Summer Edition)

September 15 (Autumn Edition)

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