

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

Casa del Prado Room 101
Balboa Park

November 21, 2017

Presentation of the Book:
**Kumeyaay Ethnobotany:
Shared Heritage of the
Californias**

by Michael Wilken-Robertson

For thousands of years, the Kumeyaay people of northern Baja California and southern California made their homes in the diverse landscapes of the region, interacting with native plants and continuously refining their botanical knowledge. Today, many Kumeyaay Indians in the far-flung ranches of Baja California carry on the traditional knowledge and skills for transforming native plants into food, medicine, arts, tools, regalia, construction materials, and ceremonial items. Kumeyaay Ethnobotany explores the remarkable interdependence between native peoples and native plants of the Californias through in-depth descriptions of 47 native plants and their uses, lively narratives, and hundreds of vivid photographs. It connects the archaeological and historical record with living cultures and native plant specialists who share their ever-relevant wisdom for future generations.

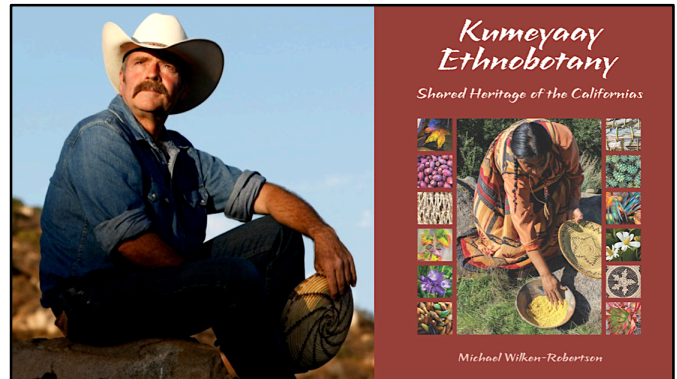
Anthropologist Michael Wilken-Robertson's lifelong collaborative relationships with Native Baja Californians have allowed him to explore traditional indigenous uses of plants in the diverse habitats of their territory, from the ancient past into the present. He currently teaches in the department of anthropology at CSUSM.

6:30-7:00 pm – Natives for Novices.

7:00 pm – refreshments, browsing, & socializing.

7:30 pm – presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.



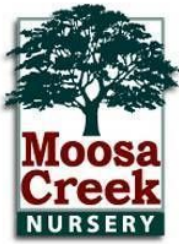
FIELD TRIPS

Friday, November 10, 2017; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Moosa Creek Nursery, 27201 Cool Water Ranch Rd, Valley Center.

The holidays are approaching quickly and the cold will set in as well. We'll be focused on trips that are near amenities and aimed towards a more rounded native plant experience. For late fall/early winter, we'll be at Moosa Creek Nursery in Valley Center on a tour to see the workings in and about the Best North County native plant nursery. Su Kraus, the amazing plant guru and Owner/President has allowed access for a guided tour of selected operations. Topics and areas available to us in the nursery will be a holiday surprise.

This time of year, collected seeds are treated and sown, cuttings planted, plants sold and established, and future plant inventories implemented. For those of us who are in propagation, gardening, restoration, or just very curious - this is a rare opportunity to access a for-profit business that

has really positively impacted the environment and our communities. Get a preview here: moosacreeknursery.com and check your local places where you can purchase Moosa Creek native plants!



CARPOOL: For this trip, we will meet at 7:45 to 8:00 am at the Fashion Valley Transit Center at Fashion Valley mall near the JC Penney's (SR 163 and I-8 Freeways at Friars Rd). This will allow the parking to be monitored by camera and allow for mass transit to be more available to carpools. Look for me (with lanyard and hat) outside the south doors to JC Penney's and we shall ride into North County together.

~ Justin Daniels, Field Trip Chair



Moosa Creek Nursery.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Suzanne Carter	Eben Longfellow
Kathy Elliott	Ellen O'Neil
Ellen Emery	Christina Smith
Sabrina Erwin	Christy Stringfield
Ann Galka Armour	Susan Tamura
Sharon Jones	

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 1, 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. To add an issue to the agenda, please email president@cnpsd.org.

CNPS-SD EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

CNPS San Diego has eleven (11) members of the Executive Board whose term of service is two (2) years. Six members are elected in the even numbered years; 5 are elected in odd numbered years. The ballot is enclosed. **Please fill out and mail the ballot so it is received by November 21 or bring it to the November 21 chapter meeting.**

Following are statements by the five people who are running for the five open positions:

Bob Byrnes

I have been a member of the CNPS for nearly four years – a newbie compared to other candidates. Still, I have been a member of the Board for two years. Having retired from laboratory research, and most recently, from a position as research programmer at UCSD, I recognized the outstanding beauty and other tangible as well as intangible qualities associated with our native plant life very quickly. On my way to learning all the chapter has to offer members, I participated in many committee activities, and I still do so. Presently I am co-chair of the chapter Habitat Restoration Committee, helping lead efforts to control invasive plants in San Diego open space parks and in properties managed by other jurisdictions.

Justin Daniel

My love of California native plants runs deep! From camping trips in the Owens Valley as a kid, to hiking the Sierras and San Bernardino Mountains as a teenager, and living in the coastal redwoods as a student at HSU in Arcata; San Diego and Riverside Counties have been my home for the past 15 years of my adult life. CNPS has given me the opportunity to learn about and implement sustainable landscaping, protect and conserve habitat, and learn more about critically rare plants, (including propagation when possible). As a board member, I feel like I could give a little bit back. While I feel rounded within CNPS-SD as a conservation committee member, field trips chair, and volunteer for the plant sale, I admit I am humbled every day by the breadth of knowledge still left to learn.

Connie di Girolamo

Since 2010, I have been on the San Diego Board and served the Chapter as Treasurer and Membership Chair. Responsibilities that began as a volunteer cashier at the Plant Sale have expanded to being a member of the Chapter Personnel Committee. We now have five major fundraising and educational events – Plant Sales, Workshops, and a Native Garden Tour. They are all staffed by part-time, compensated leadership to insure quality programs. The San Diego Chapter continues to preserve our native flora through conservation and native gardening within the confines of limited resources. Looking forward to participating for another two years.

Al Field

Al Field has been a member of CNPS-San Diego for five years, throughout which he has been a regular volunteer at the Old Town Native Plant Landscape and the annual plant sale. More recently, he became a member of the Garden Native Committee, which designated him as the manager of the Cabrillo National Monument landscape project. He also has volunteered at the Sunset Cliffs landscape project, the spring garden tour, plant sale and fall symposium. Al has an MBA degree and is retired from a career as a consultant to the banking industry. As a CNPS-San Diego board member, his interests include continued involvement with landscape projects and chapter financial management and planning.

Frank Landis

I have been a CNPS member for 27 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, LA/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, seeds, and books, 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, represented CNPS on the County MSCP Steering Committee and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizen's Advisory Committee, written the monthly conservation column and occasional rare plant columns, chaired the Conservation and Rare Plant

Survey committees, represented the San Diego chapter at the state CNPS Chapter Council (where I helped draft the new CNPS statement on climate change), and yes, served on the chapter Executive Committee since 2009. 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.

RARE PLANTS

A LOOK AT RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE CNPS INVENTORY

People join CNPS for many different reasons. Some members are there for the field trips, others for gardening advice, some are to learn more about California's diverse flora. Others are there for rare plant science or conservation. If like me, you are in this last set, you probably know all about the online CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (Inventory). The Inventory is the official widely recognized list of sensitive California plants along with some information on ecology and general information on distribution.

If you are an expert on San Diego plants, and have been in the game for a while, you will remember when the experts would meet on rare occasions in advance of a new printed edition of the Inventory. The room would be abuzz with rare plant gossip. These were the heady days when you almost couldn't look anywhere without realizing some species worthy of conservation status had totally been overlooked.

Today, of course, the printed Inventory is a thing of the past and we have an online version. I do miss those rooms full of lively botanists exchanging data. However, there are advantages to the new system. A wider range of botanists can participate. Updates can be done frequently, many times a year vs. once a decade. You can check out the Inventory right now from the comfort of your phone/iPad/computer. Just type www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/inventory into your browser. You can catch the latest news, read up on the history of the Inventory, the status review process, and

the ranking system. And of course, you can search the online Inventory for your favorite rare plant.

One of the disadvantages of the online Inventory is that updates can be done frequently, many times a year. Blink and you've missed an addition, name change, or rank change. Since I contribute to the Inventory by providing rare plant data and input through the Rare Plant Forum (the primary way experts provide input these days on whether a proposed addition qualifies or a rank change is warranted), I try to keep up with the changes. Now and then, I even provide a summary for our membership. As it turns out, it has been a while.

Over the last five-years, since 2013, nine San Diego County vascular plant species have been added to the Inventory. I have provided a list, with their assigned rank, the date of the addition, and a brief statement regarding each.

Shrubby Indian mallow (*Abutilon abutiloides*). CRPR 2B.1: May 2016. Sonoran Desert, Anza Borrego State Park (2 locations), one on private land. A widespread desert species in the west but never before reported from California. The specimens, collected over a decade ago were masquerading as a similar but more widespread species in California.

Higgin's barberry (*Berberis higginsiae*). CRPR 3.2: April 2014. Extracted from the Fremont's barberry (*B. fremontii*) as a fully recognized species but some plants seem intermediate between the two species, hence the mark of uncertainty, Rank 3.

Wiggin's cryptantha (*Cryptantha wigginsii*). May 2013: CRPR 1B.2 A Baja California species not seen since the 1930s. Turns out some plants where calling Carlsbad home. It is now known to occur near Temecula and on Santa Catalina based on redetermination of herbarium specimens.

Sessile-leaved yerba santa (*Eriodictyon sessilifolium*). January 2017: CRPR 2B.1 Another Baja California endemic that popped up at Mira Mesa. It is apparently represented by a single plant.

Warty caltrop (*Kallstroemia parviflora*). CRPR 4.2: January 2015. Known from a handful of sites in California as at Warner Springs and Anza Borrego State Park.

Jacumba Mountains linanthus (*Linanthus maculatus* subsp. *ermocarya*). CRPR 2B.1: January 2016. A newly described subtaxon. Known only to occur at a few desert sites in San Diego County (southern Anza Borrego St. Pk.) and on BLM land in imperial county. A tiny plant. It was featured recently in a Southern California Botanist's journal (Crossosoma

40.1, 2014) and on the cover, an edge-on penny literally towers over the plant.

Narrow-leaf sandpaper plant (*Petalonix linearis*): CRPR 2B.3: January 2016. Unlike the other species, this one is more widespread in the deserts but most records are old. There are fewer than 10 recently seen locations in California. This plant also occurs in Imperial County.

Hellhole scaleseed (*Spermolepis infermensis*). CRPR 1B.2. January 2016. A new species carved out of a more wide ranging species. Only known from a few sites.

Western bristly scaleseed (*Spermolepis lateriflora*). CRPR 2A. January 2016. This species is known to occur from California east to Texas and south into Sonora, but all our records are old, so it got the dreaded "2A" ranking, more common elsewhere but extirpated in California.

Note that there has been a few tweaks in this time frame as well, for example, the afore mentioned Fremont's barberry was changed to CRPR 2B.1 after the troublesome plants historically assigned to Higgin's barberry were extracted from the taxon. Santa Rosa basalt brodiaea (*Brodiaea santarosae*) been changed from CRPR 3 (more information needed) to CRPR 2B.1 and CRPR 1B.1 respectively. While San Diego alumroot (*Heuchera rubescens* var. *versicolor*) lost its status as a CRPR 2.3 based on disagreements with the Jepson authors on treatment, and was given a new rank of 3.3 (hey, it is still on the list!).

~ Fred Roberts, Rare Plant Botanist

NATIVE GARDENING

Garden Native Meeting

November 8. Garden Native, the Chapter's native gardening committee, meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at various locations. Contact gardening@cnpsd.org for location and time.

Garden Native 2018 Tour

Call out for Native Gardens in the North County Region. The general areas include: Escondido, Vista, Rancho Santa Fe, Coastal Areas from Del Mar to Carlsbad. If you have a native garden or know someone (or a business) that has native plants, please send info to director@gardennative.org.

Garden Native Workshop

Saturday, Feb 10, 2018
San Diego Botanic Gardens

Set your sights on the First Annual Garden Native Winter Workshop! We will be having a demonstration of Barn & Kestel Box usages for gopher control presented by the Raptor Institute (live owl and kestrel to help you envision how these awesome creatures can help you keep rodents under control) along with a talk about gopher trapping. Lucy Warren will be doing a planting demo and a walk around the horticultural native gardens. There will also be a tour of the Native Preserve (including a riparian area with a lovely pond.) We are planning to incorporate talks on propagation and irrigation also along with an "Ask the Expert Panel."

NOTE: This will be a much smaller workshop in order to accommodate a small group experience for Planting Demo, Native Preserve Tour and other group sessions so reserve your spot early! Breakfast, Starbucks and lunch will be provided :)

NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE IN OLD TOWN STATE HISTORIC PARK

The November Old Town Planting Party is Postponed Due to Concerns over Hepatitis-A Risk in San Diego County

The annual November planting in the Old Town Native Plant Landscape is postponed to December. There is a chance of Hepatitis-A contamination, and the virus can survive at least two months in the soil. We don't want our volunteers to risk exposure to the virus when they are digging holes.

If you are vaccinated against Hep-A, and want to join a planting party on Saturday, December 11, please email me at oldtownlandscape@cnpsd.org by the end of November. We will scale the planting in December to fit the size of the vaccinated planting team.

If you are not vaccinated yet, and want to volunteer

here, or in other urban parks, vaccination is easy, safe and cheap. Vaccinations can be arranged with your physician and/or are available free of charge through a county health clinic. More info on clinics here: <http://www.sdiz.org>.

Do you have a question? Send an email to oldtownlandscape@cnpsd.org.

~ Kay Stewart

CONSERVATION

Conservation Committee

November 7. Usually the first Tuesday evening of each month. Contact **Frank Landis** at conservation@cnpsd.org for details.

Trick or Treat!

I'm writing right after the October plant sale, and you will be probably reading this in early November. So why the Halloween theme? Here are four projects I'm dealing with, or will be dealing with soon. I'll let you figure out whether we're getting tricked or properly treated with.

Project 1: City of San Diego Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation Plan (VPHCP). This one has been ongoing since 2011. This is version 2, because the City failed to follow version 1, was sued successfully by a coalition that included CNPS, and was forced to come up with a new VPHCP. The document is supposed to conserve habitat (vernal pools) for seven listed species, including vernal pool plants and fairy shrimp.

In any event, the final EIR (FEIR) came out on Friday, October 6 at 5:44 pm (why Friday evening, you ask?), and it is going to the San Diego City Planning Commission on October 19, which means this will be old news when you read this.

The VPHCP is....almost okay. Probably, if City Planning was willing to sit down with the environmental community and hash it out, we could come up with a decent compromise version that would satisfy everyone. Unfortunately, there's little indication from the FEIR that they are willing to do this, so I'm testifying in front of the Planning Commission, asking them to not send it to the City Council until the issues get fixed.

One big problem is that the City's vernal pool database is incomplete. They decided back in 2011 that they

were not going to do any new surveys for the VPHCP, instead asserting that their decade-plus of old surveys had identified all vernal pools.

Because I have spent years on Del Mar Mesa, I was able to demonstrate that the vernal pool database is missing at least 25 pools from Del Mar Mesa, and another 16 pools that they list no longer exist. Together this is about 10% of the pool inventory on Del Mar Mesa. All of these pools are "road pools," formed where dirt roads cross the vernal pool areas and trucks got bogged and dug out ruts that became pools.

Obviously, the road pools are not "wild" pools, but the problem for the City is that the road pools are about the only pools that fill with water at the height of the drought. Vernal pool species like fairy shrimp find their way into these road ruts, and during the height of the last drought, the only place where the covered species were active on Del Mar Mesa were in road pools.

The City is willing to document and protect some road pools, but it cannot protect pools whose existence it does not acknowledge. In the FEIR, they try to make the case that these pools were new since 2011, but as I found by looking at old images on Google Earth, the roads and at least some of the pools were visible back in 1994.

I want to see the City update its vernal pool database so that all the active pools are protected all the time. Otherwise, we may have to go back to court to ask the judges what they think about this omission.

Project 2: Safari Highlands. This is a long-dreaded development that is proposed for immediately north and uphill from the San Diego Safari Park (hence Safari Highlands). This project was announced about 4 pm on Friday, October 13. Coincidentally, I'm sure. The EIR has a 52 day review period (usually they are 30 or 60 days), so that it covers both Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Safari Highlands is another Lilac Hills Ranch/Newland Sierra-style leapfrog sprawling bad idea. This one puts hundreds of houses deep in the hills next to Rancho Guejito, on the north side of San Pasqual Valley and over the hills from Valley Center. In other words, fire country. While there are technically exits, both of them connect to a single road that leads to all the houses. I'm going to go through the EIR biology and greenhouse gas impacts with a fine-toothed comb, but in the wake of those horrendous fires up in northern California, it's worth taking a long, very cold, look at developments that look just like the neighborhoods that burned in

Santa Rosa. CNPS fire policy is that we want both plants and people to be safe, but simple humanity says—at least to me—that we shouldn't put people in harm's way, especially by putting dense neighborhoods in dangerous areas with only one way out.

Various environmental groups and especially the San Pasqual Valley Preservation Alliance (SPVPA.ORG) are out in force to oppose this. If this project makes your blood boil, I urge you to get in touch with them. You can also email me (conservation@cnpssd.org) for help writing a comment letter. Comments are due December 7.

Project 3: Lilac Hills Ranch. It's ba-ack. If you believe the article in the Valley Roadrunner on September 29 (<https://www.valleycenter.com/articles/lilac-hills-ranch-time-for-a-new-narrative/>), the developers behind Lilac Hills Ranch are still pushing this development through the County process, with the idea of getting the Supervisors to approve it in 2018, or maybe 2019.

Yes, this is the same development that was immolated by voters (Measure B) by a 2-1 margin. You would think that the developer would get the message, but in our post-truth era, initiatives are negotiable or something. Worse, some of the candidates running to replace Bill Horn in 2018 are waffling on whether they would support this.

Therefore, I have a favor to ask: call or email your county supervisor and tell them to honor the will of the voters in Measure B, and to vote against Lilac Hills Ranch if it ever comes before them. If you talk to any supervisory candidate, ask them their position on Lilac Hills Ranch and urge them to vote against it. And let me know how it goes. If you're unsure what to say, contact me and I'll be happy to help out.

As the voters knew last year, Lilac Hills Ranch isn't affordable housing, it's about packing people into a high fire danger area with inadequate access, and charging them average housing prices. Again, if you're having flashbacks to Santa Rosa, this is the kind of thing we're trying to prevent.

Project 4: CalFire Vegetation Treatment Program. Late last month I heard that the Board of Forestry had approved CalFire sending version 4(!) of the draft EIR for the state Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP) sometime in late October. When and if this comes out, it will be the latest iteration of the worst EIR I've so far read, and I've commented on two of the last three versions. If anyone wants to start a betting pool, I'd bet

that this will be released after 4 pm, Friday October 27. Since in the past they've put it out for review for 60 days, October 27 would be their attempt to mess up Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Want to bet?

The basic problem with previous versions of the VTP (as you may remember—I've written about it before) is that it's a boondoggle. In the last edition, if you divided the third of the state that they wanted to treat by the acreage they were prepared to treat per year, they'd treat each acre once every 250 years. This is obviously not how you clear vegetation to try to keep people safe from fire, and the problems only start there. But I'll cut this particular rant short, because I may want to use it next month.

Besides, there are bigger issues here. One is that CalFire has already signed onto a Memorandum of Understanding with a number of northern California environmental groups, including CNPS, to do more ecologically sophisticated controlled burn program in the forests of northern California. We're fine with this. However, CalFire is also pushing this VTP. Is it internal politics? Are they being disingenuous? We don't know. The point is that we're not against trying to make people and forests safer, but this VTP isn't it.

On a more serious note, I sincerely, sincerely hope that CalFire does not issue the VTP right now. From what's happening in Northern California as I write this, it's pretty obvious that our regulations around clearance for fire in the wildland urban interface (WUI), and our regulations for building fire-safe housing, are seriously inadequate. Embers are flying well past the protected houses on the WUI and burning up developments that were thought to be safe.

Since CalFire is quite literally in the hot seat, rather than releasing the VTP version 4 now, I hope that they fight this year's fires, process the lessons of the 2017 fire season, and put those into the VTP. If embers fly miles in hurricane-force winds, no one can clear enough of any sort of vegetation to keep fires away from housing developments. While there are very good reasons to clear and give firefighters a place to work safely, bulldozing huge swaths of the landscape isn't going to make people any safer, especially if the clearing is only done once a century or less.

So...tricks or treats? Happy November.

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

Conservation Conference



February 1-3, 2018
Workshops & Field Trips January 30-31

Los Angeles, CA
Los Angeles Airport Marriott

<https://conference.cnps.org>

Los Angeles Airport Marriott
5855 West Century Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA, 90045

January 30 & 31: Pre-conference field trips and workshops.

February 1-3: Programs and sessions.

We are always looking for photos of native plants, flowers, and field trips for our newsletter or to put on our website. If you would like CNPS-SD to use your photos, please send them to newsletter@cnpsd.org and/or webmaster@cnpsd.org



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, July 10 for the August newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar November 2017

- 11/1: Board Meeting, p.2
- 11/7: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.4
- 11/8: Garden Native Mtg, p. 3
- 11/19: Field Trip to Moosa Creek Nursery, p.1
- 11/21: Chapter Meeting, p.1

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

___ Student or Limited Income \$25; ___ Individual \$45; ___ Family \$75
___ Plant Lover \$100; ___ Patron \$300; ___ Benefactor \$600; ___ Mariposa Lily \$1,500
Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Mail check payable to "CNPS" and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter
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San Diego, CA 92112-1390

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November 2017 Newsletter

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

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