

## ESRARA Officers

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## *A Message From the President...*

Greetings to All ESRARA Members:

Two of the major goals we set for ourselves at the last ESRAC meeting at Red Top Mountain Georgia were to incorporate ESRARA as a non-profit corporation in Illinois and to apply for tax exempt status from the IRS. By doing so, we would be able to apply for grants that benefit the organization as well as accept donations of research materials from members in return for tax write-offs. Most importantly, incorporating as a non-profit organization would be a major step forward in establishing a permanent ESRARA archives within the Special Collections section of the University of Tennessee Knoxville (UTK) Library. As a non-profit corporation, we would be able to retain control over the archives and establish policies regarding access to the collection even though it was housed at the UTK Library.

I reported in the last newsletter that we had achieved the first of these goals and that ESRARA is now chartered as a non-profit corporation in Illinois. I am happy to report in this issue that we are now well on our way to reaching our second goal of obtaining non-profit status for the organization. Several weeks ago board member Heather Carey completed the required paperwork for our application for non-profit status and sent the completed application form into the federal government. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will have achieved tax-exempt status, although we have been advised that this can sometimes be a lengthy process.

Finally, we have selected Carbondale, Illinois, which is in the extreme southern part of the state, as the site for the 2011 ESRAC conference. As those of you who attended the conference in this same area in 2001 are aware, this is a very scenic area of the state with numerous natural areas, state parks, national forests and wildlife areas that contain a number of rock art sites. We have not yet selected a final venue or date, but anticipate holding the meeting in either March or April at one of the state parks or resorts within the region. We will be sending out more specific information regarding the meeting in the near future and hope that everyone can attend. This should be a very nice conference within a truly scenic area.



Best regards, Mark

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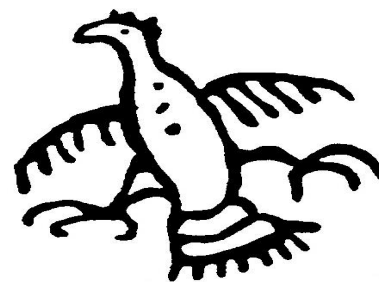
The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributor or editor and do not necessarily reflect those of the ESRARA organization.

### ESRARA Editorial Committee

#### **Managing Editor**

**Carol Diaz-Granados (Missouri)**

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#### **Spring Newsletter**

**Heather Carey (Illinois)**

**hcarey@fs.fed.us**

#### **Summer/Fall Newsletter**

**Dan Lynch (Rhode Island)**

**dlynch@soilsight.com**

**Do you have an interest in becoming an ESRARA newsletter editor?**

#### **Winter Newsletter**

**Nancy Bryant (Missouri)**

**nbryant@rollanet.org**

**If so, please contact Managing Editor Carol Diaz-Granados and she will be happy to provide you with more information.**

### MEMBERSHIP DUES UPDATE

ESRARA membership dues have been restructured in order to offer a new Life Membership category. This action was proposed and approved at the ESRAC 2009 Board meeting. The updated annual dues schedule is as follows:

Regular Membership - \$15

Joint/Family Membership - \$20

Life Membership - \$250

Member dues are an integral part of fulfilling the mission of ESRARA. Your contributions are used to sponsor publications, conferences, educational and conservation projects.

Dues payments can be mailed to:

Michelle Berg-Vogel, Treasurer

PO Box 61

Kampsville, IL 62053

or payment may be submitted via Paypal at:

[www.esrara.org](http://www.esrara.org)

Thank you in advance!

## ROCK ART AT THE 10TH ANNUAL ALGONQUIAN PEOPLES SEMINAR

Submitted by Ed Lenik

The Native American Institute of the Hudson River Valley held its 10th Annual Algonquian Peoples Seminar on Saturday, April 17th at the New York State Museum in Albany, New York. More than 100 people attended this popular event to hear scholarly presentations on Mohican Indian history, rock art, Indian trails, First Nations prophecies, and environmental impacts to archaeological sites. Several members of the Mohican Stockbridge-Munsee Band traveled from Wisconsin to participate in the seminar.

Rock art papers were presented by ESRARA members Edward J. Lenik and Paul Nevin. Ed Lenik's illustrated presentation was entitled "Mythic Creature: Serpent, Dragons and Sea Monsters in Northeastern rock Art." The full text of this paper will be published in a forthcoming issue of the journal Archaeology of Eastern North America published by the Eastern States Archaeological Federation. Ed was interviewed by a reporter for the Albany Gazette, which featured a nice write up on Ed, rock art and the meeting. Paul Nevin's paper, titled "The Safe Harbor Petroglyphs: Research in the New Century," introduced the audience to this Pennsylvania resource. Paul reported the establishment of the NATIVE LANDS COUNTY PARK AND HERITAGE TRAIL along the Susquehanna River near Safe Harbor. The park features two Susquehannock Indian settlement sites and the Zimmerman Center for Heritage.

### **Corporate Affairs Update**

By Heather Carey

ESRARA reached a significant milestone last year when it incorporated as a non-profit corporation within the state of Illinois. The next goal that was identified for our organization was to apply for and attain 501(c)3 not for profit status from the Federal government. Once ESRARA is certified and recognized as a non-profit organization, we will be able to apply for grants that benefit the organization. The application and accompanying paperwork has been submitted to the IRS and is currently under review. After completion of this task, the organization will look to (1) overhauling the web site to make it more efficient and user friendly, and (2) establishing an ESRARA Archives at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville.

## INVESTIGATIONS AT THE LADOGA PETROFORM SITE

By Jack Steinbring  
Mid America Geographic Foundation

The Ladoga Petroform Site (47 FD 582) consists of a large “turtle” petroform, a series of boulder lines, an engraved monolith, and a broad linear mound (which may be an effigy mound). The site is located on the Richard Peachy farm, one mile east of the hamlet of Ladoga. It lies on the right bank of the Rock River, 300 meters north of the Fond du Lac County Road TC (Fig. 1). The site may also contain a ford of the Rock River which served the Old Military Road. This is shown on historic maps and as following pre-existing Indian trails. One alternative for such a ford at the Ladoga Site lies only a few meters from the petroform. Such features are often found near fords or portages, as well as near springs.

The Ladoga Petroform Site was initially referred to the Mid-America Geographic Foundation by William Peachy, Sr. in 1994. Mr. Peachy was born at a farm a short distance east of the site, and grew up roaming the countryside collecting Indian artifacts and noting unusual structural remains. In 1947 he came to own the Peachy Petroform Site (47 FD 515) near Eldorado, Wisconsin.

The Ladoga Site has undergone annual clean-ups, and various research projects supported by Mr. Glen Salter, who lived at the site as a young man. His detailed observations of the area have become a MAGF archive known as the “Glen Salter Papers”. These include many maps of the area which have served research expeditions aimed at recovering archaeological information for the region. They are also valuable for the assessment of environmental changes in east central Wisconsin.

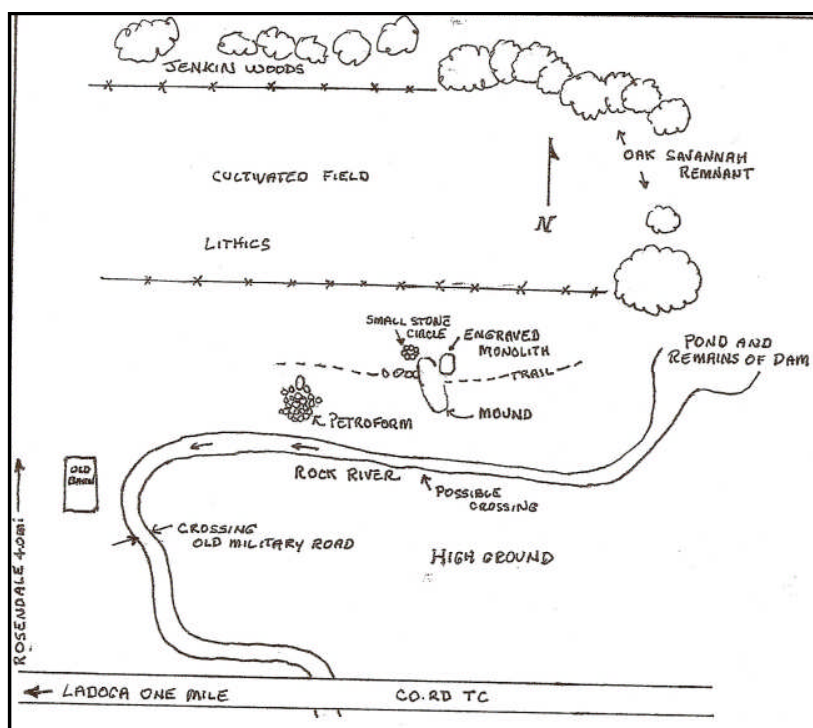


Fig. 1 Field Sketch of the Ladoga Petroform Site (47 FD 582), on the Richard Peachy Farm. Not to scale.



## The Features

### *Petroforms*

The principle feature at the Ladoga Petroform Site (47 FD 582) is a comparatively large boulder arrangement resembling a turtle (Fig. 2). The figure is made from approximately 150 boulders varying from small (5 lbs) to large (200-300 lbs) in size, with an unusual parallel line

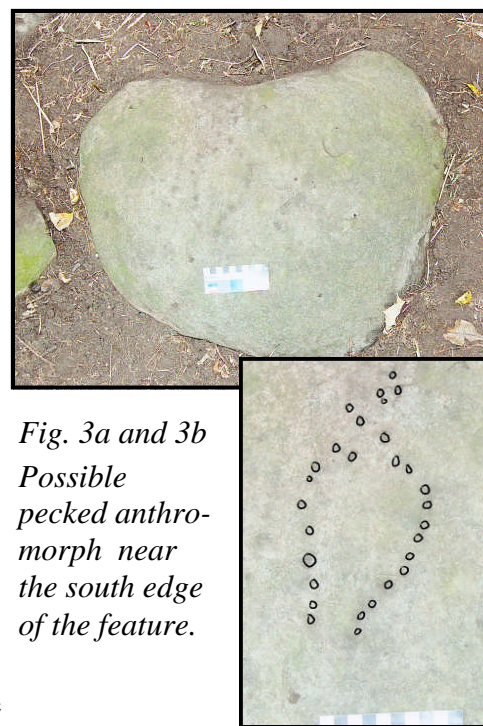


*Fig. 2 View from north (head) end of the Ladoga Petroform.*

The boulders making up the “turtle” are completely repatinated and are uniformly dark gray in color, being fully covered by dark crustose lichen. More recently, bright green foliose lichen has begun to encroach upon the feature. In the south-lying area of the feature, several of the boulders appear to contain peck marks; perhaps the remains of petroglyphs executed upon the stones when still not patinated (Figs. 3a and 3b). Stones are now commonly searched for such signs since engravings have also been detected at the nearby Peachy Petroform Site (Steinbring et al, 2003:16). The stones showing signs of engraving at the Ladoga Site are larger than average.

The common feature of contiguity for petroforms is well evidenced at the Ladoga Site. Separation is more common than collapse, suggesting that the ground containing the feature is expanding upwards as a result, in part, of root action. A fairly large hickory tree is growing out of the middle of the form. If the immediate surroundings were sinking, the stones would remain in their original positions or might, in fact, tend to be closer together. Many of the boulders are deeply imbedded in the soil, some nearly invisible.

arrangement of medium size boulders being present in the central area. This kind of arrangement is also present at the Peachy Petroform Site (47 FD 515) near Eldorado. The long axis of the Ladoga petroform is aligned at 345 degrees magnetic north. It is 6.65 meters long and 4.45 meters wide. It lies perpendicular to the north (right) bank of the Rock River. The site is privately owned and currently not accessible to the public.



*Fig. 3a and 3b  
Possible  
pecked anthro-  
morph near  
the south edge  
of the feature.*

The Ladoga petroform lies on the immediate floodplain of the Rock River and was inundated during the flooding of 2008. This suggests that construction of the feature took place at a time when conditions were drier. This is also true of the Peachy Petroform which sits near the west branch of the Fond du Lac River. Based on local vegetation and regional artifact inventories, it has been theorized that construction of these features could have occurred during the Altithermal—perhaps as early as 6000 B.P. (Steinbring et al 2003:117). While the Ladoga Petroform Site lies within the remains of an oak savanna remnant, there is no artifactual evidence that its construction could be any earlier than the Late Archaic.



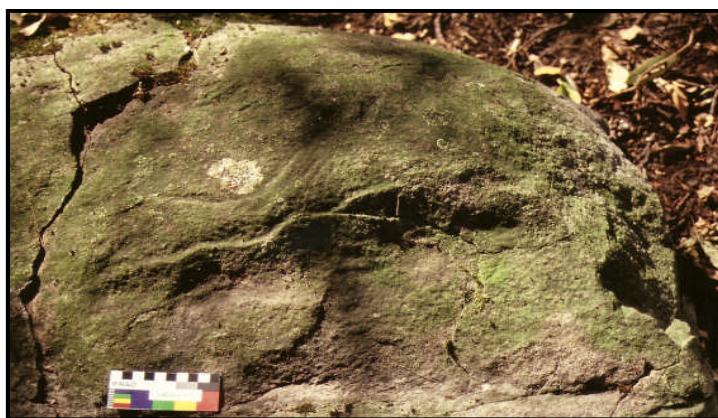
*Fig. 4 Slab of red catlinite at center of Ladoga Petroform.*

The original colors of the boulder are not clear, but there is reason to suppose that certain characteristics of the boulders, including color, led to their selection. Red rhyolite porphyries retain their color since iron (the red) inhibits the growth of lichen (Fig. 4). The texture of the boulder surface may be perceived to present some type of special quality leading to the selection as well. Heavily pitted boulders are present, and they vaguely resemble a brain. These would have been differently colored at the time of placement.

The configuration may have suffered some alteration through time. Viewing the north end as the head end, the left forelimb and the right forelimb are truncated, as are the rear limbs. At sites in eastern Manitoba, which include many turtles (Steinbring 1980:282-283, 287), the limbs are always clear because these figures are laid out on open rock formations.

### *Engraved Monolith*

About 30 meters east of the main petroform lies a large monolith with an engraving on the east side (Fig. 5). The engraving resembles a serpent and is executed by continuous pecking. It follows a natural fissure in the rock and may exhibit some degree of framing. The use of natural forms as a guide in producing an image is called “iconic congruence” and the practice is known throughout the world. In Hawaii, for example, small domes in the lava have cupules pecked into the tops, as perfect representations of volcanoes.



*Fig. 5 Engraved monolith at the Ladoga Petroform Site. Note peck marks on both sides of serpentine lines.*

The engraved monolith is experiencing a very high degree of lichen encroachment. In 2009, a thick body of bright green foliose lichen invaded the area of the petroglyph. Following a practice initiated at Pipestone National Monument in Minnesota, several applications of



Bio-Kleen were undertaken. This has reduced the lichen in the area of the engraving, but has not completely eliminated it.

While some disturbance has taken place in the area between the engraved monolith and the petroform (this area is a well used deer trail), it appears that a line of boulders is partially present leading west from the monolith. Several other cases of potentially placed boulders in the general site area are also present, including a small circle to the north of the monolith, not far from a cleared field.

### *Mound*

In 2001, when this site was first shown to us by Bill Peachy, an apparent mound was observed just west of the monolith. This mound was fully exposed in 2009, and may be a wide linear or an animal effigy with “legs” eroded away. It is 72 feet long by 15 feet wide. The orientation is 303 degrees magnetic north. A line bisecting it towards the west is 270 degrees (to the east 90 degrees). When first viewing this mound, it seemed to cover part of a boulder line proceeding from the monolith to the west. With clearing, however, this is less certain.

### *Implications*

The Ladoga Petroform constitutes one of the better formed specimens in east central Wisconsin. The carefully selected boulder which makes up the head certainly accentuates the figure. The deeply imbedded boulders, along with their extreme patination and extensive lichen colonizations speak to its antiquity. The combination of engraved boulders, both on and adjacent to the petroform, links this site to others in the upper Midwest. Other sites, like Blood Run in northwestern Iowa, also contain numerous mounds, some of the effigy class.

There is insufficient cultural evidence at the Ladoga Site to convey any solid statement on the actual date of any of the features. While a prehistoric assignment is quite reasonable, there is certainly no more than three main features of the site that are contemporary. A number of artifacts have been recovered from the adjoining fields. As well, a small collection of lithics from nearby the site was donated by Glen R. Salter.

### *Lithic Assemblage*

Lithics from nearby the site include at least one projectile point assignable to the Late Archaic. It is a Common Corner Notched specimen (Fig. 6-1) and is found from Middle Archaic to as late as Early Woodland times (Waldorf and Waldorf 1987:119). Another specimen of possible Late Archaic assignment

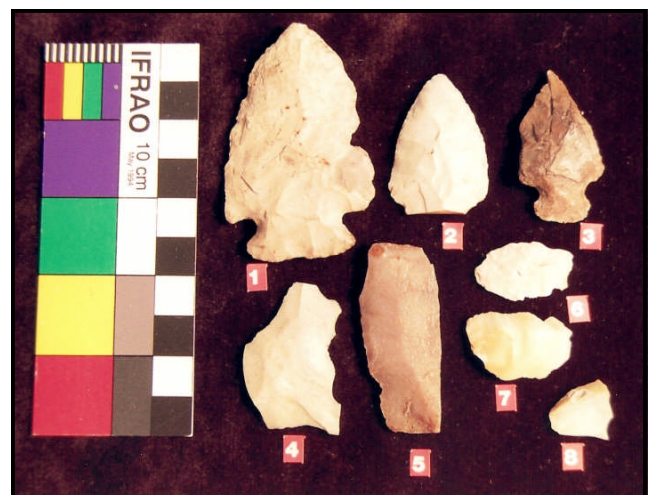


Fig. 6 Lithic artifacts recovered from nearby the Ladoga Petroform Site.

lacks most of the base, but appears to be a stemmed point (Fig 6-2). One other projectile point from the Ladoga vicinity is complete and is best classed as a Honey Creek Corner Notched, (Nienow and Boszhardt 1966:29) (Fig. 6-3).

The remaining artifacts from the Ladoga Site area are mostly non-descript flakes of white to tan chert, except for a prismatic, backed blade of tan Hixonite found on the field adjacent to the petroform site (Fig. 6-5). This piece could be of Paleo-Indian origin. Thus a wide range of potential dating remains for the Ladoga placement. It has been shown (Steinbring et al 2003:119) that petroforms may antedate mound construction in some areas. There is some suggestion that boulders were taken from freshly deposited kames in Taylor County, Wisconsin to produce cairns. Only excavation and the application of new research technologies are likely to produce the timing of individual features.

### *Site Function*

The function of the features at Ladoga Petroform Site is entirely open to speculation but can be generally assumed to be the result of prehistoric activity. The piling of stones as a ritual act is widespread where such stones are readily available. The actual contiguous placement of boulders in formal shapes, as one-layer features, has no Historic era precedence. The construction of effigy mounds also lacks a solid Historic era provenience. Mounds thought to have been erected by living cultures in subarctic America were often found to have only been used for intrusive burials in early Historic times. Finally, there is no strong evidence that rock engravings, especially those formed by contiguous pecking, were executed by Historic cultures in the Midwest.

The most useful feature for any effort in dating the Ladoga site is the linear mound, especially if it is, in fact, an effigy mound. Dates for the Effigy Mound Culture of Wisconsin are roughly from A.D. 750 to ca. A.D. 1200.

It seems fairly reasonable to speculate that the Ladoga Site begins in the Late Archaic, embracing both the engraved monolith and the turtle petroform, and proceeds in time to the mound building traditions of the Woodland period.

### *Other Sites in the Region*

West central Fond du Lac County has a conspicuous concentration of petroform sites; foremost the Peachy Petroform Site (47 FD 515) with three fully intact and one damaged petroform. This site lies north of Rosendale in the midst of a Oak-Savanna remnant. The typology of local artifact collections suggests an Archaic assignment for this site (Steinbring et al 2003:116-117).

To the west of Rosendale lies the recently confirmed Kenyon Petroform Site (47 FD 554). This site again lies within an Oak-Savanna remnant. It consists of a large oval feature, oriented east-west with a blank area, roughly circular, in the eastern quadrant. It is evident that this feature was added to by land clearing, with large boulders (including two with dynamite drill holes) along the perimeter.



Nearer to Rosendale, and adjacent to the Peachy site, lies the Griffiths Petroform Site (47 FD 584). This site was cleared in 2009, and has a large perfectly formed crescent. So far as it is known, this feature is unique in size and shape among Wisconsin petroforms. There are additional features at the Griffiths site that have not yet been cleared for study.

A number of other sites have been reported in Fond du Lac, Dodge, Green Lake, and Marquette counties, but, for the most part have not yet been fully investigated. The Ladoga site fits well with the general pattern of petroform distribution in east central Wisconsin. It differs from most in having a more complex nature—engravings, lines, and a mound. The significance of this will not be determined without a full scale archaeological investigation.

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## ESRARA Financial Report for 2009 and 2010 (as of 5/31/2010)

### FY 2009

Beginning Balance (1/1/2009)	\$9,792.41
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#### *Income:*

ESRAC 2009	\$2 939.00
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Interest	\$ 64.43
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Dues	\$ 1067.12
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#### *Expenditures:*

ESRAC 2009	-\$ 2057.51
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Newsletters	-\$ 104.45
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Donation	-\$ 250.00
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Legal Fees for incorporation	-\$ 500.00
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Misc. (postage, checks, etc.)	-\$ 20.45
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Ending Balance (12/31/2009)	\$10,794.81
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### FY2010

Beginning Balance (1/1/2009)	\$10,794.81
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#### *Income:*

Dues	\$1035.00
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Interest	\$ 23.62
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#### *Expenditures:*

Newsletter	-\$ 254.82
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Ending Balance (as of 5/31/2010)	\$11,598.61
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# Announcing...

## ESRAC 2011

**Our next scheduled conference will be held in March or April 2011 in the Carbondale, Illinois area. Planning for the conference is currently under way.**

**Please be thinking of any research or presentations you would like to share with the group.**

**Watch for conference updates, information, and registration in upcoming ESRARA newsletters.**



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## HAVE YOU RECENTLY...

- WRITTEN ANY ARTICLES PERTAINING TO ROCK ART?
- PHOTOGRAPHED OR VISITED ANY NEW ROCK ART SITES?
- PARTICIPATED IN OR DIRECTED A FIELD PROJECT RELATED TO ROCK ART?

WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR NEW INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH FELLOW ESRARA MEMBERS. PLEASE SEND ANY ITEMS OF INTEREST FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER TO:

DAN LYNCH,  
SUMMER/FALL NEWSLETTER EDITOR



**Visit us on the Web—[www.esrara.org](http://www.esrara.org)**

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