

# NEWSLETTER SPRING 2018



## TACOMA LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING | SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2018

**Carrie Ricker Middle School**  
573 Richmond Rd. (Rt. 197) | Litchfield, ME 04350

**9:00 AM** | Light Continental Breakfast | Silent Auction | Guest Speaker

*We look forward to seeing you there!*

### THANK YOU, BUDDY POTTS

After 15 years of service to the TLA, Buddy Potts resigned from the Treasurer position effective January 1, 2018. While running a family business in Massachusetts, Buddy gave of his time to serve as a director, President and Treasurer of the TLA. His

first priority was always the best interests of the organization and of course, the lakes he so loves. His passion for our lakes is unsurpassed. In fact, after his resignation, Buddy stepped back in, on an interim basis, to help us with the bookkeeping duties! Just another example of how Buddy has shared his time and talents with the TLA. Thank you, Buddy!

[www.tacomalakes.org](http://www.tacomalakes.org) | [www.facebook.com/TacomaLakesAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/TacomaLakesAssociation)



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

## Members and Friends,

2017 was a hallmark year for the Tacoma Lakes Association (TLA). Our membership numbers increased to an all-time high of 260 members. And these remarkable members also donated in excess of \$5,500 to our organization. I would be remiss to not thank each of you sincerely for your ongoing support. Your membership and financial support allows us to continue our mission to preserve these lakes for generations to come.

Our organization remains strong, although changing. Buddy Potts a 15-year board member and officer resigned effective January 1, 2018. Also retiring is long-time board member, and Dam Committee chairman Charlie Manchester. I thank both of these gentlemen for their years of service. Their commitment, and dedication was nothing short of amazing.

The lake monitoring program, (aka "the plant patrol") headed by Diane Clay continues to patrol our lakes, with a vigilant eye. Diane and the other committed volunteers regularly patrol the shallow areas of our lakes looking for invasive milfoil. I cannot stress enough the importance of early detection of invasive milfoil. When caught early, milfoil can be eradicated, it is when it goes unnoticed that a massive infestation can occur.

The Dam Committee, chaired by Charlie Manchester completed another step in the restoration of the Woodbury Pond dam. The vertical surfaces of the dam were pressure washed, and then sealed, protecting the surface from damage. The final step in the restoration

will happen this summer, when the horizontal surface receives its sealant application.

The buoy monitoring program is now entering year three. In conjunction with the Navigational Aids Unit from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the navigational and hazard buoys on Woodbury, Sand and Buker ponds are checked every two weeks to ensure they have not "strayed" (with or without help) from their designated placement and to check for any physical damage as they can, occasionally, come unmoored. When boating, learn what each marker means, and please abide by their warnings.

TLA welcomes a new Treasurer, Curt Lindamood, and two new board members, Kristen Lindamood, and Norm Provencher. We are an all-volunteer organization and continue to be fortunate for the talented and hard-working individuals who have stepped up to act as Board members and officers. We are always looking for more people passionate about the preservation of our lakes to join us.

Our 2018 membership drive is now underway. Although membership hit an all time high in 2017, there is still lots of room for growth. Ask your neighbors if they are members, and if not show them our website, or reach out to an officer, or director for an application. Again, thank you all for your continued support, and let's all have a wonderful summer.

**Regards,  
Jim Adams, President**

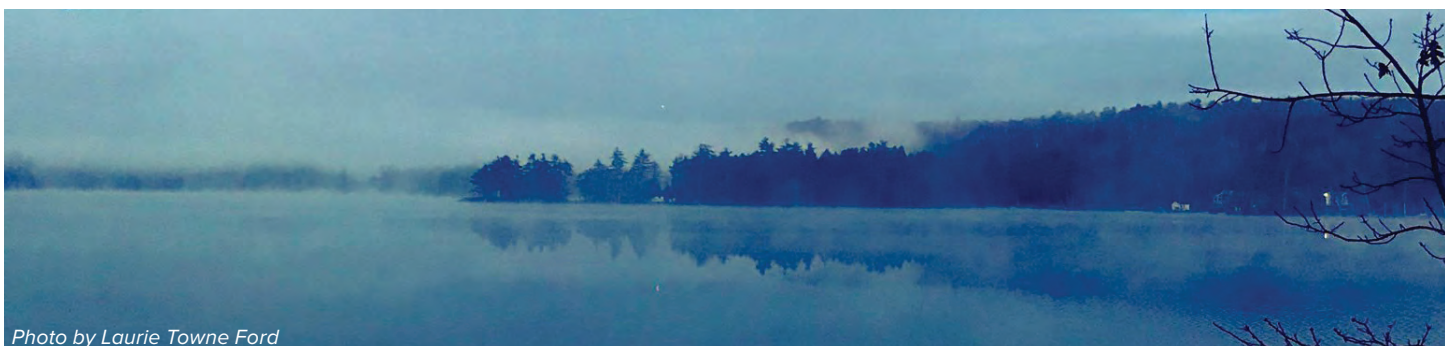


Photo by Laurie Towne Ford

# TREASURER'S REPORT

2017 continued the streak of successful financial years for TLA. It is impossible to adequately thank our members and business sponsors for your strong support. We are also thankful to the State of Maine and the towns of Litchfield and Monmouth for your grants supporting our lake protection efforts.

We established a new record membership in 2017. Total membership is 260, an increase of 6 over 2016. While there is always room for membership growth your support has given us one of the highest percentage of lake front membership of any voluntary membership lake association in the state.

Our two primary lake protection programs continued to grow in 2017. Good weather over the summer of 2017 allowed a similar number of Courtesy Boat inspections at the Woodbury Pond boat launch compared to 2016. Weather permitting, we fund inspections each Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holiday through the summer. While TLA pays for the inspectors the program is managed by The Friends of Cobbossee Watershed, for which we are very grateful. FOCW manages the program for many lakes in the watershed, saving the individual lake associations the difficult task of recruiting, training and managing the inspectors. FOCW does an incredible job running this program. We spent \$4,830.00 on this program in 2017.

Our second major conservation program is our growing plant paddle managed by Diane Clay. Each summer more volunteers join Diane and each summer they check an increasing area in our lakes. Thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers and Diane for her leadership!

The support from our membership continues to grow. 2017 donations from our membership were an incredible \$6,396.00 compared to \$5,598.00 in 2015. The number of people who make donations continues to grow. Thank you, everyone!

Demand is high for the state grant from the milfoil sticker fee program. Our 2017 grant increased from \$2,000.00 after being reduced to \$1,900.00 in 2016. The grant from Litchfield remained unchanged at \$1,000.00. Monmouth remained \$500.00.

Support from our business sponsors increased again in 2017. Please be sure to thank our sponsors for their support when you visit their locations.

This is my last report as treasurer. After about 15 years of serving TLA I retired as treasurer and from the board of directors effective January 1, 2018. It has been a privilege to meet so many wonderful people and work with an amazing board over the years. We have come a long way together. It is a good time to retire as there is a terrific board in place. Jim Adams is an outstanding president. Thank you to all of you for your support and your friendship.

A complete 2017 financial statement is available at any time to members only. Please send us your request to [memberservice@tacomalakes.org](mailto:memberservice@tacomalakes.org) or call us at 207-956-9031.

**Thank you,  
Buddy Potts, Treasurer**





## TLA OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

07.01.18 - 06.30.19

### PRESIDENT

**Jim Adams**

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**Dian White**

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### DAM KEEPER

**Terry Averill**

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# Tacoma Lakes *Bygone Days*

Litchfield's Tacoma Inn was developed in 1909 by the Lewiston, Augusta & Waterville Street Railway as an attraction along



it's Waterville-Lewiston route. The Inn stood at the junction between Woodbury and Sand Pond and offered a variety of recreational activities including boating, fishing and bathing.



The Inn hosted outdoor band concerts, dancing and served a very popular shore dinner.

One of the attractions featured at the Tacoma Inn was Gorman's white horses, "King and Queen" jumping from a high platform into Sand Pond. Remnants of the ramp structure still exist on Sand Pond. This illustration shows the ramp and platform at another location.

# INVASIVE PLANT PATROL STRIKES AGAIN!

The invasive plant patrol will be active again in the summer of 2018. We go out on the lakes once or twice a week in teams of 2 or 3 and scan the area for suspicious looking plants. It's great fun and very important as well!

If anyone would like to join us or simply find out what we are all about you are welcome to attend our first meeting of the season. We will meet informally at Diane Clay's house where we will plan our schedule and set priorities for this year. If you would like to attend or would like to have the plant patrol come to your shore front for a look at anything suspicious please call Diane - 268 3247.



# THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 DONORS!

Thank you to all of our 2017 donors! \$6,396.00 was generously donated to the TLA. Our Officers and Board of Directors thank the following individuals for cash donations this year. Thank you for supporting the programs of the TLA!

Please note that this is NOT a membership list but a list of people who donated in addition to paying their \$15.00 dues.

Jim & Jan Adams	Millie Donahue	Alden Hudson & Jade Elliott	Gerry & Maddy Perron
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Terry Averill	Nancy Dow	Donald & Berthe Hutchinson	Normand & Janice Provencher
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Frank Clark	Roland & Anita Girouard	Sheila & Dana Mather	Michele Stowe
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	Bruce & Sandy Hubbard		Gary & Gayle Williams



# SINGLE SOURCE RECYCLING AT THE LITCHFIELD TRANSFER STATION



After considerable delays due to bad weather, the single source recycling operation at the Litchfield Transfer Station is up and running!

Litchfield residents can now bring their plastic, glass, tin, and paper to the Transfer Station in a single clear plastic bag to be recycled. These bags will be placed in a forty-yard octagon shaped roll off container that is attached to a compactor. Compaction will allow 4 times the amount of recyclables to be placed in one container. There is now no need for separating the recyclables, making recycling easier!

Please know that the caps on all plastic containers should be removed so that the containers can be fully compacted. Light bulbs and ceramic items such as cups, plates, saucers and figurines are constantly being found mixed in with glass. These items are prohibited and result in a container load containing them to be deemed contaminated. Contaminated loads cost Litchfield tax payers an additional \$500 per load to recycle.

Residents will be provided with their first roll of clear plastic bags (10 bags). Clear plastic bags can be purchased at Gowell's Shop & Save, located on Rte 197 in Litchfield. Only clear plastic bags will be allowed for the Litchfield Single Source Recycling.

Flattened cardboard will now be placed in another forty-yard octagon shaped roll off container. The container will be open at one end and cardboard will be stacked starting at the rear of the container. As the cardboard stack fills to the top of the container,

the next stack will be started in front of the last stack, repeating this process until the container is full. Please flatten the cardboard and place as far back in the container as possible. If the cardboard is not flat it causes the piles to become unstable and fall forward so that less cardboard can be placed in the container.

In an effort to fully utilize the amount of cardboard that can be practically put into the container, a movable wooden barrier will be constructed inside the container. It will help show where to place flattened cardboard as well as to help in stabilizing the piles of cardboard as they increase in height. Once each stack has reached the optimum height, the barrier will be moved further toward the front of the container.

There has been an increase in the number of people at the Transfer Station who are coming for the single purpose of recycling. Hopefully the simplification and quickness of this single source recycling will encourage more Litchfield citizens to participate in recycling.

As warmer weather approaches additional projects at the Transfer Station will be started that will improve the sustainability of this facility as well as increase the security and safety of the operations at the facility.

*Thanks to Bryan T. Lamoreau for supplying the information for this article.*

**Adopt A Nest** TLA currently has 4 new loon nests looking to be adopted. What a great way to introduce children or grandchildren to the world of nature and loons. Nests would need to be placed in isolated areas, near the shore, and removed in the fall. ***If interested please contact Jim Adams, whose contact information is listed in this issue.***



# METAPHYTON IN OUR MAINE LAKES: WHAT IS IT? A LITERATURE REVIEW OF THE MYSTERIOUS GREEN, FILAMENTOUS "COTTON-CANDY" CLOUDS.

HANNAH SHUTE & DR. KAREN WILSON

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE



## INTRODUCTION

Over the past three decades, anecdotal observations of metaphyton (Figures 1 & 2) abundance has increased in Maine lakes. Much is known about the physiology, structure, and ecology of phytoplanktonic algae, but we lack an understanding of the physical, chemical, and biological role these loosely attached, filamentous algae play in aquatic ecosystems. Informational voids in contemporary limnology include: taxonomy; geographical distribution; seasonal population dynamics; utilization of microhabitats; response to parameters of water movement or water and substratum chemistry; and interactions with other organisms<sup>1</sup>. Due to the physical nature of metaphyton, there are numerous complications in the quantification of algal populations.

### This ongoing literature review identifies:

- Most common definition of metaphyton;
- Potential cause-effect relationships between nutrient loading and metaphyton productivity/biomass;
- Ideal environmental parameters for productivity;
- Consumers of metaphyton;
- Metaphyton species composition; and
- Possible research directions—specifically a standardized methodology for quantification in Maine lakes.



Figure 2. A patch of metaphyton among macrophytes in a Maine lake (Photo: Maine VLMP). Filamentous green algae vary in species comp., architectural structure, and physiological characteristics<sup>1,9</sup> and influence the energy balance, chemical cycling, physical features, and biological conditions in the littoral zone of most lakes<sup>5</sup>. Although presence in the littoral zone is not unusual, in an environment with refuge provided by macrophytes, abundant irradiance, stable water column, and ample nutrients, metaphyton could reach nuisance levels<sup>12</sup>.

## METAPHYTON DEFINED

- A macroscopic assemblage of primarily filamentous algae loosely aggregated in flooded wetlands and littoral zones of many lakes and ponds and floodplain areas of rivers that are neither strictly attached to substrata nor truly suspended<sup>1</sup> (Figure 3)
- Mostly non-motile algae living in a mucilaginous mass secreted by macrophytes and are found loosely associated with any benthic algae, higher plants, their epiphytes or debris in shallow water<sup>2</sup>
- Mats can originate as benthic biofilms (dominated by filamentous algae) but ascend when buoyant O<sub>2</sub> bubbles form once photosynthesis is sufficient within the algal mass<sup>1,5,7,8,9</sup>

Synonyms: elephant snot, flab<sup>7</sup>, tycho plankton, pseudoplankton, pseudoperiphyton<sup>1</sup>

(Versus periphyton, which is strongly attached to a substrata<sup>1</sup>. Both types have distinct species assemblages of diatom communities<sup>10</sup>.)

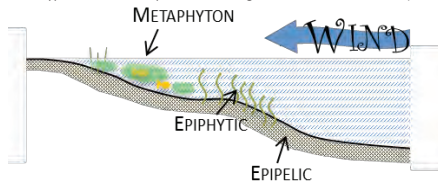


Figure 3. Cross-section diagram of a littoral zone in a lake. Epiphytic algae colonize on submersed surfaces of live/dead macrophytes; epipeletic algae are in illuminated sediments (fine, organic) in open water<sup>8</sup>. Parameters of a "metaphytic" zone<sup>11</sup> to summarize common responses to physical, chemical, and biotic resource parameters have yet to be defined. Metaphyton abundance changes rapidly over time in most water bodies (i.e. storm events can tear apart floating mats). Floating mats usually end up downstream or at the downwind end of small water bodies as a result of wind-induced water movement. Spatial and temporal variability in metaphyton abundance results in differences in shading and localized nutrient availability<sup>10</sup>.



Figure 1. View of metaphyton patches from above water. Top: Underwater close-up of metaphyton among macrophytes in a Maine lake (Photos: bottom: Ryan Burton, CWD; top: Maine VLMP). Metaphyton is the richest of communities in a lake<sup>1</sup>; the productivity and collective metabolism can be very high and thus alter local nutrient cycling<sup>1</sup>. Metaphyton might have negative effects on submerged macrophytes<sup>5</sup> and other organisms (i.e. photoinhibition, localized O<sub>2</sub> depletion, etc.)<sup>14,15</sup>.

## MAJOR FINDINGS

- \*Metaphyton does not form before March in temperate regions (light, ice, etc.)<sup>8,9</sup>
- \*Zygnemataceae family: filaments generally free-floating. Oedogoniaceae can be free-floating but also attached to substratum. Different sexual reproduction (Z: conjugation; O: isogamous, monoecious, or dioecious<sup>20</sup>) (Figures 4, 5, 6, & 7)
- \*Stratification of temperature, O<sub>2</sub> content, and pH vary diurnally within a cluster of filamentous algae<sup>7</sup>
- \*Low pH (≤ 6.0<sup>13,16</sup>) positively influences growth, abundance, and impacts of metaphyton
- \*Combinations of factors affect metaphyton productivity, i.e., dissolved organic carbon (DOC) is the primary attenuator of solar radiation in many lakes, but acidification decreases the concentration of DOC which leads to (spikes) in ultraviolet radiation, esp. in shallow water, encouraging metaphyton growth<sup>17</sup>
- \*Linkage between land use in catchment basin and downstream aquatic ecosystems may promote metaphyton (Zygnema, Spirogyra) growth in littoral zone<sup>12</sup> through tributary effluent (↑ P)
- \*Metaphyton is a better competitor for limiting nutrients: largest contributor to total algal productivity (60-80% total) compared to phytoplankton, epipelon, & epiphyton<sup>4,18,19</sup>
- \*Metaphyton biomass and productivity ↑ in response to enhanced nutrient inputs (N & P)<sup>12,19</sup>. Alters consumer food web, but variability in presence results in an unreliable energy source for the littoral food web<sup>6</sup>
- \*Provides food and shelter for invertebrates, tadpoles, and small fish<sup>14</sup>, but there is little evidence to support that algal grazing controls abundance<sup>2</sup>; Spirogyra preyed upon by herbivorous fish, fungi, & protozoans<sup>20</sup>
- \*Research directions: define ideal environmental parameters for metaphyton and conduct C/N/P ratios to better understand nutrient-based relationships.

## TAXONOMY

Filamentous algae identified in Maine lakes<sup>15</sup>: Mougeotia (198 species<sup>20</sup>), Zygnema (443 species<sup>20</sup>), Spirogyra (640 species<sup>20</sup>), & Oedogonium (1314 species<sup>20</sup>):



Figure 4<sup>21</sup>. Mass of *Mougeotia parvula* zygospores. © C.F.Carter.



Figure 5<sup>21</sup>. *Spirogyra grevilleana*. Replicate cell walls. © C.F.Carter.



Figure 6<sup>21</sup>. *Zygnema stellinum*. © C.F.Carter.

Family: Zygnemataceae  
Genera free-floating filaments, widespread in freshwater habitats. Generally wide range of tolerance for climate, habitat, brackish, quiet/running water, etc. No major economic use/nuisance. Related to lower land plants<sup>20</sup>

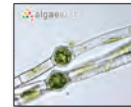


Figure 7<sup>21</sup>. *Oedogonium braunii*. © Rossella Barone

Family: Oedogoniaceae  
Typically epiphytic, sometimes free-floating in shallow standing freshwaters (i.e., ponds, lakes, ditches) worldwide. Most abundant in temperate/subtropical climates<sup>20</sup>

Acknowledgements: Scott Williams & the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program  
Ryan Burton & Cobbossee Watershed District

# Pleasant Dock Systems

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# FRIENDS OF THE COBBOSSEE WATERSHED

## Courtesy Boat Inspection Program

In 2017, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (Friends) staff were on duty at the Woodbury public boat launch 484 hours, and performed 1,875 inspections. This represents an increase of 123 inspections over 2016 and 19% of all inspections performed at the Cobbossee Watershed's 10 public boat launches during the 2017 season. The Woodbury public boat launch is a favorite of the Friends staff, because of the medium size, simple layout, and available shade. It's also an obvious favorite of boaters!

While it might seem the purpose of this program is to make sure plants are removed from boats by paying people to perform the task, the real purpose and lasting impact is in the one on one education of boaters to take responsibility in protecting the lake. Paid inspectors only cover the launch during peak weekend hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Friends inspectors model the action that is needed (checking for and removing plants) and convey the critical need of preventing invasive aquatic plants from entering the lake (change in habitat and reduction of property values).

As we start the 2018 boating season, please remember to check not just your boat, but also your trailer, live well, anchor, and fishing gear. You don't have to know what plants are invasive, just remove all plants and discard them away from the lake.

For more information on the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Courtesy Boat Inspector program, or to become an inspector, please contact Tamara Whitmore: (207) 621-4100 or [tamara@watershedfriends.com](mailto:tamara@watershedfriends.com)



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### Articles Needed for Fall 2018 TLA Newsletter

In the past, the TLA newsletter has been a product of your board of directors. Twice each year the board makes an effort to create and pass on articles that we believe will be of interest to our members. Starting this summer, the board is making a major change to this process.

With the Fall 2018 newsletter, we would like to begin publishing content submitted by members that you believe would be interesting, entertaining or informative to our association. After all, this is your newsletter!

Of course, we are limited to how many articles can be published, and we have certain guidelines we need to

follow when selecting submissions. The selection of content to be published will be done by a three person committee made up of active board members. Articles will be attributed and edited with their permission. **Mail potential articles to the TLA, PO Box 293, Litchfield, ME 04350, or email to Jim Adams at [jfadams13@gmail.com](mailto:jfadams13@gmail.com).**

Following are guidelines we currently use when determining the appropriateness of articles:

- This is not a forum to express or promote political views
- Articles should pertain to our lakes and watershed
- Content should be of general interest to members
- Photos are welcome and will be included as space permits

## “Slow the Flow” of Runoff and Erosion

### What is Runoff Pollution?

When rain falls from the sky, it does one of three things: it evaporates back into the air, it infiltrates into the ground, or it runs downhill (thanks to gravity) and comes to rest at a low point of the topography, forming lakes and ponds. When water flows downhill it takes things with it, even things you cannot see. Loose soil, nutrients from fertilizer or pet waste, pollutants from a leaking car, home heating oil are all examples of pollutants that may be in the water that runs off the land and enters the lake. Anything you do to the land, you also do to our waters, when runoff is allowed to enter them without being naturally filtered by vegetation.

When nature’s natural filtering system is impaired through erosion, cut trees, cleared lots, or poorly maintained roads to name a few, phosphorus and other nutrients run on the ground surface and enter the water directly. Left unchecked, excess nutrients in our waters can cause algae to grow out of control, in the form of smelly, unsightly and potentially hazardous algae blooms.

Thanks to the Clean Water Act of 1972, there has been a significant reduction of pollution to water by “point source pollution”: direct pollution from factories, industry, energy production, etc. As these sources of pollution have been regulated by the federal government, there has been a huge improvement to water quality. The majority of pollution to water now occurs by numerous sources that collectively cause

damage, but are not directly able to be isolated. This “nonpoint source pollution” is caused by all residents and visitors to our watershed.

### How can FOCW help me “Slow the Flow” on my property?

Contact the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed to request a **“LakeSmart Start!”** site visit. Director Cameron Dufour will walk your property with you, discuss your concerns, and provide you with information including a plan of suggested actions to take. Common practices to implement include planting a buffer of plants along the shoreline, creating water diversions or setting up culverts. The LakeSmart Start! site visits are free of charge in the Cobbossee Watershed, thanks to our generous business sponsors.

If the work to be done on your property fits our capabilities, you can choose to have your project completed by the FOCW Youth Conservation Corps. Let us do the literal heavy lifting on your shoreline project!

Think you are already doing all you can to protect the lake? Contact us for a **LakeSmart Evaluation** and a potential award!

For more information, contact Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed at 207-621-4100. Or contact Slow the Flow Program Director, Cameron Dufour, at [cameron@watershedfriends.com](mailto:cameron@watershedfriends.com)



# Percy's

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