

Volume 50

Number 3



A quarterly newsletter from the

**Forest History
Association of Wisconsin, Inc.**

P.O. Box 186
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Fall 2025

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Save the Date

Forest History Association
of Wisconsin

51st Annual Fall Conference

September 24 - 26, 2026
Treehaven UWSP at Tomahawk

Chips and Sawdust

Volume 50, Number 3

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*Dedicated to the discovery,
interpretation, and preservation
of the forest history legacy of the
State of Wisconsin*



From The President's Chair

Friends,

Our 50th Annual Meeting is now history. It was another notable event that brought the history of the Manitowish Waters area alive with field trips the first day, a banquet at the historic Little Bohemia Lodge that night, and engaging talks the second day. Many thanks to the main organizers, Tom Jerow, Cindi Stiles, Matt Carothers and Beckie Gaskill. They picked a beautiful day for the tour, coordinated meals and the facilities at the North Lakeland Discovery Center, and lined up tour guides and speakers. Don Schnitzler and John Grosman were also essential in organizing the meeting. It is also important to recognize FHAW members who prepared and delivered talks at the meeting; John Bates, John Berg, Jim Bokern and Kay Krans. Thanks again for everyone's efforts to make the annual meeting a success!

In case you were not able to attend this year's annual meeting in Manitowish Waters, be sure to read the meeting summary in this newsletter and view the presentation videos on our [website](#) or [YouTube channel](#).

The board participated in a related history item the day before the meeting, unveiling the Landmark Pines Kiosk on County Road M near Trout Lake. A display describing the history of the area and the Northern Highlands-American Legion State Forest was attached to the previously blank backside of the kiosk. Be sure to stop by and see it when you are in the area.

Next year's meeting is set for September 24-26 at Treehaven, the UW-Stevens Point field station at Tomahawk.

FHAW Traveling Display: Each year the FHAW attends different meetings and conferences to introduce ourself to folks around the state, and recruit new members. We have nine banners covering topics from terms of logging, in the forest, cutover to sustained forestry, as the wood floats, and others. In the Winter, 2022 issue of Chips and Sawdust (available on the website) there is a newsletter article describing the banners.

This year we displayed the banners at the South East Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association (WWOA) meeting at Waukesha in February, the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest 100th anniversary celebration at the Crystal Lake Nature Center near Boulder Junction in June, the Wisconsin DNR retiree gathering at Merrill in July, the WWOA Annual Meeting at Onalaska in September, and the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters Statewide meeting in October in Stevens Point. If you ever see the booth at an event, please stop by and say hello.

This year we updated and reprinted our membership brochure that we hand out to those interested in our organization. It has information on becoming a member, membership benefits, and describes the mission and focus of our organization. Contact one of the board members to get some copies if you are interested in distributing them.

Webinars: Our webinars, hosted and coordinated by Tom Jerow and Don Schnitzler, is a relatively recent program that has become a vitally important part of our mission. The webinars started in 2021 after the 2020 annual meeting was changed to a webinar format because of the limits on large gatherings caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The webinars over the past year (since the 2024 annual meeting) involved 271 active participants and 1,142 views after the event.

The topics ranged from clocks to 1930's gangsters with speakers from different organizations and backgrounds. Tom and Don have put a lot of effort into finding interesting and unique stories. The webinar with the largest number of active participants was Kay Krans' recent offering in September; "The Weekend to Remember, April 20-22, 1934, Dillinger at Little Bohemia" with 69 participants. Kay explained that everyone finds criminals fascinating.

If you know of a story that should be told, and someone to present it, please send the FHAWE an email at: thefhaw@gmail.com

Board of Directors Vacancies: We have one vacancy on the board this year and after next year we will have three more vacancies. John Grosman, a charter member, left the board at the end of 2024. He served on the board at various times since 2001, and maybe earlier? John is the immediate past president and had been president in 2019 and 2020. John helped build up our board and initiate new projects and partnerships including the UW-Stevens Point archive project, partnership with UW-SP LEAF program, renewing the Landmark Pines Kiosk, creating a partnership with the Northern Wisconsin Heritage Council, and many others. In 2021 he was presented with the Fixmer Distinguished Service Award for his tireless devotion to the FHAWE through strategic planning, re-emphasizing partnerships with schools and local history societies, as well as coordinating our annual meeting commemorating the Peshtigo fire. John was also involved with many committees through the years.

Board members stepping down at the end of 2026 are Don Schnitzler, Bob Walkner and Cindi Stiles.

Don Schnitzler has been our newsletter editor since 2009. It was announced in volume 34, number 3 of Chips and Sawdust and having four newsletters each year, that means Don has been the editor of about 72 issues of Chips and Sawdust. He was awarded the Frank Fixmer Award for Exceptional Individual Achievement in 2020, to acknowledge Schnitzler's contributions to the Association as newsletter editor, past offices held (secretary, vice-president and president) and his efforts with the FHAWE Webinar Series.

Bob Walkner, another long-time member, has been active in the Association beginning with election to the Board of Directors in 2002, and then became the treasurer in 2005 until 2022. Bob was awarded the Fixmer Distinguished Service Award in 2022 for his services on the Board, work as the treasurer and accepting the duties of the membership committee chairperson as well. He was also cited for frequently representing the Association at forest-focused events, acting as the local events coordinator for our annual meetings, and developing and presenting talks for members.

Cindi Stiles was elected to the board in 2020. She has been a professional archaeologist for over 45 years, mostly in the Upper Midwest, and has worked extensively with the Native American tribes in Northern Wisconsin. She is also a

member of the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Archaeological Society. Cindi encouraged the Association to expand our focus before European settlement of Wisconsin to become more involved in Native American history and culture in the state.

We will miss all the departing board members. I am bringing this up to give our members some time to consider becoming involved on the board. As with recruiting new members to the Association, recruiting new board members is vital to keeping the FHAW viable in the future.

Thank you all for your continuing support of the Association. Enjoy the upcoming holidays, and I hope to see you in the new year.

Regards,

Jim Kerkman

Landmark Pines Marker Renewed and Expanded

In 1988, more than twenty organizations and individuals came together to create the Landmark Pines Historical Marker along County Highway M near Trout Lake. Conceived as a “window through time,” the kiosk showcased a sequence of photographs taken from the same vantage point over more than a century, illustrating how sustainable forest management has shaped the Northern Highland landscape.

After more than thirty years of exposure to the elements, the original structure required extensive repair and modernization. Trees for Tomorrow and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources led the restoration effort, updating both the kiosk and its interpretive materials to ensure that Landmark Pines continues to illuminate Wisconsin’s logging heritage, the development of forest science, and the enduring significance of the forest products industry.

The renewed display now fea-



*Landmark Pines weathered appearance,
Circa 2018.*



*Landmark Pines renewed appearance,
Circa 2021.*

tures digitally enhanced historic photographs printed on durable metal panels, beginning with the “cutover” landscape of 1911 and progressing to the present day. A viewing window

invites visitors to compare these images directly with the forest as it stands today.

Following the structural restoration completed in 2021, partners turned their attention to the previously unused back side of the marker. New interpretive content was developed to highlight the Northern Highland–American Legion State Forest, Indigenous forest history in the Northwoods, the early years of scientific forest management, the work of the Wisconsin Conservation Commission, and the evolution of modern forestry led by the Department of Natural Resources and its collaborators.

Several years of research, drafting, review, and careful editing culminated in the installation of these



Beth Feind, and Jake Bonack do the honors of unveiling the new signage.

new graphics. Once mounted, the panels remained covered until their formal unveiling on October 2. Members of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin were honored to attend the ceremony and to have contributed to both the original marker and its renewal of then the addition of its expanded historical narrative.



Landmark Pines unveiling attendees, left to right; Jim Kerkman, Beth Feind (current State Forest Superintendent), Craig Dalton (former State Forest Superintendent, Tom Jerow, Jim Bokern — all on the left side of the sign then, Jean Bettenhausen in front of her husband Ken (Jean did the graphics layout for the sign), then Don Schnitzler, Nicole Fillizetti, Ron Eckstein and his wife Jan (Ron is retired DNR Wildfire manager) then Jake Bonack and John Grosman.

From the Board Column

We're pleased to introduce *From the Board*, a new column that offers readers a glimpse into the diverse interests, experiences, and perspectives of those who help guide the Forest History Association of Wisconsin. In each issue, a board member will share a story, reflection, or insight drawn from their work, passions, or encounters in the field.

For this inaugural installment, Matt Carothers reflects on his time at our recent conference in Manitowish Waters and what made the gathering especially meaningful for him.

Looking ahead, this space is open to all FHAW members who wish to contribute a story or viewpoint. If you have an idea for a future column, please reach out to the editor for writing guidelines. We'd love to hear from you.

Statehouse Lake Revisited

by Matt Carothers

Hello! My name is Matt Carothers. I'm a husband, father, and consulting forester from Hazelhurst. I have been on the FHAW Board since 2023. I don't have much more of an intro and no campaign speech. Rather I thought it would be neat if for my Board member column I shared a story that is near and dear to me: recapping my version of our 2025 annual meeting at the North Lakeland Discovery Center (NLDC) in Manitowish Waters.

NLDC sits amidst the Northern Highlands ecological landscape; an area home to a rich heritage indelibly tied to the woods and waters which have sustained people here for millennia. If you have not yet had a chance to visit NLDC or the surrounding "Highlands," I hope you can soon. They were gracious hosts, and it was hard to beat the weather and fall colors. Energetic field tours and thought-provoking sessions led to very enlightening conversations with new and old friends. The cuisine was outstanding, too. Not to mention the bright starry sky if you caught it.

Before the place became home of NLDC, it was the Statehouse Lake Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) camp. My father Bill had an incredibly influential experience there, serving in the YCC during the summer of 1968. And I was along for the ride when we dropped off my brother, Gerred, for his stint at Ernie Swift YCC camp in Minong during the summer of 1992. So I was fortunate to grow up in and around natural re-



Father and son, Bill and Matt Carothers, at Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin.

sources and have a very strong family influence from my dad and brother living out the work ethic they honed in the YCC. Come to find out, two of my dad's brothers also served in the YCC during the summers of 1969, 1970, and 1986.

Since graduating college with a forestry degree, I've had the good fortune to practice forestry on private lands in the Northern Highlands region. Many of the clients I serve are around the Manitowish Waters/Winchester/Mercer area, with historical ties to former pulp & paper industry landbases. Similar to the story we heard at the WinMan Trails—originating under Consolidated Paper's tenure. Crossing paths with the NH-AL State Forest and taking my own kids to NLDC, I was aware of the places and many of the stories leading into the 2025 FHAW



Local historian, Kay Krans, leads attendees on a tour of the former Statehouse Lake Youth Conservation Corps camp at the Lakeland Discovery Center.



Three generations of the Carothers pause for a photo in front of the Redhead cabin at the discovery center.

annual meeting. And eager to partake in two days of historical camaraderie in an area that has given me so much.

But this meeting was especially unique because of the feelings it evoked. My folks came to stay with my family the day before. Then my dad and I attended the meeting together. My mom, wife, and kids stopped by NLDC and WinMan on Saturday. It became a bit of a hajj back to Statehouse Lake for my dad, and getting to share the experience as a family was awesome for us.

Tom Jerow really helped cement that by assuring my dad we could stay in the Redhead cabin. The same one from my dad's YCC summer of 1968. Talk about a special "revisiting."

A couple of summers ago, we found out that Jim Bokern from the Manitowish Waters Historical Society was doing an oral history project on YCC alumni. Af-

ter getting in contact with Jim, my dad and I met him at NLDC and he recorded an interview with my dad talking about his YCC experience. It was then I came to realize just how formative the YCC was to him. And see that it carried over into how he raised my siblings and me, including the opportunities we got to explore. My dad talked about the camp director at Statehouse Lake, Robert Brismaster, with fondness and respect. “Mr. B,” as everyone called him. Like Kay Kranz told us on the tour this fall, “Brismaster was a gruff US Marine Corp WWII veteran that also appreciated and encouraged the arts. His background was assistant professor of music and theater at UW-Oshkosh.” Firm but fair. Scholarly and sporty. Looking back at my upbringing, that’s how I was raised. After learning so much more about the YCC and its people, it’s easy to see how greatly it influenced our family’s conservation ethic.

Thank you to all the attendees, presenters, and members that made the 2025 FHAW annual meeting an experience I’ll always cherish. This was the first annual meeting I have been to in my time as a FHAW member and it will be hard to top. A great addition in the catalogue of memorable moments with my family and friends in forestry. Like my dad said at NLDC, “Thank you for saving this place; it’s significant.”

Highlights of Friday’s Field Tours



A brief climb up Fire Tower Hill lead by local historian, Jim Bokern took attendees to archeological evidence of the former Rest Lake Fire Tower.



Jed Meunier, a research scientist with the Wisconsin DNR shared evidence of historical fires found in tree ring studies and explained fire’s ecological role among land management strategies.



At WinMan Trails, Jim Bokern lead a discussion about its trails and demonstrated the features of CLIO, a virtual guide to the history and culture around you — easily accessed on your smart phone.



Alongside a wild rice bed, Joe Graveen, the Wild Rice Program Manager for the Lac du Flambeau band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians shared his expertise on the status of the area’s wild rice and harvesting methods.



From the Newspaper Archive



'Trees for Tomorrow' Plans Long Range Conservation Job

Pulp Industry Members Propose Assessment Of 5 Cents a Cord to Promote Reforestation

Press-Gazette Madison Bureau

MADISON, Wis. — An industrial pulpwood reforestation movement that has already enrolled some of the biggest pulp and paper mills in the Wisconsin River Valley has just been organized as a means to combat on a long-range basis the problem of pulpwood supply that has been brought to the attention of the nation so forcefully by the war.

It is called "Trees for Tomorrow, Inc." and it has been incorporated under the laws of the state by 12 representatives of Wisconsin River Valley firms extending from Nekoosa northward to Rhinelander.

Taylor Is Promoter

Promotion representative of the committee is M. N. Taylor, advertising manager for the Merrill Daily Herald at Merrill which some time ago inspired and conducted a pulpwood harvesting drive that attracted nationwide attention.

A committee representing the association has already conferred with officials of the state conservation department on its plans and program, it was learned here.

E. J. Vanderwall, director of the conservation department, reported that he is impressed with the organization's purposes and objectives.

He said he has been informed that the pulpwood industries that have enrolled propose to assess themselves on the basis of their consumption to finance a reforestation promotion budget.

The figure of five cents per cord has been mentioned, which would make possible a fund of substantial size.

To Encourage Reforestation

The conservation head said he had been told also that the industrial group proposes to encourage reforestation through every feasible means — including the enlistment of school children and the farm land-owner. Essay contests, scholarships, free transportation to forest areas for planting work and other schemes are projected.

It has also been proposed that farm suppliers of pulpwood be given coupons by their mill customers that would be exchangeable for tree seedlings at state conservation department nurseries. The farmer would get two free seedlings for each stick of pulpwood delivered from his woodlot. The industrial association would reimburse the conservation department the cost of the seedlings.

Among the men who organized "Trees for Tomorrow" are these representatives of Wisconsin River Valley industry: Folke Becker of Rhinelander, D. C. Everest of Wausau and S. W. Mead of Wisconsin Rapids..

**Forest History Association of Wisconsin
2025 Annual Membership Meeting Minutes**

Saturday, October 4, 2025

**North Lakeland Discovery Center
Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin**

Members Attending: James Kerkman, Jerry Bach, Julie Bach, Cindi Stiles, Pete Mann, Jim Bokern, Nicole Filizetti, Daniel Filizetti, Don Schnitzler, Karen Baumgartner, Tom Albrecht, Bridget O'Brien, Tom Jerow, Daniel Leja, ??? Leja, Matt Carothers, Bill Carothers, Jerry Thiede, Kay Thiede, Seth Schneider, Valerie Chapman, Sam Karam, George Shinnars, Kay Krans, John Berg and John Hanson.

Attending via Zoom: Arno Helm

Others present: Jeanette Bultman Mecado, Cindi Willis, Pat Kolbe

Call to Order: President Jim Kerkman called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, previously shared in the Chips and Sawdust, Volume 49, Number 3 on pages 13 and 14 were considered. Motion by Don Schnitzler to approve the minutes as distributed. Second by George Shinnars. Motion carried.

President's Report: Kerkman highlighted the success and outreach of recent webinars, noting over 270 live attendees and more than 1,100 post-event views across digital platforms this year alone. The president also touched upon ongoing exhibit participation, outreach efforts, and upcoming webinars on topics such as chainsaws, Wisconsin wolves, and forestry history aimed at younger audiences and elementary school educators.

Education Committee: Nicole Filizetti, Committee Chair, reported on partnerships, and highlighted the educational kits that have impacted hundreds of educators and thousands of students statewide. She also emphasized the importance of integrating exhibit activities into educational outreach.

Archive Committee: Committee Chair Jake Bonack was unable to attend so he prepared a report and shared it with Jim Kerkman, who reported on committee accomplishments and goals. The committee continues with gathering materials of all Forestry Hall of Fame Inductees. The Association, with grants from the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, supports hiring university student interns to create Finding Aids for archival materials held by the Association at the UWSP archives. John Grosman has coordinated an effort to update the Association's "Chronology of Firsts"

with the hope of publishing the updates by the end of the year. Kerkman also reported on a large collection added to the archives this year by Sara Connor related to her book, "Wisconsin Flying Trees."

Treasurer & Investment Report: Schnitzler shared the treasurer's financial report which reflects the Association's healthy financial status. At the end of the fiscal year, the Associated Bank checking account had a balance of \$8,295.93 and the savings account had a balance of \$6,330.11. The Bank of Wisconsin Dells also holds 2 Certificate of Deposits totaling \$15,000. He highlighted donations totaling \$8,895 were received during the year which included support from the Wisconsin Society of American Foresters and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Hall of Fame Inductees' finding aids project. The total value of Checking, Savings and Money Market (Certificate of Deposit) accounts was incorrectly reported as \$38,521.04 during the meeting. It should have been \$29,626.04. *[Donations had been deposited into the Savings Account, and a portion of those funds used to pay the student interns creating the finding aids. The number \$8,895 was included in the reported total value and should not have been.]* The Association books were audited by Bob Walkner and Arno Helm with everything found to be in order. **Motion by George Shinnars to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Jim Bokern. Motion carried.**

Kerkman reported on Investments held with T. Rowe Price – as of June 30, 2025 the accounts totaled \$130,214. T Rowe Price sends monthly dividends and a year-end capital gains payment in December. This income totaled \$7,529.78, in addition, another \$5,000 was transferred from the T Rowe Price investments to the Bank of Wisconsin Dells to increase the amount of an existing \$5,000 certificate of deposit (CD) to \$10,000. Income from a matured CD from the same bank brought in \$200.48. In summary, the investments realized a gain of \$12,730, with \$5,000 of that amount going into a CD where the funds are making 3.95%. Monies received from the investments are helping to support the operational costs of the Association.

Membership Report : Tom Jerow reported that membership renewal cards are still being returned, but that he will send another second reminder to those who haven't renewed soon. He thanked those members who have renewed their membership with the extended renewal period (three or five year memberships) as it streamlines the administrative efforts while saving the member on little on their dues. He also thanked those who had chosen to become life members. To those who registered as nonmembers for this conference he reminded them that part of the registration fee included a one-year membership in the Association.

New Business

Board Nominations: Kerkman indicated that there were three board members whose terms expire at the close of this meeting who are willing to serve an additional three year term: Nicole Filizetti, Matt Carothers, and Arno Helm. He asked for other nominations three times. Then, **Karen Baumgartner moved that nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for the three incumbent board members. Second by George Shinnars. Motion Carried. He went on to inform the members that next year, retiring board members Bob Walkner, Don Schnitzler and Cindi Stiles have indicated that they planned to retire from the board when their terms end in 2026.**

Sponsorship Program: Kerkman shared information about a developing spon-

sorship program. This initiative is designed to mitigate rising costs, especially for webinars and annual conference events, while providing sponsors with visibility and marketing benefits. It exemplifies a strategic partnership model that benefits both the Association and supporting organizations. Draft solicitation documents are being created, and we'd like to have something in place next year. Arno Helm moved for Kerkman and the board to prioritize and expedite the sponsorship program. Second Don Schnitzler. Motion carried.

Printing Policy Results: Schnitzler reported that the printing policy survey responses show that members hold a range of preferences for receiving Chips and Sawdust, with equal numbers favoring print-only and a combined print-and-digital format, while a smaller group prefers digital delivery alone. Those who choose both formats appreciate the flexibility and ease of archiving, while print-only readers emphasize tradition and readability. Digital-only respondents point to convenience, reduced clutter, and cost savings.

A strong majority of participants—13 out of 18—are willing to receive FHW communications by email, suggesting that electronic updates are broadly acceptable. Those who decline email tend to be the same members who prefer print-only formats. Taken together, the results suggest a balanced distribution strategy. Continuing to offer both print and digital versions of Chips and Sawdust would meet the needs of nearly half the respondents. At the same time, maintaining a print-only option remains important for roughly 40 percent of respondents who value the tactile experience. So, the Association will offer both print-only and combined print-and-digital options to reflect member preferences. Before July 2026, the board will work with members to set individual mailing priorities.

Fall Conference 2026: Kerkman and Carothers previewed the upcoming 51st annual Conference to be held at Treehaven September 24 – 26, 2026. This gathering actually starts a year-long celebration of the Association's 50th anniversary culminating with the conference next year where special events and historical presentations about the Association will be planned, along with recognizing the 250th Anniversary of the United States, the history of Treehaven-UWSP, private forestry efforts of the area, and advancing technologies.

"From the Board" column: Kerkman and Jerow highlighted a new column in Chips & Sawdust, "From the Board," where board members are invited and encouraged to write an article related to Wisconsin Forestry to share with our members. They extended the same invitation to our members. Members as well are encouraged to contribute articles for the newsletter to share knowledge and lighten the editorial workload.

Acknowledgements: The session concluded with acknowledgments to conference organizers, Tom Jerow, Jim Kerkman, Cindi Stiles, John Berg, Jim Bokern, our speakers and all participants.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn at 1:00 pm by Jerry Thiede. Second by Cindi Stiles. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted
Donald H. Schnitzler, secretary pro-tem

Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member and participant in the Association's program of developing the educational and historical aspects of Wisconsin's forestry and logging industry. Attached is payment for:

_____ Student Membership (\$10.00)	Other Contributions:
_____ Individual Membership (\$20.00)	
_____ Family Membership (\$30.00)	\$ _____ Student Awards
_____ Non Profit Membership (\$30.00)	\$ _____ Capital Fund
_____ Corporate Membership (\$55.00)	\$ _____ Operations
_____ Individual Life Membership (\$250.00)	

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail Address _____



Detach and mail this application with payment to:

**Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Inc.
P.O. Box 186, Bangor, WI 54614**

50th Fall Conference Committee **(Manitowish Waters, Wisconsin)**

Jim Kerkman
Tom Jerow
Cindi Stiles
John Berg
Jim Bokern

Membership Committee

Bob Walkner
Tom Jerow
Jim Kerkman

Finance Committee

Jim Kerkman
Bob Walkner
Arno Helm
Ed Forrester
Don Schnitzler

Nominations Committee

Jim Kerkman
Matt Carothers

FHAW Website Committee

Scott Bertz
Don Schnitzler

Archives Committee

Jake Bonack (chairperson)
John Grosman
Jim Bokern
Matt Blessing
Ricky Kubicek
Don Schnitzler
Brad Casselberry
Steve Schmidt

Exhibits & Annual Proceedings

Don Schnitzler

*Always looking for members to help
with our Committee Work!*

*Interested — Reach out to us at:
thefhaw@gmail.com*



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