

# The Texas Star

Newsletter of the  
Texas Master Naturalist  
Hill Country Chapter

May 2019 Volume 17 Number 5



photo by Michele Reynolds



## MAY 20 MEETING: Texas Wild Rice: An Important Native Grain

Texas wild rice is a member of the genus *Zizania*, a grain that is native to the North American continent. The genre has historically been of importance to the Native people of North America and Canada dating back many hundreds of years. Prof. Michele Reynolds will speak on the importance of *Zizania* and its four species.

The monthly meetings of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter are free and open to the public. We meet in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority's Lecture Hall, 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville. Socializing begins at 6:15; the program starts at 6:45.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . . . Lisa Flanagan

Well, Spring is in full fling, and so are the weeds! I know I am not the only one fighting the thistles and beggars lice. I have pulled so many weeds that sometimes I wondered if I would ever stand up straight again.

Sadly, we have lost yet another member. Chris Lienhard participated in an Easter bike ride; he collapsed and passed away soon after. Our condolences to Pam and her family. Pam said that she and Chris have been following the planning for the Clay Street KUTS (urban trail) project and hoped to encourage the use of native plants there. If you wish, please make a donation to the Hill Country Master Naturalists that could be used in this endeavor of incorporating cycling and native plants, which were two of Chris's loves.

Our chapter will host a showing of Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time, on Friday, May 31 at 2:00. This will be at UGRA, where our chapter meetings are held. You can get 1½ hours of AT credit for attending. Jim Stanley will be the moderator, with discussion before and after the showing. This is a superb documentary, and I encourage you to participate, whether you have seen it before or not. We are asking for a \$10 donation (no credit cards), and there will be some door prizes and treats that you can purchase. Hope to see you there.

As we move into the summer months, many of you will hit the road for vacations and outdoor activities. Be safe, and don't forget the water and sunscreen!

## This Month We Honor



### Initial Certification

Tom Burke, Jeralyn Hathorn

### Special Recertification

Mildred Dworsky, Connie Fluegel, Steve Ramirez

### Recertifications

Diana Armbrust, Stephen Bishop, Eva Broad, Mack Brown, Norma Bruns, Craig Childs, Richard Coleman, Jane Crone, David Davies, Ginny DeWolf, Ann Dietert, Randy Fuyertes, Eileen Gotke, Sandra Haldeman, Sarah Hilburn, Barbara Jansen, Chris Keating, Tyra Kane, Barbara Marquer, Susan McKinley, Diane McMahon, Charleen Moore  
Barbara Oates, Elsa Roberts, Mary Thomas

### Milestones

Bob Lodowski, Mimi Stidham - Bronze Dragonfly, 250 hours

Katy Kappel - Brushed Silver Dragonfly, 500 hours

Richard Coleman, Pam Lienhard, Morgan Williams - Gold Dragonfly, 1000 hours

The C.A.R.E. committee invites you to join fellow Master Naturalists for an informal social hour prior to our monthly meeting. Gather at El Sombrero, 303 S.Sidney Baker St. in Kerrville, at 4:30 and order dinner if you wish.



*Congratulations to members who received awards at our April meeting:*

From left to right: John Sloan, Travis Linscomb, Deborah Windham, Sarabeth Mayfield, Chris Anderson, Tom Collins, Marylein Davies, Sharon Hixson, Robin May, Paula Harley, Kathy Ward

*photo by Vern Crawford*

## Milestone Highlights

### Chapter Members Who Received Recognition of Milestones at the April Chapter Meeting



John Sloan received the Gold Dragonfly pin in recognition of more than 1000 hours of service.



Brenda Fest and Rheda Boardman, each of whom received a President's Volunteer Service Award for giving 4000 hours of service, were congratulated by Michelle Haggerty, State Program Coordinator.

*photos by Catherine Gauldin and Gary Fest*

From Reggie Cox, Membership Director

### **REMINDER! 2019 Classes Start in August - Apply Now!**

If you have friends or family who would like to participate in the 2019 Master Naturalist classes, please encourage them to apply soon. We are ahead of last year's number of applications. We will accept applications until June 30 and then, at the July Board meeting, we will choose the class members from the applications we've received. The class includes presentations on native plants, animals, riparian lands, geology, soils, grassland, trees, climate, night skies, archaeology of the Hill Country, and so much more.

The Hill Country of Texas is a spectacular and unique part of our state. Texas Master Naturalists work with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to train other volunteers to participate in many different projects and education programs. The class meets for twelve Wednesdays, starting on August 21. Ten of the classes are held at the UGRA Lecture Hall in Kerrville, one in Fredericksburg, and one in Boerne. The class size is limited to 40 people to insure a great learning experience and have time to get to know one another. Trainees, while still in class, can volunteer on projects that interest **them**.

Learn to lead a hike at Enchanted Rock, Lost Maples Natural Area, or Honey Creek Natural Area; participate in a night skies program; help maintain natural gardens; volunteer in one of the nature centers in our 10-county chapter; and so much more. The field trips during the classes will show all that goes on and how you can participate – while you visit some beautiful and special places.

Class presenters have a deep commitment to saving the horned toad, Ridley sea turtle, rare plants, geology, artifacts, and so much more so their children will be able see them in nature. Trainees will hear some special people asking them to find a project to love and get busy while they still can. If you're interested in joining us, please contact me, the Membership Director, at [hillcountrymembership@gmail.com](mailto:hillcountrymembership@gmail.com) . **Deadline for application submittal is June 30.**

You will find the application on our website, [txmn.org/hillcountry](http://txmn.org/hillcountry) . Tuition for the class is \$200, which includes the textbook, class notebook, entrance fees at the facilities where field trips are held (Selah Ranch, Honey Creek, Canyon Lake Gorge, and West Kerr Wildlife Management), your official name tag at commencement, and all miscellaneous expenses. See you August 19 at the Welcome Reception!

Recent Hill Country Naturalist Columns by Jim Stanley

4/6/19	Watching Nature From my Window
4/13/19	Our Texas Hill Country: Are We Loving It to Death?
4/20/19	The Lightning Tree Fell Down
4/27/19	The Nitrogen Cycle: Essential, Complicated, and Altered by Man

These and all other Kerrville Daily News columns  
can be found at [www.hillcountrynaturalist.org](http://www.hillcountrynaturalist.org) .

From Tara Bushnoe

UGRA is Looking for Volunteers for our 2019 Summer Study Program!

Each summer, the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) tests *E. coli* levels at water crossings and popular swimming holes throughout Kerr County. The results of this Swimability study are compared to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) standards for contact recreation.

In 2004, UGRA began the Volunteer Summer Study Program to supplement data collected during the Swimability study and to include interested members of the community in water quality testing. The information collected by the volunteers also helps identify areas in need of further investigation.

I invite you to participate in this year's summer program. Volunteers will collect water samples on a weekly basis from a site either on the Guadalupe River or one of its tributaries in Kerr County. Samples will be brought in to UGRA for bacteria analysis (Monday – Friday 8 am - 5 pm). The program will run from the first week of June through the end of August (June 3 – August 30). Volunteers can submit samples no more than once a week and you can choose how many weeks you would like to participate. UGRA will summarize the findings and present the results to the volunteers during a reception in the fall. Please see <http://www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/volunteer-summer-study> for more info.

Before the start of the program, volunteers will need to come into UGRA to register and receive their sample containers and tips for collecting water samples. That will take less than 10 minutes and you are more than welcome to stop by during the following dates and times:

**Wednesday, May 15, 1 PM – 5 PM**

**Thursday, May 16, 8 AM – 11 AM**

**Friday, May 17, 8 AM – 11 AM or 1 PM – 5 PM**

**Wednesday, May 29, 8 AM – 5 PM**

**Wednesday, May 22, 8 AM – 2 PM**

**Thursday, May 23, 8 AM – 5 PM**

**Friday, May 24, 8 AM – 5 PM**

If you can't stop by during these times, please let me know and we will arrange another time to get your supplies and instructions. When you stop by we will also talk about what site you would like to sample. It's not a problem if you are not able to start taking samples until later in the summer. If you would like more information, contact me at [tbushnoe@ugra.org](mailto:tbushnoe@ugra.org).

The UGRA office is located at 125 Lehmann Drive, Suite 100,  
just off of Sidney Baker South. Please ask for either Tara or Travis.

Please consider participating in UGRA's 16th Annual River Clean Up to be held on July 27, 2019.  
For more information, visit <http://www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/river-clean-up> .

The Kerrville-Schreiner Park Pollinator (AKA Butterfly) Garden  
is looking for MORE good volunteers  
(& to sort of borrow from the Beatles, c.1965)

We Need . . .

**“HELP WE NEED SOMEBODY  
(HELP!) NOT JUST ANYBODY  
(HELP!) YOU KNOW WE NEED”  
SOMEONE (HELP!)\***

### KSP Pollinator Garden

- One of the oldest HCMN Volunteer Projects
- One of the MOST VISIBLE Volunteer Projects in Kerrville
- Over 10,000 Square Feet of Native Plants
- Home to hundreds of Butterflies (Including Monarchs),  
Native Bees, Moths and other pollinators

Work with a fun, friendly, dedicated group of volunteers while  
Learning or Expanding your knowledge of:

Native Pollinators

Native Plant Identification

Gardening with and Care of Native Plants

Native Plant Landscaping and seasonal care

Join our efforts to rehabilitate an often overlooked  
and under resourced volunteer project. **(HELP!)**

To accomplish the garden make-over we need to double our volunteers.

Visit us Thursday Mornings, Starting about 8:30, Weather Permitting  
at 2385 Bandera Highway OR text or email

Larry Eskridge, 214.566.6104; el\_e@swbell.net for more information.

\* If you now have a HELP ear-worm running through your head, then the curse worked  
and the only cure is to volunteer at the KSP Pollinator Garden . . .



### **NPSOT Boerne Chapter Monthly Meeting**

On Tuesday, June 4, from 5:30-6:30pm: Voting for People's Choice Awards for Youth Photo Contest. 6:30pm; Announcement of Awards for the Youth Photo Contest 7:00pm - Pot Luck Dinner.

Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road

### **NPSOT Fredericksburg Chapter Monthly Meeting**

On Tuesday, May 28, Shannon Brown will be our speaker. His topic will be "Rainscaping: The Next Generation of Water Wise Landscaping." Social time with light refreshments begins at 6:30; program at 7.

Memorial Presbyterian Church, 601 North Milam Street

### **NPSOT Kerrville Chapter Monthly Meeting**

The Chapter meets at 1:30 on the second Tuesday of the month, September through May. Our May meeting was a field trip.

Riverside Nature Center, 150 Francisco Lemos Street

**These chapter meetings are free and open to the public.**

## Fredericksburg Native Plant Society Presents

### "Hummingbird Courtship (*aka* The Sex Life of Hummingbirds)"

May 29, 2019

Hummingbirds have returned to the Hill Country! While we are familiar with the tiny birds buzzing around our feeders, their sex life is more elusive. Learn what to watch for in this class taught by Fredericksburg bird expert, Bill Lindemann. Male hummingbirds principally use their gorget and aerial displays to earn the right to mate with the female, but because of their minute size and high speed flying capability, their courtship is rarely witnessed. If you know what to look for, the brief razzle and dazzle of the hummingbird mating show can be an unforgettable moment.

A native Texan from Gonzales County, Lindemann earned BS and MA degrees from the University of Texas in Austin. After 32 years as an exploration geologist, he and his wife retired to Fredericksburg in 1994. To fully appreciate the wonderful natural heritage found in the Hill Country, Lindemann became a self-trained naturalist. He wrote a weekly newspaper column on birding for 19 years, twice served as President of the Native Plant Society of Texas in Fredericksburg, founded the Fredericksburg Nature Center, and was a member of Hill Country Land Trust board for 15 years, serving as President for four years. He is a frequent speaker on nature subjects.

Cost of the class is \$20. It is sponsored by the Fredericksburg chapter of the Native Plant Society in conjunction with the Fredericksburg Independent School District Community Education Program.

To Register: Contact Rachel Malinak at (830) 997-7182 or [rachelm@fisd.org](mailto:rachelm@fisd.org).

Date & Time: Wednesday, May 29, 2019, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Where: Fredericksburg High School Library  
1107 Highway 16 South



## Hill Country Butterfly Counts

With all the good rains we've had, the wildflower and butterfly population are outstanding. This could be one of the better years to join in on one of our counts.



Below is a calendar of upcoming local counts with the contact person for that count. Each compiler will send you specific information regarding where and when to meet. This is an excellent time to start learning butterflies. With over 175 species in the Hill County, you will have plenty of opportunities to see and learn to identify butterflies. Master Naturalists get volunteer hours for this fun activity (CC-08-B NABA Butterfly Counts).

The Love Creek count is one of the top 2 counts in Texas and ranked in the top 10 in the USA counts at #3. Regardless, all counts have their fun places to explore and always a chance of finding a rare butterfly. The compilers need lots of eyes helping to spot butterflies. So, give it a try and contact a compiler to join in the fun.

**Love Creek, June 6** Rebecca Neill ([rebecca.neill@TNC.ORG](mailto:rebecca.neill@TNC.ORG)), Tom Collins ([towhee@hctc.net](mailto:towhee@hctc.net)) (Love Creek Conservancy, Medina Nursery, 16 Ranches)

**San Antonio Northwest, June 10** Patty Pasztor([agarita@me.com](mailto:agarita@me.com)) or 210-837-0577 (Hardberger and Eisenhower Parks, Friedrich Wildemess, Crownridge Canyon Natural Area)

**San Antonio, June 13** Patty Pasztor([agarita@me.com](mailto:agarita@me.com)) or 210-837-0577 (Botanical Garden, Mitchell Lake Audubon House)

**Boerne, June 18** Brenda & Gary Fest ([brendafest@gmail.com](mailto:brendafest@gmail.com)) or 830-688-1021 (CNC, Kendall County Parks)

**Guadalupe River SP, June 27** Craig Hensley ([Craig.Hensley@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Craig.Hensley@tpwd.texas.gov))

**Kerrville, July 11** Tom Collins ([towhee@hctc.net](mailto:towhee@hctc.net)) (RNC, Kerr County Parks and Butterfly Gardens)

Reprinted from the Riverside Nature Center May newsletter, with thanks.



Riverside Nature Center Presents

# Nature Nights

Thursdays 6:00p.m.-7:00p.m.

June 6: Life Underwater

June 13: Let's Make Seed Balls

June 20: Life Underground

June 27: "Wings Of Life" Disney Film

July 11: TBA

July 18: Wildlife Forensics

July 25: Wild Nights

August 1: TBA

August 8: TBA

## Learning About Outer Space at the Kroc Center Nature Study Program

We had an enthusiastic group of 27 second and third graders walk into the classroom where Astronaut Jack Lousma was standing in the front of the rows of chairs waiting for them. After they quietly got seated and were told what they would be learning about the earth from outer space it didn't take long before hands started popping up to ask questions. Many of the students had teachers who had shared some facts about living in outer space and looking down on our planet. One of the questions asked was how it felt to stay on the space station. Apparently one of the top pleasures was walking outside the space station for at least two hours each day. Hard to imagine. Jack had some great slides to show, and while the projector was made operational the questions kept coming. The students wanted to know what he had to eat, where he had to sleep and go to the bathroom, and how it felt to be weightless. He gave them answers based on his experiences and when the slides were available he showed them where things happened in the space station. What an experience! One of the boys wanted to know how long he was in training before he was able to blast off in the space shuttle to go to the space station. Made you wonder if he was asking a personal question. Some of the volunteers also had questions. Master Naturalists Teresa Coleman, Tyra Kane, Martha Miesch, John Sloan, and Tyra's friend Patty Scafford also enjoyed the presentation and joined the students in a thank you round of applause.



# Welcome

Chapter members are welcome and encouraged to attend and contribute to Board of Directors meetings. The board meets at the Riverside Nature Center at 1:30 on the Monday of the monthly chapter meetings.

## The View from Rusty Bend



Spring sunrise

### Wind Cave

Overnight, a cold front flings off  
a gauzy tarp of sky.  
I stroll out to the pasture,  
the air now crisp and dry.

Striding along, I step into a space in the wind—  
a transparent ball roiling with warmth and wet.  
Three slow steps, then  
back into the cool.

I stop. Turn around, return  
to greet this magic.  
*I have time for you.*  
I stretch my fingertips, trace the edges.

In/out. My face sultry damp,  
my fingers chilled in arid air.  
Memorizing the mystery.  
*What is your story?*

*Are you a globe of yesterday's weather?  
Or did you roll out of a limestone cave  
to go wandering?*  
My senses enlarge.

*Can I live here in your balmy sphere?  
Or shall I carry you, invisible grotto,  
with me through the day?*  
I smell moss.

On the porch I sit and watch the rain, soaking the neighbor's field, remembering the hill country motto: There's nothing more welcome than a warm rain and a baby calf. From the river below and up the cliff lumbers a possum, soaked. I think, That's one mangy possum, then look closer and see no mange, those are hairless babies clamped crosswise on her back, five of them. Up the hill she waddles, to find a den that's nice and dry.

April at Rusty Bend is full of such sightings. I wake early, unwilling to miss a thing. Walking out into the pasture, I see Evening Primrose all pink, yellow and white turn their heads to the sun, pastel coins scattered in the grass. Such profusion of color everywhere, it's as if a painting in progress is now complete. The rain has healed the cracks in the soil. Now the only marks are excavations by Divot, the armadillo. I watch closely one day as he wiggles his ears, bulldozing the earth, using his ridged tail as a fifth leg, like a stabilizer on a backhoe. Push, shove, wiggle, twist. The term boisterous comes to mind. Then, on a morning run I see the backside of a large bobcat as she leaps into the brush, her tail like a hotdog with hair. For a large animal, she moves with grace, soundless.

Andy is monitoring almost 50 nesting boxes and his reports are the news of the day. I love his descriptions of baby bluebirds and their gapes. There are chores like the removal of bats, snakes and house sparrows to make room for more welcome species. Then he mimics sounds of Carolina wren babies with their high-pitched cheeps; the hiss of mama titmouse, the tiger mom of birds. She threatens him with an open mouth fussssss, refusing to leave the nest. He recounts the fussy nature of tiny chickadees in their black and white suits. News that makes you smile.

At dusk, we return to the porch to listen. If we were on home base, three pauraques now whistle to each other from first, second and third. From left field, turkeys squabble at their roost, from right field, Chuck's-wills-widows rove the river bottom with their haunting cries. And yes, wait for it, wait, the fireflies are back.

*continued on next page*

*Priscilla's Corner (In Memory of Priscilla Stanley)*



*Oenothera speciosa*

*Pink Evening Primrose*

Poem, images and essay by Lucy Griffith  
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*Lucy Griffith, PhD co-manages the Rusty Bend Ranch with her husband, Andy Robinson. She also writes poetry; her muse, a tractor named Mabel. The story of the Burro Lady of West Texas told in poems, We Make a Tiny Herd, has just been published by Main Street Rag. Both Lucy and Andy are certified Master Naturalists. Comments welcome at [doctorluz@hctc.net](mailto:doctorluz@hctc.net).*



## Advanced Training

**SATURDAY, MAY 18 1-2PM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE**

AT19-141 BONFIRE SHELTER: UNDERSTANDING ANCIENT AMERICANS IN WEST TEXAS

David Kilby, an Associate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at Texas State University, will focus on the archeology of the earliest inhabitants of the Americas, with particular emphasis on the relationship between Ice Age foragers and their changing physical environment.

**MONDAY, MAY 20 6:45-8PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY LECTURE HALL, KERRVILLE**

AT19-TBA TEXAS WILD RICE

Texas wild rice is a member of the genus *Zizania*, a grain that is native to the North American continent. The genre has historically been of importance to the Native people of North America and Canada dating back many hundreds of years. Prof. Michele Reynolds will speak on the importance of *Zizania* and its four species.

**TUESDAY, MAY 21 10:30-11:30AM RIVERSIDE NATURE CENTER, KERRVILLE**

AT19-130 NED TALK: BEETLEMANIA COMES TO KERRVILLE

Wayne Seifert will introduce the more common families of beetles, where they live, their variety of body shapes and colors, and their impact on our lives.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 8AM-4PM AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE MUSEUM, BOERNE**

AT19-068 NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM, LEVEL 1

This introduction focuses on the value of including and preserving native plants in landscapes, the differences between sustainable and conventional development, the nature of Texas soil, 45 recommended native plants, and five plants to avoid. Registration is at 7:45. Gary Fest and Brenda Fest are the instructors. For more information, contact Veronica Hawk, [veronica.hawk@gmail.com](mailto:veronica.hawk@gmail.com).

**THURSDAY, MAY 23 1-3PM UPPER GUADALUPE RIVER AUTHORITY CLASSROOM, KERRVILLE**

AT19-122 EDUSCAPE TALK AND TOUR

Pam Umstead, a member of the EduScape design team, will focus on the benefits of xeriscaping. Seating is limited; RSVP to Riverside Nature Center, 830-257-4837 or [rnc.kerrville@gmail.com](mailto:rnc.kerrville@gmail.com).

**TUESDAY, MAY 28 1-2PM WEBINAR**

AT19-106 MANAGING OAK FORESTS FOR NORTHERN BOBWHITE QUAIL

Dr. Dwayne Elmore, Extension Wildlife Specialist, is the presenter. Contact: <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/managing-oak-foests-for-northern-bobwhite-quail/?sr=wp~upcoming>.

**TUESDAY, MAY 28 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG**

AT19-142 RAINSCAPING - THE NEXT GENERATION OF WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING

Shannon Brown, following permaculture principles, designs native plant gardens and landscapes that conserve water during dry spells and mitigate flooding during downpours.

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 29 6-7PM FREDERICKSBURG HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

AT19-140 HUMMINGBIRD COURTSHIP

Learn what to watch for in this class, taught by Bill Lindemann. Cost: \$20.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 25 7-8PM MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FREDERICKSBURG**

AT19-139 TEXAS BUMBLE BEES - WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Dr. Jessica Beckham will introduce bumble bees' life cycle, adaption as the perfect pollinator, and her research on their population status in Texas, with a focus on how humans and bumble bees can peacefully coexist in an increasingly urbanized world.

The newsletter's publication schedule does not allow listing all AT events in each issue.  
Check the chapter calendar on our website for additional AT.

T E X A S



We meet on the fourth Monday of most months at 6:45 PM in the Upper Guadalupe River Authority Lecture Hall at 125 North Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

Join us at 6:15 for our social half-hour.

Everyone is welcome.

Texas Master Naturalist mission:

To develop a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide education, outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities.

**Board of Directors 2019**

- Lisa Flanagan -- President
- Craig Childs -- Vice President
- Katy Kappel -- Secretary
- Cathy Binney -- Treasurer
- Paula Harley -- Advanced Training Director
- Catherine Gauldin -- Communications Director
- Reggie Cox -- Membership Director
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- Carla Stang -- 2019 Class Director
- Steve Ramirez -- 2018 Class Representative
- Brenda Fest -- Immediate Past President
- Vern Crawford -- State Representative

The Texas Star is a monthly publication of the Hill Country Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program. News, essays, comments, and ideas are welcome.

Please email them to:

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LenoreLangsdorf@gmail.com

The Hill Country Chapter does not recommend or endorse organizations or commercial sources mentioned in our newsletter. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and editor.



*Questions about our chapter?*

Email Reggie Cox,

Membership Director

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