

Predicting Gypsy Moth Defoliation in Communities

by Andrea Diss, Ph.D.
Gypsy Moth Program Coordinator
DNR Division of Forestry

The gypsy moth is well established in counties along the Lake Michigan shoreline west into the Fox River Valley, particularly in the parks and neighborhoods of cities and villages. Populations are increasing throughout this area and we can expect to see defoliation from outbreaks of this pest for the next few years. In trying to decide whether to arrange for a protective spray, it is necessary to first determine the severity of damage you can expect the next spring.

The first step is to determine the areas in town where gypsy moth is likely to first show up as a problem and where the defoliation will be most severe. These areas are those with favored host trees growing in lawns. Gypsy moths prefer to feed on oaks, crabapple, linden, birch and willow. Lawns serve to protect caterpillars from deer mice—the caterpillar’s most important predator—as the mice will rarely cross the exposed grass to hunt on infested trees. Check for



Photo by Bob Queen, DNR

A gypsy moth egg mass.

moth egg masses first in parks and neighborhoods dominated by preferred host trees and pay particular attention to oaks in picnic areas or anywhere else they are surrounded by lawn. Parks or neighborhoods dominated by maples, green ash or honeylocust will have fewer gypsy moths and will rarely be seriously defoliated by this pest.

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New Urban Forestry Technician Degree Offered

Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids has announced a new program offering—Urban Forestry Technician. This unique career program, beginning in January 2001, is a two-year associate degree program at MSTC’s Wisconsin Rapids Campus.

According to Dr. John Clark, Dean, Technical and Industrial Division, graduates of the Urban Forestry Technician program will be able to plant, prune, maintain and remove urban trees and will also be trained in tree identification, disease/insect diagnosis and treatment, hazard

tree assessment, construction management, tree preservation, urban forest inventories and management plans. “Program graduates will assume positions in utility, commercial and municipal/government tree care programs. Some graduates will work for landscape contractors, nurseries, golf courses, consulting firms and other green industry organizations,” said Dr. Clark. “The Urban Forestry Technician program will meet the expressed needs of local and statewide tree care providers for skilled technicians,” he added.

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Community Profile:

Village of Shorewood

by Kim G. Sebastian
DNR Southeast Region

The village of Shorewood, incorporated in 1900 as the village of East Milwaukee, is the fourth oldest suburb in the Milwaukee area. The first suburb north of the city of Milwaukee, it is bounded on the west by the Milwaukee River, Lake Michigan on the east, and the village of Whitefish Bay is their neighbor to the north. In the early 1900s, one of Shorewood's parks was the home of a Coney Island amusement park, including the Milwaukee Motordrome, a steeply banked motorcycle racetrack that drew noted cyclists of the day. Encompassing slightly over 1.5 square miles, the name of the village was changed to Shorewood in 1917.

Since the '50s, forestry services have been available in the community. The department of public works was 75 strong then. Because of the high percentage of elms, the community was sprayed regularly with helicopters to help control Dutch elm disease. Today, Shorewood's forestry department has evolved from staff interested in working with trees. Staff are trained in the latest tree care techniques, and work their way up through the ranks.

Other than lawn maintenance, no forestry services are contracted out, and staff are proud of that fact. Shorewood's small but efficient forestry staff of four (along with a small number of summer help) take care of all tree, shrub and flower planting, and all pruning and removals throughout the village. Similar to other community forestry programs, forestry staff assist



Photo by Robin Mueller, Village Forester

Shorewood celebrates Arbor Day at St. Roberts School with village trustee and teacher Vida Langenkamp (far right).

with snow removal, and are also responsible for sprinkler system maintenance on the boulevards.

Customer service is a top priority in the community. According to Village Forester Robin Mueller, "The department has an open-door policy to provide residents with information and tips on proper tree maintenance." Staff make sure to notify residents about newly planted trees and their care. They have also developed door hangers to help educate residents. In winter, chips are made available to residents, and in summer, when the chips are mixed with leaf matter, the material is composted.

One of the special projects in the community includes a large planting effort at Atwater Bluff on Lake Michigan. The 90-foot-high bluff is getting a major face-lift by removing undesirable species and replacing them with trees, shrubs and native flowers. This large-scale beautification/erosion protection project is expected to take several years to complete.

Arbor Day celebrations are offered to all schools in the community, and a tree is planted at each school that wants to participate in an Arbor Day ceremony.

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Community Profile:

- Tree City, USA:** 4 years
- Population:** 13,900
- Street Tree Population:** 6,450
- Street Miles:** 30
- City Maintained Areas:** 3 parks (approximately 100 acres), 12 vest pocket parks and boulevards

Program Profile:

- Department of Public Works Forestry Department:** Robin Mueller, Forestry Leader; Mike Dondlinger, Forester 2; Dave Kunze, Forester 2; Judy Bilgo, Forester 1 (Horticulturist—Parks and Boulevards)

Heavy Equipment:

- 2 bucket trucks
- 2 chippers
- stump grinder
- large loader
- dump trucks

1999 Statistics:

- Trees planted: 112
- Trees pruned: 1,600
- Trees removed: 114
- Flowers: several hundred flats

1999 Forestry and Parks Operations Budget: \$185,400



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Woman's Club of South Milwaukee Creates an Arboretum

by Kim G. Sebastian
DNR Southeast Region

Seventeen years ago, the Woman's Club of South Milwaukee identified a problem of vandalism to trees caused by young people and decided to create a program that would put a stop to the destructive behavior. They needed to bring an awareness and appreciation for trees to children in the community. Deciding to focus on fourth- and fifth-graders, Chair Mary Nelson and her Conservation Committee went to work on their new program. They began by developing special classroom materials and another new program, Recycling for Trees, to fund this new educational endeavor.

The club secured permission to plant on a piece of property located at Eighth Avenue, between Drexel and Mackinac Avenues. Framed by railroad spur tracks on one side and baseball diamonds on the other, it was covered with weeds and mud—a barren, desolate tract of land. It was perfect . . . well not quite, but the women from the Woman's Club had a vision.

Armed with that vision, the women began to visit each public school fourth- and fifth-grade classroom in the community, and it was here that the annual tree planting program to honor its students began. By soliciting donations from throughout the community, hosting several social events and by nurturing the Recycling for Trees program, the pot of money to purchase new trees began to grow, and along with it, community support.

People were beginning to take notice. City employees had assisted with the planting, but now the city



Photo by Kim Sebastian, WDNR

Fourth- and fifth-grade students from the South Milwaukee schools plant a 'Hoopsii' blue Colorado spruce, the tree they voted for in the Woman's Club's tree planting program. The tree is one of 67 in the club's arboretum.

became even more involved by upgrading and manicuring the grounds. The community recognized their new treasure, and the idea for an arboretum was born.

Childproof identification plaques were purchased to mark all of the trees. The 8-inch-square stainless steel photoengraved plaques are attached to 8-inch by 8-inch by 16-inch concrete blocks and sunk vertically into the ground near the base of the tree. The plaques identify the tree species, the year planted and the name of the donor and/or person(s) honored. An education-on-location site, more than 60 trees—approximately 45 different species—are identified in the arboretum.

The hard work, dedication and determination of these Woman's Club members was not going unnoticed. With the ground swell of local support for the project, they began receiving support and recognition from state, county and local officials. The thousands of

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Shorewood *continued from previous page*

Village trustees typically join in the festivities and provide the Arbor Day proclamation.

Shorewood benefits from an urban forestry strategic plan, developed with grant funds from the DNR. It works well and allows staff to update their computerized tree inventory on a regular basis. Staff also perform annual hazard inspections on all trees in the community. The village is on a definite upswing to get Shorewood back into a regular pruning and professional tree care operation.

Several of Shorewood's street trees (elms in particular) will benefit thousands. How, you ask? Chosen because of their great form, dozens of trees that fell into the grasp of Dutch elm disease are now in the Sesquicentennial Lake Schooner as bow hooks and planking throughout the ship. What a great legacy into the next century!

For more information, check out Shorewood's website at www.execpc.com/~shorewoo/. 🌳



Woman's Club *continued from page 3*

volunteer hours were beginning to pay off in dividends well beyond the planting of trees. Eight benches, at a cost of \$200 each, were recently donated by area businesses, encouraging more residents to use the area.

Today, almost 300 students are part of this annual program. The "tree ladies," as they are known by South Milwaukee grade-school students, visit each classroom to give a presentation on trees, and then give them a ballot to vote for their favorite tree. Ballots include a sketch and description of several types of trees. The votes are tallied and the tree getting the most votes is purchased. The students then gather at the park to plant "their" tree. Not only does this give them ownership and a sense of accomplishment, but the incidence of vandalism in the community has dropped dramatically.

This new outdoor learning site is used as a teaching tool for fourth- and fifth-graders, for botanical studies by college students and for tree identification by city

residents. Posters in each school and other public locations encourage use of the arboretum.

In 1999, the city map was officially changed to show the new Mary C. Nelson Arboretum. Residents of the neighborhood proudly say that they "live across from a park." The once desolate 2½ acres is now treed, rolling land that is increasing property values in the neighborhood.

Future plans for the arboretum include planting more trees, preparing a map, incorporating shrubs, adding decorative fencing and building a covered outdoor classroom structure. The Woman's Club was also recently honored to receive a second-place award from 64 entries in the Wisconsin Federation of Woman's Clubs' Community Improvement Program.

With a community motto of "Proud Past, Promising Future," the new Mary C. Nelson Arboretum, created by the Woman's Club of South Milwaukee, is definitely a part of a promising future by making a positive, permanent change to the community. For more information, contact Mary Nelson at 414-762-4844. 

Gypsy Moth *continued from page 1*

Egg masses are teardrop-shaped, about 1½" long and appear to be made of felt the color of a manila envelope. They are found in crevices and protected hiding spots in rough bark, on the undersides of branches, under signs attached to trees and even on buildings, play equipment, benches and picnic tables. If you find egg masses while checking the vulnerable parks and neighborhoods, you should next do a 1/40th-acre survey to determine the severity of the infestation.

HOW TO TAKE A 1/40th-ACRE SURVEY

- 1) Conduct egg mass surveys after leaves have fallen in order to get an accurate count.
- 2) Attach a rope to a stake and mark the rope at 18½ feet.
- 3) Place the stake in the ground and use the rope to describe a circle with a radius of 18½ feet.
- 4) Count all the current year's egg masses on trees or other items within the circle. Egg masses that will hatch this coming spring feel like they are full of tiny ball bearings and typically are smoother and a more consistent shade of yellowish brown. Last year's egg masses crush easily when pushed and are faded and often tattered. Use binoculars to count those egg masses high in the trees.
- 5) Take several surveys within the area of concern. Space out your survey circles so that you get a good representation of the area.
- 6) An average of 13 or more egg masses per survey circle indicates it is likely that the trees in that

area will be defoliated next June. To convert your average egg masses per survey circle to egg masses per acre, simply multiply by 40.

If old, weakened or drought-stressed trees are defoliated, the stress may eventually lead to their death. It is therefore important to maintain your shade trees in good health. If your trees are old or otherwise chronically stressed, you should consider intervening with a pesticide treatment to protect them from the further stress of defoliation by gypsy moth if the average number of egg masses per survey circle is greater than 13.

If the average is less than 13, you may consider reducing the population of the pest by killing egg masses this fall and next spring, or by putting up burlap or barrier bands and killing the caterpillars that collect under the burlap or on the bands. Egg masses can be painted with Golden Natur'1 Oil, a soybean oil-based insecticide, which kills the eggs by coating them and preventing the embryo within from respiring. Egg masses can also be scraped off into a container and killed by cooking in a microwave or by covering with a mixture of soybean or corn oil and water. Then you can seal the container and throw it in the trash. Descriptions of how and when to put up barrier and collection bands are in the publication *What to Do about Gypsy Moths in Your Backyard*. To order a copy, contact the nearest DNR service center and request it by name or by the publication number, FR 157-00. It is available at no cost. 

Annual Conference to Feature Top Speakers

Mark your calendars! The 2001 Wisconsin Annual Urban Forestry Conference will be held January 28–30, 2001 at the Regency Suites and newly remodeled KI Convention Center in downtown Green Bay. Held in conjunction with the Wisconsin Arborist Association Annual Conference and Trade Show, the conference will feature nationally known speakers from around the country.

Drs. Dan Struve – Ohio State University, John Ball – North Dakota State University, Ed Gilman – University of Florida, and Glen Stanosz and Laura Jull – UW–Madison will present their latest research on a variety of topics. In addition, speakers such as Paula Rosenthal – Montana DNR, Dennis Haugen – USDA Forest Service, Melinda Myers – Milwaukee Area Technical College and Kelly Kearns – Wisconsin

DNR will share their expertise on topics ranging from Getting the Media to Your Event, to Asian Long-Horned Beetle, to Controlling Invasive Species and more!

In addition to the speakers, the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council will be sponsoring a Wisconsin Tree Board Reception, and the WAA will have an excellent trade show lined up.

The Regency Suites room rate is 89 dollars per night, but three adults can share a room, each with their own bed, for less than 30 dollars per night. This also includes a complimentary full breakfast each morning and happy hour in the evening.

Watch for the registration flier in November and make your reservations early. You won't want to miss this conference! 🌿



Mid-State *continued from page 1*

Ron Zillmer is the program's coordinator and instructor. Prior to his arrival at MSTC, Zillmer was employed with the City of Milwaukee Forestry Division for the past nine years and most recently held the position of urban forestry manager. Zillmer was also a part-time instructor at Milwaukee Area Technical College and is an owner of a wholesale tree nursery. He earned his BS degree in urban forestry from UW–Stevens Point, and his MS degree in forestry–tree physiology from Purdue University.

In the early development stage of this program, Zillmer and Dr. Clark conducted an employer survey to assess the need for graduates from an urban forestry technician program. "Our survey revealed an immediate need for skilled technicians," said Clark. "The starting pay range listed was from approximately \$10.00–\$18.22 per hour plus benefits." The 24 employers surveyed stated they needed 473 urban forestry technicians over the next 4 years. According to Zillmer and Clark's survey findings, there are 1025 potential employers statewide for Urban Forestry Technician graduates. "All employers surveyed indicated that they have trouble finding qualified urban forestry technicians and employers said they would recruit and hire graduates of this program," said Zillmer.

Zillmer is working on a formal linkage with the Urban Forestry Degree program at UW–Stevens Point. "Dr. Robert Miller, Professor of Urban Forestry at UW–SP, is helping with curriculum development and the two-plus-two partnership between Mid-State Technical College and UW–SP to ensure transferability," said Zillmer.

Students in MSTC's Urban Forestry Technician program will be required to take the first of a three-course series focused on tree maintenance as part of the required core courses leading to the associate degree. "An aerial component is optional at the end of the first course for students who are physically and mentally capable of ascending a tree. To qualify for the second course, which is based entirely on tree climbing, students must do the aerial introductory portion of the first course. Finally, the third course in the series would involve all aspects of aerial tree rigging. Once again, students must qualify by successfully completing the second course," said Zillmer.

Zillmer said MSTC's offering of specialized training in urban forestry technology will be well received by employers throughout the state. "Over the past 10 years urban forestry has expanded dramatically in Wisconsin communities. While the DNR has successfully provided technical and financial assistance to many communities, it does not provide direct services such as management plans, tree/forest inventories, assessing tree hazards, planting, pruning, removals, etc. The success of a community's program is dependent on its ability to hire skilled technicians or contract with consultants or full-service tree companies," said Zillmer.

For more information on MSTC's Urban Forestry Technician program, contact Ron Zillmer at Mid-State Technical College, 500 32nd Street, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494. Phone 715-422-5586, email rzillmer@midstate.tec.wi.us. 🌿

Community Tree Profile:

Chinkapin Oak

(*Quercus muehlenbergii*)

by Laura G. Jull, Ph.D.
Dept. of Horticulture
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Native To: Vermont to Virginia, west to Nebraska, Mexico and Texas. Native to Wisconsin.

Mature Height: 40' to 50' under landscape conditions, but can grow up to 70' tall in the wild.

Spread: 50' to 60'

Form: Weakly rounded when young, becoming rounded and open with age. Branches grow mainly upright or horizontal, with medium to coarse texture. Often has a straight, central leader.

Growth Rate: Moderate when young, slowing with age.

Foliage: Oblong, simple leaves with coarse, round-toothed margins, tapering at both ends, reaching 4" to 6½" long. Leaves resemble a chestnut leaf and are dark yellow-green and shiny above with whitish, finely matted pubescence underneath.

Fall Color: Yellow to orangish-brown.

Flowers: Males in yellow, drooping catkins; females are inconspicuous, borne separately on the same tree in spring.

Fruit: ¾" - to 1"-long, ovoid acorn; enclosed about one-third to halfway by a thin cap. Cap has small, depressed, woolly scales. Acorns mature the first year.

Bark: Ashy-gray, rough and flaky when mature with thin, narrow scales.

Site Requirements: Chinkapin oak is a large, wide-spreading tree that is somewhat difficult to transplant. Transplant from a field nursery in spring for best survival. Prefers a rich, moist, well-drained soil but is naturally found on dry, limestone outcrops.

Tolerant to dry, alkaline soils.

Hardiness Zone: 4b to 7

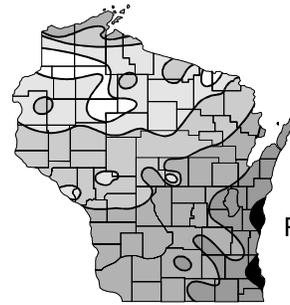
Insect & Disease Problems: Diseases and insects are seldom problems with chinkapin oak which is in the white oak group. It can develop oak wilt, but is less susceptible than trees in the red oak group. Anthracnose, gypsy moth and two-lined chestnut borer rarely occur, but can on stressed trees.

Suggested Applications: Excellent tree for large areas. Chinkapin oak makes a wonderful tree for park



Chinkapin Oak

Photo by Dr. Laura Jull, UW–Madison



Plant Hardiness Zones for Wisconsin

* Urban tree size and growth rate vary considerably and are strongly controlled by site conditions.

settings. It may be used as a street tree as it is urban tolerant, but requires a large terrace to give it plenty of room for root and stem growth.

Limitations: Difficult to transplant and transplant shock may last several years. Not as readily available commercially as other oaks. As with other oaks, it is sensitive to construction damage. To insure proper cold hardiness, select acorns from northern provenances. Acorns in fall are great for wildlife, but may be a litter nuisance.

Comments: This tree is highly underused in our landscapes. It can naturally tolerate dry, high-pH soils without going chlorotic. Its unique leaves and large crown with strong branches provide for excellent shade. Chinkapin oak has very few pest problems and is urban tolerant.

Common Cultivars: None available.

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Photo by Dr. Ed Hasselkus, UW–Madison



Leaves of Chinkapin oak.

Flooding Effects On Urban Trees

by Glen R. Stanosz, Ph.D.
Depts. of Plant Pathology and Forest Ecology and
Management,
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Heavy spring rains (especially in southern Wisconsin) and sporadic deluges during summer resulted in flooding in many urban areas this year. Immediate concerns at flooded sites include threats to human safety, interruption of utilities and other services, and damage to houses and other buildings. Trees may be largely ignored unless broken during severe storms. Flooding and waterlogging of soils, however, can have both immediate and longer-term effects on health of urban trees.

Several immediate impacts on trees can be attributed to mechanical effects associated with flooding. Rapidly moving water may scour away several inches of soil, and when water recedes, fine feeder roots may be exposed and killed. Scouring also can remove soil from around structural roots to increase the potential for windthrow. Uprooting is likely in soils that remain waterlogged and thereby are unable to provide anchoring and support. Finally, floodwaters may deposit soil over tree roots in a process called siltation.

Siltation, excessive soil water and submergence of root systems limit soil aeration. Root respiration, the



Photo by David Stephenson, WDNR

Tolerance to flooding varies widely depending on tree species, duration of saturated soil conditions, season, climate, tree age and other health factors.

normal process by which stored energy is released and made available for functions such as absorption of water and nutrients, and growth, consumes oxygen and results in the release of carbon dioxide. Flooded soil (and those with as little as three inches of added soil due to siltation) can become *anaerobic*, both due to the buildup of carbon dioxide and the inability of atmospheric oxygen to diffuse into the soil. During the growing season, fine roots can cease functioning and begin to die as a result of poor soil aeration in just several days. Most established trees are more tolerant of flooding than very young trees, and also are more tolerant of flooding when dormant than during periods of active growth.

Flooding effects on roots and soil contribute to profound physiological effects on trees. Production and translocation of growth regulating hormones from roots is suppressed. And within days to weeks, trees in flooded or waterlogged soils experience effects

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Tree Profile: *continued from previous page*

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- Trees of the Central Hardwood Forests of North America: An Identification and Cultivation Guide,** 1998, by Donald J. Leopold, William C. McComb and Robert N. Muller, Timber Press, Portland, OR.
- Trees for Urban and Suburban Landscapes,** 1997, by Edward F. Gilman, Delmar Publishers, Albany, NY. 🌿

What Damaged This Tree?

by Kim Sebastian
DNR Southeast Region



Photo by Terry Flatley, City of Kenosha, Park Div.

Turn to page 15 to find out...

Checklist of Volunteer Tasks

Concerns about how volunteers can best serve and what is best handled by professional arborists depends upon factors such as community size, availability of private sector professionals or a volunteer's skill level. Below is a portion of the National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA Bulletin No. 36's general guide listing tasks and who might best perform them. 

<i>Volunteers Work Well with Little Training</i>	<i>Volunteers Work Well with Considerable Training</i>	<i>Preferably Leave This Work to Professionals</i>
Planting seedlings	Coordinating planting projects and planting trees	Selecting proper plants to order, writing specifications and inspecting
	Pruning young trees	Pruning large trees near utilities or whenever ropes or ladders are needed
Cleaning tree wells, removing stakes and tree wrap	Weeding, mulching and restoring larger landscaped areas	Removing overgrown tree grates
	Gathering and updating inventory data	Planning an inventory and data management systems
Watering trees	Assisting with irrigation system installation	Maintaining and operating a comprehensive irrigation system
Mulching	Minor fertilization	Tree and stump removal, soil aeration and major fertilization needs
Distributing literature	Assisting in publication planning and design	Preparing educational content of literature

Coming Events

October 18—*Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council quarterly meeting*. Madison, WI. Contact Ryan Baker, 608-261-8455, bakerr@dnr.state.wi.us.

October 26—*Wisconsin Arborist Association fall seminar*. Oshkosh Park Plaza Hotel, Oshkosh, WI. Contact Bob Gansemer, 262-242-2040 or wallgans@worldnet.att.net.

November 9–10—*2000 ESRI Wisconsin User Group conference*. Radisson Inn, Green Bay, WI, highlighting the city of New Berlin urban forestry GIS project. Contact Greg Kessler, New Berlin Planning Department, 262-797-2445 or gkessler@newberlin.org or the EWUG website at: <http://www.ewug.org>.

November 9–11—*Tree Care Industry Expo*. Charlotte, NC. Contact Carol Crossland, National Arborist Association, 800-733-2622 ext. 106 or Crossland@natlarb.com.

January 28–30, 2001—*Wisconsin Annual Urban Forestry Conference and Wisconsin Arborist Association Annual Conference and Trade Show*. Regency Suites, Green Bay, WI. Contact Bob Gansemer, 262-242-2040 or wallgans@worldnet.att.net.

January 28, 2001—*Wisconsin Tree Board Reception* (part of the Wisconsin Annual Urban Forestry Conference). Regency Suites, Green Bay, WI. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council. Contact your regional urban forestry coordinator (see page 16).



Smart Growth Legislation—What Is It?

by Kim G. Sebastian
DNR Southeast Region

In October of 1999, Governor Thompson signed Wisconsin Act 9—a comprehensive planning law. The new law requires that all programs and actions (e.g., ordinances) of cities, villages, towns and counties that affect land use must be consistent with a comprehensive plan. The plan must be adopted and implemented by January 1, 2010. This new law has been referred to as Smart Growth legislation.

The components of the law include the definition of a comprehensive plan and guidance for local land use planning efforts. The comprehensive plan must also contain a minimum of the following nine elements:

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing
3. Transportation
4. Utilities and Community Facilities
5. Agriculture, Natural and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Intergovernmental Cooperation
8. Land Use
9. Implementation

Eighteen hundred units of government will be preparing these comprehensive plans in accordance with the new Smart Growth legislation. The sharing of data will be done on a county level with local units of government. The plans could likely take two to three

years to develop and will need to consider neighboring municipalities. They must be developed with public participation and adopted as a municipal ordinance and as a whole.

Grants will be available for general planning and for specific parts of the plan. Dividends (money) will be available if municipalities have their plans adopted by 2005. Over the next 10 years, the law will likely be revised and clarified, but don't wait to start your planning until 2009!

It's time to get out your tree ordinances and take a look. There will be many eyes on them over the next several years. Now might be the time to get in those provisions that you've always wished were there—a new section on tree protection, canopy cover or perhaps permits? Planning will be on the front of many community minds. Your role as an urban and community forester is to make sure that trees and forests are a significant part of the comprehensive planning process by helping to determine future actions, activities and priorities. 🌿

“The materials of city planning are: sky, space, trees, steel, and cement; in that order and that hierarchy.”

-LeCorbusier, Swiss Architect

Events, cont.

January 28, 2001—Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council quarterly meeting. Regency Suites, Green Bay, WI. Contact Ryan Baker, 608-261-8455, bakerr@dnr.state.wi.us.

February 6–8, 2001—Trees & Utilities National Conference. Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655 or conferences@arborday.org.

February 23, 2001—The Practice of Restoring Native Ecosystems seminar. Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655 or conferences@arborday.org.

March 26–28, 2001—Building with Trees National Conference. Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655 or conferences@arborday.org.

May 1–3, 2001—Urban Wildlife Management Conference. Lied Conference Center, Nebraska City, NE. Contact the National Arbor Day Foundation, 402-474-5655 or conferences@arborday.org.

August 12–15, 2001—International Society of Arboriculture Annual Conference. Hilton Hotel, Milwaukee WI. Contact ISA, 217-355-9411 or isa@isa-arbor.com. 🌿

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If there is a meeting, conference, workshop or other event you would like listed here, please contact Dick Rideout at 608-267-0843 with the information.

Urban Wildlife Grants Available

by Ricky Lien
DNR Urban Wildlife Specialist

Nothing comes cheap and that includes urban wildlife management. At least that's true when dealing with urban deer and urban Canada geese. Helicopter surveys of deer populations this past winter cost \$600 an hour. A gallon of goose repellent chemical can cost over \$90 and will only treat a small area. Even a simple balloon device designed to scare birds away— basically a beach ball with some scary decals on it— costs over 40 dollars. And the costs to implement urban deer or Canada goose management are the responsibility of the affected municipality. This is yet another cost that city officials have to find a way to pay for out of finite budgets.

There is one source of financial help and that's the Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control grant program (UWDAC). Created by the Wisconsin legislature at the same time they created the job I currently fill, UWDAC grants are available to help urban areas develop wildlife plans to manage urban deer or geese or to implement specific damage abatement or control practices. To help you learn more about UWDAC grants here are some frequently asked questions and answers.

Q: Who can apply?

A: Any city, village, town, county or tribal government in an urban area, as designated in s. 86.196(1)(c), Wis. Stats. You can contact me at 414-263-8622 or lienr@dnr.state.wi.us and I'll help you figure out if you live in a designated municipality.

Q: How much money is available?

A: About \$35,000 is available this year for statewide disbursement. A maximum of \$5,000 can be awarded to an applicant.

Q: How much of a recipient's costs can be reimbursed?

A: Recipients may receive reimbursement for up to 50 percent of eligible costs. Again, \$5,000 is the maximum reimbursement.

Q: What can be done with the money?

A: Any of the following:

- develop a wildlife plan
- monitor wildlife populations and establish population estimates
- remove deer under a department-approved project using sharpshooters

- trap and translocate deer and geese
- implement managed hunts
- remove resident Canada geese by methods approved by the DNR
- perform required health and tissue sampling
- process, distribute or dispose of geese or deer to a charitable organization
- modify habitat
- implement any other wildlife control or damage abatement practices approved by the DNR

Q: How do I apply?

A: Contact Jan Libby at 608-267-0800. She handles the administration of these grants and can send you application information and materials.

Q: When are grant applications due?

A: Completed applications are due by December 1, 2000.

Q: When will it be determined who will be awarded grants?

A: We hope to notify applicants by the first week of January 2001 regarding the status of their applications. Successful applicants will then be sent a grant agreement to be signed.

Q: How does a municipality that is awarded a grant receive the funds?

A: This is a reimbursement grant. That is, the municipality conducts the activity, then is reimbursed by the DNR for up to 50 percent of the eligible costs. Municipalities may request up to half of the grant award at the time the grant agreement is signed.

Q: How likely is it that I will receive a grant?

A: This depends on the quality of your application and the total number of applicants. In the first year of this grant program (1999), eight municipalities submitted grant applications seeking \$29,630. The number of applicants is expected to increase. ❁



Award Nominations Requested

Urban Forestry Council Awards:

The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council is seeking nominations for the 2001 Wisconsin Urban Forestry Awards.

There are three award categories presented by the council. The **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes individuals for their outstanding contributions to urban forestry in Wisconsin. The **Project Partnership Award** recognizes outstanding projects that have developed new partnerships in urban forestry. Finally, the **Long-Term Partnership Award** recognizes the work of groups that have established long-term working partnerships that provide new means of providing service to the urban forest.

Nominations should include:

- name, address and phone number of the individual/organization being nominated
- project name, if applicable
- name, addresses and phone number of persons to be contacted regarding the nomination

- a description of the merits of the individual or the achievements of the project or partnership. Include the goals/objectives of the project and detail the outcome or impact the action had on the community. Why do you believe this nominee is deserving of the award? Feel free to attach any supporting documents (news clippings, photos, letters, etc.) that strengthen the nomination.

Nominations should be sent to Dick Rideout, WDNR Forestry, PO Box 7921, Madison, Wisconsin, 53707. **Nomination deadline is November 1, 2000.** This year's awards will be presented at the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Conference in Green Bay, January 28–30, 2001.

If you would like more information, please contact your regional urban forestry coordinator (see p.16) or a member of the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council.

ISA Gold Leaf Awards:

Do you know a person, group or organization that has completed an outstanding Arbor Day activity during the past year? Perhaps they were involved in an exceptional landscape beautification project. Has your local media done a great job of promoting Arbor Day and educating its audience on the importance of trees and tree care? If so, consider nominating them for an International Society of Arboriculture Gold Leaf Award. Gold Leaf Awards are given to individuals or groups in recognition of their contributions to communities, schools and others for outstanding Arbor Day activities and community beautification.

There are four award categories for Arbor Day activities:

- Individual
- Municipal Program
- School/Educational Program
- Media

There is also a Gold Leaf Award for recognition of an outstanding example of community beautification through tree planting and care not associated with Arbor Day.

Submit nominations by November 1, 2000 to Marcia Wensing, 4950 Memco Lane, Racine, WI 53404. Please include your name and phone number, the category for the nomination, a one-paragraph description of the project, a contact person with

phone number, and supporting information such as press releases, newspaper articles, programs, etc. These awards will be given out at the DNR Urban Forestry Conference/Wisconsin Arborist Association Annual Conference and Trade Show in January, 2001.

Deadlines and Datelines

Wisconsin DNR 2001 Urban Forestry Grant Application packets were mailed out in early August to everyone who submitted an Intent to Apply form. If you've got questions or would like a review of your application before you submit it, contact your regional urban forestry coordinator (see p. 16) for assistance. **Final grant application deadline is November 1, 2000.**

Alliant Energy and Trees Forever's Plan Before You Plant 2001 Community Tree Grant Program provides grants up to \$5,000 to communities in the Alliant Energy service territory in Wisconsin to plant low-growing trees under or near overhead electric power lines. Contact Jeanne Rabuck at 800-862-6222 for information. **Grant applications must be postmarked no later than December 8, 2000.**

Global ReLeaf Forest Ecosystem Restoration is a grant program of American Forests, a nonprofit conservation organization. Grants are provided for tree planting and reforestation projects on public lands. For more information on the program, contact Bill Tikkala biltik@amfor.org or 202-955-4500 ext 204 or visit <http://www.americanforests.org>. **Project submission deadlines are January 1 and July 1.**

MacKenzie Environmental Education Center

By John Van Ells
DNR Southeast Region

There is one thing that is very certain...We cannot upset to too great an extent the works of The Almighty and expect to continue to have the natural resources that we originally had when this earth was first created.

-H. MacKenzie, 1938

Welcome to an adventure in environmental education! Whether you are eight or eighty, whether you stay for a few hours or at the resident center for a few days, you will take from here a better understanding of your place in the environment and an increased awareness of the need to manage and protect.

The MacKenzie Environmental Center had its beginnings in 1934 when H.W.

MacKenzie (Wisconsin Conservation Department Director, 1933–1942) discontinued several small, scattered game farms and moved operations to Poynette, Wisconsin. Here the Wisconsin Conservation Commission established the State Experimental Game and Fur Farm as its general game division headquarters. Much of the construction was done with the assistance of WPA labor. From chicken coops and cluck hens used to incubate and raise pheasants, the farm grew to become what was called by many the greatest game farm in the world. The game farm attracted many curious visitors who wanted to learn more about conservation. Since that time these facilities have been open to the public for learning and enjoyment.

In 1971, the game farm was renamed the MacKenzie Environmental Center to reflect an expanding awareness of the total environment and to honor H.W. MacKenzie for his role in establishing this facility. The center is an outdoor classroom designed to provide groups of all ages with an enjoyable and educational experience. Teachers and other group leaders are encouraged to make use of these facilities to learn more about Wisconsin's natural resources and the many aspects of managing these resources.

The game farm itself served as a place for wildlife management education, scientific management demonstration areas, research and laboratory facilities, and a clearinghouse for confiscated live birds and animals. A zoological exhibit of 40 species of native and exotic upland and migratory birds and 20 species of game and furbearing animals was established. Many of the animals for the exhibits came from a supply of sick, injured and orphaned animals

that were brought to Poynette because of the facilities and staff. Most would not be able to survive in the wild. This exhibit drew in so many visitors that a uniformed guide service was established to provide educational tours.

Harley MacKenzie loved trees. In the late '30s and early '40s he directed the planting of an arboretum of over 700 species and varieties of trees and shrubs from around the world. Many of the trees, especially the exotics (non-natives), did not survive. Climatic conditions, soils, diseases and crowding could explain the loss of these trees. About 150 species remain today including some champion or former champion trees. State champion trees are marked with a sign on a post near the tree. Look for a numbered brass tag on each tree. This number corresponds with a list of arboretum trees. Trees with round tags are native to Wisconsin. Square tags indicate North American trees and triangular tags indicate exotic trees.

In 1986, with habitat diversity and education in mind, a small plot between the forest and parking lot in the South Trail area was planted with about 50 different kinds of prairie plants. With this area now looking like a prairie you can see different plants in blossom from May into October. In mid July, at the peak of color, it is an excellent place to observe butterflies.

Ecology, Conifer, Conifer 2, Wildlife and Hardwood are the names of the self-guiding trails located at the south end of the Center property. Trails are from ½ to ¾ miles in length, with each trail looping back to near its starting point at the parking lot. Many interesting and educational displays can be observed along the nature trail. Live deer and bison roam near the 80-foot observation tower. The tower may be climbed to the 40-foot level, which offers an interesting view of the surrounding countryside. Displays relating to Wisconsin's forests include a small model tree nursery, a large 250-year-old pine log and an old saw mill. An old log cabin turned into a logging history museum displays tools and pictures from the lumberjack days. The Aliens Museum contains pictures and mounts of animals and plants not native to the state. Albino animals and other oddities of nature are also found in this museum.

continued on next page

The Idea Exchange...

Compiled by John Van Ells
DNR Southeast Region

Trees Chipped in a Different Way

Cutting-edge technology is helping the city of **Paris, France** keep track of its prized shade trees and prevent crews from cutting the wrong ones. The city recently completed the installation of computer chips in about 9,000 trees, according to a story from the *Reuters* news service.

The chips, which measure about one inch in length, are bored into the center of the tree's trunk and left there. The chips contain an identification number for the trees that can be read with a handheld computer. The system costs the city about seven dollars per tree. *Info: Tree Care Industry, Tree News Digest, Volume XI, Number 6, June 2000.*

MacKenzie *continued from previous page*

Pines provide a cathedral-like canopy for about half of the 2,200-foot, 11-stop Conifer Trail 2. The pine-scented hushed atmosphere of this trail makes it a favorite for many. After passing along the edge of a planted prairie, this trail enters a wooded, brushy area. Demonstration bird feeders of different styles, nest boxes and a salt block are some of the interesting features along this trail. Information that corresponds with the trail stops is incorporated into the Wildlife Trail Guidebook.

Try hiking your favorite trail at different times of the year. Spring is a good time for watching birds, and many species of migrant and resident birds may be seen. Fall provides a changing panorama of color. Winter is a time for seeing animal tracks and the resident birds. Wildflowers along the trails, and especially in the prairie, change continuously from spring to fall.

The MacKenzie Resident Center provides a live-in facility, staff and field equipment for environmental education programs in an outdoor setting. Elementary, secondary and college students and other organized environmental interest groups may request use of the center's overnight facility. Facilities include two bunkhouses that sleep a total of 80 and a main lodge containing a kitchen, dining room and classrooms.

The center plans programs that emphasize hands-on learning in the out-of-doors. Staff, college students and other DNR personnel are available to assist groups with programs in resource management, environmental areas and nature studies. Some groups conduct their own program with minimal help from

Experts Agree: Don't Top Your Tree

Instead of targeting tree care companies who top trees, the **Missouri Community Forestry Council** and **Forest ReLeaf of Missouri** are focusing on the consumers of tree trimming services with a statewide campaign against tree topping. The "Experts Agree: Don't Top Your Tree" program seeks local media coverage for educational articles and public service ads. Posters, brochures and other materials for publication are provided by the group at no charge. Although the campaign is presently limited to Missouri, program coordinator Justine Gartner hopes similar statewide efforts will catch on elsewhere. The campaign is willing to share editorial and artwork with others interested in conducting similar campaigns. *Info: 877-40-NO-TOP; www.moreleaf.org.*

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Does your community or organization have an idea, project or information that may be beneficial to others? Please let your regional urban forestry coordinator know. We will print as many of these as we can.

If you see ideas you like here, give the contact person a call. They may be able to help you in your urban forestry efforts.

MacKenzie staff, while others request additional assistance.

The MacKenzie Center has an active volunteer program. People of all ages share their experiences, skills, talents, and time without financial compensation. Their contributions, efforts and dedication are making programs and services that would not otherwise be provided available to Center visitors. Volunteers are involved in a wide range of activities including maintaining bluebird trails, boiling maple sap, teaching students, prairie seed collecting, weeding prairies, cutting out non-native trees and shrubs, and developing educational displays. Most volunteers are also "Friends."

The Friends of the MacKenzie Center is a support group whose purpose is to encourage, perpetuate and promote the work of natural resource and conservation education at the Center and in Wisconsin. The Friends sponsor events for members and interested persons throughout the year and are involved in projects for the benefit of the center. Currently the Friends are supporting prairie plantings and the improvement of the staff reference library. Many Friends are also volunteers and help with projects such as teaching and seed collecting. Friends of MacKenzie, W7303 County Highway CS, Poynette, Wisconsin 53955. Contact the MacKenzie Center at 608-635-8110.



Friend and volunteer Barney Lohan teaches students during the annual maple program.

Urban Forestry Council in 2000-2001

*by Chris Giese, Chair
Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council*

On July 18th, all council members were invited to attend the quarterly council meeting in Rivers Falls, home to Roald Evensen. Roald has chaired the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council for the past two years, and opened his lovely country home to guests. Roald has a great desire to preserve green space. To prove it, he has created a wonderful 14-acre prairie. He also is in the process of remodeling his country home and creating a very woodsy atmosphere. All present enjoyed the company and setting. Thanks Roald.

The next day, council members met at UW–River Falls for our meeting. Roald led the meeting for one last time before turning it over to me for the next two years. Just to tell you a little bit about myself. I live in Theresa, which is located between Fond du Lac and Milwaukee. It is a small village of about 1100 people. I am serving my third term as village president. I am also a certified arborist and forester for the village. I have developed a tree board and we have been following a five-year management plan to develop,

expand and maintain Theresa's urban forest. This interest is what has sparked my involvement with the council and my willingness to be a part of what I consider a real honor and opportunity to be involved in Wisconsin's urban forests.

There are several projects the council will be involved in this year. We are currently working with the International Society of Arboriculture on the 2001 *Tour des Trees*. This is a bicycle tour that raises funds for tree research. The tour will run about 600 miles from Minneapolis to Milwaukee through four states—Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, August 5–12, 2001. It will conclude on the opening day of the ISA's annual conference which will be hosted by the Wisconsin Arborist Association in Milwaukee, August 12–15, 2001. The council will be supporting the ride and helping to develop public awareness opportunities along the route.

The council will also be involved in supporting issues at federal, state and local levels. The council is voicing concern to the UW–Madison administrators that "cluster hiring" in urban ecology is a vital piece to our current system. Council members are providing timely communication through letter writing.

continued on next page

2000 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners



Photo by Bob Queen, DNR

Wonderful memories for teachers and their students at the 2000 Statewide Special Achievement Ceremony. This special ceremony at the state capitol, in celebration of Arbor Day, honors the winners of the state-wide Fourth Grade Forest Appreciation Writing Contest and Fifth Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest. From left to right (first row): First Place, poster, Evan Laurie, West Salem Elementary School, West Salem; First Place, writing, Grace Mitchell, Salem Grade School, Salem; Third Place, writing, Emily Oradei, Central Elementary, Rhinelander; Third Place, poster, Kathryn Vander Velden, Our Lady of the Lakes, Random Lake; Second Place, writing, Holly Hartung, St. John Grade School, Menasha; Second Place, poster, Amy Skora, Yahara Elementary, DeForest. Teachers (second row) Mr. Ryan Johnson of West Salem Elementary School; Mr. Tom Doyle of Central Elementary and Ms. Cindy Buchta of St. John Grade School. 🌿

Council News *continued from previous page*

Council member Wayne Glowac, representing the Wisconsin Builders Association, is working closely with the council on a Forest Service grant to the Wisconsin Builders Foundation to develop urban forestry public relations training for Wisconsin builders. This is a great opportunity to get information on planting and care of trees to a large number of people. Also, during December, the council will have a display space on "Building with Trees" at the Builders Association Trade Show in Madison.

The council will take an active part in this year's statewide urban forestry conference, including the Sunday evening Wisconsin Tree Board Reception. The reception's objectives/challenges include:

- promoting interaction and communication between tree boards in Wisconsin
- developing a support/resource network for newly forming as well as existing tree boards in Wisconsin

- promoting/enhancing/encouraging communication between tree boards independent of the annual meeting

The evening will feature Paula Rosenthal, Montana's state urban forestry coordinator and a radio disc jockey, who will educate, inspire and entertain us. We will create a list of tree board chairs to provide a forum for the transfer of ideas and support. We will also look toward developing a means of communicating successful ideas to new tree boards, making them more productive in accomplishing their goals. The reception will be January 28, 2001, the first day of the annual urban forestry conference.

The council is looking towards being more visible as our projects proceed. We are always open to new ideas and concerns. I look forward to being a part of this group for the next two years. 🌳

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Flooding Effects *continued from page 7*

similar to those of DROUGHT! Diminished root function results in internal water shortage, stomatal closure, decreased photosynthesis and reduced translocation. Wilting of foliage and death of trees can result, even after water subsides, if the damaged root system is no longer able to meet the transpirational needs of the crown. Other soil-related effects on tree health also result from flooding. Because of reduced uptake by roots, nitrogen deficiency can develop, and as mycorrhizae are affected, uptake of other nutrients (especially phosphorus) can be reduced. Soil iron and manganese are reduced to soluble, toxic forms and other toxic metabolites of microorganisms and plants, such as methane, sulfides and ethanol can accumulate.

Tree species vary widely in their ability to tolerate flooding and waterlogging. Characterization of tolerance is complicated, because responses differ depending on the duration of saturated soil conditions, season, climate, tree age and other health factors. Species that occur in Wisconsin's urban and suburban areas that are generally considered somewhat tolerant of flooding include honeylocust, green and white ashes, boxelder and red maple, hackberry and elms, eastern cottonwood, some viburnums, and black willow. Hickories and white, red, and black oaks, and black cherry are very intolerant.

Without controlling weather, are there measures that managers of urban trees can employ to reduce damage from flooding? Obviously, proper selection and deployment of species is important, and trees that are intolerant of flooding should not be planted in areas where this is likely. Investments made at the time of planting, to include excavation of proper

planting holes and use of adequately draining fill soil, may help trees that may later be subjected to flooding. Because vigorous trees tolerate flooding better than those that are already stressed, other practices that maintain good health will yield additional benefits when flood waters rise. And after flooding, careful observation and employment of measures to protect trees from opportunistic insects and pathogens (such as borers and root disease and canker fungi) are advised. Finally, "tree people" can consider actively advising planners and land managers whose decisions will ultimately affect tree health. Careful attention to how development influences runoff and accumulation of water in urban and suburban areas may pay great dividends in avoiding damage to trees from flooding and waterlogging. 🌳

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From page 7 -

What Damaged This Tree?

*by Kim Sebastian
DNR Southeast Region*

Answer: Once a 12-inch-diameter 'Greenspire' littleleaf linden, this tree (along with several other of its streetmates) suffered fatal storm damage in June of 1998. When you look at what is left in the ground, a "cup" of the root collar is left and the only thing that was holding the tree up was a small spire of wood in the center of the tree. Together with graft incompatibility, socket failure and girdling roots, this tree didn't stand (literally) much of a chance against the storm. 🌳



Photo by D. Stephenson, WDNR

Do you have pictures of tree damage others ought to know about? Send them to Kim Sebastian (address on page 16) and we'll print them here!



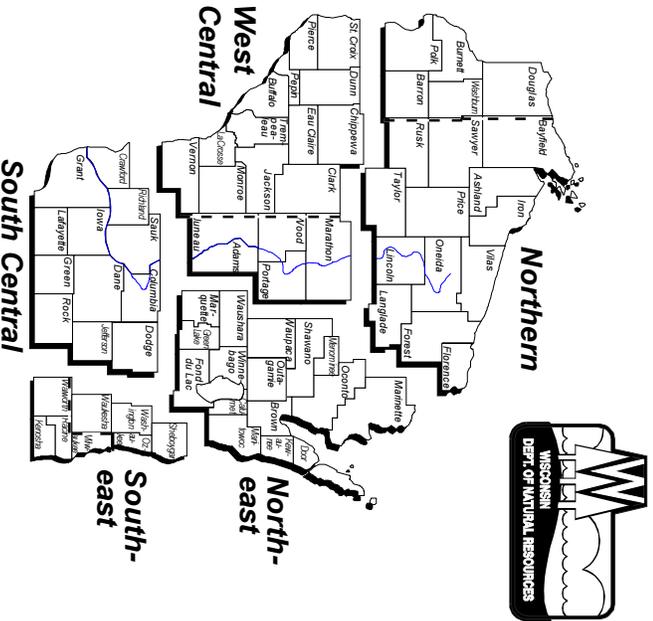
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 Bureau of Forestry
 P.O. Box 7921
 Madison, WI 53707

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