



JANUARY EVENT

Monthly Meeting: 7 p.m. Monday, January 9, 2023

Mark Reinke: Baker's Dozen
(see below for details)

Day Hall at the ABG, and in simulcast by Zoom

Bring your blooming plants for our monthly ribbon judging

Mark Reinke on Cattleyas: A Baker's Dozen



Mark Reinke has had a passion for plants from the time he was a child growing up in a small town outside of Chicago. When his family moved to Florida in the 1960s, he got his first orchid plant as back bulbs while helping out a neighbor lady who had a large orchid and bromeliad collection. Since then, orchids have always been one of his major interests.

In 2004, he and his partner, Gary Collier, sold their business in Atlanta and moved to the Blue Ridge Escarpment area of South Carolina to grow plants full time under the business name Marble Branch Farms. They constructed a large greenhouse and seed laboratory so they could focus on creating new orchid hybrids, concentrating especially on

miniature and compact cattleya types, with an emphasis on new and unusual breeding lines. Mark has also created and registered new hybrids in *Dendrobium* and *Cymbidium*. In addition to an online store, Mark participates in ten to twelve orchid shows per year in the Southeast and travels frequently in the region giving programs to the various orchid societies. He also is a vendor in the upscale TD Saturday Market held on beautiful Main St. in downtown Greenville, SC from May through October. In addition to orchids, Marble Branch Farms currently raises hardy carnivorous plants, especially hybrids of our native *Sarracenia* or North American Pitcher Plants. Mark is active in the Western North Car-

Happy New Year, and it's Time to Pay your Dues!

It is time to renew your membership with the Atlanta Orchid Society!

If you just need to renew and your info hasn't changed, go to atlantaorchidsociety.square.site/shop/memberships/2

Otherwise, go to the [AtlOS web site](http://atlantaorchidsociety.square.site) and click on the Join/Renew button on the front page. You can also send a check to our treasurer, Jason Mills-Shoulta (address on page 2).

This does not apply to members who joined at the show last October: your membership is valid until the end of 2023. If in doubt, contact [Jason \(sun-ray@twyst.org\)](mailto:Jason@twyst.org)!

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olina Orchid Society, South Carolina Orchid Society, the Blue Ridge Orchid Society of SC, and has twice served as the President of the Atlanta Orchid Society. Mark writes the ribbon judging notes for the AtlOS monthly newsletter.

Mark's talk's title is "Baker's Dozen" and will feature 13 Cattleya species, showing how they grow in the wild and the implications for growing them and their descendants in our own collections. The title is a double meaning because the baker's dozen will feature notes on how they grow in the wild by Charles Baker, who offers great descriptions of the natural habitats, which in some cases will be quite surprising to see.

Mark will bring a comprehensive selection of plants for sale covering a wide range of genera, from inexpensive young plants to near flowering and flowering size for those who want quicker results.

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Newsletter Editors: [Véronique Perrot](#) & [Mark Reinke](#)

The [Atlanta Orchid Society](#) is affiliated with the [American Orchid Society](#), the [Orchid Digest Corporation](#), the [Mid-America Orchid Congress](#), and the [Garden Club of Georgia](#).

January 2023 Note to Growers

Most of us were very aware of our recent winter storm. Those of you who grow indoors and did not lose power are probably not worried about your plants, although the humidity was probably very low in the house from the constant heat. Did you come across a cold draft blowing on your Phalaenopsis? They don't like that. Did you move them or fix the draft?

Those of us who grow orchids in greenhouses may have had different issues, such as heaters that couldn't keep up with the severe cold. I am sorry to say that I was a case in point. When the temperature was 2 F at 5 p.m. outside, it was only 39 F inside my greenhouse. Something had to be done: all the plants came into the house. There were 5 orchids that had attached themselves to the wall. They were Phal and Cattleya species.

Remember that some orchids are more sensitive to cold than others. Plants that can take 55 F at night: harder Vandas, Stanhopeas, Oncidiums, Lycastes, Miltonias, Odontoglossums, Masdevallias, some Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, Catasetums, and cool growing Paphiopedilums. Most Cymbidiums can take winter temperatures down to 40 F.

Orchids that are sensitive to temperatures below 60 F are white and yellow Vandas and Dendrobiums (phalaenopsis and antelope-type). There are also

Phalaenopsis that prefer the warmth. In addition, don't forget that young and immature plants are much more sensitive to cold.

The next issue is how to tell if your plants were damaged by the cold. I received an email from Motes on this subject, and I found an article on the AOS website by Susan Jones.

Note that symptoms show up days after exposure. Symptoms of chilling are: surface lesions, pitting, large sunken areas and discoloration; internal discoloration (browning); and when exposed to freezing conditions, there is an increased susceptibility to fungus and bacterial attacks; slow growth.

Symptoms of freezing injury include desiccation, burning of foliage, water-soaked areas that progress to necrotic spots on leaves. These may not show up until plants are exposed to normal temperatures.

Care for the issues of general chilling damage is a humid environment out of direct sun and warm temperatures. Motes suggested trimming dead foliage and treat for fungus and bacteria for areas that have necrotic water-soaked areas. Also, don't assume that plants are dead: they may put out new growth in the spring.

B. Barnett

EVENTS CALENDAR**January 2023****9 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly****Meeting: Mark Reinke on Cattleyas****14 – AOS monthly judging****February****11 – AOS monthly judging****13 – Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting**

Judges' Corner

The Atlanta Judging Center met on Saturday, December 10th, 2022, in the garden workroom of the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Fourteen plants were considered for awards and two plants received AOS awards. Both plants were exhibited by Charles and Susan Wilson. Photography by Charles Wilson.

Award 2022-2105: *Bulbophyllum tricornoides* 'Chasus,' CHM/AOS 82 points. This award is provisional until positively identified by the Species Identification Task Force. The species is indigenous to Thailand.

Award 2022-2106: *Cattleya* Itsy Bitsy 'Chasus,' AM/AOS 81 points. (*C. alajorii* x *C. Beaufort*) This is the first award to this hybrid!

Congratulations to the exhibitors.

Doug Hartong
Chair, Atlanta Judging Center



Cattleya Itsy Bitsy 'Chasus' AM/AOS



Bulbophyllum tricornoides 'Chasus' CHM/AOS



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Atlanta Orchid Society Monthly Meeting Ribbon Winners for December, 2022

Notes by Mark Reinke; photos by Jon Crate



Brassavola nodosa 'Mas Mejor' AM/AOS

Class 1: Cattleya Alliance

**Blue: *Brassavola nodosa* 'Mas Mejor,'
AM/AOS – Jon Crate & Fi Alonso**

The 'Mas Mejor' form of the Lady of the Night Orchid originated with H&R Nurseries in Hawaii and was given an Award of Merit in 1987. Fast forward to 1995 and the same plant received a Certificate of Cultural Merit with just over 800 flowers. Even this young plant with barely a dozen growths has well over 30 blooms as best I can tell from the photo. This species has a fairly large area of distribution on both sides of Mexico, through Central America and into both Colombia and Venezuela, possibly Guyana and beyond, always growing at fairly low elevations. We have a plant we collected as a small seedling from a mangrove swamp just behind Puerto Aventuras on the Caribbean coast of Mexico at least 25 years ago. It is now a large plant, but lacks the floriferousness of this "Much Better" clone. Jon and Fi seem to be doing very well growing this species in a pot, but very careful watering is required with that method as the roots must dry off completely between watering. In my greenhouse conditions,

a basket or a mount is the only way I can maintain this species over many years. While the terete foliage indicates it likes bright light, I have seen massive colonies on fairly shaded limbs of large old trees in the Yucatan that were covered with flowers, so it should be easily adaptable to growing under lights or on a reasonably bright windowsill. The reputation of this species is such that even people only casually acquainted with orchids have heard of the wonderful scent that can waft far from a plant in bloom, but only at night.

**Blue: *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* Hawaiian Prominence 'America,' AM/AOS –
Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan**

This striking, high contrast flower is probably one of the best introductions that originated with Carmela Orchids on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. While I could find photos of at least four other individuals out of this grex, only 'America' has the flat form and color intensity that makes it so eye catching. The added bonus of this compact but complex hybrid with 22 different species in its family tree is that it can flower twice per year, with



Rhyncolaeliocattleya Hawaiian Prominence 'America' AM/AOS

blooms coming in no particular season, but as new growths mature. I have done best with this orchid using very open mix and careful watering, and the best plants I have seen were brought into the Gulf Coast Orchid Show for sale by a Florida grower, mounted on the top of horizontal cedar boards. For windowsill culture, that method may not be practical, however, so just make sure your plant gets a nice big drink each time but is allowed to dry throughout the pot before the next one.

Blue: *Cattlianthe* Mrs W N Elkins – Carson Barnes

A primary hybrid between *Guarianthe bowringiana* and *Cattleya purpurata*, this orchid was first introduced a century ago in 1922. The version exhibited uses the coerulea form of the first parent and the bluish variant of the second parent usually known as *C. purpurata forma*



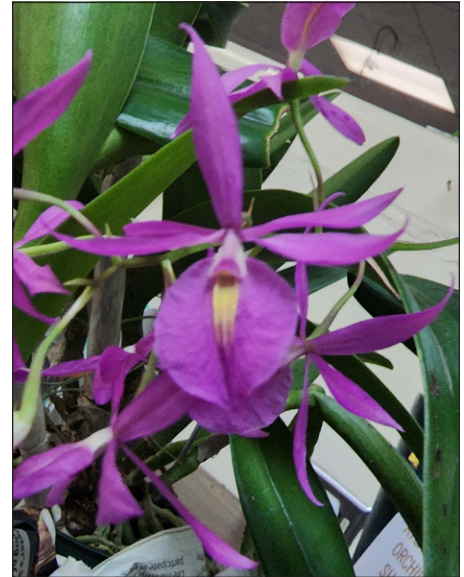
Cattlianthe Mrs W N Elkins



Cattleya labiata form coerulea 'Luke's Lightsaber' AM/AOS



Rhyncolaeliocattleya Dragon's Fire 'Aurora' AM/AOS



Barkeria Princess Margo



Leptotes bicolor



Rhyncolaeliocattleya Heaven's Gate 'Crystelle' FCC/AOS

werkhauseri, to create this violet blue flower. There are so many different color variants of that latter species, perhaps more than 150, that each one has a specific name that may not be useful to someone "out of the loop" in revealing what colors it displays. Since these two species usually bloom at opposite times of the year, making this cross requires one of the parents to be happily confused, a situation not likely to occur often.

Red: *Cattleya labiata* form coerulea 'Luke's Lightsaber,' AM/AOS – Carson Barnes

Red: *Rhyncattleanthe* Dragon's Fire 'Aurora,' AM/AOS – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

White: *Leptotes bicolor* – Barbara Barnett

White: *Rhyncolaeliocattleya* Heaven's Gate 'Crystelle,' FCC/AOS – Fred Pippin

White: *Barkeria* Princess Margo – Jason Mills

Barkeria are in the Epidendrum Alliance and should be entered under Class 4. This plant probably would have gotten a red or even blue ribbon in that class this month.

White: *Brassolaeliocattleya* Petite Stars – Bailey Santwire



Brassolaeliocattleya Petite Stars

Class 2: Cymbidium Alliance

No Entries



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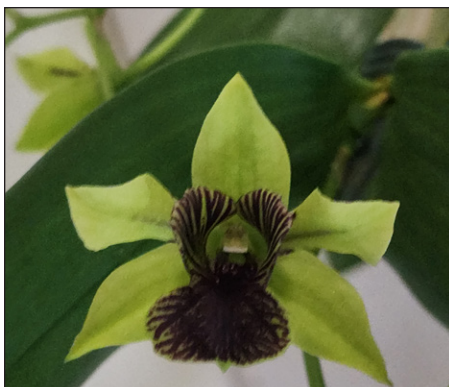
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*Dendrobium tanii*

Class 3: Dendrobium Alliance

Blue: *Dendrobium tanii* – Bailey Santwire

Dendrobium tanii is not recognized as a species by either Kew or the RHS and is of clouded origin. It is definitely allied with *Den. bracteosum* but with slimmer petaled flowers with pointier tips, as well as a somewhat smaller growth habit. Some time back I had heard that it came out of the collection of Mr. Tan in Thailand, for whom several other orchid species have been named. Reportedly the plant came from western New Guinea, which is the natural range of *Den. bracteosum*, and also of *Den. capituliflorum*. While it is only speculation on my part, *Den. tanii* is exactly what you would expect in the way of growth and flowering habits if you were to find a natural hybrid between those two species. And like those two, patience is required to see a profusion of the long lasting flowers, because they are only produced on the older, bare canes of the plant, which seems to be in no hurry to grow. This orchid will do best with warm temperatures, filtered light, and regular watering with good

*Dendrobium Blue Violetta x Red Maroon**Dendrobium Green Flash*

drainage. To grow mounted, as Bailey is doing, will require more frequent attention but is a good way to ensure a happy plant for years to come.

Red: *Dendrobium Blue Violetta x Red Maroon* – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate

White: *Dendrobium Green Flash* – Fred Pippin

*Epidendrum porpax**Epidendrum hugomedinae*

Class 4: Epidendrum Alliance

Blue: *Epidendrum hugomedinae* – Bailey Santwire

This is the first time I have ever seen this species, only described in 2004, so I will simply quote directly from orchid-species.com with the following description replete with botanical terms worth looking up if you don't know them:

"Found in southeastern Ecuador at elevations around 1600 meters as a small sized, cool growing epiphyte with thin, laterally compressed, cane-like stems carrying 7, suberect, fleshy, purple tinged, oblong-elliptic, acuminate, smooth, entire margined, deep green, basally clasping leaves that blooms in the fall on an apical, pluriracemose, arching, recurring over years, dense, many flowered, terete, thin, short inflorescence with the peduncle enveloped completely by a basal, widely ovate, acuminate, amplexicaul bract, and triangular-lanceolate, acuminate, gradually shorter floral bracts and carrying up to 28, simultaneous, resupinate, sweetly fragrant at noon flower."

I'm guessing Bailey acquired this plant from Ecuagenera, as they often bring a few unusual species to sell that are not often seen in collections.

Red: *Epidendrum porpax* – Bailey Santwire



Oncidium Heaven Scent 'Redolence'



Trichocentrum *morenoi*



Phragmipedium *pearcei* 'Clompy'

Class 5: *Oncidium* Alliance

Blue: *Oncidium* Heaven Scent 'Redolence' – Fred Pippin

Oncidium Heaven Scent is a child of the well known *Onc.* Sharry Baby. Thanks to the other parent it is much more compact growing with densely flowered, heavily branched spikes. It is as fragrant as its famous parent, but the scent is not as "chocolately" to my nose, probably because it gets an extra dose of *Onc. sotoanum*, which carries an aroma more like vanilla. Vigorous and free flowering, this orchid does fine with average care, but can become truly spectacular if given medium light, frequent water going just barely dry in between and regular fertilizer. Under LED lights, this and many of the *Oncidium* hybrids available today will grow and bloom well, but the foliage will be rather yellow. In that situation, they look better if grown off to the side and not directly under the fixtures. The flowers are a brighter shade of red-purple under better lighting than was available at the meeting space where the photo was taken.

Red: *Trichocentrum* *morenoi* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: *Oncostele* Catatante "Sun King" – Fred Pippin



Oncostele Catante 'Sun King'

Class 6: Slipper Alliance

Phragmipedium

Blue: *Phragmipedium* *pearcei* 'Clompy' – Carson Barnes

This is one of the more compact growing species hailing from the mountains of Ecuador and Peru, usually growing by the edge of streams or on drippy cliffs. While the flowers are not brightly colored, they have a very appealing blend of green, white and purple with beautifully detailed markings above the opening of the lip. Like most other species in the genus, they are borne successively on inflorescences that rise up above the rather grassy foliage, and can keep a multigrowth plant such as this one in flower for much of the year. It goes without saying that based on the habitat, this orchid prefers high humidity, frequent water and mild temperatures, conditions best achieved in this climate in a greenhouse with cooling pads or a specialized indoor growing area.

Red: *Phragmipedium* *longifolium* *forma gracile* – Carson Barnes

*Paphiopedilum spicerianum*

Paphiopedilum

Blue: *Paphiopedilum spicerianum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

This species also won a blue ribbon for Danny and Dianne last month, so please refer to the previous newsletter for a detailed description.

Red: *Paphiopedilum barbigerrum forma aureum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Since we heard about this month's blue ribbon Paph last month, I decided to flesh out a little information on this lesser-known species. Unfortunately, no photo was taken. Originally described in 1940, this small growing orchid comes from Southwest China, most recently collected along the border between Guangxi and Guizhou provinces, which are just north of Vietnam at an elevation of 2000 to 3000 feet above sea level, making it a fairly warm grower. In the normal color form, the single flower has a large white dorsal sepal with a greenish base, tan colored petals and a deeper brownish tan lip, set off by a bright yellow staminode in the center of the flower. The plant exhibited is the *aureum* variant, described in 1999, in which all the parts of the flower not white are a bright greenish yellow. Peak flowering based on bloom records is October and November. This small species has been used in conjunction with other species of similar size to create a line of hybrids often called "Tea Cup Paphs."

*Phalaenopsis Younghome Walle*

Red: *Paphiopedilum wardii* – HB (Helen Blythe-Hart)

White: *Paphiopedilum micranthum variety eburneum* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

White: *Paphiopedilum gratixianum* - Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Class 7: Phalaenopsis

Blue: *Phalaenopsis Younghome Walle* – Pinkan Rijanto

While this orchid is being sold online by many sources as *Phal.* Younghome Wallet, the 't' does not exist on the actual RHS registration and so the name is correct as I have indicated above. The handwritten tag in the pot is even further off and should be corrected. It is a 2018 introduction from Young Home Orchids in Taiwan. The vast majority of their crosses are registered with "Young-home" as the first part of the name. The flattened petaloid lip is inherited from *Phal.* World Class 'Big Foot,' JC/AOS, which was introduced in 1990 and the first plant known to have this mutation. Even though it is the great-great grandparent of *Phal.* Younghome Walle, the trait comes through strongly. It isn't at all unusual for the names to be corrupted or otherwise lost in translation with the many *Phalaenopsis* being imported from Taiwan in recent years. At least this one had a tag with useful information and a distinctive look that made it possible to ascertain its real name. The six main species in its family tree are all considered to be easy to grow, so this one should be grown with "typical" care, preferring bright, but filtered light, warm temperatures, slight drying between watering, regular fertilizer, and repotting into fresh media every two or three years, and somewhat tolerant of less than perfect care.



Phalaenopsis Yaphon Oh Mygod

Red: *Phalaenopsis* Yaphon Oh Mygod – Fi Alonso & Jon Crate



Vandochostylis Lou Sneary 'Bluebird'

Class 8: Vandaceous Alliance

Blue: *Vandachostylis* Lou Sneary 'Bluebird' – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

For anyone who is yet not acquainted with this primary hybrid between *Rhynchostylis coelestis* and *Vanda falcata*, it was originally registered in 1970 by Hajime Ono, who specialized in *Vanda* and *Miltoniopsis* hybrids on the Big Island of Hawaii. Its floriferousness, ease of culture

and various color forms have kept it popular in collections ever since. The flowers are delightfully fragrant as well. The colors range from white to pink to violet blue, but the most commonly available form is this one, 'Bluebird,' with white flowers tinged deep violet blue at their tips. This clone also tends to spread its flowering out over many months, rather than bloom all at once as some other forms do. This is good if you enjoy a few spikes at a time for up to three seasons of the year, but not so good if you were hoping to display your plant in a show. Many other forms have been awarded with hundreds of flowers at once, usually in the months of August, September or October. Plants will begin as a single, compact fan of leaves, but will multiply with time. My plant of the 'Bluebird' form currently has at least 8 growths while still in a 6 inch plastic net pot with hanger. While this orchid will grow and bloom even under "windowsill" conditions, it does better in a growing area that can be cooler in the winter months. Plants produce many aerial roots and like heavy watering May through October and somewhat less the balance of the year. It probably would do well grown outside in our summer conditions in dappled light and left out until nights fall below the 50s in autumn.



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*Sobralia fimbriata**Gastrochilus acutifolius*

Class 9: Miscellaneous

Blue: *Sobralia fimbriata* – Bailey Santwire

Sobralia fimbriata is one of about 100 species in the genus found in the tropics from Mexico to South America, mostly as terrestrials. Some species colonize roadsides and new road cuts through the jungles where they can form large colonies. This particular one is found through much of the range of the genus. It is a rather large plant but other species can grow much larger. When I visited Macchu Picchu back in 1986, I was awestruck by a very showy species, *Sobralia dichomata*, growing along the trail with clusters of orange and purple flowers on stems up to 20 feet tall! It also can produce a number of open flowers at once on each growth. *Sob. fimbriata* is a little more subtle and demure topping out at about one tenth the height. The flowers, which often don't open fully, are white to yellow with a deeper colored lip that is truly shaggy. They come one at a time at the apex of mature stems, with several being produced over a couple of months. Given that each bloom only lasts a couple of days, the timing was right for Bailey's plant with 3 blooms (plus a seed

pod). In general, all the species in this genus like frequent water with excellent drainage. In places where they don't have to be protected from the weather, such as southern California, they can be grown outside year-round and allowed to become large clumps. Since they are primarily mountain species, however, most do not do well in southern Florida due to the prevalent heat.

Blue: *Mediocalcar decoratum* 'Mello Sweetbay's Eye Candy,' AM/CCM/AOS – David Mellard

In contrast to the above blue ribbon winner, *Med. decoratum* is a small creeping species hailing from the mountain forests of New Guinea that is peppered in winter with many tiny flowers. Each bloom has fused orange sepals that form a globe or lantern shape. Their tips are yellow and flare out, along with two narrow yellow petals and a slightly wider lip (magnifying glass required). It generally prefers the mild temperatures you would

*Mediocalcar decoratum* 'Mello Sweetbay's Eye Candy' AM/CCM/AOS

expect at 3000 to 8000 feet above sea level in the tropics and David is doing a great job growing it in this climate. He received the above awards on this plant in 2018 and 2019 respectively. He says he doesn't do anything special in growing it. It stays in his greenhouse in cattleya light levels and gets watered two or three times per week. However, looking at the many awards for this species, his is the only one for a plant grown in the South rather than in a milder area.

Red: *Gastrochilus acutifolius* - Norrie

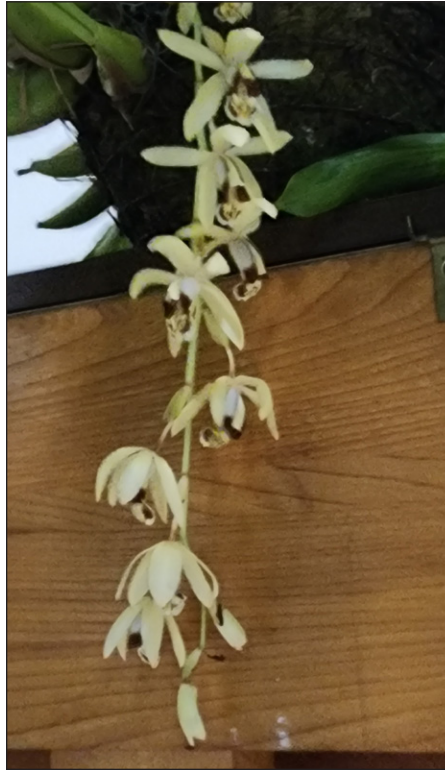
Red: *Nottara Lucy's Sassafras* – Danny Lentz & Dianne Morgan

Red: *Anoectochilus brevilabris* – David Mellard





Nottara Lucy's Sassafra



Coelogyne tomentosa

White: *Coelogyne tomentosa* – Bailey Santwire

White: *Pleurothallis viduata* – Jason Mills



Anoectochilus brevibras

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