The Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame

May 14, 2009

Alabama Farmers Federation

Montgomery, Alabama
The Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame

The Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame recognizes individuals and organizations that have had a significant impact on the 4-H Youth Development program, its members and leaders. The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. and Alabama 4-H honors, remembers and pays tribute to those who have influenced the lives of Alabama youth by their commitment “To Make The Best Better.”

**Master of Ceremonies**
Jeff Helms
Communications Director, Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama 4-H Alumnus

**Welcome**
W. Gaines Smith
Director
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

**Recognition of Inductees**
Jeff Helms

**Closing Remarks**
C. Lamar Nichols
Assistant Director, 4-H and Youth Development
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

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**Previous Inductees**

Many deserving and distinguished individuals and organizations have been inducted into the Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame:

- Alabama Farmers Federation
- Alabama Power Company Foundation
- Helen Bauer*
- David Carpenter*
- Barbara Cherellia
- Boyd Christenberry
- Malta F. “Scooter” Connors*
- Marjorie S. Day
- Debter Farms
- L.A. “Tony” Dozier
- James R. Edwards
- W.A. “Dub” Ellis Jr.
- Gwinn Ezell
- Thelma* & John Gottler*
- Addie Green
- Audrey Gruenewald
- Terrell and Anne* Guthrie
- Alice Heard
- Angela G. Hughes
- John E. Jones
- Alabama representatives also honored in the National 4-H Hall of Fame:
  - Ann Barr
  - Tom Burnside*
  - Thomas M. Campbell Sr.*
  - George Washington Carver*
  - Bertha M. Jones
  - W. D. “Demp” Jones
  - Cecil Mayfield*
  - Lem Morrison*

* deceased
Sue Wills
DeKalb County 4-H Volunteer

Sue Wills has been involved in DeKalb County 4-H for more than 40 years. As a teacher in Ruhama School in Dogtown, Ala., she served as the 4-H volunteer and coordinator for the school.

Wills’ name is synonymous with 4-H throughout the county. Everyone has a story about her helping them complete a record book, construct a project, practice a speech or select the special photo to enter the contest. 4-H members under her leadership received state and national awards.

She served on the board of the Alabama 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association. She assisted with planning many of the Alabama forums and attended the Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Forum.

Wills continues to substitute at Ruhama and encourages 4-H youth. The cast-iron school gates hold a 4-H clover to remind the students “To Make the Best Better” everyday as they pass through.

Nominated by Angela Dodd

Inductees

Alabama Cattlemen’s Association
Corporate Partner and Donor

Founded in 1944, the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association (ACA) serves as the combined body of more than 12,000 members and as Alabama’s qualified state beef council. The ACA serves as the voice of the state’s cattle producers and beef industry.

The ACA has a long-standing tradition of supporting the Alabama 4-H program at the local, regional, state, and national levels financially as well as programmatically. The association financially contributes thousands of dollars annually to support the Southeastern Livestock Exposition and Rodeo, which house the State Livestock Expo for 4-H youth. In addition to facilities and premiums, the association provides volunteers and subject matter expertise to the event.

A continued emphasis on educating 4-H youth in the area of animal science and production agriculture can be demonstrated by the association’s continued support of the 4-H Achievement program in Beef Production and Meat Science.

Nominated by the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

Joe Ann Arthur*
Clarke County Extension Coordinator

Joe Ann Arthur dedicated her life to the Alabama 4-H program and her entire 30-year career in Extension. She was a Mississippi 4-H alumna with projects in clothing and foods programs. She was a hard-working and dedicated agent in everything that she aspired to do for the citizens of Clarke County. She secured funds to help sponsor 4-H achievement and educational programs and to provide needed funds for 4-H’ers to attend numerous local, state and national trips. In addition to
securing the funds from other resources, Arthur contributed her own funds and personal time to help her 4-H’ers succeed in whatever endeavor they desired.

“I myself am a product of her work and accomplishments,” said Wendy Padgett, 4-H regional Extension agent. As a 4-H youth, Arthur guided Padgett in electric appliance care, child-care programs and AMP Camp.

Arthur was one of the first Extension staff members to partner with agencies to bring experiences to youth and families. With Clarke County Public Health, she developed a series of lessons on fitness and nutrition. These were taught in after-school settings as part of the 4-H Club program. Staff from the health department worked with the teachers in setting up practical classroom experiences for the youth.

Today, Padgett is following Joe Ann Arthur’s footsteps in Clark County and the surrounding areas as she works with 4-H members and their families. “I love you Miss Arthur and I hope that you and your efforts will be remembered forever through the Alabama 4-H Wall of Fame!”

Nominated by Wendy Padgett

Roger H. Bedford Jr.
Franklin County 4-H Supporter

Roger H. Bedford Jr. represents Franklin County as part of his Senate district. Bedford has always shown support of Franklin County 4-H and wants the program to remain active in the community. He realizes the great impact 4-H has on the youth of the county and across the state. He understands the importance of agriculture and competitive events, such as Blocks Rocks! and eXtreme Birdhouse, and the significance of individual youth development 4-H teaches through the BIG M: Belonging, Independence, Generosity and Mastery.

Franklin County 4-H’ers have been able to attend Citizenship Washington Focus, Midwinter Teen Leader Retreat, 4-H Enrichment Tour and 4-H Football Day through the support of Bedford.

Wardrup won the NAE4-HA Distinguished Service Award. Since her retirement, she has stayed active in volunteer activities. Currently, she is co-leader of a Junior Master Gardener Club.

Wardrup went out of her way to make sure everyone in 4-H learned, had a good time and felt better about themselves.

Nominated by Mary Massingill

Ronny Williams*
Talladega County Extension Agent

Ronny Williams began his Extension career in Butler County before transferring to Talladega County in 1990. His enthusiasm for youth made him successful. 4-H Natural Resources was his passion.

While in Butler County, Williams had a state-winning Wildlife Judging Team that went on to place second at the National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation. Once in Talladega County, he assisted 4-H members with livestock and natural resources projects. In 1997, the Forestry Judging Team won both state and national honors. The 2001 team, including sons Jimmy and Patrick, again won state and national honors.

When asked what 4-H was all about, Williams replied, “Shaping and molding young, impressionable minds.” That was his career goal.

Williams’ input began the first Natural Resources Camp. He was instrumental in outdoor classroom programs held at Lake Chinabee in Talladega County. Hundreds of school children have benefited.

Ronny Williams received the Distinguished Service Award in 2002 from the National Association of County Agriculture Agents.

Nominated by Kim Good

* deceased
After serving in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Army, he returned home to help his father run the farm and mule business. After his father’s death, he moved the family business to Montgomery where the Trotman Cattle Company became a nationally renowned cattle order buying enterprise.

Trotman served in many offices within the cattle industry, including president of the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association in 1966 and the National Cattlemen’s Association president in 1972. He is known for his energy, charm, diplomacy and vision for the cattle industry.

He continues to be involved in community and charity organizations and has given his support to Alabama 4-H and youth organizations. Trotman believes that young people will continue to build the cattle industry to make a better future for Alabama.

Nominated by the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association

Patricia Bryant
Sumter County 4-H Volunteer

Patricia Bryant grew up in the 4-H world. She was a 4-H club member and project leader. As an adult, her desire has been to serve the youth of her county in any way that she can. She has been a volunteer for 16 years.

She began a 4-H gardening program, The Garden Walking Trail, which includes a plasticulture garden and raised bed gardens. The garden project is community based and funded.

Bryant works in the 21st Century Community Learning Center, which uses 4-H as a part of the core program for students. These students participate in programs state-wide in a variety of life-skills and programs.

Bryant was recognized as Volunteer of the Year by the Alabama 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association in 2006, and she serves as the Alabama volunteer chair on the Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Forum planning committee. She is directing the Alabama host events for the 2009 volunteer forum.

She continues to be an Alabama 4-H donor and is committed to 4-H for a lifetime.

Nominated by David Perry

Annette Mehurg Wardrup
DeKalb County Extension Agent

Annette Mehurg Wardrup started her 4-H career as so many do, in her youth. Her 4-H agent, Celeste Martin, encouraged her to try many different things. She participated in every 4-H activity, eventually turning to a leadership project. She taught 80 DOT lessons to underprivileged children and wrote every state about controlling air pollution on Earth Day in 1970. She won a National 4-H Leadership Scholarship and was the recipient of the Presidential Silver Tray.

With more than 26 years as the agent in the DeKalb 4-H program, she helped many 4-H’ers win state awards in record books, clothing, foods and leadership. “She always took the time to help any 4-H’er to be the best they could be,” says Mary Massingill. “She took a unique look at my project and helped me turn my Fashion Revue project into a winning consumer education project.”

Nominated by the Alabama Cattlemen’s Association
Barbara D. Thorne*
Board Member, Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

Barbara D. Thorne served on the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation from 1994 until her passing earlier this year—a 15-year term serving interests of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation and the youth of Alabama. Thorne was instrumental in securing critical funding for Alabama 4-H youth throughout her tenure on the board, especially with the most recent Campaign for Alabama 4-H and the construction of the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center.

She will be remembered as being a lady of great faith, as having love for all people and as being a civic volunteer. She was a long-time member of First Baptist Church of Jasper and a graduate of Walker County High School. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University, where she was a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority.

Thorne was an owner and a member of the board of directors of Drummond Company, Inc., a Trustee of Samford University and a director of the Walker Area Community Foundation.

Her kind and gentle nature, humble spirit and her generosity to all provides an everlasting memorial of Barbara D. Thorne.

Nominated by the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.

John M. “Bubba” Trotman
Alabama Agriculture Producer and 4-H Supporter

John M. “Bubba” Trotman’s deep affection for agriculture began when he was a child growing up in Pike County as the son of a farmer and mule trader. He left his hometown of Troy while still a teenager when he was recruited to play football at Auburn University, where he majored in agriculture.

* deceased
Michelle L. Craig
Morgan County 4-H Alumna

Michelle L. Craig’s career in 4-H began in Morgan County in 1993. Growing up, Michelle became involved in 4-H and participated in many different activities on club, state and national levels. Her involvement in the 4-H Wildlife Club would later shape and form her career choices and aspirations.

Through 4-H, she learned the different aspects of wildlife, including habitat, food sources, management techniques and practices, and identifying marking and trails. Partly because of this, she worked hard to gain entry into Auburn University’s College of Veterinary Medicine where she is currently beginning her clinical rotations.

She was the recipient of the NAE4-HA National Team Programming Award, a rare honor. Under her supervision as a youth member, her wildlife club served as the hosts for the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Centennial Celebration, an event recognized throughout the nation that showcased the treasures of the refuge as well as the club and its achievements.

She was recognized as a Daily Point of Light in 2000 because of her work and involvement in the community as a volunteer for numerous civic and religious organizations as well as for her work in 4-H.

Because of her leadership abilities, Craig made trips to National 4-H Conference, National 4-H Congress and Citizenship Washington Focus. She served as president of the Morgan County 4-H Council and served on the State 4-H Council. She continued her 4-H service by joining and leading in the Auburn University Collegiate 4-H Club.

Her tireless efforts, selfless giving of time and energy, and her leadership are ample proof that not only did she take the values of 4-H to heart, but also helped to instill them in others, both in 4-H and in other areas of the community.

Nominated by David Self

Jack D. Smith
Extension Communications

Jack D. Smith’s Extension career covers 30 years of challenge and change across the state of Alabama. His background in journalism was with The Decatur Daily and The Montgomery Advertiser, and it was while he was working on his master’s degree that Extension approached him to work in the Communications Department.

“I remember the people and their dedication to the job,” Smith says. He conducted workshops for Extension staff on writing for newspapers and public relations efforts with the “gate-keepers” of agencies and organizations.

On an assignment to cover National 4-H Congress in Chicago, Smith realized that Alabama youth were among the brightest and most outstanding in the nation. “They were making a difference at that conference and would be leaders of the country.” The 4-H program continued to be one that used his talents in publicity.

Smith’s most satisfying moment was the dedication of the Memorial Chapel at the Alabama 4-H Center in 1991. More than 1,000 attended the event, which provided a permanent memorial to staff while also giving youth a place to reflect.

After his retirement in 1992, he worked with the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. and he has taught journalism at Auburn University for 12 years. His ties to 4-H alumni continued as they came through his classes. One of his students relates, “I learned how to be a reporter/editor … but I also learned how to work with people.”

Jack D. Smith continues to give back to Alabama 4-H and Extension.

Nominated by Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Betty H. Duncan  
*Madison County 4-H Volunteer*

Betty H. Duncan is a SPACE Teacher at the Academy of Science and Foreign Language (ASFL) in Huntsville. She has been instrumental in conducting 4-H in her classes for the past 12 years. She had to receive special training to be allowed to conduct 4-H as part of the curriculum at ASFL, receiving certification through the University of Alabama and utilizing the researched based 4-H curriculum.

With childhood obesity on the rise among young people, Duncan used the 4-H Healthy Living program to instruct the 4-H class on the value and importance of healthy and nutritious food. As part of the class, 4-H’ers prepare a dish and present a demonstration on the nutritional value.

Duncan recently visited with a student from one of her first classes. The student shared with Duncan that the information she learned in 4-H Healthy Living has helped her to lose a tremendous amount of weight and that her doctors have taken her off cholesterol medication and that her blood pressure is better. The hands-on philosophy of this class inspired this student to pursue a career as a certified dietician.

Duncan received the 2007 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award along with a $2,500 gift for supplies for her classes. She received this honor based on her commitment to youth, and she continues to serve Madison County 4-H.

*Nominated by Wanda Pharris*

Shepard continues to return her experience as a 4-H member, a 4-H mother and a 4-H agent assistant into a world of learning for Morgan County 4-H youth.

*Nominated by Sharon Fisher*

**Dan Smalley**  
*Board Member, Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.*

Dan Smalley is a full-time farmer and broiler producer. Working in Alabama agriculture, he brings knowledge of how business and industry can help the Alabama 4-H program.

Gold Kist is the only farmer-owned poultry processor in the United States. He served as Gold Kist director since 1985 and served on the executive committee since 1993. He was elected vice-chairman in 1999 and served as chairman of the board of directors of Gold Kist, Inc. in 2000.

Smalley’s membership included the Alabama Farmers Federation, the Alabama Poultry and Egg Association and the Farm Foundation in Chicago. He served as a member of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System’s Advisory Council and Agricultural Task Force.

Smalley served as a board member of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc. since 1994, where he served as chairman from 1996 to 2003. During his tenure, the board committed to its first Capital Campaign to raise funds for 4-H programming statewide and to build the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center. This new environmental education building, located at the Alabama 4-H Center, is the first gold-certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design building in the Eastern United States designed to educate youth about protecting the environment.

Smalley retired from the foundation board in 2008, but not from his commitment, support and love of 4-H. He believes in Alabama youth and their potential to serve the state and nation.

*Nominated by The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, Inc.*
Council, chaperoned 4-H Camp and district/state competitions and assisted 4-H judging teams.

Her children have been active 4-H members. She has supported, assisted, motivated, encouraged and transported many 4-H’ers to many events and activities. Sexton makes a positive difference in the lives of all Pike County youth.

Nominated by Tammy Powell

Sandy Shepard
Morgan County 4-H Volunteer

Sandy Shepard became a 4-H member at the age of 9 in Ohio, and as an adult, she served 10 years as a volunteer. She brought those ideas to Morgan County and now has more than 36 years of volunteer experience.

For more than 18 years, she has been the volunteer leader of the Morgan County 4-H Wildlife Club, with at least 20 youth involved each year. Her talent focused on involving parents in planning workshops and developing strong working relationships with the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, the club’s partnering agency.

An annual highlight is “The Beast Feast” where family members bring wild meat dishes for a potluck-style dinner. For this event, Shepard plans a program that is beneficial to the 4-H members and their families. This year’s program was on the native Indians of the Tennessee Valley.

She was recognized as the Morgan County Volunteer in 2007. In 2005, she received the Para-Professional Award from the Alabama Affiliate of the National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Science. In 2006, the 4-H Wildlife Club received the NAE4-HA National Team Programming Award as the host for the National Refuge Centennial Celebration.

Luther N. Duncan*
Director, Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Luther Noble Duncan was one of the pioneers of Extension work in Alabama. His work and dedication to excellence left an indelible mark on Extension, as is evidenced by the building which bears his name. Duncan Hall houses the offices of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System on the Auburn University campus.

Duncan was born on October 14, 1875 in Russellville. His preparation for Extension work began with hard work on his father’s farm in Franklin County and continued when, in 1896, he boarded a train en route to a college career at Auburn. He received a bachelor’s degree in the spring of 1900 and became a teacher at the agricultural schools in Wetumpka, Jackson and Athens.

In 1904, Duncan moved back to Auburn, where he was an agricultural instructor and research worker for four years. In 1909, he attended a meeting of agriculture workers in Atlanta at which gathering the idea of extension work began to germinate. Duncan was keenly interested in defining the role of Extension. Because he had spent several summers conducting institutes among farmers throughout the state of Alabama, Duncan was chosen to head the nation’s first cooperative state club. Two years later, he sponsored legislation that created the State Board of Agriculture with funding for county agency work and an additional amount for Extension work. He remained in that position until 1920 when he was named director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

Extension grew and thrived under Duncan’s direction. His 17 years of leadership brought about many changes and improvements, and in 1937, he achieved an even higher honor, being named president of Auburn University. He held that position until his death on July 26, 1947.

Nominated by Katernia W. Cole

*S deceased
Donna Riddle
Calhoun County 4-H Volunteer

In 2001, Donna Riddle was asked to be a 4-H volunteer at Coldwater Elementary School in Calhoun County. The program had been discontinued for a few years, but Riddle agreed to give it a try for one year.

Eight years later, she still leads the program as the 4-H coordinator at the school. Every year since 2001, Riddle’s 4-H Club has been in the top five clubs in Calhoun County, earning a total of 10 trophies for her club’s participation.

In 2008, Riddle earned the 4-H Teacher of the Year Award in recognition of her continuing support of the Calhoun County 4-H program. She believes in 4-H for the personal growth of each member. “By using 4-H projects as important means for achievement and growth, members build skills they can use the rest of their lives,” says Riddle.

She believes that life skills are built into 4-H projects, activities and events that help participants become contributing, productive, self-directed members of a forward-moving society.

Nominated by Tiffany Moore

Lydia Sexton
Pike County 4-H Volunteer

Lydia Sexton’s indoctrination into the world of 4-H came in her first club meeting after seeing an Extension staff member deliver the program. An emergency call took the Extension staff member from the classroom, and Sexton delivered that month’s program to the other 4-H clubs scheduled in the school that day. And she has never looked back!

Sexton’s involvement in and support of 4-H spans a range of projects over 20 years. She coordinated Pike County’s competitive events with more than 250 youth participating. She serves on the County 4-H
In retirement, Moody works with the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. He continues to be involved in the lives of Extension families through meetings across the state.

Moody displays the 4-H motto: To Make the Best Better in his daily life.

Carolyn Moseley
Baldwin County 4-H Volunteer

Carolyn Moseley has been a friend of 4-H since 2002 when she became a 4-H volunteer at the school where she was teaching. She was a club volunteer for Project Jubilee Gifted Program and the After-School Child Care Program at two different schools, Daphne Intermediate and Daphne East, until her retirement in 2006.

Moseley has also served as a Junior Master Gardener leader, a county 4-H advisory committee member, a judge and workshop presenter. Her talents have been shared at the Alabama 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum and the Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum.

She has remained an active 4-H volunteer since her retirement. Her commitment to youth and 4-H’ers is deeply rooted. “The earliest I remember participating in a 4-H event was when I was in the third grade. I made an apron on my grandmother’s treadle sewing machine,” states Moseley.

Moseley has a wealth of knowledge in many areas from education and art to service and achievement. Her benevolent spirit naturally leads her to incorporate the essential elements of 4-H into everything she does to help the youth of today.

Nominated by Cynthia Knowlton

Eunice Hagler
Dale County 4-H Alumna and Donor

One hundred years ago, the first 4-H clubs appeared in Dale County. Carey Hagler’s name was on the earliest 4-H Corn Club roster in Dale County. One hundred years later, another Hagler name is strongly associated with 4-H – Carey Hagler’s daughter-in-law, Eunice Hagler. Over the

Gillespie attended many of the early Alabama 4-H Volunteer Leader forums where he was instrumental in helping to establish and raise funds for a scholarship program. He attended Fontana Leadership Conference and also represented Alabama several years at the Southern Region Volunteer Leaders Conference. In 1991, because of his extensive involvement with 4-H and the environment, Gillespie received the Mosley Environmental Award. He also received the Monsanto Salute to Excellence Award and has been recognized by the Lawrence County 4-H program as an outstanding volunteer leader.

Gillespie has touched the lives of many youth in Lawrence County. He encouraged them to participate in activities and to always strive “To Make the Best Better.”

Nominated by Lawrence County Extension
She has served on the board of the Alabama 4-H Volunteer Leaders Association. She has served as district director, historian and, currently, she is president-elect. She continues to put her special touch on decorations and hospitality.

Kelly continues her mentorship of youth in 4-H in Pike County.

Nominated by Tammy Powell

Charles Moody
Cherokee County Extension Coordinator

Charles Moody is known as the “4-H Man” in Cherokee County. His career was spent mentoring young men into adults, where he worked on developing leadership and life skills with these 4-H members.

His 4-H’ers excelled at many projects, including 33 4-H Record Book winners who received trips to National 4-H Congress in Chicago. Many of them became national winners in their project areas. Moody’s knowledge and writing skills were sought by other county staff to help them better serve those youth.

His influence is shown in those who serve their communities throughout Alabama. “Mr. Moody had me do things a second time,” says one former 4-H member. “And I learned to do it the right way.”

Moody is also noted for the scholarship program of the Alabama Association of County Agriculture Agents. He was asked to undertake the chairmanship in 1980 and served until his retirement. With help of fellow members, more than $17,000 was raised. The scholarship is given to deserving members active in AACAA.

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Glenda Kelly
Pike County 4-H Volunteer

Glenda Kelly serves Pike County youth as a volunteer. The youth in her club respond to her teaching of demonstration skills, public speaking tips and a variety of entrepreneur projects that benefit the club and the community. Currently, one of the State 4-H Council members is a young lady who grew up learning from Kelly.

Kelly is on the Alabama planning committee for the 2009 Southern Region 4-H Volunteer Leaders Forum. She has attended the Regional Forum for the last five years. Her knowledge and skills benefit the committee as she works to make it a great event.

Nominated by Debbie Baldwin

past 60 years, Hagler has been an important part of the Dale County 4-H program.

At the age of 9, she became an active 4-H member later earning her way to the State 4-H Fashion Revue competition as a senior 4-H member. Years later she became a 4-H parent who helped her daughter achieve recognition as a national 4-H winner and her son become a 4-H scholarship winner and national 4-H participant. Hagler has been a 4-H member, parent, volunteer, competition judge and supporter.

She continues to support the Dale County 4-H program through her role as Dale County Probate Judge and County Commission chairman. For the past 10 years, Probate Judge Hagler has demonstrated her desire for the continuation of Dale County 4-H program by securing funding and other resources as needed.

Judge Hagler believes that 4-H is an important youth program even after 100 years. She truly believes that 4-H continues “To Make the Best Better.”

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