

The Loon

April, 2018



From the desk of our Board's President

Donna Simpson

Spring 2018

Spring Greetings to All,

It's been a long, cold, winter in New England, with a record number of back-to-back Nor'easters leaving us all weary and yearning for warmer days at Sebec Lake! We hope to get the roads in shape as early as possible, but we are at the mercy of both Mother Nature and the Town of Guilford (if road closures or weight limits are posted). Rest assured that I'll be checking with my trusty local sources, as well as our contractor, to determine the best date to begin road work.

As I noted in my fall message, the 40 or so loads of gravel spread in June appeared to do the trick, and we'll be evaluating where best to build up road surfaces in the spring. We spent a total of \$5,400 replacing a number of culverts, starting just beyond the turnoff to Big Bennett Pond, down to the "Y" and continuing onto Tim's Cove Road. We've already earmarked several culverts on South Cove Road for attention and will be walking the roads to assess the status of each culvert and ditch.

In addition, we had three 12-yard truckloads of gravel dumped (two on the hill and one on South Cove Road) for pothole repair. Thanks are due to Paul Belmain and Tom Crepeau who use their tractors to move gravel and make repairs. In addition, many public-spirited camp owners joined them in this effort.

Drew Daubenspeck and I attended the Willimantic Town Meeting, where voters approved \$3,000 for road maintenance once again. We had requested \$5,000, but the Selectmen recommended \$3,000 on the Town Warrant, and this is the amount that was voted. However, we learned that we really need to attend the budget meeting to make our case for additional funds. We're not sure it will make a difference, but we will certainly be sure to attend in 2018.

There will be two seats open for the Board of Directors in July, one for South Cove and one of Tim's Cove Road. Please think about running for a seat. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Board and have the utmost respect for all the hard work done by this talented group. See below for more information about the nominating process.

(Continued on page 3)

Please mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting, which will be held at the usual date of July 4 at 9:00 a.m. at the Page Camp at 344 South Cove Road. It's best to plan to carpool, bike, or walk if possible, as parking can be tricky along our narrow camp roads!

Looking forward to seeing you all in May!

Donna Simpson

President, TCPOA



From the desk of our Board's Treasurer:

Julia Flanders

Happy Spring, Everyone!

The snow has gone in our yard in Lexington, Massachusetts, but it still lies thick in Guilford, Maine. I can feel the warmth of the sun, and see the birds beginning to build nests, so it won't be long before we will be trundling down Sebec Shores Road to see how Tim's Cove Road, and South Cove Road fared over winter.

Our current reserve of funds will cover the first grading of the season, but first we will have to inspect the roads for winter damage. And that is thanks to all 102 of you! Only three "land only" property owners are "awol" with regard to dues payments.

Special thanks to our President, Donna Simpson, and our Board of Directors who worked hard to get proper addresses and emails from everyone, and collected dues for me in some cases. We are confident that our membership list is more accurate than it has ever been before. If anyone has changed addresses or emails, please be sure to send new information to us as soon as possible.

The dues invoice will be emailed May 1st, 2018. The dues are \$200.00 again this year, and are due June 1st 2018. Those of you without email will get a paper invoice in the mail. Our goal this year is to have 100% of the dues deposited before the annual meeting. I know you will do your part! And thank you!

See you on the road!

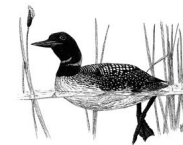
From the desk of our Board's Vice President:

Drew Daubenspeck

If you have not done so already please register on the Tim's Cove Property Association website. With it you can get access to the Membership Directory, By-Laws, Mission Statement, Annual Report, all the years of The Loon, and any lake issues. Please register here: <http://timscove.mylaketown.com/>.

Also by registering you will enable us to contact you directly by e-mail with any late breaking issues at Tim's Cove, should any arrive, such as may concern the roads, lake level, and Willimantic Township issues.

Finally, we have started experimenting with a Facebook page for the Association. No promises but it should be ready this summer. With a little luck it will contain all the same information as is on the website in a easier, more common accessible format.



A Little Free Lending Library

The TCPOA Lending Library that stands at the "Y" junction was a huge success. Thanks to everyone for adding books, borrowing books, and returning books.

The Library itself is away right now and inside for the winter. It will be back out and open for lending by June 1st.

And "Thanks!" once again to Don Rush for the wonderful library itself.

Once Upon an Ice-out

Dave Inglehart

Over the course of the past 20 years I've had occasion to spend some part of every month of the year at Sebec, the most memorable of which visits tend to be in early spring, if only for the chance to witness the ephemeral drama of ice-out.

One year I showed up in mid-April, hoping, among other things, to make a season debut kayak tour of Tim's Cove. The lake has a habit of defying expectations, however, and upon finding the final stretch of Sebec Shores Road still covered by a sturdy crust of snow, I had my doubts about the kayaking.

Indeed, the day was overcast and cold, with deep snow in the woods and the cove sealed up tight beneath a continuous sheet of ice. Alas, winter showed few signs of relenting just yet.

After unloading assorted gear and supplies, I wasted no time getting a fire going in the stove and bringing in several armloads of logs from the woodshed. At this point, with few other options, I grudgingly decided to make a cross-country skiing tour of the immediate shore roads; my original purpose, after all, had been to anticipate summer, not revisit the cold season.

To make matters worse, the thick cloud cover effectively cheated me out of a full hour of daylight, and after a brief ski and an even briefer supper, I sat reading in the main room of camp, wondering what had possessed me to come north on such a dismal day.

Eventually forcing myself to depart the stove's immediate circle of warmth, I retired to a bed whose sheets and blankets had absorbed an entire winter's worth of lingering chill, and for once the otherwise laborious process by which previous generations had heated slabs of soapstone for use as a bedwarmers made a lot of sense.

The next day I awoke to much the same conditions and longingly considered packing up and heading back downstate. As the fire had blessedly lasted the night, however, I took advantage of the coals, and with the addition of a few more logs the stove was soon crackling cheerfully once again. I had some breakfast and decided to stick around.

By mid-morning things were looking up. The sky had cleared and a large area of open water on the Big Lake (beyond the Cove) glistened in the sunlight. Still holding out hope for a kayak tour, I spent some time poking around down by the shore, where the ice remained intact but appeared dark and waterlogged.

By noon the sun was making a real difference, and, thinking to give it a hand, I decided to climb up on the roof of the cabin and clear away the deep drifts of snow. Retrieving a ladder from the basement, I was soon standing atop a flat-pitched section of shed-dormer, tossing down large chunks of "igloo-snow," not terribly heavy but wind-blasted and conveniently cohesive.

Working my way along the peak, I kept at it, careful not to scrape or otherwise disturb the shingling, yet taking a certain pleasure in the chance to contribute to the general thaw. Eventually ditching my winter parka in favor of shirtsleeves, I took regular pauses to gaze out over the cove from my private perch high above, content to take my time at what hardly seemed a chore so much as a pleasant diversion.

Thus engaged, I only gradually became aware that something was happening out on the cove. Every time I looked up, the ice seemed to have grown darker, more rotten, as if some kind of fungus were spreading throughout its wide expanse.

Eventually cracks began to form, hardly perceptible at first, but with growing regularity. It seemed the lake was slowly breaking out of its wintry prison. Yet so much ice remained over such a vast area that I still didn't recognize what was happening as the big event--the annual break-up.

By four o'clock, however, there were enough open leads that it seemed just possible to go for a paddle after all, and, having finished clearing the roof, I clambered down the ladder, put it back in the basement and hauled a kayak out in its stead.

Dragging it across the snowy slope to the shore, I was soon afloat in the narrow interstice between ice and shore, picking my way into the nearest lead. The tiny channel was so narrow, however, that at first my paddle blades never even entered the water. Instead, I was obliged to scrape them along the tops of the floes for propulsion.

The leads gradually grew longer and wider, however, until at some critical turning point I was no longer following leads so much as navigating among large, moving floes, some of which were in the process of colliding, in which case the kayak was liable to be pinched out of the water altogether.

In other places, I was able to plow into and through rotten patches of ice that had become almost invisible, so thoroughly had their crystalline structure been eroded. Now it seemed the floe ice had taken on a life of its own, and a noisy one at that, as floe vied with floe in a massive slow-motion demolition derby, complete with weird collision sound effects.

So it went, until the individual floes split into innumerable smaller

(Continued on page 14)

About that lake level.....

The **Sebec Lake Association*** actively works with the operators of the dam at the end of our lake in Sebec Village regarding the level of the lake throughout the year. There is a formal agreement in place between the Dam owners (Ampersand)/operators and FERC (Federal Environmental Regulatory Commission) with specific changes requested by SLA at the time of the agreement. It can be found on our website by clicking on Sebec Lake Information/Sebec Dam.

In the Spring the boards near the dam can only be installed as weather and safety permit. The goal is to keep the level of the lake between 322.8 and 322.3 feet above sea level from Memorial Day through October 15th.

Beginning on October 15th, the level of the lake is lowered by releasing water through the dam's sluices and by the taking down of the boards. The actual begin date for the lowering of the lake depends on the weather, the amount of rain received, and whether the salmon have finished getting up over Earley's Falls to spawn.

During the fall, the goal is to lower the lake down to 317.8 feet above sea level to help reduce spring flooding by March 31st.

Sebec Lake Association

On the Sebec Lake Association website you will find information about Sebec Lake as well as information for its members. Under 'Sebec Lake Association' you can find information about the organization, including the Mission, Bylaws, and Directors, as well as pay dues, purchase Sebec Lake decals, read annual meeting minutes, and peruse FAQs. Under 'Sebec Lake', there is information on the history of the area, geographic information, water quality testing results, water clarity and level data, as well as information on the Dam, its agreement with the State, Invasive plant and a map of the watershed area. The newsletters are available under What's New. They welcome new members. Dues are only \$15 per year.

Website: www.sebeclakeassoc.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=the%20sebec%20lake%20assoc>
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Spring Thoughts

Dale C. Flanders

Paul was my Shetland sheepdog, long gone now, but not forgotten. A Sheltie. A miniature Lassie. His feet smelled like popcorn. He was fastidious as a cat. And a good thing because he was nearly all fur. When he was wet from a bath or plunge in the lake, his hair shrink-wrapped him. He had the body of a miniature Greyhound. And given the opportunity he would run like a Greyhound. He'd been trained to show. Hold your hand above his head with fingers pinched as if holding a treat and say "Showtime!" and he'd snap into a pose with a fierce beauty that took my breath away. On a leash he walked with a proud haughty show trot.

But my god did Paul like to run! Take him to a field, and with a "snick", take off his leash and let him go. The joy! Like a cheetah he'd tear forward to the far border of the grass, turn and fly, just fly, back into my arms. He'd do this over and over again seemingly without the least fatigue. He didn't bark. He had a look that spoke of the purest of animal joy. And his greatest time of such joy was in the Spring, when after a winter of snow he'd have his first run in the park. Green grass, a few shreds of snow left perhaps, but the promise of long summer days was in the air. He was alive! He was alive! He was alive! At the end of it he'd pant, tongue lolling, and look at me, eyes deep and soulful, and thank me.

Now in this day of stunning technical progress man approaches a threshold. I believe that in ten, or thirty, or perhaps one hundred years; soon in the history of mankind, we will create a conscious electronic machine with super intelligence. The next major step in our evolution. Our mortal form, like our animal ancestors, will become a quaint reminder to them of their ancestors to these perhaps dominant future beings.

In a small way we have had a taste now of this eventuality. So much of our life is "on line" where we project ourselves with pure information. The iphone world is so much cleaner than the messy animal part of man. Our digital selves are virtually immortal. They don't get hungry. They don't excrete. They don't smell, like popcorn or anything else! They never fall asleep. Travel costs virtually nothing. That part of us can go anywhere in milliseconds. No lost baggage, no wondering if

the sandwich dragged aboard the airplane will be edible. No turbulence.

But what will be the tenor of pleasure for this new super intelligent machines? Perhaps that new being will experience an exquisite combination of insight and purity that we will never comprehend. Or maybe, like the joy that I saw in Paul as he returned over those green fields with eyes flashing and every muscle in perfect motion, that animal pleasure I saw and envied in Paul which I, even as a superior human, will never fully know, just maybe the unique animal pleasures that I experience will be lost to these monumental machines, and they will appreciate and envy our simple Spring joys like I do those of Paul.



This plaque was a fixture for a short time on Gibraltar.

Photo circa 1978, forty years ago.

Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District

How we Help You Keep Sebec Lake Beautiful!

Greetings Tim's Cove & Sebec Lake residents from the Piscataquis County Soil & Water Conservation District (PCSWCD)! Our organization works in this county to protect and conserve our natural resources and as you all know, Sebec Lake is one of our most precious resources. We accomplish our mission through education—offering informative workshops, programs and technical services. Take some time to look over our website—www.piscataquisswcd.org—and follow us on Facebook—www.facebook.com/www.piscataquisswcd.org—to keep up with all of the wonderful things we offer in this area!

We want to introduce you to two of our great programs:

Teen Wilderness Expedition

This 3-day, 2-night all-inclusive program is offered July 17th-19th and is designed for youth ages 12-16. This year, we get to play and stay at the Appalachian Mountain Club's Gorman Chairback Lodge! We design this program to include something for everyone and provide opportunities for kids who are unfamiliar with outdoor recreation to learn new skills, try new things and have fun, all in a comfortable, supportive environment and alongside skilled professionals.

Included in the registration fee is transportation to and from the Lodge and the pick-up/drop-off locations, all meals, all equipment needed to participate in activities, lodging, 3 full days of programming, guided instruction, education and FUN!

We are able to offer partial trip scholarships. In order to be considered for a scholarship, you must fill out our scholarship application. Scholarships amounts are announced by June 1st, 2018. If you have any additional questions, please contact us at the PCSWCD, 207-564-2321 ext. 3, info@piscataquisswcd.org or register through our online store at www.piscataquisswcd.org!

Do Your Part to Protect Sebec Lake by Participating in LakeSmart!

The goal of the LakeSmart program is to reduce damaging runoff into Maine lakes and ponds. The program accomplishes this goal by evaluating the amount of soil erosion occurring on a property, and working with the property owners to address these concerns by putting low-cost, do it yourself fixes in place. A LakeSmart evaluator may give homeowners information on planting vegetative buffers, installing roof dripline trenches, quick fixes to

(Continued on page 11)

Maine Audubon Society

The Annual Loon Count

On the morning of the third Saturday of July each year, over 1,000 volunteers venture onto lakes and ponds across the state to count loons. The observations recorded by our citizen scientist volunteers provide an excellent “snapshot” of Maine’s loon population.

The 2018 Loon Count will take place on Saturday, July 21. To sign up, contact Susan Gallo at 207.781.6180 x216 or sgallo@maineaudubon.org. Send her your name, address, and the lake or general area where you would like to count. They will be in touch in the spring with details.

This just in: Here are the results of the 2017 Loon count:
<https://www.maineaudubon.org/news/results-2017-loon-count/>



(Continued from page 10)

help solve erosion occurring in the driveway or from the roadway, and much more. LakeSmart landscaping provides healthy alternatives that mimic nature’s rich mosaic of plants, shrubs, winding paths, and shady trees – so it looks great, enhances privacy, and works hard to protect property values, wildlife habitat, water quality, recreational opportunities and the vitality of local economies.

LakeSmart is free to participate in and designed to provide education and suggestions to homeowners. There is no obligation, only options and information to help waterfront property owners do their part to protect their beloved lake or pond!

The PCSWCD offers LakeSmart evaluations to waterfront residents and camp owners in this County. We would like to extend an open invitation to waterfront property owners to contact us at info@piscataquisswcd.org or by calling 207-564-2321 ext. 3 to get more information on LakeSmart and schedule an evaluation. Sebec Lake will thank you!



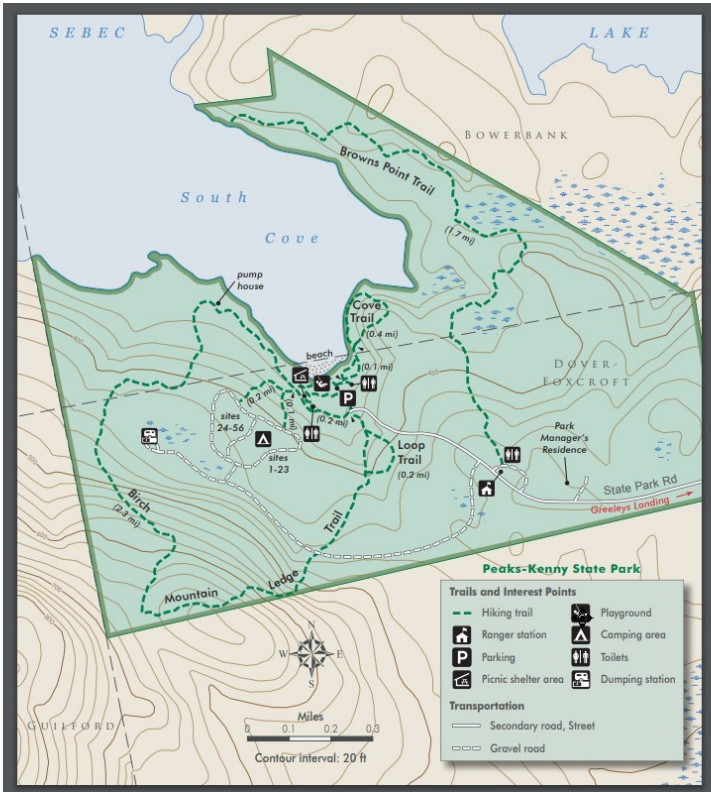
Tim’s Cove Property Association items for sale

We still have a number of items available for sale including:

- Hats
- Tote bags and sweatshirts (all with South Cove Logo)
- Golf shirts and T-shirts
- TCPOA maps with camp owners listed (4 pages)

All may be purchased at the Simpson camp at 273 Tim’s Cove Road. Please call Donna at 207-997-3953 to arrange a visit starting in late May. Items will also be for sale at the Annual Meeting.

Map of the trails at Peaks-Kenny State Park



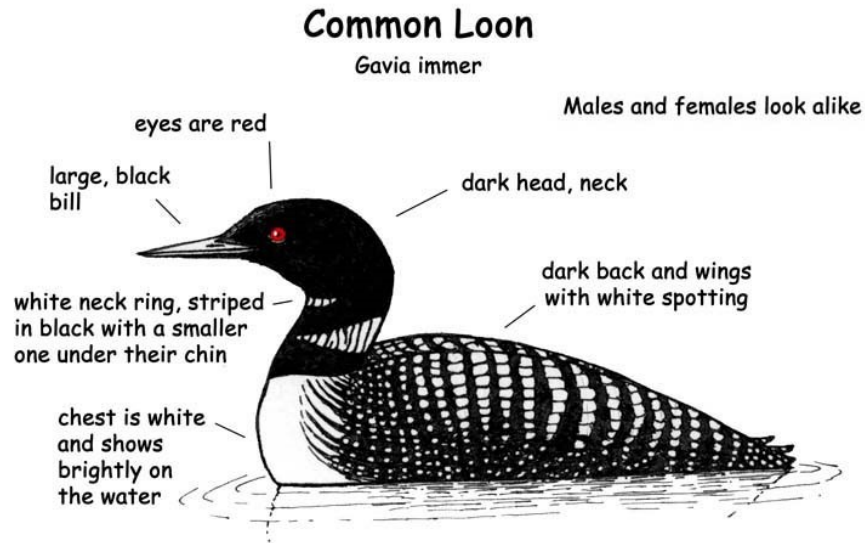
Local Farm/Market Opportunities

We are so fortunate to have an abundance of local food options available over the summer months. Please support the local farmers by patronizing one or all of the following providers:

Dover Cove Farmer's Market (open Tuesdays, 2-6 and Saturdays, 9-1)

Stutzman's Farm Stand and Brick Oven, 891 Pine St, Sangerville. Hours vary by the season – call 207-564-8596 for the latest information. Did you know that you can purchase a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) card that you can use as a debit card, both at the farm stand and in the restaurant? So convenient. You haven't lived till you've tried the pizza buffet or Sunday brunch!

Almost Organic, 207 East Main St. Jeff Merchant sells wonderful veggies just beyond Rowell's Garage, surrounded by a neat-as-a-pin, gorgeous garden. Hours vary by the season. Stop by for an update.



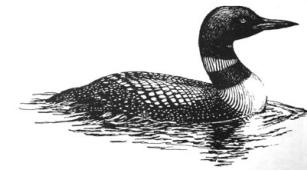
From the desk of

Gail Rush

Need your help!!

One again we are looking for property owners to be on the TCPOA Board of Directors. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know all the folks who make Tim's Cove and South Cove their second homes."

"There are two openings this year, one from South Cove and one from Tim's Cove. If you would like to have your name on the ballot, please contact me at gailmrush@gmail.com, or by phone at 207-997-2932 by June 1st. There will also be a place for write-ins on the ballot."



(Continued from page 6)

ones and in a final act of surrender gave up their ghostly presence altogether. By the time I arrived back on shore, it was over; having taken its own sweet time, the new season had arrived at last.

The next day, beneath another bright blue sky, I did a series of spring-cleaning chores and prepared, reluctantly this time, to head south, convinced more than ever of the lake's enduring ability to defy expectations.

Inquiring minds may want to know:

- For Maine tax rates by county then by town:
<http://www.maine.gov/revenue/propertytax/municipalservices/fullvaluerates.pdf>
- In North America, lumbermen, during the early years in Maine, would eat carpenter ants to prevent scurvy.

In Memory of

Clair E. Ruksznis

Long time member of our Tim's Cove community Clair E. Ruksznis, Sr., 94, passed away April 11, 2018, at Mayo Regional Hospital, Dover-Foxcroft. Clair and his family lived, and his family continues to live on Tim's Cove Road. He was born August 31, 1923, in Dover-Foxcroft, the son of a Lithuanian immigrant, Peter Joseph Ruksznis and Florence Irene Bean of Guilford.

Clair was predeceased by his loving wife, Jacqueline (Bonneau) Ruksznis in 2006; a beloved son, Carroll Ruksznis in 1983; siblings, John, Wilbur, Harold, Cora, and Leroy. He is survived by his daughter, Dale Piper; son, Clair Ruksznis, Jr. and his wife, Linda; five grandchildren, Peter Ruksznis and his wife, Danielle, and their children, Emersyn and Hayden, Nicole Ruksznis, Lisa Ruksznis and her children, Jacqueline and Lydia, Brian Ruksznis and fiancé, Heather Trigg, and his children, Cailin and Tristan, and Dr. Amy Ruksznis and wife, Denise Bluhm; and many nieces and nephews.

A private graveside service will be held this summer for the family. Arrangements are in the care of the Lary Funeral Home. Messages of condolence and memories may be expressed at www.laryfuneralhome.com.

William H. Therriault

William H. Therriault, 64, of Dover-Foxcroft, Maine, passed away suddenly while fulfilling his dream to winter in Florida. He was a devoted husband to the Tim's Cove Property Owners Association Board member, Mary Ellen Therriault.

Bill was born in Lewiston, Maine. He graduated from Waterville High School and went on to Northeastern University to graduate with honors in Pharmacy. Bill loved being a pharmacist with a career that spanned 35 years at LaVerdiere's Drugstore, Walmart, and Sam's Club. He took great pride in mentoring those he supervised and always wanted to bring out the best in them. He sincerely believed that caring and customer service should be the foundation of every pharmacy.

Since his retirement, Bill had enjoyed spending time with his family and friends at Sebec Lake. Having recently sold his home in Holden, Bill was excited to become a winter resident of Florida. He had the most amazing winter in Sarasota and it was there that he developed a new interest in biking.

A Celebration of Life will be planned in Maine this summer.

Tim's Cove Property Owners Association

Mission Statement & Objectives

-**TO PROTECT** the quality of our environment, particularly the quality of our lakes.

-**TO KEEP** the membership informed of new and changing community issues.

-**TO COOPERATE** with and assist local government and civic organizations with programs of value to this area.

-**TO REPRESENT** our membership in matters of common interest with the appropriate branches of government.

-**TO SECURE** united action in the protection of the property of its members, where appropriate.

-**TO BEAUTIFY** our area by encouraging beautification in common areas of the community.

-**TO PROVIDE** social and recreational activities for our members.

Board Of Directors

Tim's Cove Property Owners Association

Donna Simpson - President

Drew Daubenspeck - Vice President

Julia Flanders - Treasurer

Mary Ellen Therriault - Secretary

Marie Barry

Scott Hilton

Don Page

The Loon

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