HLCS National Elections

Once again, it is election time for the HLCS.

The following people were nominated for, and have agreed to serve in, the respective offices should they be elected.

The ballot is included with this newsletter! Please take the time to vote! Write-in votes are also welcome.

The candidates' biographical sketches follow.

President
Bill Brooks, Texas
Lester Milroy, California

President-elect
Joseph Collet, Utah
Wendy Hodges, Texas

Treasurer
Roger A. Repp, Arizona

MEET THE CANDIDATES . . .

Candidates for the Office of President

Bill Brooks

Greetings, members of the HLCS. Most of you know me from my writings & photographs in our newsletter, the conventions, or our e-mail conversations. I am one of the original Austin, Texas, crowd and was at the first meeting called by Bart Cox over 10 years ago. I have worked closely with the officers and newsletter editors ever since. This is my first run for a national office and I'm psyched. This is such an exciting time for this organization! Scott Henke has set us up for explosive expansion. I want to build on the foundation he developed.

If you choose me to be the next president of the HLCS, these are my priorities: I want to continue education and outreach. People who know me, know how passionate I am on this subject. I have spoken to thousands of students, Scouts and environmental groups on reptile preservation for over 30 years. We need a better, more current website with the ability to join on line and I want to do anything I can to help Wendy Hodges on this project. We need to streamline our postal and e-mail communications and be quicker and more timely with our replies. I would like to see the organization grow so we can be a part of Earth Share. (Check them out: http://www.earthshare.org/) Someday we will consider buying horned lizard habitat. To achieve these goals, we need increased revenue and membership. I will actively seek grant funding (and any other funding opportunities) to increase our goals of better and more scientific
National Board of Directors

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Visit our Website: http://www.psy.utexas.edu/psy/brooks/hlcs/index.htm

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Stillwater, OK 74075

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Nevada Chapter
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bajada@concentric.net

emerging...

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Chapter President
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Georgetown, TX 78626-2491

Southwest Lizard Conservation Society

Phrynosomatics Editor
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Please Send all Membership Applications and Requests for Information to:

HLCS
P.O. Box 122
Austin, TX  78767
Chapters Update

Survey for Roundtail Horned Lizards in the Extreme Western Panhandle of Oklahoma

by Richard Stark

The roundtail horned lizard, *Phrynosoma modestum*, is the smallest of 13 species of horned lizards occurring in the United States. This species is most commonly found in central and western Texas, southern and central New Mexico, southeastern Arizona, and north-central Mexico (Whiting and Dixon, 1996). An isolated population of roundtail horned lizards has also been found in the extreme western portion of the panhandle of Oklahoma around the Black Mesa area (Conant and Collins, 1998). The current status of the roundtail horned lizard in Oklahoma, however, is unknown, and the species is listed as a state species of special concern (Oklahoma Endangered Species, 1992).

To assess the current status of the roundtail horned lizard within the state, the Oklahoma Chapter of the Horned Lizard Conservation Society proposes to conduct a population survey in the Black Mesa area of Oklahoma during the Summer 2001. Oklahoma HLCS is currently seeking volunteers for the survey effort. If you think you may be able to help, please contact Richard Stark for more details at Starkkrv@prodigy.net.

References Cited


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Call for Officer Nominations for the Oklahoma Chapter of HLCS

The Oklahoma chapter of the HLCS is accepting nominations for officers. The elected officers decide the responsibilities of each office after the election.

If you are a member of HLCS, live in the state of Oklahoma, and are interested in becoming an officer, or would like to nominate someone else for an office — please contact the current chapter president Richard Stark at

Starkkrv@prodigy.net

---

New Mexico Chapter Now Forming

for information, please contact...

Tom McCain

htinc@juno.com

P.O. Box 295

Sandia Park, New Mexico 87047
The Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Case:

Oral Argument Heard by the U. S. Court of Appeals

by Wendy L. Hodges

On January 9, 2001, the oral arguments for the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (Phrynosoma mcallii) case were heard by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Pasadena, California.


Plaintiffs attorneys were Mr. Neil Levine (EarthJustice Legal Defense Fund, originally EarthLaw) and Mr. William Snape (Defenders of Wildlife). The Plaintiffs were represented in the audience by Roger Repp (Tucson Herpetological Society), Edie Harmon (Desert Protective Council and Sierra Club) and Wendy Hodges (HLCS and as an individual). The Defendants (Secretary of the Interior, Director of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Carlsbad Field Supervisor) were represented by Mr. Robert Oakley. Three judges – Marsha Berzon, Sidney Thomas, and Stephen Trott – were present for the oral arguments.

The oral argument for the FHDL case was scheduled last on the docket for 40 minutes, 20 minutes per side. Plaintiffs presented first and requested that five minutes be saved for rebuttal at the end. The defendants then proceeded, followed by the plaintiffs' final 5 minutes. During the oral arguments of either side, the judges were free to intervene and ask clarifying questions. Each of the judges asked excellent questions regarding specific information and law pertinent to this case. I was impressed by this panel and the provocative questions they raised. We left the courtroom rather puzzled, unsure which way the Justices would rule - a true mark of expressed impartiality.

After the hearing, Mr. Levine, Mr. Snape and I had decided to file a supplementary brief to the Court to address a question unanswered by either side. Although this would be an uncommon request, we thought it best to try to fully address the Judges' concerns. As it turned out, we received an order outlining specific questions from the Court and asked us to file a 25-page Supplemental Brief. On February 7, 2001, we submitted the supplemental brief.

On average, the Court of Appeals takes six months to issue its decisions; however, there are no time limits established. Perhaps by July 2001 we will know the outcome of this long process.

Stay tuned to Phrynosomatics for the Judges' decision.

Loyal HLCS Members,

Have you renewed for 2001?

Don't miss a single issue!

Last year, the HLCS changed its membership year to a calendar year, to minimize volunteer hours spent following membership renewals. [Thanks to Bette Armstrong for taking on this task!]

Please submit your 2001 dues promptly – it saves the HLCS funds that would be better spent on research and conservation efforts on behalf of Horned Lizards.

To those of you that have already renewed, our thanks!

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<th>Membership Type</th>
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HLCS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are deductible to the extent allowable by law.
research, improved publications and increased visibility. I feel certain that in the next two years we can triple our membership. All of this is fine and good, but I will never forget the main reason this organization exists. The HLCS should do its very best to bring back our horned lizard friends to their traditional ranges and population density.

Lester Milroy

My name is Lester Milroy. I am retired military. I am also President of the California Chapter of HLCS. I have worked with horned lizards for over 10 years. I worked as a consultant to the San Diego Zoo for three years on a research project concerning the San Diego Coast Horned Lizard in California. I am about to begin graduate work in Conservation Biology at the University of California, Riverside.

The Horned Lizard Conservation Society needs to continue its direction in education, not only in the schools but for the general public. I have found that most people do not know that there are more than just one species of horned lizard and the troubles that all species are having with the continued loss of habitat, fire ants, and the continued problems of commercial collection and the pet trade. Our continued focus should be in education, because that is our most powerful tool.

I would also like to see the HLCS join forces with other conservation organizations to promote and emphasize the need for conservation, the protection of species diversity, and the need for habitat protection. Our goals are similar and the need is great for protecting these valuable natural wonders and resources. We need to be more involved with other organizations and expand our contacts to aide in our goals of protecting horned lizards and their habitats.

I am in the process of designing and promoting the building of a "zoo" that will focus mainly on the horned lizards of North America. My plan is to have all 13 species of horned lizards on display for education and research. The Horned Lizard Research and Conservation Nature Center will be situated on 30 - 50 acres and provide each species with a micro-habitat enclosure showing the diversity of each species. The Center will provide educational facilities for K-12 grades, as well as research areas for undergraduate work focused on ecology and behavioral studies of horned lizards and other species that are species of special concern or listed status. I believe this will be a beneficial and much needed research center that will provide the public with knowledge of our own vanishing wildlife. The Center would also establish scholarships for high school graduates with a focus on ecology and related areas of study. At some future date, scholarships and grants for research could also be established. I hope to be able to get other conservation organizations to join this venture and aide in establishing a unique and educational experience.

Candidates for Office of President-Elect

R. Joseph Collet

I am a relatively new edition to the HLCS. I have a Bachelor of Science in Accounting with a composite minor in Economics and Business Management. In 1976 I graduated from Hastings (which is one of the 5 University of California law school campuses). Neither the accounting discipline nor the legal professional remained my attention for long. In 1977 after a brief clerkship with one of the County Judges in Las Vegas I became a business man within the professional golf industry. For the next 21 years I either lived in Los Angeles or in Europe (1977-1995 Spain, 1996-1998, Austria), and managed the careers of professional golfers, produced books and videos, developed golf courses, and helped organize professional golf tournaments.

In the Autumn of 1998 my family (2 daughters presently college age, one son in Jr. High and my wife who has resumed her career as a legal secretary after a long break) and I decided to move to St. George, UT where there was still some clean air, blue sky and unspoiled desert and mountains in which to observe the two species of Phrynosoma native to this state (P. platyrhinos, P. hernandesii).

Like many of you I discovered horned lizards as a youngster and although I have enjoyed and appreciated nearly all forms of wildlife since youth, particularly reptiles, something continues to fascinate me about "horny toads". I was on the verge of forming a foundation for their conservation until surfing the WEB one day I discovered HLCS. After numerous conversations many of those who attended the symposium last October in Portal, AZ (where I presented 4 papers) and the K. Bruce Jones, Richard Montanucci, Tracey Brown who could not, I decided to get actively involved and to help recruit others to the cause. Dr. Henke asked me to serve as "Acting President" of the budding Utah Chapter of HLCS and I have been active in this state as well as Nevada and Arizona signing up new members.

My particular focus is on propagation. At last year's Desert Tortoise Council symposium I was touched by the plight of Chelonians worldwide and persuaded by research in that area concerning successful investment populations that the
same could be achieved for horned lizards if more study were conducted beforehand. Last summer my own outdoor enclosure produced several viable hatchlings including *P. cornutum* (the mothers were rescued from a heavily traveled road and imported with the proper license for study in Utah). My idea is to maintain refuges such as Les Milroy's proposed sanctuary where individual populations can be separately maintained and documented such that their progeny could restock areas where the parents came from, all other things being equal. This is not only a complex and perhaps controversial undertaking, but potentially a very rewarding one if we can keep the gene pools straight, and learn why horned lizards are seen less and less frequently in ranges where they were once abundant.

I am distressed to see so many roadkills, and learn of casualties in captivity by people who have not yet begun to study how to properly care for horned lizards. Bertrand Bauer and others have confirmed some of my independent findings and while wishing that people would leave the little lizards alone in their native habitat more needs to be published for the benefit of the serious scientist and zookeeper so that the same mistakes are not repeated. The biggest threat of course is over-development and I wish to encourage preserves wherever possible yet at the same time set up study centers so that people can get hands on experience without being tempted to remove more individuals from their native habitat. I believe that through good communication with the various government agencies and by educating the public, plenty of already displaced horned lizards can be made available for caring research while at the same time affording them a dignified life free from suffering and predation by feral and domesticated dogs and cats.

Whether or not elected to a national office within HLCS I pledge to continue promoting a special sensitivity toward horned lizards through community education classes, television, substitute teaching, newspaper articles and scientific papers, workshops and lectures to elementary schools, boy scouts, and adult groups wherever possible such as has been an on-going personal endeavor of mine. If elected I will redouble my efforts to achieve sufficient financing for our organization so that we may make a significant impact in these areas, and have more fun doing it.

Wendy Hodges

I have been an active member of the HLCS since its inception in November, 1990. I served as the Vice President and Chair of the Research and Recovery Committee from Spring 1991 to June 1994. I was the Newsletter Editor June 1994 to August 1997. I have remained an active participant in the society by providing assistance whenever I can whether it is conducting horned lizard surveys on private and public lands or preserves, giving talks to elementary schools and community groups, sitting at booths for community events, providing technical support for our web site and, most importantly, working to guarantee protection for the flat-tailed horned lizards in California and Arizona. In addition to the direct conservation work I do with the society, I am also pursuing a doctorate on the ecology of horned lizards at the University of Texas at Austin. I hope to work with the new HLCS President to promote the goals and objectives of the society and build a stronger organization. Since the President-Elect is new and untested, the next two years will be spent working to create a new position and new partnership that will move the Society forward and provide continuity between Presidencies. I anticipate working with the incoming President to solidify the newly formed and forming chapters, increase scientific research opportunities that support the conservation needs of horned lizards, focus more attention on protecting extant populations of horned lizards and their habitat, and increase pressure on state wildlife agencies to protect all species of horned lizards by ending commercial exploitation via the pet trade/commercial collecting permits.

**Candidate for Office of Treasurer**

Roger A. Repp

By vocation, I'm Instrument Shop Supervisor for National Optical Astronomy Observatories, better known as Kitt Peak. By avocation, I have been a rabid field herpetologist for my entire life.

My qualifications for treasurer can be found on both sides of the equation. As Instrument Shop Supervisor, I manage my own shop budget, and keep management informed of expenses against roughly thirty other accounts at the same time. As a herpetologist, I have served as treasurer of the Tucson Herpetological Society on three different occasions. I also keep track of herps in the field as if each one had a dollar sign in front of it.

My vision of my role as treasurer for the HLCS is to keep accurate track of incoming and going funds, make sure my numbers match what the bank says we have, and to issue an exact, honest, and concise written accounting of our finances in every newsletter.
Our purpose is to document and publicize the values and conservation needs of horned lizards, to promote horned lizard conservation projects and to assist with horned lizard management initiatives throughout their ranges.

May 2001

OFFICIAL BALLOT
OF THE
HORNED LIZARD CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Please vote for one candidate per office by circling or writing in the name to identify the candidate of your choice.

Ballots MUST be received by JUNE 30, 2001 to be valid. Please mail your vote to Scott E. Henke, MSC 156, Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, Texas 78363-8202.

Office of President

Bill Brooks

Lester Milroy

________________________ (Write-in candidate)

Office of President-Elect

R. Joseph Collet

Wendy Hodges

________________________ (Write-in candidate)

Office of Treasurer

Roger Repp

________________________ (Write-in candidate)
Scott E. Henke, MSC 156
Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences
Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Kingsville, Texas 78363-8202
Photo (circa 1959-1960) of Andy Grubbs, friend of Wendy Hodges and HLCS. Those were the days ... when horned lizards roamed.
Monday, November 13, 2000, 11:21 pm
Subject: Horned Toads

Bob:
About today’s segment in regard to the “Horned Toads”, I was visiting a friend in Eagle Pass, sometimes back during this summer, while he and his wife were raking their backyard. At first, I saw things running away from the raking, maybe a mouse, I thought to myself, but after a while there were more things running away. I asked my friends if they saw those mice running away and they smiled at me. No, they said very casually, those are not mice, they are Horned Toads. We have a whole bunch around and so does everybody else in Eagle Pass. Also they mentioned that during the summer there are a lot of Monarch butterflies born in the backyards of Eagle Pass.

Only those people with dogs and cats and little children, disturb or kill them and do not have them in their homes around here, but they’re a common sight in this area, especially in backyards. Everybody likes and takes care of them. It is a local belief that they bring luck and they are lucky if they have them around.

Maybe this is something worthwhile to check out: some folklore, preservation, and something new about monarch butterflies (I didn’t know, they all migrated to Mexico). My friends moved permanently to Wisconsin, and I haven’t been back to Eagle Pass:

I hope that this information may be valuable in many ways.

Sincerely,
Guillermo Rodriguez.

My Dear Mrs. Falk,

I’d like to publicly thank you. You have been with us for some time now, and your unflagging support has been an inspiration.

You have no idea how much this means to us and the work that we strive to do.

Sincerely,
HLCS

Mrs. Irving Falk
January 24, 1996

...Growing up in Dallas in the fifties, I cherish the many childhood memories I have of being with numerous horn toads in our backyard. Words cannot adequately express the sadness I feel and felt upon learning of the horn toads’ decline. If only we could return to 1950’s population.

Naturally enough, I am very grateful to HLCS, and am very proud to be a member.

Sincerely,
Katherine Cook Falk

Mrs. Falk’s latest contribution supporting the HLCS mission arrived with a letter stating “horny toads need me.”

they sure do, Mrs. Falk!
A Hoppin’ Good Time in Austin, Texas
by Bill Brooks

There were so many horned toad appreciators in Austin, the capital of Texas, on Wednesday, January 24th. It was amazing! I had to take off work for the day.

Citizens from Kenedy and Eastland met under the capitol dome to laud our horned toad friends and to promote their respective cities.

The group from Kenedy included members, Joe and Ann Lang, the head of the Kenedy Horned Toad Club, Carter Snooks, the principal of Kenedy Junior High School, along with 4 teachers, 80 eighth grade students, and another 44 adults. They were there to meet with their Representative Hawley, their senator, Pete Laney, and to watch and listen to concurrent House Resolution Number 39 be presented. With the students in the gallery and a full stage of Kenedy Citizens on the podium stage, this resolution, proclaiming Kenedy as “the Horned Lizard Capital of the World”, was read to the world from the House of Representatives and the Senate and placed in the permanent record of the 77th Legislature of the State of Texas. What a grand time it was for Kenedy and the Horned Lizard Conservation Society.

While this was going on, another group of 150 eleventh and twelfth graders, Bette Armstrong in her horned toad suit, the superintendent of Eastland schools, Donald Hughes, County Judge Brad Stephenson, the previous county judge (the longest running county judge in Texas), Scott Bailey, Mindy Stevenson, and the mayor of Eastland, Dale Squiers, was being shepherded around the capital by the assistant to Representative Jim Kaffer, Gail Gilmore. They were in town for Eastland’s Junior/ Senior High School trip and to hear House Resolution Number 31 read. This resolution stated that the Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designates Eastland as “the official home of Old Rip—The Most Famous Horned Toad in Texas”.

What a wonderful day! It was great to see the Texas Legislature doing something worthwhile. The hustle and bustle was amazing for it was this day that the new Texas governor, Rick Perry, gave his state of the state address.

I was up on the podium stage of the House of Representatives along with Leigh Sanders, Arin Folsum, Judge Stephenson and his wife, Mindy, Russ Thomason, and retired Judge Scott Bailey while Representative Kaffer read the resolution. We were rushed through the Senate while Senator David Sibley read the resolution so they could break and listen to Governor Perry’s address. I didn’t make it onto the Senate stage. I didn’t have a jacket, a must to be on the Senate floor. I had to be content to watch from the gallery with Eastland’s students and Bette in her horned toad suit waving to the crowd. It was an inspiring moment in horned toad history. Later, Representative Kaffer treated a bunch of us to lunch at the fancy Austin Club.

Eastland citizens handed out 150 tie tacks and 31 pins. Bette gave out her plush horned toads to Governor Rick Perry, Senator Sibley, Representative Hawley, Gayle Gilmore, House Speaker Pete Laney, his wife Nelda, and Representative Pete Kaffer. The Representatives and Senators loved them. It seemed that everyone turned, folks were wearing horned toad pins or carrying around stuffed horned toads. It was magic.

It was plain to see — EVERYONE loves horned toads.

The Kenedy and Eastland Resolutions follow on pages 10 and 11 of this issue.

Notice in the Southwestern Research Station No. 15 Newsletter:

THE ANT COURSE
Created primarily for systematists, ecologists, behaviorists, conservation biologists, and other biologists whose research requires a greater understanding of ant taxonomy, the Ant Course will be held at the Southwestern Research Station in Portal, AZ, August 5-14, 2001.

For more information, contact Brian Fisher,
California Academy of Sciences at
bfisher@mail.calacademy.org
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, For its unique characteristics and noteworthy status as a threatened species, the Texas horned lizard was officially designated the State Reptile with the passage of House Concurrent Resolution 141 by the 73rd Texas Legislature; and

WHEREAS, The Texas horned lizard, Phrynosoma cornutum, is variously known as a horned toad, horny toad, and horned frog, and while these creatures stand out as a species for their distinctive-looking features, one horned toad in particular has captured the hearts of many Texans, that being Eastland’s Old Rip; and

WHEREAS, Old Rip was placed inside a cornerstone during the 1897 dedication of the Eastland County courthouse, and there he slept peacefully until February 18, 1928, when the courthouse was demolished to make way for new construction; and

WHEREAS, On hand to witness Old Rip’s serendipitous return to light after 31 years of darkness were 3,000 Eastland residents, in ceremonies présided over by a pastor, a judge, and an oilman; the crowd cheered as Old Rip was held aloft, his earnest wiggling viable proof of the little lizard’s stamina and determination; and

WHEREAS, Old Rip’s story made him a celebrity; he was exhibited in various parts of the country and even made a visit to be viewed by President Calvin Coolidge in Washington, D.C.; sadly, the Eastland hero died of pneumonia on January 19, 1929, though his body was embalmed and can still be seen today in a plush lined casket in the lobby of the Eastland County courthouse; and

WHEREAS, To honor the enduring spirit of Old Rip and to perpetuate the telling of his story to future generations, Eastland County residents have commissioned a large iron statue of a horned toad for permanent display in the county seat; and

WHEREAS, Distinguished as a fitting symbol of Texas, the horned toad has rightfully earned a place in Lone Star lore, and the many fine citizens of Eastland have indeed proven their commitment to increasing the public’s awareness of and interest in this singular Texas icon; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 77th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby designate Eastland as the official home of “Old Rip—The Most Famous Horned Toad in Texas” and warmly welcome to Austin the delegation of Eastland citizens visiting on this auspicious occasion.
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The city of Kenedy in Karnes County is a charming community that is known throughout South Texas for its colorful history and close association with the Texas horned lizard; and

WHEREAS, The town enjoys the unique distinction of having the largest known population of federally protected Texas horned lizards, and Kenedy residents have embraced the responsibilities of coexistence with this remarkable species; and

WHEREAS, To that end, they are keenly aware of landscaping, pest control, and other decisions affecting the creature’s habitat and are working in conjunction with the Horned Lizard Conservation Society to conduct research on the lizard with the goal of incorporating the results of that research into an academic curriculum; and

WHEREAS, In addition, residents have formed the Horned Toad Club of Kenedy, which is open to anyone having an interest in the species; the goals of this estimable organization include promoting conservation and preservation of Texas horned lizards, establishing a habitat site and a library, erecting a museum, and conducting survey and research work; and

WHEREAS, Texas horned lizards are part of the rich heritage and culture of Kenedy and, indeed, all of the Lone Star State, and it is fitting to accord the city official recognition of its special status; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 77th Texas Legislature hereby recognize Kenedy as the Horned Lizard Capital of Texas and commend the citizens of Kenedy for their continued efforts to enhance the public’s understanding and appreciation of this uniquely Texan protected species.

Texas Sighting Report –

Is this the first horned lizard sighting of the season (at least in Texas)?
Carter Snooks of Kenedy reported that a group of students in Pawnee, southwest Texas, found an adult horned lizard in their school yard about February 20, 2001.
HORNED LIZARD
CONSERVATION SOCIETY
Post Office Box 122, Austin, Texas 78767

Return Service Requested

Please renew if your membership has expired.
We appreciate your support.

Anne-Marie D’Agostino
49 MELCHER ST STE 3
BOSTON MA 02210-1514

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(Families-$25 for the first person and $10 for each additional member).
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