

# Newton Conservators **E-Bulletin** Monday, June 7, 2010

... working to preserve open space in Newton since 1961

# Just because it's June . . .

It feels like summer is upon us already and school is not even out yet. Find out all about Newton's trees on Monday night at the Newton Free Library in a talk by Marc Welch (Newton's official tree expert!). Given all the tree damage sustained in Sunday's storm, this session is especially relevant. Special thanks to Marc Welch who will likely be exhausted from responding to all the downed trees in Newton but nonetheless is going ahead with the lecture. Check out lots of other events including a Newton Conservators bird walk at Cutler Park on Sunday, June 13, a terrific presentation on warblers at the Newton Free Library on Thursday, June 17, and historic Newton's walk events at Chestnut Hill Reservoir and Durant Kendrick. You can even help out pulling water chestnut



plants from the Charles River (with canoe supplied). Read about these and much more in our June calendar below.

If you missed attending the annual Newton Conservators Dinner Meeting (May 26), check it out on Newton News on NewTV this week (until this Wed at 6 pm) with anchor Jenn Adams. In the segment, the Newton Conservators reflect on their past year with an eye on the future to improve the environment in and around Newton. You can watch Newton News online at <u>http://www.newtv.org/news.htm</u> and on the Public Access Channel, the Blue Channel at 730am, 1pm, 6pm and 10pm daily with a new show every Wednesday at 6pm. The Newton Conservators segment is at about the 9:45 minute mark in the current show. Watch for the new Newton Conservators Newsletter in mid June with coverage of the dinner and awards.

# JUNE / SUMMER EVENTS

Monday, June 7, 7-9 pm The History, Growth, and Future of Newton's Community Trees Lecture by Marc Welch - Director, Newton Division of Urban Forestry Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium

Newton's Urban Forest is a broad and diverse resource that touches the lives of many people in Newton. The City's Urban Forest is the foundation and framework of the City's nickname - The Garden City. Early on in Newton's history, the City's trees were valued and cared for as a priority of the City's government. This program will provide a glimpse at how Newton built and managed its Urban Forest and how its managers were pioneers in the industry. We will look at the major historic impacts to our City's trees including insects, diseases, and human intervention. The future holds many new challenges for the City's trees; new and innovative approaches are being explored to meet those challenges.



Marc Welch is the Director of the City's Division of Urban Forestry and has been

managing the City's Urban Forest since 2002. He holds a Bachelors Degree in Urban Forestry and has been a Massachusetts Certified Arborist for over ten years. He is a past president of the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association and is an active member of the organization's Executive Board. Prior to working for Newton he was the City Arborist for the City of Boston and an Arborist working for the USDA Forest Service.

This lecture is organized by the Newton Tree Conservancy (www.newtontreeconservancy.org) in cooperation with the Newton Conservators and the Newton Free Library. For more information contact Katherine Howard (617-527-1796). Thanks to the Ellen Meyers at the Newton Free Library for assistance in providing the wonderful Library Auditorium as a venue for this lecture. By the way, check out this story on some of the tree plantings done in April:

http://blogs.wickedlocal.com/newton/2010/04/27/this-neighborhood-just-got-a-little-shady/

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Tuesday, June 8, 7 pm 20th Anniversary Celebration - Green Decade / Newton Winslow Hall, Lasell College - 80 Maple Street, Auburndale Green Decade/Newton will be celebrating 20 years of environmental leadership at a on June 8, 2010, at Lasell College in Auburndale. The celebration will include light hors d'oeuvres, wine, desserts, live entertainment and a silent auction.

Mayor Setti Warren will speak, and there will be a presentation to honor Peter Smith, one of the founding members of Green Decade, past Co-President, longtime Co-Editor of the Green News, liaison to the Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce and a most dedicated environmental steward for the Newton community. Visit their website to check out the fabulous items donated for a

<u>silent auction</u> to help Green Decade reach our goal to raise \$25,000 and provide sufficient funds to continue all our important environmental work well into the next decade. Tickets are \$25/person advance; \$30 at the door. Visit <u>http://www.greendecade.org/anniversary20.html</u> for more info and <u>www.lasell.edu</u> for directions and parking info. Also check out the display celebrating Green Decade's two decades of environmental leadership -- photos, artifacts and artwork celebrating our rich environmental history from June-August 2010 at the Newton History Museum (<u>www.ci.newton.ma.us/jackson</u>).

Saturday, June 12, 10 am Charles River Walk (Waltham) Gazebo on Waltham Common

As part of the 2nd Annual Waltham Riverfest, join the Waltham Land Trust for a guided walk along the Charles River to view the birds, plants, trees, and the many historic places along the way. The walk will follow the paved, continuous pathway that winds next to the Charles River throughout most of Waltham. For information, email info@walthamlandtrust.org or call the Waltham Land Trust at 871-893-3355. Complete

info@walthamlandtrust.org or call the Waltham Land Trust at 871-893-3355. Complete information of on the Waltham Riverfest can be found at

<u>http://www.walthamriverfest.com/</u>. It includes canoeing, art, children's activities, food, and much more.

Saturday, June 12 1-4 pm Green Decade: Alternative Lawns Tour (3 Professionally Hosted Tours) Location: Four Residential Properties in Newton, MA

Are you looking for alternatives to traditional, monoculture lawns that require a lot of water, chemicals, and time? Visit four beautiful and successful properties in Newton to see alternatives that include organic lawns, meadow gardens, and edible landscapes. Each location that you visit will have a professional on-site to discuss the project design, maintenance, answer your questions, and help you to understand the options that you have this season to move to more sustainable and organic practices. All of the sites will be open during the entire tour, so you can choose how much time to spend at each location. Download the colorful brochure from our website! More info: ela.info@comcast.net or 617-436-5838. \$15 ELA or Green Decade member; \$20 Non-Member. See complete details at <a href="http://www.greendecade.org/download/AlternativeLawnEco-Tour.pdf">http://www.greendecade.org/download/AlternativeLawnEco-Tour.pdf</a>. Co-sponsored by the Ecological Landscaping Association and Green Decade/Newton.

Sunday, June 13, 8 am Cutler Park Bird Walk (Newton Conservators Walk & Activity Series)

This walk will do a loop around the pond near Kendrick Street, and go south a mile or so. This area is





Andread Barter B a large expanse of woods, wetlands and marsh. Expect to see common woodland birds, some warblers, and the willow flycatchers along the river. Meet at parking lot off Kendrick Street on the Needham line just over the bridge. Dress appropriately. Boots are recommended as the area can be wet/marshy. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Trip Leader is Pete Gilmore (617-969-1513). Visit

http://newtonconservators.org/23cutler.htm for Cutler Park directions and info.

Sunday, June 13, 2 pm Chestnut Hill Reservoir: Clean Water and Bucolic Recreation for a Growing City Historic Newton Walks

Take a brisk 1.5 mile walk around the Chestnut Hill Reservoir and find out about its role in supplying Boston with clean water from 1868 until the 1970s. At the Waterworks Building, we will be joined by a member of the soon-to-be-opened Waterworks Museum who will show us the great steam engines that powered the water distribution and give us details about how the Reservoir was constructed and how its structures have been sensitively converted into condos. Meet in the angled parking lot on Chestnut Hill Driveway overlooking the Reservoir. From Newton Center, take Beacon Street east to Boston College. Immediately after the athletic fields and right at the Reservoir, turn left onto Chestnut Hill Driveway (Thomas More Drive). Take the Driveway as it turns right at the Chestnut Hill Reservation sign. Lot is about 1/3 mile up the hill. Free. (Info from Lucy Caldwell Stair).

#### Sunday, June 13, 10am-2pm Volunteer Invasive Water Chestnut Removal Charles River Canoe and Kayak

Charles River Watershed Association and Charles River Canoe and Kayak in Newton invite volunteers to have a rewarding and fun day of canoeing and pulling out invasive weeds (water chestnuts) from the Charles River. They will provide you with a canoe (or you can use your own), baskets, maps, and a short training session about water chestnuts. Once you have attended a pulling event and undergone training, you are welcome to come back on your own to pull chestnuts anytime Charles River Canoe and Kayak is open (and get free canoe rental!). More information can be found at <u>www.crwa.org/events</u>. Volunteer pulling events are also scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 5-8 pm, Saturday, June 26, 1- am-2pm, and Saturday, July 17, 10 am-2pm. If you would like to volunteer at any of these events, please RSVP to <u>waterchestnut@crwa.org</u>.

A note from Mass Wildlife: Boaters launching their craft into Massachusetts waterways should check to be sure they aren't giving a free ride to non-native aquatic plants or animals. Aquatic, exotic invasives can easily be transported between water bodies by boats, motors, trailers, fishing equipment, anchors, bait buckets, live wells, swimming and diving gear, and other aquatic equipment. These hitchhikers can wreak havoc in lakes and ponds by choking waterways through explosive growth, fouling intake and discharge structures, lowering lakefront property values, impeding boating, swimming and fishing, and reducing biodiversity by crowding out native fish, insects, other animals and plants. Once they are established in a water body, it is nearly impossible to eradicate these non-native invasive organisms.

Monday, June 14, 6 pm Bike Newton's Weekly "No Rider Left Behind" Family Friendly Rides Around Newton Ride to Newton Community Farm Bike Newton sponsors weekly rides on Mondays at 6 pm. Meet at the Newton Library on Homer Steet. The leader is Nathan Aranow

(Nathan.aranow@verizon.net, 617-969-6227. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Riders must wear helmets, have bike in good working order, and feel confident they can complete the ride. Other rides are scheduled for June 21 (Echo Bridge), June28 (Cordingly Dam), July 5 (Auburndale Cove) and July 12 (Russo's). ). Check out

<u>http://www.bikenewton.org/Bikenewton.org/Rides.html</u> for the current ride schedule to be sure.



#### Wednesday, June 16, 7 pm Community Preservation Committee Auburndale Community Library, 275 Auburn Street

No proposal presentations or votes are scheduled for this session but there will be program planning, outreach discussion and election of officers for fiscal 2011. As in previous years, some proposals need to include reviews

or letters from certain City commissions & boards. To allow for summer schedules, please request these by July 15, 2010. The next deadline for submitting completed full proposals to the CPC is October 15, 2010. See the program <a href="https://www.newtonma.gov/cpa/program.htm">www.newtonma.gov/cpa/program.htm</a> for more information.

Thursday, June 17, 7:30 pm An Evening with the Warblers Lecture by Ecologist and Nature Photographer Brooks Matthewson Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium

Roger Tory Peterson described woodwarblers as the "butterflies of the bird world". These colorful birds migrate each spring to their breeding habitat in North America. In early May a patient birdwatcher may be lucky enough to see twenty or more species of migratory warblers in this area. Join ecologist and avian photographer Brooks Mathewson for a delightful, illustrated program titled, An Evening with the Warblers, on Thursday, June 17 at 7:30 pm. The program will examine the important ecological role warblers have in the woodlands they inhabit , the ways in which



warblers have expanded our understanding of ecological niches, and the conservation status of the warblers. Brooks Mathewson holds a Masters Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in Biology and a Masters Degree in Forest Science from Harvard University. His research on the distribution and relative abundance of terrestrial salamanders has been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and he has given lectures on this topic at the Harvard Forest, Holy Cross and the Arnold Arboretum. Brooks' photography has been displayed widely. For more info on the lecturer visit

http://avianartimages.com/site/#/page/home/. This talk is sponsored by the Newton Free Library. For info on this and other library programs in June visit

<u>http://www.newtonfreelibrary.net/programs/calendar/nav/?content=talk&month=6&year=2010</u>. (Photo by B. Matthewson)

Thursday, June 17, 7 pm Historic Newton Annual Meeting Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street Members and friends of Historic Newton are invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Guest speaker Mayor Setti Warren will speak about the importance of history. The Business Meeting will be held at 7 pm and Mayor Warren will speak at 7:30 pm. This event will be held at the Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street in Newtonville. Note: please enter via the rear door near the parking lot. Visit http://www.historicnewton.org/

Sunday, June 20, 1-3 pm Strawberry Solstice Family Event at the Angino Farm Newton Community Farm

Come celebrate Father's Day and the Summer Solstice with Newton Community Farm! Strawberry and sun-themed activities such as make-your-own sundial, planting sunflowers, bubble printing, make-your-own musical instruments, and relay races. Enter to win a basket of strawberries or strawberry baked goods. Fee: \$5 per family Ages: Preschool - 3rd grade, with adult. Fresh strawberries for sale. Visit www.newtoncommunityfarm.org.

#### Monday, June 21, 7:00 pm Green Decade 2010 Environmental Leadership Awards Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium

Join Green Decade in congratulating this year's winners on June 21: Individual: Verne Vance, longtime Newton Alderman and environmental advocate, Organization: Bike Newton, making Newton a truly bicycle-friendly city, and Business: UGL Unicco, providing customers with the highest quality, environmentally responsible facilities maintenance services solutions. In addition, the final program of this year's Environmental Speaker Series shows how easy and profitable it is to care about the Earth. Newton's 30 EcoTeams are currently working to reduce the CO2 output from their appliances, automobiles and houses and EcoTeam project co-chairs Jay Walter, Bonnie Glickman will host a panel of successful EcoTeam participants sharing how they implemented simple changes that saved money and reduced their CO2 emissions. In the short span of one month many have achieved savings of more than the expected 5,000 pounds. Co-sponsored by the Newton Free Library. Visit www.greendecade.org for more info.

Sunday, June 27, 2 pm Fruits of their Labors: The Kenrick Nursery's Legacy on Farlow Hill Historic Newton Walks Durant-Kenrick House, 286 Waverley Avenue

In his nursery catalog of 1831, William Kenrick boasted that his family nursery was about 35 years old and "now without doubt, the oldest of note in New England." Many of our most beloved fruit and tree varieties, including many in our gardens today, first came to this country through the Kenrick family nurseries. Their Waverley Avenue home, and the trees shading the streets of Farlow Hill, are fitting tribute to their labors. Join Lucinda Brockway, landscape preservationist, for a walk over Farlow Hill looking at the legacy of the Kenrick Nursery. Meet at the Durant-Kenrick House, 286 Waverley Avenue, Newton. Free.

Monday, June 28, 7 pm Blueprint America: Beyond the Motor City Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium Blueprint America: Beyond the Motor City,

(http://www.pbs.org/wnet/blueprintamerica/reports/beyond-the-motor-city/video/939/), the PBS documentary that aired nationally in February 2010, examines how Detroit, a symbol of America's diminishing status in the world, may come to represent the future of transportation and progress nationwide. The film will be followed by a Q and A session facilitated by Bike Newton's president, Lois Levin. Beyond the Motor City shows how Detroit's physical layout, population growth and economic development evolved. The film ultimately takes viewers beyond Detroit's blighted urban landscape to Washington, D.C., where Congress will soon decide whether to finally push America's transportation system into the 21st century. Co-sponsored by Bike Newton (www.bikenewton.org) and the Green Decade.

Tuesday, July 6, 1:30-6 pm (Cold Spring Park) Friday, July 9, 1:30- 6 pm (Post 440) Newton Farmers Markets

Newton's great Farmer's Markets (organized by Newton Parks and Recreation) will resume in July and continue through the end of October on Tuesdays at Cold Spring Park (Beacon St.) 1:30-6:00 pm and on Fridays at Post 440 (California St., Nonantum) 1:30-6:00 pm. Get your low mileage farm goods there including produce from own Newton Community Farm.

#### Tuesday, August 3 Trees of My City - A Film by Roberto Mighty (Sneak Preview) Newton Free Library - Druker Auditorium

Roberto Mighty is a Filmmaker/New Media Artist who lives in West Newton. He is developing a multimedia/installation project on local trees, "Trees of My City." The project involves high-definition videofilm, digital surround sound audio, high-resolution photographs, narration and text. There will be a sneak preview screening of the feature length film, "Trees of My City", at the Newton Free Library on Tuesday, August 3rd, 7pm. He began photographing dormant, dead and decaying trees around town in February. Throughout May and June he and his crew filmed walkabouts with scientists and other experts where he's asked them to comment on the nexus of the natural and built environments as expressed in urban deciduous trees. Here's a 2-minute teaser for a segment he filmed recently in Dolan Pond with Mass Audubon ornithologist Simon Perkins (Trees of My City: Woodpecker Condo) - <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbzFTzerxl8</u>. Here is a link to a 5-minute overview of the entire Trees of My City project: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKOHkR\_d\_MU</u> and you can check out Roberto's blog on the project at

http://robertomightyart.blogspot.com/p/trees.html or his website at www.robertomighty.com .

#### June is Turtle Month (excerpted from Mass Wildlife news)

June is the month when normally aquatic snapping, painted, spotted, red-bellied, Blanding's and other turtles leave the relative safety of their water world and venture overland in search of nesting sites. With alarming frequency, these ancient reptiles are cut off from traditional nesting areas by an ever increasing network of roads, leaving the turtles vulnerable to high rates of road-kill.

Dubbed the "Killing Grid" by herpetologists studying the dilemma, roads take a terrible toll on female turtles that normally offset low reproductive success rates with long reproductive life spans. Cutting short adult life spans limits recruitment of young turtles in the wild and can ultimately result in the

complete loss of local turtle populations. To add to the crisis, roads bring increasing development which translates into loss of nesting habitat and additional losses of turtles and turtle nests to people, and predators associated with human residential areas such as skunks, foxes and raccoons.

On an individual level, citizens can assist turtles moving to and from nesting areas by helping them to cross roadways. While this Samaritan act should never be attempted if any human risk is involved, a successful road crossing can make the difference between nesting now and well into the future, versus no nesting at all. <u>Always</u> remember to help a turtle only when safe to do so and <u>always</u> move the turtle in the direction it is heading. <u>Do not</u> take any turtles to another location or a pond! Snappers may be safely held with one hand on the tail and another hand slid under the turtle to support its weight. Picking them up only by the tail can damage their spine. Painted, spotted and other turtle species can be safely grasped by the sides of the shell. For more useful turtle conservation tips and Turtle FAQs, go to

<u>www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/conservation/herps/turtle\_tips.htm</u>. Encounters with rare stateprotected turtles should be reported to MassWildlife with photo and map documentation. To report a rare turtle species visit <u>www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/nhesp/species\_info/report\_rare\_species.htm</u>.

#### Massachusetts Wildlife Photo Contest

Have you taken a beautiful photo of a coyote in your back yard? Caught a magnificent eagle on the wing? Snapped an image of a colorful spider wrapping up its dinner or the first bloom of a gorgeous wild orchid? Have you captured the perfect sunrise from a Cape Cod beach - or the perfect sunset from a Berkshire mountain? How about the ear-splitting smile of a child with a first fish - or Mom paddling a kayak for the first time? We want to see what you've got! For the first time ever, Massachusetts Wildlife will devote an issue to a public photography competition, the 2010 Massachusetts Wildlife Photo Contest. Other than bragging rights, prizes are modest: a free, 2- year subscription to the magazine for the first-place winners in each category; and an award citation and four copies of the #4, 2010 issue of Massachusetts Wildlife for all first-, second-, and third-place winners. The photo contest is open to amateur photographers who may submit up to ten images. Photos must be taken in Massachusetts. There are eight entry categories: flora, scenic, outdoor activities, invertebrates, fish, herps (reptiles and amphibians), birds and mammals. Deadline for entry submission is September 1, 2010. More details about the contest and an entry form can be found at www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/publications/mwmag/mwmag\_home.htm.

#### **Off-Leash Update**

The Off Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG), under the auspices of the Newton Parks and Recreation Department, has been meeting every Friday in order to come up with criteria and suggestions for offleash areas in Newton. The work of this group can be found online at http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/DogInformation/index.htm including minutes, agendas, etc. Most notably at the May 17th meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, a presentation was done by Bob DeRubeis, Acting P&R Commissioner and OLAWG Chair, outlining 24 possible sites for off-leash areas distributed throughout the city. The presentation can be found online at http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/DogInformation/documents/05-17-10%20Commission%20Presentation.pdf. On June 21, the Parks and Rec Commission will be considering three of these sites: Old Cold Spring, Claflin Field, and McGrath Park. A fourth site, Norumbega, is under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission and may be considered at the July meeting of that body.

The current off leash ordinance will be expiring at the end of this month. A new ordinance has been proposed and will be considered by the Aldermanic Programs and Services Committee at their

meeting on June 16 at City Hall Public comments will be taken. A comparison of the old ordinance and new proposed ordinance can be found online at

http://www.ci.newton.ma.us/Parks/DogInformation/documents/05-17-

10%20Ordinance%20Change%20Comparison.pdf. The modified ordinance could be voted upon by the full Board at their June 21st meeting (or the current ordinance could be rescinded or extended again).

### City of Newton Emergency Notification

During the recent MWRA pipe break crisis and "boil water" alert, the City of Newton was caught without a way to easily notify citizens. The reverse 911 system had been cut out of the budget. A number of folks wrote in appreciation of the Newton Conservators passing on the word via this e-Bulletin. Now the city website has a way for you to enroll to be contacted in case of a city emergency. Please visit

"https://cne.coderedweb.com/Default.aspx?groupid=aQjjSNcLYdbZnuPnZt6QPA==" to sign up to be notified by phone, cell, and/or email.

## **Riverside Station Neighborhood Coalition Forms**

A new group has formed recently called the Riverside Station Neighborhood Coalition. www.riversidestation.info. It was formed by the Lower Falls Improvement Association, the Lasell Neighborhood Association, and the Auburndale Community Association. Their mission is to keep people informed about the proposed development at Riverside. Recently the developer filed an Environmental Notification Form (ENF). This will be a large development that is in close proximity to the Charles River, there may be some environmental issues involved. You can view parts of the proposal and there are links to the ENF. A contact for the new organization is Bill Renke at brenke@riversidestation.info.

## Newton Conservators e-Bulletin

If you wish to subscribe, just send a note with your request to subscribe to the Newton Conservators e-Bulletin to <u>dolanpond@aol.com</u>. The current edition of our paper newsletter (for those who don't receive it in the mail) can be easily downloaded in PDF form at

<u>http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/</u>. Event listings for our e-Bulletin can be sent to <u>dolanpond@aol.com</u>. This e-Bulletin is a service of the Newton Conservators, Newton's open space advocates since 1961. Membership information can be found online at our website - <u>http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm</u>. You can join the organization or even renew your membership online now!

The latest edition of the Newton Conservators printed newsletter can now be found online at http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/apr10.pdf. The Newton Conservators Spring Walks/Activities Series for 2010 is also available online at

<u>http://www.newtonconservators.org/walks.htm</u> and a PDF copy can be downloaded at <u>http://www.newtonconservators.org/events/walksspring10.pdf</u>. The new Newton Conservators Almanac is perfect for Newton nature lovers. Check <u>http://www.newtonconservators.org/almanac.htmfor more info</u>.

Did you know that you can register and pay for membership, events (like the annual Dinner Meeting), buy a copy of our Almanac, or make a donation to the Newton Conservators online? Just visit the

following link to get to our registration page: <a href="https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUp?PG=1532278182400&P=1532278133476107150857400&Info="https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUp?PG=1532278182400&P=1532278133476107150857400&Info="https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUp?PG=1532278182400&P=1532278133476107150857400&Info="https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUp?PG=1532278182400&P=1532278133476107150857400&Info="https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUp?PG=1532278182400&P=1532278133476107150857400&Info="https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUp?PG=1532278182400&P=1532278133476107150857400&Info="https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUp">https://s08.123signup.com/servlet/SignUp</a>?

- E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (dolanpond@aol.com)

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