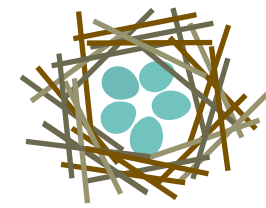




Lily on Dolph Lake – photo by Callum Gray

Could there be a more lasting way to make a difference than a legacy of permanently protected farmland, fields, streams, prairies and waters? By including Legacy Land Conservancy in your will or estate plan, you are helping to leave a legacy for future generations.

If you would like more information on making a bequest, please contact your attorney. Please give us a call and let us know if you are planning on including us in your estate plans. Susan Cooley, 734. 302.5263 or cooley@legacylandconservancy.org



LEGACY

Land Conservancy Journal



Photo by Paul Morrison

A publication of Legacy Land Conservancy • Volume 12 • Number 2 • Autumn 2013

ANNUAL REPORT

Year in Review

By Susan Lackey, Executive Director

Thoreau said, “Convince me you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders.” With your help, we sow seeds daily. The projects you hear about - acres protected, species preserved - are the fruits of those seeds. In this review, we focus on the seeds themselves. For each hour we spend working with an individual landowner, we spend 20 to make sure the landowners know their options, laying the groundwork for partnerships, and doing the long-term follow up.



Here are some of last year’s seeds.

- We completed the first projects in cooperation with **Washtenaw County’s Natural Areas Preservation Program’s Farmland Program**. For the first time, a consistent source of funds is available to help farmers everywhere in Washtenaw County protect their land and pass it on to a new generation. Last year, we were able to return nearly **\$1.00 in federal funds for every \$1.00 of county**

- funds spent**, making sure your local dollars go even further.
- Working with the Huron River Watershed Council and five other conservancies in southeast Michigan, we are laying the groundwork to launch a **focused effort to protect the Huron River**. This long term initiative marks a new collaboration of southern Michigan’s conservancy community, and we are proud to have taken a leadership role in its development.

continued on page 2

Inside

Year in Review	1,2
Far Country	2
Across the Board	3
Student Conservation Corps	3
Clean Water and Agriculture	4
Legacy Events.....	4
Treasurer’s Report	4
Financial Report	5
New Lands Protected	6,7
Legacy Supporters.....	8-11
Planned Giving.....	12



Morning Hay Bales - photo by Paul Morrison

Far Country

By Adam Smith
Legacy President



The primary purpose of an annual report is to reveal where an entity has been. For Legacy Land Conservancy, whose mission is to protect 25,000 acres forever, the annual report also provides an opportunity to focus on how we will continue to move forward toward our ultimate goal.

The 2012-13 fiscal year saw us raise the bar by surpassing our 5,000 acres protected mark. Six additional properties were protected. These projects included conservation easements on large farmland tracts, a parcel containing habitat for the endangered Indiana bat, and extensions to existing public or protected lands. We were also the grateful beneficiaries of Dr. Rudolph Reichert's vision when he graciously donated a treasured family property for our latest fully owned preserve. Legacy also received a significant bequest from Mary Dubois which will help move us forward on projects we could not do without this gift.

These achievements came even though the economic climate remains challenging and funding from governmental agencies at all levels is harder to come by. This has accelerated our strategy of collaboration with like-minded organizations to maximize our return on available funding and resources. We are particularly excited about newly increased efforts by a network of conservancies in southern lower Michigan seeking ways to collectively advance our mission in the broader region where we all live.

We greatly appreciate your support in 2012-13 and look forward to another successful year of hard work in 2013-14.



DeVine-Koselka Farm

continued from page 1

- We are working with **Dahlem Conservancy** in Jackson County, to lay the groundwork for replicating our River Raisin and Huron River work in the **Upper Grand River**.
- We refocused much of our summer stewardship efforts toward the work needed to prepare the Reichert Preserve for public use. Our first-ever **summer stewardship crew**, along with the students from the **Summer Conservation Corps**, spent many hours on an inventory of the property, construction of a boardwalk and removal of invasive species.
- The **Photo Monitoring Corps** entered its fourth year and

continues to grow, allowing us to cost effectively visit 100% of our protected properties every year and document the natural changes.

- **In December, we completed our 100th project**, which is a milestone for Legacy.

Thoreau also said, "...I do not believe a plant will spring up where no seed has been..." Since 1971, you have helped sow the seeds we are harvesting today. With your help, clean water, working farms and natural places will continue to flourish in our community. Thank you!



Painting of the Reichert Preserve by Cathy VanVoorhis



LEGACY
Land Conservancy

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First Season with Student Conservation Corps is a Success!

By Dana Wright, Stewardship Coordinator



Dana Wright

Legacy has been working in partnership with three other conservancies, students from the Third 90 Program schools in Detroit, and college students recruited through the Michigan Colleges Foundation. Students from the Third 90 schools form the body of the Stewardship Corps, while college students selected for experience in education and the environment serve as crew leaders. Student Conservation Association (SCA), the national leader in youth service and stewardship, provides the training for both the crew and leaders, giving the partner conservancies ready-made stewardship teams and much-needed help!

This year the Corps of nine students:

- Constructed 380 feet of boardwalk for **Legacy Land Conservancy**
- Built a hiking trail for **Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy**
- Restored bird habitat with **Six Rivers Land Conservancy**
- Removed invasive species with **The Nature Conservancy**

The **Summer Conservation Corps** is the vision of **Jerrold Jung**, who funded the pilot program. His goal was to support land conservancies' long-standing stewardship needs, while giving students real job experience. The Corps also provided conservation leadership opportunities for college students and connected young people with land in a real and meaningful way.

2013 was a successful pilot year for the program. With a good list of lessons learned and ideas for expansion, we move into 2014 with our feet on the ground and our eyes open for additional funding opportunities.



Summer Stewardship Corps



2013 Conservationist of the Year: Mary Dubois, In Memoriam

Legacy names Mary Dubois as 2013 Conservationist of the year, in grateful appreciation for her generous gift to support land conservation. She knew what forever meant. She understood the difference between forever gone and forever preserved.

Across the Board

By Marty Mayo
Legacy Trustee



The **Legacy of the Land through Art** project is a mixed media juried exhibition open to artists in Washtenaw and Jackson Counties – where Legacy works. This project celebrates and explores the benefits we receive through our connections to the land around us. I hope you will visit the exhibition at **Matthaei Botanical Gardens** in Ann Arbor starting **October 12th**, running through November 10th. We will also showcase the works in Jackson County at **Sandhill Crane Vineyards February 1- March 9th**. All works will be available for purchase online. It has been such a pleasure for me to work with this remarkable art exhibition committee and the artists.

David Fischer, an engineer at QED Environmental systems is one of our selected artists. He wrote to us about his experience and I thought it was worth sharing with you. Here are some excerpts from his artist statement that I thought you might enjoy;

"When I first was selected to be a part of this project I envisioned quiet walks through wooded property, listening to birds and other nature, while contemplating the unspoiled beauty of a donated parcel. The wonderful acreage I was assigned borders US-23, so the sounds and presence of the freeway are always just on the other side of a row of pine trees. I quickly realized that this process would be very different than my initial assumptions.

"My thinking increasingly turned to Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*, where a major focus is on the dynamic change always underway in natural settings and the generation-spanning evidence that man almost always leaves behind.

"More than just protecting a single bit of land, Legacy seeks to capture and recognize the importance of slowing down the pace of development impact and also honoring the history embedded in these places."

David's comments reflect the connection art can make between people, the land and the work Legacy does. We hope you will join us in celebrating that connection at these wonderful exhibitions.

Clean Water and Agriculture

By Robin Burke, Land Protection Coordinator

Agriculture and clean water are crucial economic and natural resources that go hand-in-hand; clean water depends in part on good agricultural practices, while agricultural production depends in part on clean water. In the River Raisin watershed, Legacy is working with farmers to keep water clean today and forever.

Over 75% of land in the River Raisin watershed is farmed. The area's communities and local economies are deeply tied to this farmland. However, soil and nutrients can wash off farmland and into the river, increasing sediment loads and impairing the river's utility to agriculture and to the community.

Legacy Land Conservancy and its partners, Washtenaw County Conservation District (WCCD), and Raisin Valley Land Trust (RVLT) have received funding from the Great Lakes Commission to permanently reduce sediment loads in the River Raisin watershed. The Michigan Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)



Robin Burke

will also play an important role in assisting landowners to address resource concerns.

Legacy and the WCCD will conduct educational outreach with farmers in priority areas and refer those interested to the NRCS. The NRCS will assist farmers with planning and access to

cost-share programs that can reduce sedimentation.

Legacy and RVLT will also work with farmers interested in permanent conservation easements. Conservation easements can help keep land available for agriculture and make some sediment-reducing features of the land permanent.

As economic pressure alters land use and management practices, a concentrated effort to guide those management practices now will reduce the need to undertake more costly efforts in the future. By combining our knowledge and experience with that of local farmers, we can help ensure that three River Raisin sub-watersheds never contribute to high sediment loads in the Lake Erie basin.

Legacy Events

Legacy of the Land through Art Exhibition

This is a mixed-media, juried exhibition featuring artists from Washtenaw and Jackson Counties. All works of art are inspired by Legacy-protected properties.

Matthaei Botanical Gardens

October 12 - November 10

Thurs. to Tues. 10am -4:30pm, Weds. 10am - 8pm

1800 Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor

Free and open to the public.

Dahlem Conservancy

November - January,

Please call (517)782-3453 for dates and times.

7117 S Jackson Road, Jackson

Free and open to the public. This exhibit features a special Legacy display.

Sandhill Crane Vineyards

February 1 - March 9

Mon. through Sat. 11am-6pm, Sun. 12 - 6pm

4724 Walz Road, Jackson

Free and open to the public.

Land Partner Gathering - Stewardship Programs

March 1, 9am -12 pm

NEW, 1100 N. Main St, Ann Arbor

Legacy landowners and others

interested in mindful management of their land are invited to this potluck breakfast. Legacy is making pancakes, bring your favorite topping and/or side dish. A presentation will focus on programs available to landowners to help fund stewardship. Presentation starts at 10:00 am, be sure to come beforehand to get some pancakes! Stay after for networking with fellow landowners. RSVP to Dana at dana@legacylandconservancy.org or 734.302.5263

Treasurer's Report: 2012-13 Financial Review

by Robert Aldrich, Treasurer

Once again, Legacy Land Conservancy ended its fiscal year (as of June 30, 2013) in solid financial condition while putting donor dollars to work in land preservation and programs. Financial highlights for the 2012/2013 fiscal year include:



Robert Aldrich

- **Increase of \$232,942 in donated easements and purchased development rights, representing 255 acres of preserved land.** In addition, the 92-acre Reichert Preserve and two trade land properties (residential lots to be sold by Legacy in the future) were accepted by Legacy in the 2012/2013 fiscal year though not yet reflected in the financial statements (pending final appraisal).
- **\$1,147,807 increase in unrestricted funds to \$3,808,303.** An unexpected cash bequest totaling \$981,980 accounted for the majority of this increase.
- **83% of expenditures applied directly to land protection.** Legacy is proud of this efficient use of donors' resources.

Legacy continued its programs in the River Raisin watershed and its farmland protection program in partnership with Washtenaw County. Management and general expense continue to rise to meet these program needs and the growth of the organization.

Lastly, Legacy's Forever Fund grew to \$672,549 in 2012/2013 and provided \$21,912 in revenue support to ongoing property responsibilities. The growth and revenue generation of the Forever Fund are vital to keeping Legacy's "forever" promise and an important basis of Legacy's long term sustainability.

Pending our year-end audit by the accounting firm of Cole, Newton & Duran of Livonia, Michigan, the following financials are presented unaudited as of 6/30/13. Our completed audit will be available on our website (www.legacylandconservancy.org) in early October 2013.

Financial Report

Statement of Financial Position *Based on draft audited financial statements*
June 30, 2013 and 2012

ASSETS	2013	2012
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,531,082	\$488,523
Investments	675,603	593,306
Pledges receivable	121,500	25,000
Grants receivable	36,028	22,012
Accrued interest receivable	726	1,784
Prepaid and deferred expenses	3,170	4,604
	\$2,368,109	\$1,135,229
Fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation	412	823
Other Assets		
Preserves - Encumbered	\$1,295,150	\$1,295,150
Preserves - Unencumbered	\$2,379,853	\$2,379,853
Lands (held for sale for operations)	-	-
Easements	66	64
	3,675,069	3,675,067
Total Assets	6,043,590	4,811,119
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$31,345	\$6,135
Accrued expenses	27,082	14,259
Note payable	52,938	-
	111,365	20,394
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	241,335	280,643
Operating	1,187,115	-
Board Designated	-	-
Unencumbered Land	2,379,853	2,379,853
Total unrestricted	3,808,303	2,660,496
Temporarily restricted	157,500	209,189
Permanently restricted	1,966,421	1,921,040
TOTAL NET ASSETS	5,932,225	4,790,725
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$6,043,578	\$4,811,119

Statement of Activities *Based on draft audited financial statements*

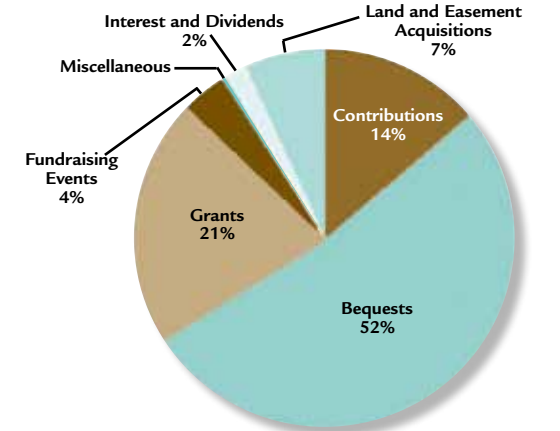
	2013				2012
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT					
Contributions	\$226,543	\$22,447	\$8,133	\$257,124	\$192,412
Bequests	981,980	-	-	981,980	-
Grants	297,613	95,083	-	392,696	201,391
Fundraising Events	71,648	-	-	71,648	9,929
Interest and dividends	817	-	26,500	27,317	14,515
Investment gains and (losses)	-	-	33,297	33,297	(27,035)
Donated easements/development rights	130,002	-	4	130,006	140,500
Miscellaneous	4,693	2,130	-	6,823	17,366
subtotal	1,713,295	119,660	67,934	1,900,890	549,078
Net assets released from restrictions	193,902	(171,349)	(22,553)	-	-
Total Revenue and Support	1,907,197	(51,689)	45,381	1,900,890	549,078
FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES					
Program services	397,030	-	-	397,030	320,614
Management & General	55,774	-	-	55,774	47,558
Fundraising	73,644	-	-	73,644	30,495
Total Functional Expenses	526,448	-	-	526,448	398,667
OTHER EXPENSES					
Loss on sale of donated land	130,004	-	-	130,004	86,884
Expense of easement/development rights	102,938	-	-	102,938	140,497
Purchase of development rights	232,942	-	-	232,942	179,840
Total Other Expenses	232,942	-	-	232,942	407,221
TOTAL EXPENSES	759,390	-	-	759,390	805,888
Net Increase (decrease) in Net Assets	1,147,807	(51,689)	45,381	1,141,500	(256,810)
Net Assets, beginning of year	2,660,496	209,189	1,921,040	4,790,725	5,047,535
Net Assets, end of year	3,808,303	157,500	1,966,421	5,932,225	4,790,725

Please visit our website at www.legacylandconservancy.org for complete audited financial statements.

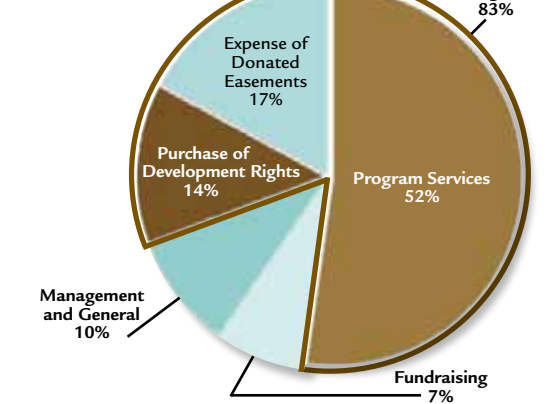


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REVENUE



EXPENSES



Protecting Nature, Food & Water, Here Where You Live

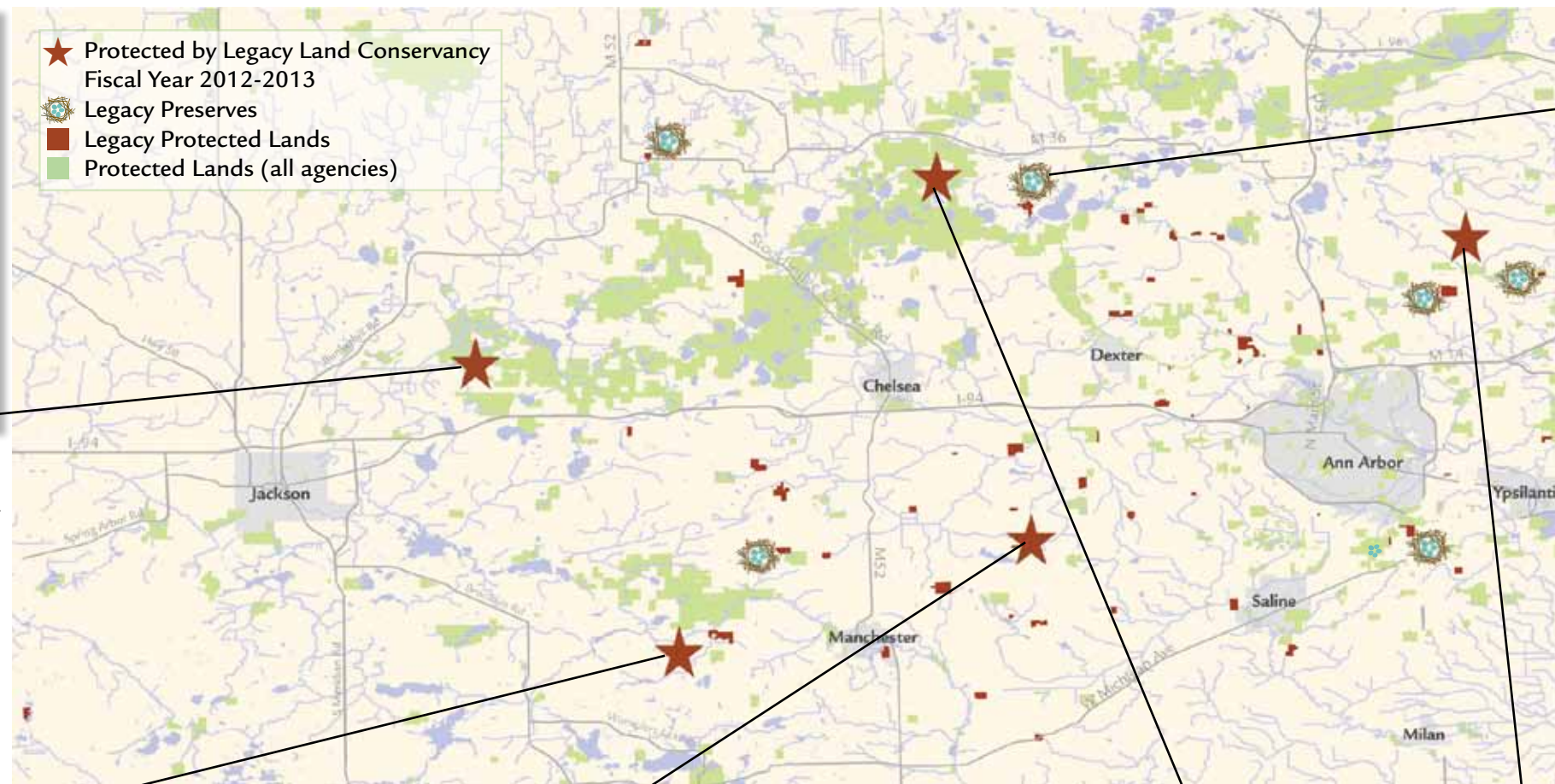
Serving Southern Michigan by protecting its forests, prairies, farms, wetlands and waters - today and forever.



▲ **Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary Addition:** Legacy assisted the Jackson Audubon Society in acquiring 48 acres to add to over 900 acres of protected woodland, grassland, and wetland. The Sanctuary hosts thousands of Sandhill Cranes that stage for migration in the wetland each fall. The new addition was also made possible through the contributions of many individuals as well as multiple Audubon Society chapters and charitable foundations.



▲ **Ron and Susan Trachet Easement:** This very special 165 acres in the headwaters of the River Raisin is home to several threatened and endangered species, including the Indiana bat, Blanding's turtle, and Massasauga rattlesnake. The wetlands on the property contribute to clean water quality in this part of the River Raisin watershed. This project was completed with the assistance of Ducks Unlimited and a 319 Clean Water Grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.



▲ **Weidmayer Farm Easement:** This 96-acre piece of Weidmayer Farms features swamp and forest land in addition to productive farmland. Protection of this land means protecting part of the area's strong agricultural history and economy as well as its natural resources.

Pinckney Recreation Area Addition: Flora Burt's wish to her heirs was that her 67-acre wooded property with its kettle lake be open for the public to enjoy. Legacy worked with the MSU Foundation and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to incorporate the land into the Pinckney Recreation Area, realizing Mrs. Burt's dream.



▲ **Reichert Preserve:** With frontage on the Portage River, this exceptional 92-acre property includes open prairie, tamarack swamp and rare prairie fen plant communities. Dr. Rudy Reichert originally protected it with a Legacy conservation easement in 2006. Now, he has graciously donated the property - long his family's private retreat - to Legacy as a preserve. In keeping with Dr. Reichert's wishes, the public will be able to enjoy wildflowers and views to water when the preserve opens in the coming months. In order to protect the quality of this land, the preserve will be open by written permission only. For permission to access this preserve please call Legacy at (734)302-5263.



▲ **Bailo Farm Easement:** Washtenaw County holds this 206-acre farmland easement through their Natural Areas Preservation Program. Legacy provides staff to the farmland portion of that program, and was instrumental in protecting this prime farmland for future generations. The easement has already enabled transfer of part of the property to a new farming generation. Additional funding for the easement was awarded by the federal Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program.

Thank You!

Legacy Land Conservancy expresses our sincere appreciation to our generous supporters in our last fiscal year, July 2012 to June 2013. Thank you for helping us protect Southern Michigan’s forests, prairies, farms, wetlands and waters -- today and forever.

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continued on page 10

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