

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

Tuesday, November 17 Casa del Prado Room 101 Balboa Park 7:00 p.m.

Fall- and Winter-blooming Plants and Plant Groups of San Diego and Surrounding Counties

by Michelle Balk

Just because it is late fall doesn't mean there are no exciting botanical discoveries to be made! This presentation will highlight often overlooked fall- and winter-blooming plants and plant groups of San Diego and adjacent counties, and will hopefully inspire you to forget about your Thanksgiving meal planning and Christmas shopping lists for a while and get outside! Time permitting, a game will be played at the end to test your knowledge of our fall- and winter-blooming plants.

6:30 p.m. – Natives for Novices, topic TBD.

7:00 p.m. – refreshments, browsing, & socializing.

7:30 p.m. – presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 4, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). CNPS-SD Executive Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month, except when the 1st Wednesday falls on a holiday. Members are welcome to attend as observers. If you wish to discuss an issue, please email president@cnpssd.org to get your issue on the agenda.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Christopher Adler Katherine Belo John Blocker David Conner Laura Duffy Cleo Gonzales Jody Herman Julie Hinze Kelly McMann Jesse Miles
Wayne Nemec
Kate Potluru
Diane Rexin
Kathlyn Robins
Katie Sweeney
Susan Thayer
Chris Walsh
Roberta Walters

Torrey Pines Landscape Co., Inc.

TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK



November 1; 8 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Tecolote Nature Center on the first Sunday of the month. Wear sun protection and comfortable walking shoes; bring water. Rain at 8 a.m. cancels. Directions: exit I-5 at Seaworld/Tecolote exit. Go east (away from Mission Bay) on Tecolote, past the ball fields, along the driveway to the very end. Free and open to the public.



Michelle Balk is a biological consultant with over 14 years of experience in Southern California. She has co-instructed workshops on basic plant identification, asters, and rare plants of Southern California for CNPS and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens. Her favorite plant genera are *Eriogonum* and *Chamaesyce*.

CHAPTER BOARD ELECTION

CNPS San Diego has eleven (11) members of the Executive Board. The term of service for each Board member is 2 years. Six members are elected in the even numbered years; 5 are elected in odd numbered years. This year, we will elect 5 members to the Board. The election will be held at the November 17 Chapter Meeting.

Members may bring their ballots to the meeting or mail completed ballots to be received before November 17. Ballots received after November 17 will not be counted. The Nominating Committee will count the ballots at the November Chapter meeting. The 5 candidates with the most votes will be elected. They will take office at the Executive Board Meeting in January 2016.

For this election we have 5 members running for 5 positions. Here are the biographies (listed alphabetically) from the 5 members:

Carl Bell: I would like to be a candidate for the board member election for CNPS-SD. I retired from the University of California as an invasive plant scientist last year and am now consulting on invasive plant management in natural areas in California. My qualifications include a MA in Botany, service as a board member and President of the California Weed Science Society, a board member of the California Invasive Plant Council, and former Chair of the SD Weed Management Area.

Betsy Cory: I am enthusiastic about the possibility of serving on the CNPS-SD Board! You may know me as the Hospitality Chair who tries to persuade you to partake of the hospitality table. Or you may know me as the Outreach Chair who lures the public to CNPS-SD displays and activities. Although I am not a botanist, as many of you are, I have gardened for many years. On the administrative side of things, I was president of the Chula Vista Garden Club for four years and on the board of the Palomar District of Garden Clubs for two years. And I serve on what might be called the quasi-board of the South Bay Botanic Garden at Southwestern College (where I have taken many horticultural courses). As for employment, I have had 20 years of experience in City government, so I am familiar with how governmental entities work—an increasingly important area of expertise. For about four years I led public field trips for CNPS-SD. And now I organize another kind of field trip-the world's only native plant tour held on bicycles, the

Tour de Plants (coming again this spring). I have learned from everything I've ever done with CNPS-SD. Now I'm ready for the challenge of serving on the board, where I could utilize all I've learned.

Connie di Girolamo: I once volunteered to be a Cashier at the Plant Sale . . . then, due to an unexpected vacancy on the board, I was asked to consider an appointment to the Board, and for almost six years I have been the Chapter's Treasurer. Some of the things that I have initiated include: accepting credit card payments for the purchasing of books and plants; sending electronic newsletters and reminders via MailChimp to our membership; and providing a welcome table and nametags at chapter meetings for all participants. Lately I have been assisting Carolyn Martus in the coordination of our annual Native Plant Sale - all of what I do involves Chapter administration. California is facing some big decisions to deal with our climate changes and water limitations. CNPS does important work to preserve our native flora - through conservation and native gardening. I am looking forward to serving another two years on the Board.

Mike Evans. I recently retired from a career as an environmental planner and field biologist specializing in endangered species in southern California for the past 40 yrs or so, with degrees in biology from San Diego State University. I have been associated with CNPS on and off over the years, having served various offices, including Chapter President and Conservation Chair. Since being elected to the Board about three years ago, I now serve as Board Secretary and also served a while as membership coordinator. At my suggestion, the Board met late last year and again this summer to begin to develop a strategic plan for the Chapter. We are still digesting the input from Board members and committee members to fulfill the new Chapter Mission Statement. We are developing specific programs to make the Chapter more efficient and successful in the education about and conservation of our native plants and their habitats. The Chapter faces a lot of organizational challenges, including membership maintenance and growth, long-term financial stability and developing more effective public outreach and educational programs to further our conservation goals. I hope to continue work with other members to help the Chapter meet these challenges.

Frank Landis: I have been a CNPS member for 25 years, over half my life. My mother gave me a gift membership soon after I graduated from college in 1990. From there, my interest in native plants grew, and I went on to obtain an MA and PhD in botany, focusing on plant

ecology. Over the last quarter century, I have belonged to four chapters (East Bay, North Coast, Santa Monica Mountains, and San Diego) and been active in three. As a CNPS member, I have given talks, led hikes, pulled weeds, run an art contest, sold plants and seeds, commented on environmental documents and policies, surveyed rare plants and vegetation, given testimony in front of the San Diego City Council, County Board of Supervisors, and state Cal-Fire, written the monthly conservation column and occasional rare plant columns, and yes, served on the chapter Board of Directors. I am also the chair of the Conservation and Rare Plant Survey committees. I am an example of how most native plant enthusiasts are made, not born, through exposure to enthusiastic, knowledgeable teachers who turn the world from an olive blur into beautiful landscapes of fascinating species. As a director, I am interested in helping run the Chapter's day-to-day activities, in reaching out to new members and educating existing members, and in furthering plant conservation efforts throughout our city, county, and state.

The end of the year is approaching.

Please consider a tax free donation to the

San Diego Chapter of CNPS.

NATIVE GARDENING

Native Gardening Committee

November 11. Meets 2nd Wednesday of each month. Contact **Mike Gonzales** at gardening@cnpssd.org for info.

Old Town Native Plant Landscape Partners in Grime

Saturday, November 14: Work Party - 1 to 3 p.m. Come help us get rid of skulking weeds to prepare for planting with the cooler days and longer nights. Bring gloves, sun protection, water, and your favorite weeding tools, or borrow our tools. Park in the giant shady parking lot at Cal Trans across Taylor Street from the native plant landscape. Questions? Contact Kay at fieldtrips@cnpssd.org. The Landscape is located at the corner of Taylor and Congress streets across from the train/trolley/bus depot. Free parking in the big shady parking lot across the street at the Caltrans building.

Last Sunset Cliffs Native Garden Planting Event?

November 21, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Site prep.

November 22, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.: Planting & watering.

As of this writing, I can't comment on the success of our October planting, but we hope to finish up with a final effort the weekend of November 21 - 22. Thanks to Garden Steward Scott Opus, City Parks and Recreation is going to auger the compacted fill dirt and save us the need to jackhammer! Saturday will still be devoted to the site preparation, but it will only involve shovel and rototiller work to mix in the topsoil, and perhaps digging and watering some holes. We will be going at it from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but we are only looking for volunteers to come by for a couple of hours. Sunday will be the fun stuff -- planting and watering. We hope to get it all done between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

CNPS members are welcome to just swing by and join in, but it would help us plan the event if you let us know when you intend to come. To do so, go to **SunsetCliffsGarden.org** and hit the "Participate" and "Volunteer" links. In the comment section, just say when you'll be coming.

The site is west of the corner of 1250 Sunset Cliffs Blvd. and Adair. Since it's a City event, they would like you to wear boots (or equivalent), long pants, hat, and sunscreen. If you've been meaning to get around to participating, this is your last chance (I hope).

~ Dave Flietner

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

To receive your newsletter via email, please contact us at: **enewsletter@cnpssd.org**

If your email address has changed from what we have on record, please let us know.

BOTANY

Seven New Species of Cacti Discovered in Baja CA

During recent field work in Baja California, Curator of Botany **Jon Rebman**, Ph.D., of the San Diego Natural History Museum, discovered 7 new species of cacti as a result of his doctoral biosystematic study of the genus *Cylindropuntia* in Baja California, plus later field exploration and continued taxonomic research on the

flora of the region. These newly named species, published in Madroño (the scientific journal of the California Botanical Society) in January 2015, include six chollas and one prickly-pear, all endemic to Baja California.

Chollas:

Cylindropuntia alcahes var. gigantensis

C. alcahes var. mcgillii

C. cedrosensis

C. gander var. catavinensis

C. libertadensis

C. waltoniorum

Prickly-pear:

Opuntia clarkiorum

Read more at:

http://www.sdnhm.org/blog/blog_details/newly-described-cacti-from-baja-california/36/

IUCN Reports Cacti are among World's Most Threatened Species

In the first comprehensive, global assessment of cactus species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its partners, published in October 2015 in the journal Nature Plants, the IUCN reported that 31% of cactus species are threatened with extinction. This places cacti among the most threatened taxonomic groups assessed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™, which includes both plants and animals. The researchers were surprised that cacti are so highly threatened and that illegal trade is such an important driver of their decline.

You can read the news release at:

http://www.iucnredlist.org/news/cacti-assessment

The full paper can be found at: http://www.nature.com/articles/nplants2015142





Our East San Diego County and Imperial County CNPS members may be interested in the activities of the Anza-Borrego State Park Botany Society listed on p. 7 of this newsletter. A desert plant sale and two speakers are scheduled for November.



CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee

November 3. First Tuesday evening of each month. Contact **Frank Landis** at raresurvey@cnpssd.org for the location.

Welcome to the Future

First off, thanks to all who donated to the CNPSSD legal fund. For anyone who wants make charitable donations before the end of the year you should be able to donate online at the chapter website. If you want to send a check, contact me (conservation@cnpssd.org) for information on where to send the check. You can also donate at general meetings. Donations are tax deductible. As noted last month, the CNPSSD legal fund only covers legal expenses and is only used in the rare event that we have to sue to stop a bad development or government program. For us, suing is the last resort after we've exhausted other options. We're soliciting donations because, if CNPS did decide to sue with the funds we currently have, we'd have to both try to file a lawsuit and raise the funds needed to pay for it in a short amount of time, and that doesn't look practical. We don't have a lawsuit in the pipeline, but there are enough problematic issues out there that we're quite likely to have to take legal action in the next year. This is preparation, pure and simple, and your donations go to making us effective advocates in court for native plants. Please donate if you believe in preserving and conserving California's native plants.



And now for something completely different.

"Welcome to the future" has become my favorite, if sour, response to anyone commenting how hot/wet/humid/weird the weather has become recently, how many tumbleweeds and other late summer weeds there are, and so on.

The basic point is that as the air and ocean waters get hotter all around the globe, things change, and we're starting to figure out what that means for San Diego County weather and for San Diego's native plants.

As you continue to read, realize that I'm not a climatologist, nor do I play one on TV. This is the way I've learned to understand the issue. It's fundamentally complicated, not just because it involves lots of math, but because the weather and climate are the sum of many

different effects happening on a bunch of different time scales. To get an idea of why something is happening now, you have to account for all those different effects.

Much of this boils down to the fundamental fact that hot air can hold a lot more water vapor than can cold air. We all know this, at least subconsciously. When we get hot dry Santa Ana winds, the sky is clear, but as soon as the winds drop, here comes the fog. A big part of this is that the air actually had some water in it, but as it cooled, it couldn't hold it all as vapor, so the vapor condensed into mist.

This also happens in the tropics and on mountains, where hot air rises, carrying large amounts of water up into the upper air, where the air cools until the water condenses onto dust particles to form clouds. In the tropics, the water evaporated at ground level rises, makes huge clouds, and down comes the rain. On mountains, the air gets pushed up by running into a mountain, the water condenses out, and rain falls on the mountain peaks.

But now the air's dry. In the tropics, that dry air is forced towards the poles and eventually down, so you get dry air around 30° north and south, or where the big deserts are. This whole circulation is called a Hadley Cell. If you look at Google Earth or a satellite image, you'll see this band of deserts about a third of the way up from the equator, and that's where the dry air came down in the downward cycle of Hadley Cell circulation. Similarly, mountains form "rain shadows" by forcing the water out of the air above the top of the mountain, then allowing the now dry air to fall down the leeward slope, as in the Mojave and Great Basin deserts, which are in the rain shadows of the Sierra Nevada.

Without climate change, we're on the northern edge of the Hadley Cell, so we're not in true desert here. To get deserts around here, you need to add in a montane rain shadow, as at Anza Borrego.

Researchers think that climate change will cause the Hadley cells to move poleward a bit. That's good news for the people in Mexico, because the southern Sonora will green up. It's bad news for us, because we can expect our local climate to become more like central Baja in the future.

That's the simple way to think of it, and it's mostly correct, but not entirely. Let's add some complexity.

One bit of complexity is that both air and water seem to like to form blobs that hold onto a particular temperature profile. In water, bits of hot or cold water in the Gulf Stream and related deepwater currents can hold onto a distinctive and detectable profile for decades. In the air, we call the blobs storms (if they're wet and low pressure) or highs (if they're dry and high pressure).

If you're simple-minded like me, you assume that hot water evaporates more water, and hot air above it absorbs more water, until that hot air rises, forms clouds, and you get storms if those clouds start moving as a spinning blob (thank the coriolis force for the spin). I suspect you also get northern storms when air, cooling in the winter, condenses out a lot of moisture and sends it spinning off.

Normally in California, our coastal waters are cold enough to stop tropical storms, so we've made do with winter storms coming off the northern Pacific, just as our ocean currents do. With climate change, the ocean's warming and we're seeing some strangeness. One of the strange things the ocean's been producing are these persistent, enormous blobs of warm water with high pressure above them, things that the climatologists call "the Blob" and "The Ridiculously Resilient Ridge" (I got these from the great blog weatherwest.com).

These persistent ridges of high pressure and warm water have been causing winter storms that would normally strike us to veer either to the north or to the south, resulting in the big drought. Right now, there seems to be a battle between El Niño (another hot water phenomenon) and the Blob over which is controlling our weather, and the climatologists think El Niño is going to win this round (it lost last year), causing the Blob to go away so that we can get winter rains.

The problem for us is, if the ocean gets hot enough, tropical storms (which depend on warm ocean water) can spin north to us, as has happened repeatedly this year. Note that you don't have to have manmade climate change to get hurricanes tracking into San Diego, any more than you need steroids for baseball players to hit home runs. Trouble is, the way we're juicing the atmosphere looks like it favors summer rainstorms more than winter ones, because we're making a warmer ocean the new normal.

So you add that all together, and what may happen to us is that our San Diego climate gets hotter, and it will generally be drier, because the Hadley Cell edge is creeping north past us. If the Blob and its kin turn out to be normal features of a hot Pacific, we'll see a lot less winter rain most years, drought most years, and, occasionally, more summer tropical storms, especially in El Niño years when the ocean is really hot. Our total rainfall will continue to be determined by a few, big storms, but these storms may hit at any time during the year. We may well take a direct hit from a hurricane within our lifetimes.

How does this affect the plants? At this point, I don't know. The received wisdom is that California's plants are adapted to winter rainfall and summer drought, but

many of them evolved before our current climate of winter storms set in a few million years ago, and many of them have relatives that tolerate summer rain. Moreover, Greg Rubin has reported for years that California plants in gardens can tolerate judicious summer watering. But then again, he's planting things that will survive in gardens, which is a small part of our total flora. So we don't know in general. This is a great time for people who want to study the effects of summer watering on native plant species to start going after research funds, not that it's a topic on anyone's radar yet.

Welcome to the future. It's complicated.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

INVASVE SPECIES CONTROL

This is summary of what got done in the 3rd quarter of 2015. To say we have experienced weather extremes is an understatement. On any given day we could have record: heat, humidity or even rain! While this weather has hampered our work we continue to make progress on all fronts. We are currently working on three creeks and have just begun work on the San Dieguito River through Fairbanks Ranch and Rancho Santa Fe. A status of each of our San Dieguito watershed elements follows.

Lusardi Creek has been the primary focus this year and this quarter. *Tamarix* removal and a follow up sweep of the riparian corridor have been the primary efforts. Since beginning work on the riparian corridor in June 2014, we have been able to treat exotic plants along the entire length. The approach is to focus on the best occurrences of native plants and remove weeds from around these first. We then work into the denser stands of weeds slowly as natives fill in the treated areas. By hopscotching around we created weed free patches which then grow together, connect and form an all native area.

Native vegetation is dominant throughout the managed areas. This is already becoming wonderful habitat. We see signs of wildlife everywhere. Deer and raccoon prints are common in the mud. A mountain lion was reported by a workman from Black Mountain Ranch. A Turkey Vulture was observed by two of us as it fed on a patch of fur (perhaps rabbit or ground squirrel). The creek should be a wonderful bird nesting site next season.

While we manage with watershed focus, the project area has been divided into east and west halves, with each half subdivided into work areas. This allows us to organize the work in manageable bites and to retain the overall perspective.

Lusardi East: Nibbling away at the remaining *Tamarix* was the top priority and we have it constrained to limited areas. We have also been able to go back over the areas where native vegetation is re-establishing to pick up any returning weeds. This sweep began near the old Black Mountain Road and continued downstream to the transmission lines. The sweep picked up occurrences of palms, *Tamarix*, Pampas Grass, peppers, *Dittrichia*, Tree Tobacco, Fennel and Arundo. About half of the riparian corridor on this side has been fully treated; native vegetation is now filling in or dominant.

Lusardi Grasslands and Upland Slopes (Existing City Park, west half): The riparian corridor on this side is even more weed-free than the east end of the creek. We are able to build on the work of others who have managed weeds in previous years. Native vegetation has taken over through the gorge. Relatively little was done on this side this quarter. A follow up sweep for previously missed weeds and any new weeds is underway. We started at the foot bridge just west of the Camino Del Sur bridge. We have made it mid-way through the gorge by the end of September.

Artesian Creek: This creek is mostly in maintenance mode. Like everywhere else, we strive to manage on a watershed basis to avoid re-infestation from neighboring areas. Only a couple of things remain to be done in areas where we have right of entry. We continue to look for opportunities to work with other owners/partners elsewhere in the watershed segment. There are commercial and industrial areas closer to I-15 that have not been treated and we do not have contacts for these areas, yet. Eucalyptus are the major weeds in these remote areas but there appears to be a lot of die-off without any help. All of the area is wonderful habitat and highly utilized by wildlife. We have to limit our activities in any one place to avoid causing too much disturbance.

Fairbanks Ranch / Rancho Santa Fe San Dieguito River Project: We are working with homeowners, USFW, RSFFPD, and the San Dieguito River Conservancy to remove invasive species. Work began in mid-September so not much has been accomplished yet. We have started in a middle segment on the east side of the river that is in relatively better shape, only 50% weeds. We will move around to various spots much of

~ Arne Johanson, Invasive Plants Chair

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Botany Society

The newsletter of the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Botany Society is now available online via this link: http://issuu.com/search?q=anzaborregobotany. For other information about the society, visit http://www.anzaborregobotany.org/.

November 9, 10:00 a.m. Speaker presentation "Desert Biodiversity and Climate Change" at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center, 200 Palm Canyon Drive 92004. Admission is free, and the public is invited. The speaker is Dr. Travis E. Huxman, director of the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center in Borrego Springs, and also professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UC Irvine. Dr. Huxman studies plant evolution, plant physiology, ecohydrology and the ecosystem consequences of climate change. "The talk will focus on our understanding of the interesting life history strategies and physiological syndromes in desert plants," he said. his recent work focuses on how drought structures plant communities and how vegetation change in water-limited regions influences the goods and services provided by natural ecosystems. He embraces community-engaged approach studying environmental challenges that involves local communities. He received his PhD in biology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

7th Annual Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Botany Society Festival and Plant Sale November 27 & 28

Plant Sale: November 27, 9 a.m. at the Visitor Center (address is above). The annual plant sale starts on Friday and will continue Saturday if any plants are left. To pre-order plants, use the form at: http://www.anzaborregobotany.org/plant-sale/. You can pick up your order at the Visitor Center over Thanksgiving Weekend (November 28-29, 2015). If you have questions, contact:

thebotanysociety@gmail.com .

November 28, 10 a.m. Speaker presentation. Teresa Everett "Some Like it Hot — Gardening with California's Desert Plants" at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center, 200 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs 92004. Admission is free, and the public is invited. Teresa Everett, a garden specialist at Moosa Creek Nursery in Valley Center, will unveil tips about the design, installation and care of desert plants in the home landscape. Her talk will focus on creating year-round beauty in the garden using plant selection, design, installation and maintenance. Everett is a former National Park ranger and has worked as a zookeeper at the San Diego Zoo and the Wild Animal Park, and in the Horticultural Department at the park.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden

November 7 & 15, 9 – noon. Work Party. Usually the first Saturday and third Sunday of each month. Contact: <u>Richard@sandiegoriver.org</u> for more info.

1st Annual California Native Food Symposium

November 14 & 15, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Registration includes entrance to 8 presentations on Saturday, November 14, as well as free admission on Sunday, November 15, to enjoy native food preparations, tastings and the annual Acorn Festival. Presentations include: Acorn Preparation, Wild Foraging, Future of Native Foods, Contemporary Ethnobotany of Southern California Indians, Food Fermentation and Pickling, Wild Seed Food, Agave and Prickly Pear Preparation, and a Round Table Discussion. See https://canativefood.wordpress.com/ for more info.

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is generally published 12 times a year. The newsletter is not peer reviewed and any opinions expressed are those of the author identified at the end of each notice or article. The newsletter editor may edit the submittal to improve accuracy, improve readability, shorten articles to fit the space, and reduce the potential for legal challenges against CNPS. If an article, as edited, is not satisfactory to the author, the author can appeal to the board. The author has the final say on whether the article, as edited, is printed in the newsletter. Submissions are due by the 10th of the month preceding the newsletter; that is, October 10 for the November newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpssd.org.

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar November 2015

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11/21-22: Sunset Cliffs Native Garden, p.3

	MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
	_Student or Limited Income \$25;Individual \$45;Family \$75
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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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November 2015 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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