

PICK & SHOVEL

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Lincoln, Nebraska

www.lincolngemmineralclub.org



Volume 53, Issue 11
July 2011

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GENERAL MEETINGS / ACTIVITIES

Regular monthly meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Bethany Park Shelter House on the third Thursday of the month: Sep., Oct., Nov., Feb., Mar., Apr., and May; the second Sunday in December; and the fourth Saturday in January. Youth activities begin at 6:30 p.m. on the same dates. Summer meetings and other activities will be announced as they are planned.

2011 Meeting Dates

<u>Board</u>	<u>General</u>
Jul 10: Annual Grinding Party & Picnic in the Park	
Aug Social: Wooly's Home	
Aug 31 (Sep)	Sep 15
Oct 5	Oct 20
Nov 2	Nov 17
Nov 30 (Dec)	Dec 4

General Meeting
September 15, 2011
7:00 p.m.
Program: NYD

Pebble Pups
September 15, 2011
Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
"Amethyst"

Monthly Rock Party
July 10, 2011
4:00 p.m.
"Picnic in the Park"
Pioneers Park
(following the annual Grinding Party)

BOARD MEETING

Summer break.

Next meeting: August 31, 2011 (September meeting)

The purpose of this corporation shall be to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary and various Earth Sciences including but not necessarily limited to Geology, Paleontology and Mineralogy. It shall be a particular purpose of the corporation to provide education in these fields to its members and the general public, especially to youth and student groups.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Peterson



The Picnic at Pittard's (a.k.a. the monthly rock party) was relaxing and laid back. There was a cool breeze and great food, followed by the sounds of the Genie, and the music of Roger's trio. Did I hear horseshoes clanking? I want to thank Roger and Mary for a great time. I'm already looking forward to next year.

The next day it was off to the Columbus Rock Swap. I'd never been and it had been a few years since Wooly had attended. As I drove, Wooly pointed out potential gravel stops along the Bohemian Alps.

This month we have the Grinding Party on Sunday, July 10th at Pioneers Park, details elsewhere in the P&S. Likewise, find information about the club field trip to Arkansas later in the summer. The Arkansas trip will be a great opportunity to enjoy hunting with fellow members. Until next month...

picnic in the Park
at
Pioneers Park
Sunday, July 10
immediately following the
annual Grinding Party
Bring your basket
of goodies and
join in the fun!



SCIENTIST SUNDAYS

Sunday with a Scientist
UNL: Morrill Hall
Program Schedule

- July 17: Fishes of Nebraska
- August 21: Climate Change
- September 18: Plants, Feeding the World
- October 16: Fossils
- November 20: Viruses
- December 18: Minerals & Gemstones

REFRESHMENTS SCHEDULE

Sep 15:	Pies	Jim Atkins Charles Wooldridge
Oct 20:	Pies	Linda Guenter Vera Lyman
Nov 17:	Cookies	Stella Thiessen Andrew Tiedje

SUNSHINE

This month yours truly will celebrate her "double nickel" birthday.

I look forward to hearing from members who have news for the Sunshine Corner. If you have a July birthday, sorry I missed it!

PETE'S NOTES

by Richard Peterson, President

LESSONS LEARNED. Part II. Barely into my first attempt to cross, I knew there were going to be problems. I was a quarter of the way and not yet to the deepest part of the channel. With each half step I could feel my footing being eroded out from under me; continuing upright was not an option. I decided to retreat, but I couldn't even turn around. The fast moving water and my buoyancy were working against me. I slowly backed my way to where I'd entered.

I sat on the edge of the sand bar and sized up my predicament. Reality was sinking in but I decided to try again. I stowed my digging stick and bag of rocks in my backpack and entered again. My walking stick was my only companion. Again, it was clear I was going nowhere. By now it was 1 p.m.; it was hot and my last pint of drinking water was an issue. I found a semi-shaded spot, then using my machete, cut some willow saplings and prepared a place to sit and ponder. I decided to monitor the water level so I stacked some larger stones near the river's edge to mark the current level. The thinking was that I could actually see if the water was receding; why risk another failed crossing? Perhaps I'd have a chance to cross later in the day. Sitting there I thought of other options. Meanwhile the rocks told me the river was neither rising nor receding.

The sand bar island was only partially flooded on the backside. So, I left my backpack, waded across the back channel, and found a way up the steep loess bank to the cornfield above. Although I had found a way up and out it was still a very long walk back, around and up gravel roads, to my car. The heat of midday was stifling. I returned to the river and my willow saplings.

Another hour passed and the river level hadn't receded. I decided to try crossing at another point, some place where the river was wider, had less current and easier to navigate. While walking and selecting my next point of entry I continued to mull over my options. I could get across the river if I was willing to get soaked. That would mean leaving my backpack, rocks and walking stick behind, hidden on the sand bar until I could return and retrieve them. I knew that after taking the plunge it wouldn't be long before my

feet would find shallower water and I could walk my way back to my car.

My second attempt at crossing met with the same result as the first. I was forced to retreat ... to the wrong side of the river. While walking back to my bed of saplings, I planned on spending the night on the sand bar. If I couldn't wade across in the morning I'd have to leave my gear behind and get wet. To be continued ...

HELPFUL TIP: STINGING NETTLES. The scientific name is *Urtica dioica* and they are in the plant family *Urticaceae*. This plant is widely distributed in every U.S. state except Hawaii. The plant grows to 3-7 feet tall in the summer, then dying down to ground level in winter. The leaves are strongly serrated (the leaf margin is shaped like a VERY coarse saw blade). The soft, green leaves are 1-6 inches long and are borne on erect wiry green stems. The plant leaves and stems have many hollow stinging hairs called trichomes. The hairs act like sharp needles that inject histamine and other chemicals into the skin. This produces an immediate stinging sensation. You will not have to return home before you know you've been "touched". Another name for this plant is burn weed. The word burn is very descriptive.

The plant has a long history of use as a medicine as well as a food source. The flavor of stinging nettles when cooked resembles spinach and is rich in vitamins A and C, iron, potassium, magnesium, and calcium. Young plants were harvested and eaten in the spring by some Native Americans and others.

Anti-itch drugs, usually in the form of creams containing antihistamines or hydrocortisone, provide some relief as does Calamine lotion. Many folk remedies exist. For more information start with http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stinging_nettnles.

AND THE WORD IS...? Bet you had to go to your reference books to get this one. What is COBALTITE. I am not letting up. Okay, maybe a little. The name this month is from this mineral's first reported occurrence in a certain California county. This is an ore containing gold. Think Mark Twain...

AUGUST FIELD TRIP

by Jim Marburger, Field Trip Chairman

So far, a few folks have indicated they plan to attend the Arkansas field trip. In addition to Sharon and me, I have heard from Woolly & Jackie, the Beer family, and Andrew Tiedje. If you are concerned about the cost of fuel or if your rig is unreliable, consider ride- and cost-sharing. In addition to saving a couple of bucks, think of all the fun to be had, singing and telling yarns during the long drive!

The field trip to the Ron Coleman Quartz Mine in Jessieville, Arkansas is set for August 19-22, 2011. We plan to drive the approximate 600 miles on Friday (19th) and collect wonderful specimens at the mine on Saturday. Sunday brings a choice of going to Crater of Diamonds State Park, which is about 60 miles from the quartz mine, or to Mt. Ida, which is in the vicinity, to collect additional quartz. The return 600 miles will be made on Monday (22nd).

The single entry and collection fee for an entire day at the mine (8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.) is: ages 0-6, free; 7-16, \$5.00; 17-54, \$20.00; and over 55, \$15.00. A complementary mining bag is included with the fee, and you may collect as much as you like.

Camping is available at the RV Park for \$12.50 per night. The shower/bathroom building and

laundromat are included in the fee. There is also a concrete slab with a water faucet for washing off crystals and ourselves after a hard day's dig.

Depending on which location you choose to collect at, Sunday could find us collecting at Crater of Diamonds State Park. The entrance fee to search for diamonds is \$7.00 for adults; ages 6 to 12, \$4.00; and children under 6 are free. The collection area is a 37½-acre plowed field of an eroded, gem-bearing volcanic pipe. Diamond mining tools are available for rent or purchase. The park staff provides free identification and certification of diamonds. Camping is available at the State Park and supplies are available in the newly renovated visitor center or in nearby Murfreesboro.

If you choose to collect at Mt. Ida, see Woolly for more information.

If you would like to go on this field trip, please let me know in advance. We plan on having a blast on this trip. It's not every day you can follow Corey Beer around and take lessons from him on the best way to find and collect specimens. You won't want to miss out on this opportunity!

Examples of what may be found at the Coleman Quartz Mine.



Photo courtesy of
Mineral Bliss,
February 15, 2009



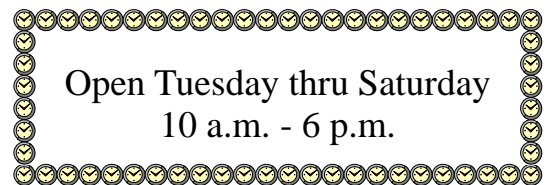
Examples of what may be found at the Crater of Diamonds State Park. Photos courtesy of the State Park web site.

LINCOLN CURIOS ROCK SHOP

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PABIAN AUCTION



Photo courtesy of Sharon Marburger

Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss this event. If you admired Roger, loved his specimens, or just envied his wide assortment of hobby-related materials, now is your opportunity to own a piece. See the ad below. Check the web site www.fordfordauctioneers.com or www.fordford.net for the latest information on this event.

Auction

Auction

Auction

Auction

Auction

The lifetime collection of

Professor Roger K Pabian

(Agate Researcher, Gemologist, Paleontologist, Author, Rock Hound)

Will be offered at auction

August 13th and 14th, 2011

Time: **11:00 AM** Both Days



This exclusive two day sale will include



Over a ton of quality rough **Brazilian Agate**, 500 lbs quality assorted rough agate, thousands of polished **Mexican Agate** halves and slabs both large and small including Laguna, Moctezuma, Coyamito, Crazy Lace, and Agua Nueva. **Queensland Agate** unpolished halves, **Lake Superior Agate** rough and polished, **Fairburn Agate**, **Botswana Agate**, **Texas Plume**, **Rhodochrosite**, **Apache Agate**, Hundreds of pounds of Polished Brazilian Agate pairs halves and slabs. **Oregon Thundereggs** polished pairs and halves. **USA Agates**: Texas, Utah, Alaska, California, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon, Washington, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, among others. Polished **Iris Agate**, Dozens of hand polished **Agate Spheres**, **Mason Creek Fossils**, Numerous rare **Invertebrate Fossils**, Quality **Mineral Specimens**, **Tri State Specimens**, many quality **Blue Celestite** Specimens from Nebraska. **Gold Specimens**... Many other gemstones too numerous to mention! Photos & listings will be posted on our web site for both days.

Location to be determined...follow website for details

Phone: 402-475-7312 Website: www.fordfordauctioneers.com or www.fordford.net

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LICENSE PLATE FOR ROCKHOUNDS?

by Richard Peterson, President

Late in 2010, the newly designed Nebraska license plates began appearing. I recognized the state bird, the meadowlark, and on the right side was goldenrod, the state flower. Hmm ... if goldenrod (Achev!), then why not the state rock, the prairie agate or the state gemstone, blue chalcedony, a.k.a. Nebraska blue agate?



I called the State of Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to quench my curiosity. Directed to the Driver & Vehicle Services Division, here is what I learned. They said the next new design would be issued in 2017, but the “public process” would begin in 2015. She wouldn’t divulge any further details. Sounded “hush-hush” to me.

In May 2009, the meadowlark/goldenrod design won an online voting competition with three other designs. How the final four designs were chosen I do not know. Could the new license plate design process already be starting? Here is my guess as to what might be happening behind the scenes.

- 2012 Do citizen groups submit ideas for what they would like to see on the new plate? Who comes up with the final four to be voted on? What is the design process?
- 2013-4 Presumably the “design team” is hard at work. Could the geology-minded community petition the DMV and show support for why the state rock and/or gemstone should be considered?
- 2015 Is this the year of the “public process” when we vote on the designs?
- 2016-17 This would be the time when the new plates are being manufactured and distribution begins.

Would our state’s gem and mineral hobbyists like to see the prairie agate or blue chalcedony in the

future? I encourage those who like this idea to call the DMV, Driver & Vehicle Services Division at 402-471-3918 and ask questions about the design process, and whether citizen groups like ours can submit their ideas (and if not, why not?) for the next new design Nebraska license plate.

Could the gem and mineral clubs in Nebraska come together and work toward this common goal? Should NAOESCI (Nebraska Association of Earth Sciences Clubs, Inc.) spearhead the effort? What better way to spark interest in what we all love than through the state license plate?

Mock-up by Sharon Marburger



LGMC IS ON FACEBOOK!

Our Facebook manager, Andrew Tiedje, is doing a fabulous job of posting links of interest on LGMC’s Facebook page. One can also find photos of field trips and other activities of the club. If you haven’t been out to visit our page, you really should! You can get there by using the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/groups/223555904325876>; or by typing it into the url address line or by searching Facebook for Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club. Hope to see you online!

PITTARDS' JUNE ROCK PARTY

Roger and Mary Pittard hosted the June Rock Party at their home on June 25th. There was lots of food, rock grinding, horseshoes, singing and gee-tar playing, and best of all, rockhunting in Roger's dump area. It really is true that one man's junk is another man's treasure. Roger also gave a tour of his outbuildings that contain his rock specimens. He made many of us drool over some of his finds.



Jim and I arrived a little late, having attended Jim's mother's funeral that morning. When we got there, several people were playing horseshoes while others sat around watching and visiting. It was a beautiful afternoon following a morning of rain.



We had brats and hot dogs, assorted salads, and even stuffed cornlillies. Flowers? You betcha! They were mighty tasty!

While some went back out to play horseshoes, others took up position behind Genies and worked on stones.



Photos courtesy of Jim & Sharon Marburger

The highlight of the party was when Roger's trio got together to sing and play. It was an awesome afternoon. I can't wait for the next rock party!



THE GREAT AGATE AND MINERAL LOCATER

By Jim Marburger



What is up with this picture? How is this item used in the rock hobby?

The most obvious use for this sprayer is to wet rocks. But did you know you could also use it to wash off light dirt from them to expose the colors and other clues as to what they are? Most agates and other stones reveal themselves in bright sunlight and a wet condition. I have found the 1- to 2-gallon sized sprayer to be the best size to carry to the agate beds or sand bars. When deciding what size to take, remember that a gallon of water weighs 8.5 pounds. The weight will limit how far you can, or want, to carry it. Yes, it is going to get lighter with use, but your pockets or rock bag will hopefully be getting heavier with treasures found.

I use the sprayer wand with a sweeping motion in front of me. I try to limit the motion to a 3 to 4 foot sweep. This sweeping motion helps to train the eyes to do a systematic sweep of the area. Combining this with walking towards the sun to utilize all available light reflections really helps. Many times, 1 gallon of water will provide 1 to 2 hours of collecting time, depending on use. A trip back to the car to empty the collection bag or to get lunch is a good time to reload the sprayer with water.

If collecting on or near a river and the water in the river is fairly clean, it can be used. If silt is present in the water, it could clog the adjustable sprayer tip. The tip on this type of sprayer can be taken apart and a light squirt will usually dislodge the plug. Reinstall the tip and continue collecting.

For safety's sake, mark the sprayer as a rock washer or agate locator so it is not accidentally used for chemicals.

This sprayer also works great when digging crystals like the hourglass selenite near Jet, Oklahoma. This location requires more water than does agate hunting, so one will want to carry extra water and some additional equipment. A wagon to carry the extra equipment such as a shovel, boxes for laying out crystals, food and drink cooler, tarps, and sun screen, is almost a necessity.



I am ready to go collecting on the salt plains with my agate and mineral locator.

With the hole dug, it is time to start washing the sand away to expose crystals. And now the agate and mineral locator is a crystal locator as well!



Good luck and have fun with this new hobby tool. May this common sprayer help you to bring home the big ones!

Photos used in this article are courtesy of Jim & Sharon Marburger

Silversmithing classes

**The Jewelry Connection Ltd.
Indian Village Shopping Ctr.
13th & Arapahoe, Lincoln**

Tuesdays

August 16, 2011

thru

October 4, 2011

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Tuition: \$100 plus \$25 supply deposit

Contact:

Jayne Beer 402-890-3307

Judith Bay 402-423-7058

or e-mail

jbeer60070@aol.com

MINERAL MONKEYS



Hello Monkeys! This month's puzzle contains minerals found around the house.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-------------|
| APATITE | GALENA | MUSCOVITE |
| BARITE | GARNET | PENTLANDITE |
| BISMUTH | GOLD | QUARTZ |
| BORAX | GRAPHITE | RUTILE |
| CHROMITE | GYPSUM | SHALE |
| CINNABAR | HALITE | SPHALERITE |
| COPPER | HEMATITE | TALC |
| FELDSPAR | LIMESTONE | WOLFRAMITE |
| FLUORITE | MARBLE | ZINC |

L	P	E	N	T	L	A	N	D	I	T	E	R	O	E
E	P	N	C	N	I	Z	A	L	C	T	T	Y	H	L
S	H	A	L	E	M	O	N	O	E	T	I	R	A	B
E	E	C	A	I	E	C	T	G	T	N	M	L	L	R
T	U	G	Y	P	S	U	M	H	C	L	A	T	I	A
I	H	T	I	L	T	E	L	I	T	U	R	S	T	M
M	E	A	R	V	O	O	D	E	C	E	F	B	E	E
O	M	G	X	E	N	U	U	T	O	T	L	I	E	T
R	A	A	D	X	E	Q	R	I	P	I	O	S	T	I
H	T	R	A	X	N	U	S	H	P	R	W	M	I	V
C	I	N	N	A	B	A	R	P	E	O	P	U	T	O
M	T	E	E	R	R	R	R	A	R	U	A	T	A	C
H	E	T	L	O	E	T	I	R	E	L	A	H	P	S
L	A	D	A	B	N	Z	T	G	O	F	P	D	A	U
N	J	G	G	F	E	L	D	S	P	A	R	E	R	M

Puzzle manually created by Sharon Marburger.

ONGOING PROJECTS / EVENTS

SPECIMENS FOR SCHOOLS

We are still collecting samples for the Lincoln Public Schools' (LPS) 5th grade science classes. The requested specimens are to be 1 to 2 inches in size, and 12 to a bag. If possible, a minimum of 12 bags are requested per specimen. (To help with the confusion, this would be 144 pieces of any one specimen.) The bagged specimens are to be given to Vera Lyman for delivery to the LPS contact. The list of requested specimens is below:

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Quartz | 13 Obsidian |
| 2 Feldspar | 14 Pumice |
| 3 Mica | 15 Sandstone |
| 4 Calcite | 16 Shale |
| 5 Halite | 17 Limestone |
| 6 Talc | 18 Chalk |
| 7 ----- | 19 Coal |
| 8 Pyrite | 20 Marble |
| 9 Copper Sulfide | 21 Slate |
| 10 Sulpher | 22 Quartzite |
| 11 Granite | 23 Petrified Wood |
| 12 Basalt | 24 Fossil Gastropods |

HOBBY FUN

Would you like to have some hobby fun? Consider hosting a monthly Rock Party. It doesn't matter where you hold it. All you have to do is set the date and time, provide place settings for the potluck, and have areas to work in and chairs or floor to sit on. Let a Board Member know if you are interested in hosting.

Still Available in 2011:

September, October, November, December

ON THE HUNT

The Club Library is missing the following issues of the *Lapidary Journal*:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1960 - February | 1978 - March |
| 1968 - April | 2002 - May, June |
| 1969 - April | 2006 - April |

If you spot any of these issues, please purchase them and let Wooly, Judy Cropp, Vera Lyman, or Sharon Marburger know. You may donate them or be reimbursed.

J J & L Rocks & Minerals

P.O. Box 68
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Property	James Marburger
Refreshments / Door Prizes	Mary Pittard
Scholarship	Vera Lyman
Show—2012	Ed Dvorak
Swap—2012	Richard Peterson
Website	Jim Atkins
Youth Activities	Stella Thiessen
	Vera Lyman
	Kay Jurgens

ADVERTISING, SUBSCRIPTION, AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Advertising by rock / hobby business or interest is permitted with the approval of the Board of Directors. Contact the Editor with your proposed ad. The rate is set at \$20.00 per full page; \$10.00 per 1/2 page; \$5.00 per 1/4 page (minimum) per issue, paid in advance to the Club treasurer. Ads will be placed throughout the newsletter as space permits.

Subscription to the Pick & Shovel is \$15.00 per year for mailed copy.

Membership dues for the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club are as follows:

- Adults (age 16 and over) - \$15 per year or \$25 per couple (within the same household)
- Juniors - \$2 per year (with a responsible adult)

All new memberships must be accompanied by a written application. Prospective members must gain Board approval and attend one regular meeting before being approved for membership.

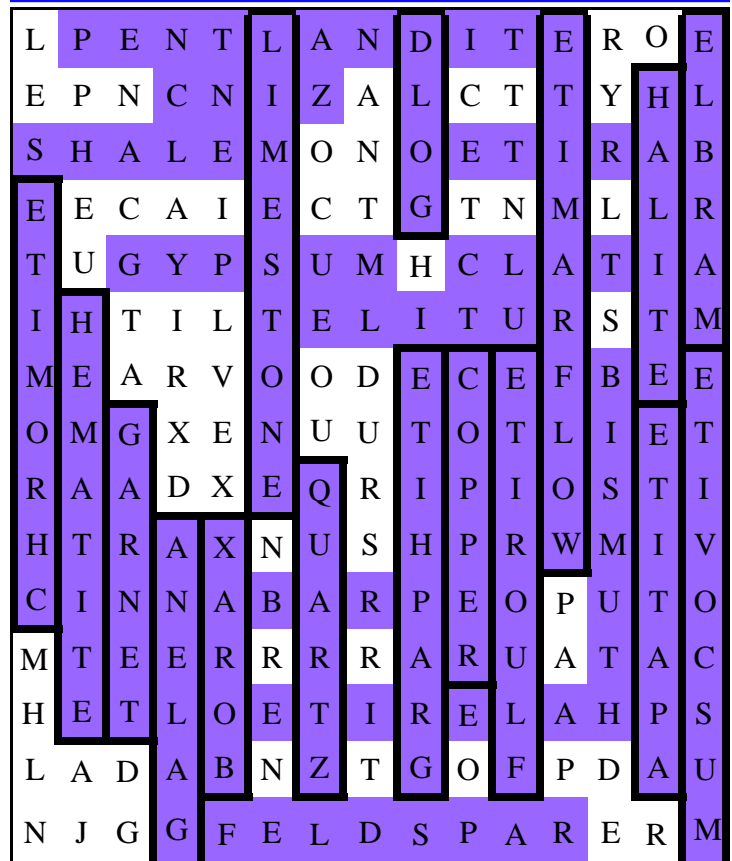
LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1 year	Edward Ridge
	Robert Cropp
2 years	Charles Wooldridge
	Sharon Marburger
3 years	Vera Lyman
	John Harrison

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

3 years	Brad Nielsen
	Roger Pittard
2 years	Robert Cropp
	Judy Cropp
1 year	Vera Lyman
	Edward Ridge

Answers to Mineral Monkeys' puzzle



Mail Exchange Newsletters to:
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 5342
Lincoln, NE 68505-0342
Or e-mail newsletters to:
lgmsecretary@yahoo.com

PICK & SHOVEL

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A special thanks to this month's contributors:

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