

# NEWS LETTER

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A WRONGDOER IS OFTEN A MAN THAT HAS LEFT  
SOMETHING UNDONE, NOT ALWAYS HE THAT HAS DONE  
SOMETHING.

—*Marcus Aurelius*

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**AUGUST**

**1939**

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Green's Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

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August, 1939 Vol. 11, No. 8

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*The ideas and opinions expressed in the subject matter of this NEWSLETTER are not necessarily those of the Editor or the members of the club as a whole.*

### A REPORT

This is a general outline of the 1st Eastern Sectional Educational Conference held at the Canoe Brook C. C., Summit, New Jersey or, in short, my impressions of the Conference. My impressions may not be minutely correct but in the main I believe they will coincide with the actual happenings.

The Registration booth was set up on the lawn at the Canoe Brook C. C. and during the course of the two day Conference (June 5th and 6th) some 150 registered at this point, although others met with this group at the New Jersey Experimental Plots.

The registration was at 9:30 in the morning. At 10:30 there was an informal inspection of the Canoe Brook Golf Course which was in fine shape, no ill effect from the Japanese Beetle grub being apparent on lawns, tees, fairways, and greens due to the application of Arsenate of Lead.

However, the rough in some spots was seriously infected and it was here that the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture was trying Parasitical Control of the Japanese Beetle. This work was fully explained by H. B. Girth of the New Jersey State Department of Agriculture.

Several 100 sq. ft. plots had been staked out on an affected area. And here men had removed a number of 1 ft. sq. sections of turf and soil to a depth of approximately 5 inches, testing each patch very thoroughly on a table. In some plots 100 or more grubs were being found.

These areas were next treated for control tests. The Parasitic method of control, using what are commonly called nematodes, was being used. The nematodes, under a microscope, looked to be a very short maggot, in fact, they are practically invisible to the naked eye, having the appearance of a silver dust in the concentrated solution they were in. In this case the rate of application was 10,000. The nematodes were put in a watering can after being mixed at the plot in a calibrated concentrated solution and water and then watered onto the soil. Dry weather is not ideal for this application as some of the nematodes dry up before working into the soil. About 14 days after the application these plots are again tested. Approximately 25 different 1 ft. squares of turf of the same depth again being tested for grubs which have become infected by the nematodes.

The nematodes enter the grub through the mouth and slowly devour it and it is thought that possibly the beetle in its flight may carry some of the nematodes to its destination. How the nematode weather the winter was not definitely known. The nematodes are grown in a culture and can be raised very rapidly, and it is thought that in time colonies of these nematodes can be placed in affected areas with good success.

A fine luncheon was enjoyed at the Club House at noon.

At two o'clock two busses left the club for the New Jersey experimental plots at New Brunswick.

During the Conference a new type of "Bug" was discovered but no one objected to their advances, man being a vain creature: yes, they were "Camera bugs", notably, Professor Dickinson, Gus Brandon, Ed. Cale, Kent Bradley and others.

Dr. Sprague, Agonomist at the Field Station, welcomed the group and explained the experiments being carried out on the numerous plots of different grasses for putting greens, lawns, etc. Of particular interest was a plot of Raritan velvet bent, five weeks old, being cut at putting green height and making a fine appearance. The relationship of lime and different fertilizers on

several plots was of interest. An experiment being conducted to show which grass was the "tougher" or, more resistant to wear, was explained. The test in this case being a steel tube, with one end closed, and rod which fitted snugly into the tube. Different grass blades were compressed in this chamber for moisture content. This being the basis for determining the resistance to wear.

Fairway grasses were then discussed and the main point of interest was the recommended height of cut, that being one and one quarter inches ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ ).

Pamphlets pertaining to turf insects, etc. were available. The busses reached Canoe Brook C. C. about 6:15, a short while before the scheduled banquet.

At the banquet an official of the Canoe Brook C. C. welcomed those attending the Conference and Bill Richardson, Golf Editor of the New York Times, was introduced as toastmaster.

The toastmaster introduced Greenkeeper Club officials representative of different sections attending.

Frank Ermer, President of the G.S.A., was introduced and stressed harmony as the basis for success.

A. L. Brandon, Secretary-Treasurer of the G. S. A., spoke briefly.

Professor E. N. Cory, State Entomologist of College Park, Maryland, spoke on "Turf Insect Pests", namely, Japanese Beetle, Hairy Chinch Bug, Sod-webworms, Ants, their signs and habits, and recommended certain controls.

H. B. Musser, Associate-Professor of Experimental Agronomy at Pennsylvania State College, was scheduled but was unable to attend. Dr. Fred Grau, Extension Agronomist for Pennsylvania State pinch hit for Dr. Musser and generalized on work being conducted on fairway grasses. Fairway grasses cut at from one inch (1") to one and one quarter inches ( $1\frac{1}{4}$ ") proved less troublesome and less expensive to maintain. He stated that they were breeding fairway grasses at Pennsylvania State. In regard to weed control on fairways, Dr. Grau stated that in spraying with sodium arsenite three times each fall at ten day intervals for two consecutive falls, 98 to 99% control was experienced. These treatments were followed by a strict fertilizer program, the fairways were cut at one inch (1").

Lawrence S. Dickinson, Professor of Agronomy at Massachusetts State College, then spoke on "The Business of Manufacturing Pleasurable Golf". This talk was very interesting and Professor

Dickinson pointed out, Greenkeeping was still a profession although further duties which were once optional, are now necessary. Further topics were: committee changes, course improvement, credit, costs, values, results, lack of carry over of funds, and stated that when budgets are cut the ultimate cost is increased.

The meeting lasted well into the evening.

Tuesday morning, June 6th, we again left Canoe Brook C. C. by bus to tour the section visiting various Golf Courses. The busses drove by many courses, we stopped at John Anderson's Essex County C. C. course and inspected several holes; from there we went to Montclair C. C., Carl Treat's course. We left the bus and walked across the course to be picked up by the bus again at the further side. We were to have visited Kent Bradley's course but as it was getting very late we were forced to give up this plan and proceed to the Knoll at Boonton, New Jersey, where we were to have luncheon.

The Knoll C. C. is a former millionaire built course with a fine club-house and a beautiful setting. Incidentally, only a few plants of poa-annua had been found at this club (on the practice putting green) and these had been removed.

After luncheon Carl Treat, as chairman, called on Messrs. Cale, Ermer, Brandon, Ryan, Thompson and Cassidy to act as mediators in answering questions and leading discussion. Topics of special interest were poa annua, watering, fairway grasses, and the relationship of these to each other.

Dr. John Montieth of the U. S. G. A. Green Section who had been scheduled to speak on "Diseases of Grasses", had suffered from heat prostration and was not able to attend. John Bengtson Agronomist for the Greens Section of the U. S. G. A., substituted for Dr. Montieth and gave an illustrated talk on diseases of grasses showing the comparative immunity of different strains of grasses, being developed at Arlington, from disease.

Dr. Bengtson in answer to questions stated that no further developments had been made in determining the cause of existing trouble being experienced with Piper Velvet Bent.

The Conference was very ably handled and the program was well rounded out. Its many phases being conducted with thoroughness.

—Phil Cassidy.



## EXPERIMENTAL GREEN AT PONKAPOAG

The U. S. G. A. has sponsored the planting of twenty greens throughout the country including one or two in Canada to try out the ability of various bents to withstand the wear of playing traffic. The green for New England is planted at Ponkapoag Golf Course in Canton, Mass. It will be used as a practice putting green.

Most of these greens are 3,000 feet in area. We felt that we would like a larger green so got permission from Dr. Montieth to add a few sections to make a green of 8,000 feet of area.

The green is laid out in a regular shaped circle with a 100-foot diameter and then divided into 16 pie shaped sections. The stock to plant 12 of these was supplied by the U. S. G. A. Nine sections to creeping bent planted with stolons. Two sections with Colonial Bent seed, one section with Seaside Bent seed. Seed rates at rate of 5 lbs. per 1000 feet.

The other four sections are as follows: 1 section of Kernwood Bent Seed that came from R. I. Mitchell, Greenkeeper at Edison Country Club of Schnectady, N. Y. 1 section of Piper Velvet Bent Seed from Dr. DeFrance of Rhode Island State College. 1 section of a mixture of 75% Colonial Seed, 25% Prince Edward Island Velvet Seed, which is the mixture we expect to use on the new nine here at Ponkapoag. The last section is divided into thirds. One third planted with Raritan Velvet from MacMullen - Terhurne Company of Rochelle Park, N. J. through Dr. Sprague. One third planted with Piper stolons from stock I had here. One third planted with Piper sod from Mr. T. Swanson of Bear Hill Golf Club.

The green site was stripped of loam and a sub grade with a slope of 1-foot drop across the green established. The sub soil is a well drained open gravel. 8 inches of loam was put back and 6 or 7 inches of Royer screened loam with 25% sand, 25% nature peat and 50% loam put on for top. We used 100 lbs. of 8-7-6 fertilizer raked in and green planted on May 17, 1939.

1-inch x 6-inch boards on edge were pegged into place to separate the various sections. Some differences were noted in germination of seed and also in starting of stolons. Seeded areas are

about alike now but there are still big differences in creeping bent.

At present we have a fine crop of crab grass over the entire green. The worse infestation is in creeping bent due no doubt to more open spaces for it to grow in.

Samuel S. Mitchell.

## EDUCATION

"An educated person is not merely one who can do something, whether it is giving a lecture on the poetry of Horace, running a train, trying a lawsuit, or repairing the plumbing. He is also one who knows the significance of what he does, and he is one who cannot and will not do certain things. He has acquired a set of values. He has a 'yes' and a 'no,' and they are his own. He knows why he behaves as he does. He has learned what to prefer, for he has lived in the presence of things that are preferable. I do not mean that he is merely trained in the convention of polite society or the conformities of crowd morality. He will doubtless depart from both in many things. Whether he conforms or not, he has learned enough about human life on this planet to see his behavior in the light of a body of experience and the relation of his actions to situations as a whole. Such a person is acquiring a liberal education and it makes little difference whether he has been trained in philosophy or mechanics. He is being transformed from an automaton into a thinking being. . . . And as personality does not exist in a vacuum, but in the relationships established between organism and environment, no improvement of it can fail to make itself felt in the quality of one's work. Animal training may give one the means to make a living; liberal education gives living a meaning."

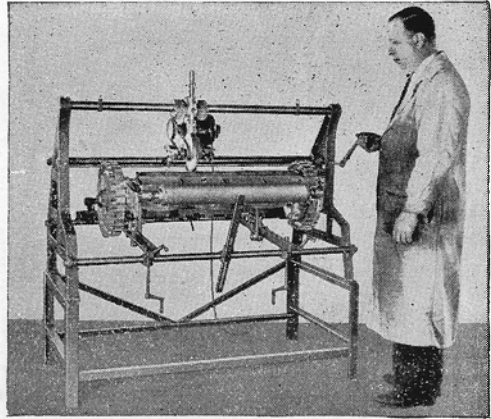
—Everett Dean Martin.  
in *The Meaning of a Liberal Education.*

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**AUGUST MEETING**

The August meeting was held on the 7th at the New Bedford C. C., North Dartmouth, Mass., a joint meeting with the R. I. Greenkeepers Association. Following an 18 hole medal handicap tournament, a clam-bake was served some seventy-five members, wives, and guests. Notable during the day was the hospitality of all connected with the New Bedford Club, including Pres. and Mrs. Morrissey, pro John Gilholm, Greenkeeper-host Mike Grady, several members who donated prizes, and many others. It isn't really necessary to add, "A fine time was had by all present"!

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## A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Dear Guy":

(an open letter to Guy C. West,  
Newsletter Editor)

I read Charles Parker's article "What Shall The Standards Be?" in the July Newsletter, when I came in the other night from The Job. I assume Charlie means by no returns, comments from the New England Members on his article "Think This Over". He did get two letters from "outside" that I know of, (one, I wrote), commending his viewpoints.

As for the points of qualification on the national basis, these are the high spots, as I find them: In every business or "profession", those best qualified to set standards, are the men who make it their means of livelihood, and are organized for the vocational advancement. Soon, blanks will be sent each G. S. A. member, to write out a list of some 15 questions and answers on the various phases of greenkeeping applicable to his region. From those returned, the special committee on G.S.A. membership qualifications, will select test questions grouped for various sections of the country. The committee, in fact the entire matter, is to be handled only by those in charge of golf course maintenance, and members of the G.S.A. Volunteers will take the tests to determine if they are fair and sound. Then when everything has been adjusted, the committee will hand its recommendations to the Board, which has been authorized by the membership, to accept or revise as seems necessary. Then the new standards of G.S.A. membership qualifications will become official.

Many feel that each existing member should then take the official test, get a rating or grade, and improve on his weak subjects of information. However, all new applicants will take the test, and perhaps still have to show sufficient time service in greenkeeping experience. This matter has not been rushed into, without first thoroughly considering numerous angles. It is so easy to jump at conclusions, and make mistakes that take a lot of time to correct later if found wrong.

The time will soon be here, when a greenkeeper or golf course superintendent (or some such title) will have a great asset in—to paraphrase the car dealer's slogan—"Reviewed and Graded, with an O. K. that COUNTS". Said re-

view and grading of a man's working knowledge, and general approval is best made by those who should know—the majority of the leading men in this particular line of work. Our lawyers, engineers, doctors, chemists, and other men whose work is vital to human welfare are judged and accepted in the same manner. So much for that.

Regarding Charlie's observation on a ski instructor's code of ethics, and qualifications, I have some personal thoughts to offer, regarding this golf and greenkeeping angle. Having been admitted into membership of five greenkeeping membership organizations during the past 16 years I've been in golf course construction and maintenance may qualify me as an observer,—to some extent—cockeyed, dog-legged,—or otherwise. From what little I know of skiing, most of the terms used, the maneuvers, the clothing, etc. are standardized, and brought over from Europe. They tried to do that with golf, greenkeeping—and greenkeepers, at first—and failed. One thing we did inherit, and that is—the lackadaisical - dont - giva - damn - let George - do - it attitude prevalent among greens sections, green committee chairmen, yes, and greenkeepers, even officers of various associations of the latter. Right here on my desk is a copy of a letter that I wrote such an officer over a month ago — and I have not heard from him yet—. Perhaps I over-estimate the importance of my inquiry, but at least the guy should be polite enough to acknowledge the receipt of it.

So—after centuries of golf, and the men who have been in charge of maintenance, a little guy out in the mid-west, bubbling with initiative, and on his own, wrote Messrs. Funk & Wagnalls, called to their attention that the words greenkeeping and greenkeeper were not in their dictionaries—and now I understand, the new edition defines these. (The crawl of progress!)

An interesting booklet was handed to me the other day. It describes the beauties and wonderful features of a certain resort golf facilities. It goes into detail on the wonderful layout, the turf, and course history. Even the "staff" is listed,—and omitting names, here are their titles: The General Manager, Consulting Engineer, Chairman of Golf Committee, Two Golf Professionals, Two Caddie Masters, Two Tennis Professionals, the Head Waiter, Purchasing Agent, Chairman of Tennis Committee, and the Secretary. I looked all through

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that booklet, but found no credit given to God, or the Greenkeeper-superintendent that had their part in producing and keeping the wonderful golf and tennis turf! Oh would it be, that the playing public be told!

It seems (to me) that every green-keeping organization has four general groups:

- 1—The progressive - thought - advancing - let's - try - it - workers.
- 2—The hangers - on - office acceptors that get self - aggrandizement on whatever title they may hold, or committee they are on.
- 3—The I'm against - it, but, - but, why, wherefore - in - other words - what's the use faction.
- 4—The jury - sit - backers, that pay dues, but otherwise serve on no committee, offer no comment, and help make up the majority of votes for the side that presents the loudest (but not essentially the soundest) arguments.

Oh, well, I suppose it does just have to take all kinds. The college prexy might put it as, "Schools of thought turn out many pupils, a few students, and an occasional scholar".

Checking over the list of members in good standing, that appears in the July issue, I get satisfaction in finding so few pupils, plenty of students, and a good percentage of scholars. From pleasant associations in the past, these scholars I know of, are well fitted to do bigger and better things.

Apropos to what follows, is the cover quote on the same July issue, "It is a mistake to fancy ourselves greater than what we are, but a crime to value ourselves at less than we are worth." The leaders in greenkeeping organizations are largely those that have something better to offer their clubs, command a higher salary—and get it. They look about and find that they have a surplus of vision and energy, and turn to bettering their vocation through association work. These men realize that if greenkeeping is going to get public acceptance, it needs more than local color. Thoughts, (as I once wrote) go beyond terms of "me, my job, my local organization, and reach out toward national scope."

Golfers are traveling sports—the parking space, and club guest register show this. Last spring at MSC, a member of New England's Royal Greenkeeping Family said, "If greenkeeping is to

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be put across to the public it will need be done on a national basis, and our organization must soon get back of this movement—and help push.” “Prince Henry’s” listener supplemented this with, “Individual men form the membership of the New England Association, and neighbor organizations will get together to form a North Eastern Green-keeping Council in this section, and other sections join in making a national body of greater strength.” Thoughts of two individuals forming steps to achievement.

We need many more steps, with the fraternal cooperation and interest by each, and in each other to cement together a strong stairway for ourselves—and those that will follow in our footsteps. And there is other work to be done, but on that I will dwell some other time—elsewhere. Since golf is a national form of recreation, and players travel, so must the thoughts of us who stay on, and keep things right at the home courses.

I read this the other day, under the title of “The Thing That Counts”: “I perceive”, remarked the Highbrow, after witnessing his first ball game, “that success in this sport can be obtained only by perfect cooperation among players, each subordinating his own individuality to that organization of which he is a part.”

“You may be right at that”, replied the Lowbrow, “But the main thing is team work.” I once wrote that some of our rugged individuals were too individually rugged for our collective good. So mark me down as a Lowbrow, Guy.

Leo Feser, Chairman of the G.S.A. Qualifications Committee said to me at Kansas City, that, “Endorsement of qualifications is not a geographical but vertical matter.”

In turn, I feel that in building a structure of thought, it is impractical to start on the roof. I may be found for some time yet, working in the foundation excavation, sloshing around, getting occasional mud in the eye, but I do have on my hip boots, and oil-skins. However, modern building methods trend to considerable prefabrication, and in New England, a lot of this has been done on the Greenkeeping House. Here we had the first organization, the first winter school, early instigation of turf research work, advancement of thought toward better methods of green-keeping qualifications, and of no little importance we find the July issue is the seventh of the eleventh volume. Seven-come-eleven,—perhaps this is a good omen.

I will not comment on G. S. A. President Ermer’s Eastern Section address, to do so obviously would be superfluous—the message speaks for itself. Charlie Parker should get “a lift” from the fact that those who write for publication go down in recorded history, and will be given just tribute, long after those that just sit back and verbally spout, and are forgotten.

We know Charlie meant no disrespect to age years, when he referred to “old bellwethers”, because we find them among all birthday numbers. What concerns me are the barnacles clinging to the backsides of progress—those that anti-everything, and propose nothing.

And so, Guy, ends act four of my comedy of errors. Speaking of backsides, will you rough saw out a piece of plank from a gnarled old New England elm that was felled in last year’s hurricane? Send it to me. I’ll plane down one side, place it next the skin, in the seat of my pants—for protection for what may follow publication of this.

Yours,

Kent Bradley.

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## Grass Seed for Fall Sowing

The hot, dry Summer is taking a terrific toll and much re-seeding of lawns, fairways and greens will be necessary. Fall, all good greenskeepers know, is an ideal time for this work. Perry’s is the ideal place to secure supplies of **Highest Grade** seed of Bents, Fescues, Red Top and Kentucky Blue. We will gladly quote on application.

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### READ THIS TWICE!

The tenth annual Greenkeepers' Field Day will be held at the R. I. State College and Experiment Station, Kingston, R. I. on September 18th. Set this day aside to come down and look over the fine turf plots there, see what the various strains have done during this trying Summer, hear a few short talks by choice after-lunch turf expert speakers, and even bring your clubs for a late afternoon round at the Point Judith C. C. nearby.

### TALKS ON TREES

By E. Porter Felt  
Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories  
Stamford, Conn.

Shade trees, curbs and hurricanes do not appear closely related.

Our notice was attracted recently by the installation of a new curb on a moderately wide city street. The inner wall of the ditch dug for this curb was from 6 to 9 inches from the bases of a row of magnificent Norway maples, most of them with a trunk diameter of 12 inches or more. This ditch was about 18 inches deep and in digging it the men severed about one-third of the principal roots and these were naturally on the side next to the street. This account gives a general notion of how curbs are installed and though the curb itself may be 12 to 15 inches from the trunk of the tree, the actual root cutting is considerably closer to the base of the tree.

Keeping the above picture in mind, it is perhaps easy to see why many of the street trees were blown last September away from the street and toward the dwellings rather than in the opposite direction because such a large proportion of the roots had been destroyed

at the time when the curb was installed. It makes little difference whether this was done within 1 or 10 years since the curb itself would effectually bar any material root development toward the center of the street and make the trees correspondingly vulnerable to winds blowing across the street. There is no question but that a curb gives a finish to a street impossible with the rounded bank. There is a question as to whether this finish is worth what it costs in root destruction. It is possible with breaks in the curb 2 feet or thereabouts from the trunk of each tree to secure much of the finish of the curb with a great reduction of root injury. Such a "broken curb" so to speak would prevent vehicles or even bicycles running up on the bank to any extent and permit keeping the ground between the walk and edge of the street in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

Such a modification of curb installation would do much to permit satisfactory tree growth without sacrificing essentials in street maintenance. Is it worth while?

Teacher—"How did you get such dirty hands?"

Boy—"Washin' my face." —"Ex."

Motorist—"Was I driving a bit too fast, officer?"

Policeman—"No, you were just flying too low." —"Ex."

"Many pedestrians are prone to carelessness."

"After being careless, they surely are prone." —"Ex."

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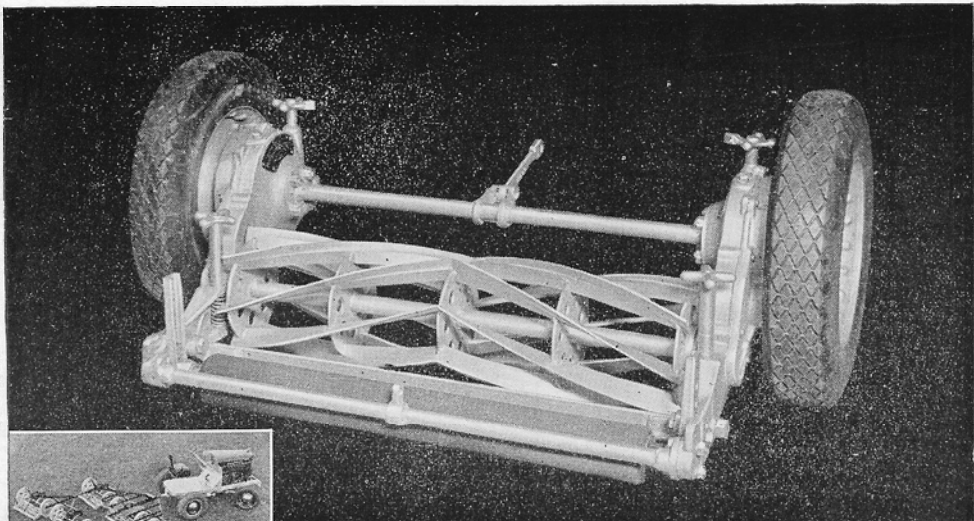
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