



Conserving Native Plants of the Texas Coastal Prairies

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Please join us for our fall symposium on October 3 – 5 in League City.

Our 2019 annual symposium will focus on conserving native plants in the upper Texas coastal prairies, also known as the Northern Humid Gulf Coastal Prairies in the EPA Level IV ecoregion map.

Quaternary-age deltaic sands, silts, and clays underlie much of this gently sloping coastal plain. The original vegetation was mostly grasslands with a few clusters of oaks, known as oak mottes or maritime woodlands. Little bluestem, yellow Indiangrass, brownseed paspalum, gulf muhly, and switchgrass were the dominant grassland species, with some similarities to the grasslands of the Blackland Prairies. Almost all of the coastal prairies have been converted to cropland, rangeland, pasture, or urban land uses. The exotic Chinese tallow tree and Chinese privet have invaded large areas in this region. Some loblolly pine occurs in the northern part of the region in the transition to the South Central Plains. Soils are mostly fine-textured: clay, clay loam, or sandy clay loam. Within the region, there are some differences from the higher Lissie Formation to the lower Beaumont Formation, both of Pleistocene age. The Lissie Formation has lighter colored soils, mostly Alfisols with sandy clay loam surface texture, while darker, clayey soils associated with Vertisols are more typical of the Beaumont Formation. Annual precipitation varies from 37 inches in the southwest portion to 58 inches in the northeast, with a summer maximum.

Our symposium headquarters will be in League City, between Houston and Galveston. We've booked the [South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center](#), which is on the south side of Clear Lake across the lake from the Johnson Space Center. We will begin with a reception on Thursday evening for those arriving early, speakers on Friday morning with a choice of field trips in the afternoon, more speakers and breakout sessions on Saturday, and an awards banquet on Saturday night. A social event is planned for Friday night on the Kemah Boardwalk. In addition we have prepared a list of suggested side stops and field trips for those traveling on Thursday and Sunday.

Linda Knowles of the Houston Chapter has been chair of the planning committee and Mary Horn of the Clear Lake Chapter designed the beautiful image which will be on our tee-shirts.



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Venue

We've booked the [South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center](#), located at 2500 South Shore Boulevard in League City. It's on the south side of Clear Lake across from the Johnson Space Center; basically between Houston and Galveston.

To reserve a room call (281) 334-1000 or click on this link – [NPSOT2019](#). Attendees will receive a discounted rate of \$135 per night (plus tax) for standard rooms. The discounted rate applies for all reservations booked by September 12th.

Most events will be in the conference center at the resort. Field trips will be in the general area but could require a commute of up to an hour in some cases. Our Friday night social will be on the Kemah Boardwalk, just a few miles from the conference center.



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Thursday night reception

Join us for drinks and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 7 pm on Thursday night in the Harbourview Room on the 9th floor.

Meet and greet fellow members. Catch up with old friends. See and hear our grants and scholarship winners.

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Friday morning speakers

Plenary speakers

Marina Plaza Ballroom

Click speaker name for bio

- 8:15 AM [Marissa Llosa](#), Conservation Manager, Houston Parks Board, *Bayou Greenway Meadows: An Evaluation of the Past with a Renewed Look to the Future*
- 9:15 AM [Glenn Olsen](#), GOBirding EcoTours, *Birds of the Texas Coastal Prairies*
- 10:15 AM [Karla Klay](#), Executive Director, Artist Boat, *The Coastal Heritage Preserve – A Unique Opportunity to Conserve Coastal Prairie on Galveston Island*



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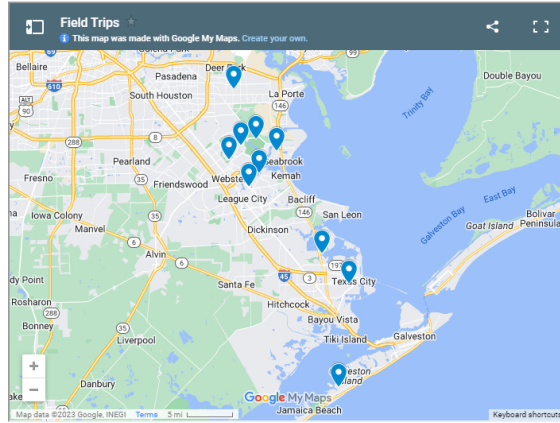
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Friday field trips



Click on the top left icon for list of the field trips. Click on any map pin for a description.

Please choose one field trip. All field trips begin after lunch on Friday afternoon. There will be maps and opportunities for car-pooling available.

Listed below in order of driving distance from the hotel.

F-01. Dudney Clear Creek Nature Center, 1220 Egret Bay Blvd North, League City 3 miles, 6 min

Description: Paved pathways wind through diverse areas of native trees, shrubs and forbs. There are turnoffs to bird observation blinds along the shoreline. October is a good time to see migratory birds! Visitors will also see a large-scale environmental reclamation project in progress. A forest of invasive Chinese Tallow trees planted many years ago is being bulldozed, to be replaced with native coastal prairie and wetland flora. With guidance from Texas Parks and Wildlife, the project is being done in three phases to allow displaced animals, particularly snakes and birds, to relocate.

[Information](#)

[More information](#)

Difficulty: Easy, level paved trails.

Wheelchair/ADA accessible: Yes

Maximum number on field trip: No maximum

Leader: A Master Naturalist on staff will lead.

From South Shore Harbour:

R on Marina Bay Dr, R on Egret Bay Blvd, entrance is on the right *immediately after* the first bridge.

[Google Map](#)

F-02. Exploration Green, 1800 Reseda Drive, Houston 6 miles, 14 min

Description: ExplorationGreen is a 200-acre former golf course now devoted to flood control and hydrology; creating wetlands for wading birds, ducks, amphibians, turtles, fish, and dragonflies; and planting native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers to support resident and migrating birds, butterflies and other pollinators. Visionaries were proactive in their battle to save the beautiful green space from developers! Your tour of Phase 1 will provide close-up views of the wetland planting areas and the 750 native trees that have been installed since 2015. Participants will also see Phase 2 at the end of its excavation stage; the first planting events of Phase 2 will occur this fall. The value of a huge detention pond in the middle of a comfortable neighborhood was evident during our major rain event, Harvey, in 2017. With phase 1 partially complete at the time, ExplorationGreen held 100 million gallons of water, which was then slowly released! When all five phases are complete, the lakes will hold up to 500 million gallons.

[Information](#) 281-317-7535

[More Information](#)

Difficulty: Easy solid path around the lake.

Wheelchair/ADA accessible: Yes

Maximum number on field trip: No maximum



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Leader: Jerry Hamby, a lead volunteer at Exploration Green, a member of the Texas Master Naturalist program and NPSOT Clear Lake Chapter, will lead the tour.

[Google map](#)

F-03. Ed White Elementary School Habitat, 1708 Les Talley Dr, El Lago 6 miles, 15 min

Description: This is a student and parent driven project that the entire community continues to love and embrace so the children can enjoy learning on the school campus! The birds, butterflies, bees, and other pollinators thrive and the frogs, turtle and other wildlife have a safe haven. It is a shaded place to recharge and to observe nature. The site has a woodland habitat, wildflower area with two listening benches, watershed mural with over 50 native plants and animals, several raised beds with Texas Cone Flowers, Vegetable garden, Purple Martin house, Chimney Swift Tower, Outdoor Classroom, rain barrels, equipment shed and arbor. Many local partners have helped implement the mission to educate our youth and community. This is an E-STEM Magnet school so hopefully the site will continue to expand to offer exceptional opportunities to all!

A presentation is also planned on the Houston Zoo Attwater's Prairie Chicken facility at NASA.

[Information](#)

[More information](#)

Difficulty: Easy

Wheelchair/ADA accessible: Yes

Maximum number on field trip: 30

[Google map](#)

F-04. U of H Clear Lake – Environmental Institute of Houston Habitat Garden 7 miles, 16 min

Description: The Environmental Institute garden features a demonstration tall grass prairie, pond, native plant garden bed, demonstration rain garden and 500 gallon cistern and outdoor classroom. The campus tour will include a created wetland, walk along the bayou and a nature hike.

[Website](#) 281-283-3950

Difficulty: Easy/moderate, indoor/outdoor

Wheelchair/ADA accessible: Environmental Institute garden only

Maximum number on field trip: 30

Leader: Wendy Reistle, U of H Environmental Institute of Houston

[Google map](#)

F-05. Armand Bayou Nature Center, 8500 Bay Area Blvd, Pasadena 10 miles, 23 min

Description: "Reptiles and Trails". We will divide into two groups. One group will head out on a trail walk guided by a local naturalist through woods and prairie, with emphasis on the many fall-blooming native plants. Meanwhile, the other group will enjoy a presentation on the Nature Center reptile collection; then the groups will switch.

[Link](#) 281-474-2551

Difficulty: Easy/moderate

Wheelchair/ADA accessible: Reptile portion only.

Maximum number on field trip: 40

[Google map](#)

F-06. Texas City Prairie Preserve, 4702 TX-146, Texas City 12 mi, 21 min

Description: Located on the shores of Moses Lake and Galveston Bay in Texas City, Texas in the United States, near Houston. The preserve was created in 1995 by the Nature Conservancy thanks to a \$2.2 million donation of land by ExxonMobil.[1][2] The primary goal in creating the preserve was to save the endangered Attwater's Prairie Chicken species, though the preserve protects coastal prairie and supports a wide variety of wildlife. The terrain of the preserve includes prairie and wetland habitats, enabled in large part by restoration efforts in recent decades. The preserve includes 40 acres (0.16 km²) of limited public access areas including a small hiking trail.

[Information](#)

Difficulty: Easy/moderate,

Wheelchair/ADA accessible: Wheel chair accessible to H.Q. building. We will be taking an auto tour and some stops will not be wheelchair accessible

Maximum number on field trip: 20

Leaders: Preserve Steward Tim O'Connell, Scott Buckle and TNC Upper Coast Project Director Aaron Tjelmeland

[Google map](#)

South on South Shore Blvd 0.06 miles. Turn left on F.M. 518 head East 2.0 miles. Turn right on Hwy 146 go south for 8.6 miles. Texas City Prairie Preserve is 1qtr. Mile past Attwater Ave on the left. Brown sign on Hwy. will direct you to the preserve entrance. Preserve H.Q compound is easily seen from Hwy. large brown buildings with green metal roofs. Texas City Police Dept. is very active with speed limit enforcement at this time so it is recommended to adhere to the posted speed limit.

F-07. Marathon Petroleum Corporation, 600 12th St. South, Texas City 18 miles, 29 min

Description: Marathon Petroleum is the recipient of the 2019 Native Star Award “given to an organization or agency for a specific act of conservation or public service.” We will visit several projects of Marathon’s Habitat Enhancement, Awareness and Recycle Team (HEART): Butterfly Boulevard and Learning Lanes, located on company property, and the nearby 29th Street Duck Pond and Warbler Woods.

[Website](#)

[More information](#)

[More information](#)

Admission: **A government-issued ID is required to pass security**

Difficulty: Easy

Wheelchair/ADA accessible: No

Maximum number on field trip: 20

[Google map](#)

F-08. Lawther-Deer Park Prairie Preserve, 1222 E. Purdue Ln, Deer Park 16 miles, 32 min

Description: We will visit this unique 51-acre coastal prairie remnant, situated in the midst of urban development and rescued from that fate by a coordinated and timely effort on the part of many individuals and organizations. There is a house on the site that serves as a gathering place and classroom, with water, bug spray and restroom available.

[Website](#)

Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum number on field trip: No maximum

[Google map](#)

F-09. San Jacinto Battleground Prairie Restoration, 3523 Independence Pkwy, La Porte 20 mi, 27 min

Description: For a prairie restoration perspective our visit will feature: potting area and greenhouse; forb planting area between the reflection pond and the monument; prairie planting area along the road to the rear of the park. Other activities include: a drive along the park road reading about the battle; touring the exhibits at the base of the monument; a walk along the marsh trail; cooling down in the picnic area. The group will meet near the park headquarters, not the monument. Please bring water and maybe some snacks to enjoy in the picnic area.

[Website](#) 281-479-2431

[More information](#)

Difficulty: Moderate

Maximum number on field trip: No maximum

Leader: Jim Duron

[Google map](#)

F-10. Artist Boat Coastal Heritage Preserve, 13117 Settegast Rd, Galveston 26 miles, 33 min

Description: Join Mary Warwick, Clear Lake Chapter Member and Habitat & Stewardship Manager of the Coastal Heritage Preserve, for a walking tour of the Preserve. The tour will include background about the land, a discussion about the unique landscape of the Preserve and restoration efforts, native plant viewing, and a look at the greenhouse and nursery.

[Website](#) 409-770-0722

[More information](#)

Difficulty: Easy, flat, mowed trails, can be wet—closed toed old tennis shoes suggested. Tents will be provided for shade and water to refill water bottle.

Wheelchair/ADA accessible: no

Maximum number on field trip: 40

Leader: Mary Warwick, Habitat and Stewardship Manager

DIRECTIONS: From Houston: Take I45 South towards Galveston. Exit and take a right on 61st Street.

Take a right at Seawall Boulevard. Follow directions below.

From Galveston: Take Seawall towards the west end of Galveston Island (6.4 miles). Turn right onto Pabst Road, travel 0.3 miles to turn left onto Stewart Road. After 0.4 miles, turn right onto Settegast Road. Follow this road until it becomes 11 Mile Road, marked by a left turn. Shortly after the turn, on your left there will be a fenced Artist Boat parking lot.

[Google map](#)



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Friday night social

On Friday night you are invited to join us at [Bill's Bar and Burger](#) on the boardwalk in Kemah starting at 7 pm. We will be entertained with the sailing, beach and country songs of Houston singer-guitarist Dan DeHart.

The restaurant is about a 12 minute drive from the hotel. [Directions](#). We suggest parking in the garage at the end of the road next to the destination. Parking there is \$9 per vehicle. There is also free parking if you do not mind walking.

Dress casually. There is both indoor and outdoor seating. You will need to pay separately for any food or beverages you order.

You may also wish to stroll around the boardwalk and [enjoy the rides, fireworks, shopping, and other attractions](#). Or just admire the sunset. The boardwalk remains open until 11 pm.



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click a speaker's name to see their bio.

Saturday Morning Plenary Speakers

Marina Plaza

- 8:15 AM [Mark Vorderbruggen](#), (Merriwether) *Ancient Plants, New Medicine: Discoveries from Native Texas Plants*
- 9:15 AM [David Bezanson](#), The Nature Conservancy, *Land Conservation for Native Plant Communities*
- 10:15 AM [Suzanne Simpson](#), Land Stewardship Dir., Bayou Land Conservancy, *Preserving Houston's Little Thicket*

Saturday Afternoon Break Out Speakers

Four Rooms 45 minutes – 15 minutes in between
Choose one in each time period

1 pm

- **A1.** Marina Plaza: [Della Barbato](#), Lawther-Deer Park Prairie Director of Education *Deer Park Prairie – Providing Native Diversity for Houston Prairies*
- **A2.** Harbourview: [Cecil Carter](#), *Implementing the Strategic Plan*
- **A3.** Salon C: [Carol Clark](#), BBMT Coordinator, *Native Plants Star in Monarch Waystations, and the BBMT Plays a Part*
- **A4.** Salon F: [Mary Carol Edwards](#), Greenstar, Wetland Plant Farm, *Sunny, Salty, Shady, Shallow: Choosing Plants for Different Wetland Settings*

2 pm

- **B1.** Marina Plaza: [Matt Singer](#), Galveston Bay Foundation, *Preserving Native Plant Communities Around Galveston Bay*
- **B2.** Harbourview: [Bill Hopkins & Cindy Kearney](#), *Improving Chapter Communications*
- **B3.** Salon C: [Sarah Flourney](#), Houston Audubon, *Audubon's Bolivar Preserves and Prairie Pockets*
- **B4.** Salon F: [Sarah Bernhardt](#), Bayou Preservation Association, *Steam Corridor Restoration: Techniques in Invasive Plant Species Removal*

3 pm

- **C1.** Marina Plaza: [Suzanne Chapman](#), Botanical Collections Curator, Mercer Arboretum *Behind the Scenes at Mercer Botanic Gardens*
- **C2.** Harbourview: [Linda Knowles](#) *The NICE Native Plant Partners Program*
- **C3.** Salon C: [Justin Hayes](#), Supervisor, Dell Medical School Landscape Services, University of Texas, *Setting Our SITES on Gold*
- **C4.** Salon F: [Lawrence Spence](#), Environmental Educator's Exchange (EEE), *How Can We Help Young People Find Interest in Native Plants?*



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Awards banquet & contests

Each year the Society presents awards to recognize excellence in writing, acts of conservation and public service, and lifetime achievement in the field of Texas native plants. Awards are chosen by an Awards Committee appointed by the State Board and are presented annually during the fall symposium. In addition we will announce winners of our various contests as well as the winner of the raffle quilt.

The awards banquet will be held in the Marina Plaza room of the conference center at 6:30 pm on October 5.

This year the awards banquet is an optional additional event. There is a separate charge of \$45 and you must select the event at the time of registration. This will enable those who need to leave early on Saturday to avoid paying for an event they cannot attend.

Winners of our various contests will also be announced during the awards banquet on Saturday night.

- For information about our chapter newsletter contest go [here](#).
- For information about our photo contest go [here](#).
- For information about our video contest see [this](#).



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What to do while coming and going

Some interesting stops and field trips you can take on your own while traveling to and from the symposium. No registration required. There are no organized field trips planned for Thursday or Sunday.

Close in to League City:

Nassau Bay Peninsula Wildlife Park, Houston 77058 6 mi, 17 min
<https://www.nassaubay.com/563/Peninsula-Wildlife-Trail>

Pine Brook Wetlands, Clear Lake City Blvd, Houston 77059 10 mi, 23 min
<http://www.pinebrookwetlands.com>

South, Southeast and Southwest of League City:

Galveston Island State Park, 14901 FM3005, Galveston 36 mi, 50 min
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/galveston-island>

Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, 24907 FM 2004, Lake Jackson 38 mi, 52 min
<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/brazoria/>

Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary—Bolivar Island 38 mi, 1h 22 min including ferry
<https://houstonaudubon.org/sanctuaries/bolivar-flats/about-bolivar-flats.html>

Brazos Bend State Park, 21901 FM 762 Rd, Needville 48 mi, 1 h 12 min
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/brazos-bend>

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, 299 West, TX-332, Lake Jackson 52 mi, 1h 10 min
<https://www.gcbo.org>

Nash Prairie Preserve, 24112-24658 County Rd 25, Damon 52 mi, 1h 8 min
and Nowotny Prairie
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/nash-prairie-preserve/>
<https://academic.oup.com/bioscience/article/56/1/8/224869>

San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, 6801 County Rd 306, Brazoria 70 mi, 1 h 45 min
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/san_bernard/

West, Northwest and North of League City:

M D Anderson Prairie, Texas Medical Center, Holcombe & Fannin, Houston 30 mi, 1 h
<https://www.houstonchronicle.com/local/gray-matters/article/What-s-a-prairie-doing-in-the-middle-of-the-12290862.php>

Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, 4501 Woodway Dr, Houston 35 mi, 1 h
<https://houstonarboretum.org>

Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center, 14140 Garrett Rd., Houston 38 mi, 1 h
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/sheldon-lake>

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble 52 mi, 1 h 23 min
<https://www.hcp4.net/parks/mercerc/>

W G Jones State Forest, 1328 FM 1488, Conroe 65 mi, 1 h 30 min
<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/jones-state-forest/>

Lake Houston Wilderness Park, 25840 FM 1485, New Caney 63 mi, 1 h 16 min
<https://www.houstontx.gov/parks/parksites/lakehoustonpark.html>

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary 90 mi, 1 h 30 min
<https://littlenthicket.org>
<https://www.sierraclub.org/texas/houston/blog/2018/06/summer-not-too-hot-for-little-thicket-nature-sanctuary>

Katy Prairie, 31950 Hebert Rd, Waller 77 mi, 1 h 50 min
<http://www.katyprairie.org>

Packerwood Garden, 20550 FM 950, Humstead 85 mi, 1 h 45 min



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Peckerwood Garden, 20339 FM 339, Hempstead 93 mi, 1 h 43 min
<http://peckerwoodgarden.org>

Big Thicket National Preserve 98 mi, 1 h 50 min
<https://www.nps.gov/bith/index.htm>

Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary, Kountze 98 mi, 1 h 47 min—near *Big Thicket*
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/roy-e-larsen-sandyland-sanctuary/>

Watson Rare Native Plant Preserve, Warren 106 mi, 2 h—near *Big Thicket*
<http://watsonpreserve.ning.com>

Antique Rose Emporium 10000 FM 50, Brenham 120 mi, 2 h 10 min
<https://antiqueroseemporium.com>

Fort Boggy State Park, 4994 Highway 75 South, Centerville 141 mi, 2 h 40 min
<https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/fort-boggy>

I-35 Rest Area Monarch Way Stations near Hillsboro (240 mi) and Salado (210 mi)
<http://txmn.org/elcamino/files/2010/05/I-35-Rest-Areas-Monarch-Waystations-Project-Call-for-Volunteers.pdf>



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Silent auction and quilt raffle

The silent auction will be set up in the Waterford/Baccarat Rooms along with exhibits and vendors.

Bring your items with you for the silent auction and deliver to Betsy Farris. Fill out and bring [this bid sheet](#) with your item.

We will also have a new raffle quilt designed and quilted by Tricia Hopkins.

All proceeds from the silent auction and quilt raffle benefit the Grants and Scholarship Program.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Silent Auction Bid Sheet
October 2019 – League City

Item: _____

Donated by: _____

Estimated Value: \$ _____ Minimum Bid: \$ _____

(Recommended minimum bid is 20% of item's estimated value)

NAME	BID (whole dollars only)

This section to be completed after silent auction closes.

Number of items won: _____ Total amount due: \$ _____

Pay Method: Cash () Check () # _____ MasterCard () Visa () Discover () Amex ()

Amex: 4 digits on front of card. **MC / Visa / Discover:** 3 digits on back of card. CVV # _____

Credit Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name on credit card (print): _____

Address credit card is billed to: _____

Signature: _____ Phone: (____) _____



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Information for exhibitors and vendors

We have a limited amount of space for exhibitors and vendors. There are two areas – a space shared with the silent auction and a second space in the foyer of the main presentation hall.

If you would like to have a table or booth at either of these spaces please contact [Linda Knowles](#) for more information.



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