

# Winnebago County Master Gardeners Newsletter

May 2022

## Mission Statement

Our purpose is to provide horticultural education, community service and environmental stewardship for our community in affiliation with the University of Wisconsin Extension Program.

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*"TOUGH TIMES  
never LAST,  
BUT TOUGH  
PEOPLE DO."*

*-Robert Schiuller*



*Empty seed pods in the spring. By leaving these standing in fall, they provided seeds for birds in the winter.*

*Submitted by Jane Kuhn*

## What am I?

By Jane Kuhn

I am a native, perennial in zones 3-8 that can be seen in early spring covering the Wisconsin woodland floor with white (turning pink with age) blossoms on 8-10 inch stems. Enjoy my flowers in the garden rather than picking. Due to my short stems, leaves would have to be picked with the flower and the leaves are needed to provide the plant with nourishment for the following year. In the fall, each flower produces a blue-black, berry-like fruit. I prefer to be grown in full to part shade and thrive in a moist, humus rich soil of neutral pH. My habit of growth makes me a useful ground cover in the shade garden.

I spread on creeping underground stems, or rhizomes, sending up dense clumps of foliage. Each rhizome may send up as many as eight flower-bearing stems. Plant me in the fall, setting rhizomes 2 to 4 inches deep with the eyes facing upward and spacing plants 5 to 8 inches apart. Protect me from the cold and enrich the soil by adding a mulch of leaf mold or compost each winter.

## WCMGA Contacts

*Check your membership guide for contact information.*

### President (Nominations Accepted)

Ed Dombrowski (4.30.22)

### Vice President

Kathy Procknow/Deb Butch (12.31.22)

### Secretary

Jean Reed

### Acting Treasurers (open for nominations!)

Deb Butch/Kathy Procknow

### Board Representatives

Ruth Retzlaff (12.31.22)

Sue Egner

Linda Werner

### WIMGA Representative

Kathy Procknow

### Advisor

Open

### Newsletter Team

Anne Murphy

Kim Willman

Jane Kuhn

Lawanda Jungwirth



We would love your help! If you are interested in contributing to a future newsletter by writing an article, submitting a photo, or sharing a story, please let me know by the 15th of each month by emailing

[pakster0605@yahoo.com](mailto:pakster0605@yahoo.com). Each article submitted will count toward your volunteer hours. Thank you!

Follow us on Facebook  at [WCMGVA](https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA).

<https://www.facebook.com/WCMGVA>

## President's Message - SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Wow, I think my mental faculties have diminished over this past winter. I must have lost my grammatical edge when I started this message with "Spring Has Sprung". It just does not sound correct. Or does it?

Did you know, obviously I did not, that the expression "Spring Has Sprung" is grammatically correct. Not only is it correct, but it means that all of a sudden, it has stopped snowing, the days are warmer, the grass is green, the trees are blossoming and everything seems to have a new life.

Spring is a time for renewed hope after this past bleak cold and unusually weird winter.

Kay Gaines wrote a poem that helps get our hearts and minds itchy for the feel of that rich, moist soil sliding between our fingers:

A little yellow cup  
A little yellow star  
A little yellow frill  
And that's a daffodil

Ahhhhhhh Spring, the season after winter and before summer. Vegetation begins to appear. Our gardens start to become "feasts of blossoms". Dormant plants begin to grow. New seedlings sprout and hibernating animals begin to awake.

So Master Gardeners, what is so special about spring? The first day is called the "vernal equinox". Also it is the most active time for master gardeners. Using all of your pent up energies, it's time to do the following:

- clean out and prepare our gardens
- Make any landscaping repairs
- Prune and move plants as needed
- Inspect your garden beds
- Test your soil if needed
- Feed you soil
- Sharpen, clean, repair, replace tools
- Divide perennials and or transplant shrubs
- Put out plant supports
- Be prepared for a freeze

To all our members in the Winnebago County Master Gardeners Association, enjoy your spring time endeavors; plant with faith, fervor and fun! Remember as Robin Williams once said:

"Spring is nature's way of saying LET'S PARTY"

**ED**

## Little Bluestem Chosen 2022 Perennial Plant of the Year

By Lawanda Jungwirth

A plant native to eastern North America, Little Bluestem, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, and its cultivars have been named by the Perennial Plant Association as their Perennial Plant of the Year for 2022.

Here is the description from the PPA:

“Summer through fall, the slender leaves and stems of little bluestem are an ever-changing kaleidoscope of gray-green, blue, pink, purple, copper, mahogany, red, and orange tones. Wispy silver-white seed heads sparkle in autumn sunlight and coppery brown leaves persist through winter.

“Little Bluestem is a tough and dependable clumping grass that blends well with perennials such as asters, sedums, coneflowers, and other grasses. Native grasses play their part in the pollinator story too. Little Bluestem is a larval host for a variety of butterflies and moths such as crossline skipper, Dakota skipper, and Ottoe skipper.

Little Bluestem was one of the dominant grasses of the vast tallgrass prairies. In average to lean, well-drained soils, stems will remain upright but can flop easily if conditions are too rich or moist. Cultivars have been selected for shorter plants, enhanced leaf colors, and stronger stems.

Little Bluestem’s spikiness complements native and non-native perennials alike. An easy fit for mass plantings or meadows, it is just as brilliant in traditional borders, gravel gardens, and green roofs.”

While it is always best for wildlife purposes to grow the pure native plant rather than its cultivars for wildlife and ecological purposes, there are a few cultivars that have been selected for our area. They include *Schizachyrium scoparium* ‘Jazz’ and ‘The Blues.’ At 36 inches tall and 30 inches wide, ‘Jazz’ is a foot shorter than ‘The Blues’ and has sturdier stems. ‘Jazz’ was upright at all times including winter during the Chicago Botanic Garden’s trial, whereas ‘The Blues’ usually flopped over early in the summer. The late-season silvery seed heads are followed by a strong purple to deep bronze fall color.

Also appropriate for our area is *Schizachyrium scoparium* ‘Carousel.’ Here is the description from PPA: “This uniquely mounded selection forms a wide clump of blue-green foliage that emerges nearly horizontal and matures into strong, upright stems that remain standing through inclement weather and winter. Takes on pink, copper and orange-red tones in fall topped with tiny seed tufts.”

Little Bluestem prefers full sun and dry to medium well-drained soils. It adapts to clay and poor soils, but does not like soggy conditions.

Little Bluestem is a low maintenance plant, requiring only cutting back in late winter or early spring. It has good drought resistance once established. Overwatering and too much nitrogen will cause the stems to flop over and increase the probability of root and foliar pathogens, so keep it dry! The only pest issues are aphids and spider mites.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

TUESDAY April 12, 2022 6:00 PM

**Membership Meeting Agenda Coughlin Center**

**1. ROLL CALL: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Ed Dombrowski.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ed asked if there were any additions to the agenda. There were none. Mary Shepard moved and Petey Clark seconded. The motion passed.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA**

a. Secretaries Report

E. Dombrowski

Minutes approved

b. Treasurers Report

D. Voyles, D. Butch, K. Procknow

The balance in the checking at the end of March was \$5,060.07. Paid balances for funds that were donations and grants to those projects (Miravida Living, Octagon House, Park View Cutting Gardens, Park View Dr. Weber Donation, Roy Anne General fund donation).

c. Committee Reports

i. Education Committee

V. Stabenow

Linda Werner and Valerie Stabenow are the education committee. They are finding training and checking if it is approved. Classes are posted to the website. Valerie reiterated the WIMGA series' second program is Weedless Gardening on Monday, April 25. You need to register for this program to be allowed in.

d. Project Updates

D. Butch, K. Procknow

Kathy Procknow was going through list of old projects to see if there are any updates. Sullivan's Woods no update due to storm from last summer. Shattuck Park has decided to go through another way this year no Master Gardener project. Carter Memorial Library report by Jenny Breining people just need to fill out volunteer application. Miravida report, they have room for a few volunteers, form is available. Octagon House now volunteer for the NHS, an organization meeting is coming up on the 25th at 6 p.m. at the Neenah Club. First clean up date set for Saturday, April 30 at 10 a.m. Neenah High School Honor Society will help. Oshkosh Area Humane Society, they did express interest in having volunteers. Neenah Public Library we have volunteer forms. The Paine has a couple large projects they need help with, rose garden, new parking lot, need "grunt" help next Monday. Application is available to everyone. St. Raphael is accepting volunteers. Morgan House Winnebago County Historical & Archeological Society. Winnebago County Coughlin Rain Garden help, no set hours, no volunteer application, spring clean up time is here, they will send an email. Parkview, Vegetable Garden, Flower Garden, have a volunteer form and want your vaccination records, call project leads to find out what is available. They meet on a Tuesday afternoon 1-3:30 and they bring the residents out so you interact with the residents, contact is Tim. Prairie Garden at Parkview contact is still Tim. No flower arranging. New opportunity through Neenah/Menasha YMCA, Cindy they are excited to have Master Gardens.

Valeriel Stabenow planter and Oshkosh Historical Society, Valerie will be in contact.

Plant Advisors, Mary Shepherd said they are working from home like last summer. Mary stated the mailbox is filling up so they are just going to start. They have a team of people but if you want to help they will give you training. No form needed just need to be certified.

Jerry Robak asked if there were funds available for projects. No money was budgeted for that this year but if there is a special project they can look at the costs and fund it.

e. Extension Update

V. Stabenow

Chris Viau is the director for the four counties. Valerie has been talking to him about the position. The job description has been written may be posted in the 2nd quarter this year. We need an educational person.

f. WIMGA Report

K. Procknow

Kathy is the rep. There is nothing to report at this time. The eastern district is trying to set up a meeting. She may have more information next month.

g. Communication

Board

Nothing

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

a. Honorary Status B.P./A.M.

Board

Bob Potter, Anne Murphy, Lawanda Jungwirth, and Dorothy Gayhart-Kunz received honorary status.

b. Scholarship Approval

J. Kuhn

They have selected the recipient. Jane read recipient qualifications. Madelyn McHugh will be attending UW-Stevens Point.

c. Flex Leadership Design/Continuity Plan\*\*\*\*\* L. Werner/E. Dombrowski/Board  
Ed presented some ideas for different leadership and stated that the finance committee will be the first attempt at the different type of leadership. Discussion followed.  
Make a list of core things we need. We need a finance person, team to coordinate educational activities, volunteer activities, (we want to garden, we want to learn).  
Mary Shepherd voiced that she liked teams vs. committees. We should have a blueprint—educational, communication, finance, social (fun), scholarship fund (provide Winnebago County MG Scholarships), recruit new members (cost would be close to \$500).

d. Revision of Board/Membership Meeting E. Dombrowski/J. Reed  
Ed asked Jean to give a summary of our discussion at the board meeting. Jean was a union officer at FVTC for the support staff union. The union did not have membership meetings every month. They had a spring and fall business membership meeting. Through the rest of the year there were social gatherings.

e. Suspension of By-Laws until Dec. 31, 2022 E. Dombrowski  
Board voted to suspend by-laws so we can look at how to revamp things. The by-laws were very heavily loaded with extension language and they are no longer pertinent.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. Dissolution Plan Update L. Werner, V. Stabenow  
Valerie gave background on how/why the dissolution clause was created. Valerie read the dissolution clause.

b. Liability Insurance K. Procknow  
No longer covered by liability insurance that extension provided. We need to ask the organizations where we volunteer for liability coverage. Kathy went to an insurance program that WIMGA put on. We have a minor insurance policy. It does not cover bodily injury but would cover property damage. Check your own home owners and auto insurances should have some coverage for volunteer work. If the organization you volunteer for does not have liability for volunteers, then check your own insurances. Make sure you are covered before you start volunteering.

c. ORS Update/Navigating Portal V. Stabenow  
ORS portal has been adding all our projects. Jay Dampier, Horticulture Outreach Program Manager, is new master gardener lead for UW-Extension. They may set up a way for new MG to get together with local associations.

d. Clarification of Board members terms until 12/31/22 E. Dombrowski  
All board members' terms will be done by the end of December.

e. Questions and Answers  
Current membership is 58  
Stan Meyer has Kathy Schultz's Golden Trowel Award.

**6. ADJOURN**

A motion was made to adjourn by Jean Reed and Petey Clark seconded at 8:09 p.m.

Next Business/Membership meeting: May 10, 2022 Coughlin Center and Zoom

Next Board Meeting: May 3rd, 2022 Coughlin Center and Zoom

## Answer to What am I?

*By Jane Kuhn*

I am a trillium. Family: liliaceae (lily family).  
Genus: trillium. Species: trillium grandiflorum.  
Common name: trillium. I get my name from the Latin word for three due to my three ruffled petals and three broad, oval-shaped leaves which are on each stem. My leaves have indented veins and ride high on the stem, just below my single flower. Some native peoples used trillium roots and rootstocks as medicine. The young leaves are said to make an excellent salad and cooked greens, but it would be a shame to kill such a beautiful plant.



Resources: USDA Plants Database and associated links.

## Continuing Education Opportunities

*By Linda Werner*

**Creating a Pollinator Paradise**, Wednesday, June 1, 6:30 p.m. Free, but registration required at:  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_iPsR8Z66ShaWGAzuii4xuQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_iPsR8Z66ShaWGAzuii4xuQ)

### **Invasive Plant Management Workshop,**

- June 11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Retzer Nature Center, S14 W28167 Madison St., Waukesha
- Hosted by the Southeastern Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium and presented by Dr. James Reinartz
- \$60
- Limited class size. Registration opens May 9 at:  
[https://sewisc.org/invasives/plant-management-workshop?utm\\_source=newsletter\\_25&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=sewisc-quarterly-newsletter-spring-2022](https://sewisc.org/invasives/plant-management-workshop?utm_source=newsletter_25&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sewisc-quarterly-newsletter-spring-2022)



## Please be aware of these Program Changes:

If you have problems accessing Canvas or with your Net ID, or if you have questions, please contact Valerie Stabenow, 920.582.4292 or email her at [hlub34a@att.net](mailto:hlub34a@att.net)

### Announcements

2022 Onboarding-lite is now available in our Canvas Classroom!

Due to significant updates to the program, you are required to complete 2022 Onboarding-lite before you start volunteering.

It will be a requirement of the terms and conditions in 2022. You will acknowledge acceptance of these when you log into the Online Reporting System (open mid-January, 2022).

You can claim 5 hours of continuing education. We estimate that it may take you less time than this.

You can now access the 2022 Onboarding Lite in our Canvas Classroom (netID required).

Once logged in, scroll down and look for the six Onboarding-Lite modules.

 Start Here! [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 1]

 Overview of Master Gardener Program [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 2]

 Digging Deeper into the Master Gardener Program [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 3]

 What Counts [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 4]

 What is the Online Reporting System? [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 5]

 Legal Stuff [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Part 6]

After you complete these modules you will be able to view the last section.

 You Did It! [2022 Onboarding-Lite: Conclusion]



**Master Gardener Volunteer Opportunities** \*\* (as of 4/22/2022)

| Organization  | WCMGA Liaison(s)      |
|---|-----------------------|
| <p><b>Carter Memorial Library</b><br/>                     405 East Huron Street, Omro, WI 54963-1045<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/> <a href="https://omrolibrary.org/aboutus/friends">https://omrolibrary.org/aboutus/friends</a><br/>                     920-685-7016<br/>                     omplstaff@omrolibrary.org<br/>                     Volunteer application:<br/> <a href="https://omrolibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Volunteer%20Application.pdf">https://omrolibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Volunteer%20Application.pdf</a><br/>                     Liability protection: Waiver of liability in application process</p> | <p>Jenny Breining</p> |
| <p><b>Miravida Living</b><br/>                     225 N. Eagle St., Oshkosh, WI 54902<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/> <a href="https://www.miravidaliving.com/volunteer/">https://www.miravidaliving.com/volunteer/</a><br/>                     Volunteer application: <a href="https://hipaa.jotform.com/220336497425155">https://hipaa.jotform.com/220336497425155</a><br/>                     Volunteer training sessions<br/>                     Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage</p>  | <p>Jane Kuhn</p>      |
| <p><b>Neenah Historical Society – Octagon House</b><br/>                     343 Smith Street, Neenah, WI 54956<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/> <a href="http://www.neenahhistoricalsociety.com/">http://www.neenahhistoricalsociety.com/</a><br/>                     (920) 729-0244<br/> <a href="mailto:Neenahhistoricalsociety@gmail.com">Neenahhistoricalsociety@gmail.com</a><br/>                     Liability protection: Organization's insurance coverage<br/>                     Background check performed by Neenah Historical Society</p>   | <p>Jerry Robak</p>    |

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| <p><b>Neenah Public Library</b><br/> 240 E. Wisconsin Avenue, Neenah, WI 54956<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/> <a href="https://neenahlibrary.org/volunteer">https://neenahlibrary.org/volunteer</a><br/> 920-886-6315<br/> <a href="mailto:library@neenahlibrary.org">library@neenahlibrary.org</a><br/> Volunteer policy:<br/> <a href="https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Neenah%20Public%20Library%20Volunteer%20Program%20Policy.pdf">https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/Neenah%20Public%20Library%20Volunteer%20Program%20Policy.pdf</a><br/> Volunteer application:<br/> <a href="https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/NPL%20Volunteer%20Application%20Website.pdf">https://neenahlibrary.org/sites/default/files/inline-files/NPL%20Volunteer%20Application%20Website.pdf</a><br/> Background check performed by Neenah Public Library<br/> Volunteer orientation—30 minutes<br/> Liability protection: Waiver of liability in application process</p> | <p>Sue Forbes<br/><br/> Bette Hoytink</p>  |
| <p><b>Oshkosh Area Humane Society</b><br/> 1925 Shelter Court, Oshkosh, WI 54901<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/> <a href="https://www.oahs.org/volunteer.html">https://www.oahs.org/volunteer.html</a><br/> <b>Volunteer coordinator: Sarah, <a href="mailto:sarah@oahs.org">sarah@oahs.org</a></b><br/> <b>Liability protection: to follow</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>Paine Art Center and Gardens</b><br/> 1410 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI 54901<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/> <b>Volunteer contact:</b> Annika Holland, <a href="mailto:aholland@thepaine.org">aholland@thepaine.org</a>,<br/> 920-235-6903<br/> <a href="https://www.thepaine.org/support/volunteer/">https://www.thepaine.org/support/volunteer/</a><br/> <b>Volunteer application:</b><br/> <a href="https://www.thepaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Volunteer-Application-2020.pdf">https://www.thepaine.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Volunteer-Application-2020.pdf</a><br/> Volunteer handbook available<br/> Background check performed by The Paine<br/> Liability protection: Organization’s insurance coverage</p>   | <p>Ginny Slattery<br/><br/> Kathy Gore</p> |

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| <p><b>St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church</b><br/>       830 S Westhaven Drive, Oshkosh, WI 54904<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/>       Contact Cindy Meszaros<br/>       Liability protection: Organization’s insurance coverage</p>   | <p>Cindy Meszaros</p>                           |
| <p><b>Winnebago County Historical &amp; Archeological Society—Morgan House</b><br/>       234 Church Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/> <a href="mailto:WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com">WinnebagoHistoricalSociety@gmail.com</a><br/>       920-267-8007<br/>       Liability protection: Liability protection is not provided</p>                                     | <p>Kathy Schultz</p>                            |
| <p><b>Winnebago County—Department of Facilities and Property Management (Coughlin Rain Garden)</b><br/>       625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/>       No volunteer process<br/>       Liability protection: Organization’s insurance coverage</p>  | <p>Jill Dombrowski<br/>       Ed Dombrowski</p> |
| <p><b>Winnebago County Master Gardener Association</b><br/>       625 E. County Rd Y, Suite 600, Oshkosh, WI 54901<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/>       Liability protection: Organization’s insurance coverage</p>  | <p>Deb Butch<br/>       Kathy Procknow</p>      |
| <p><b>Winnebago County—Park View Health Center (Health Center gardens and Park View Prairie Garden)</b><br/>       725 Butler Rd, Oshkosh, WI 54956<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/>       Volunteer contact: Tim Laurin, <a href="mailto:tlaurin@co.winnebago.wi.us">tlaurin@co.winnebago.wi.us</a>,<br/>       920-237-6931<br/>       Liability protection: Organization’s insurance coverage</p> | <p>Donna Kudlas<br/>       Jane Kuhn</p>        |

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| <p><b>YMCA of the Fox Cities—Neenah-Menasha YMCA</b> <b>**NEW**</b><br/> 110 W. North Water Street, Neenah, WI 54956<br/> <b>Volunteer Information:</b><br/> <a href="https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities">https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/volunteer-opportunities</a><br/> Volunteer application:<br/> <a href="https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013.pdf">https://www.ymcafoxcities.org/sites/ymcafoxcities/files/2021-02/VolunteerApplicationForm2013.pdf</a><br/> Liability protection: Organization’s insurance coverage<br/> YMCA contact: Kate Yates, Active Older Adult Program Director,<br/> 920-886-2105</p> | <p>OPEN</p> <p>For more information:<br/> Contact Kathy Procknow</p> |
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**Carter Memorial Library in Omro - New Opportunities!**

Julie Stobbe (library director) is very interested in maintaining their gardens, and appreciates any help the WCMG can provide.

In addition to the regular weeding/watering maintenance, Julie would like assistance in adding mulch to the gardens.

Also, some very large trees were removed from the property in the late fall. As a result, there are some gaps in the garden where some large, beautiful, hostas used to live. Plus, now this area will be sunny. Help with design of this area is welcome.

Both of these special projects could use some attention from an experienced MG that may want to only spend a limited time in Omro.

Please contact Jenny Breining for more information and if you are able to help.

| May 2022 |                                 |                             |           |          |        |     |
|----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------|--------|-----|
| Sun      | Monday                          | Tuesday                     | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Sat |
| 1        | 2                               | 3<br>Board Mtg. 6 PM        | 4         | 5        | 6      | 7   |
| 8        | 9                               | 10<br>Business Mtg.<br>6 PM | 11        | 12       | 13     | 14  |
| 15       | 16                              | 17                          | 18        | 19       | 20     | 21  |
| 22       | 23                              | 24                          | 25        | 26       | 27     | 28  |
| 29       | 30<br>Happy<br>Memorial<br>Day! | 31                          |           |          |        |     |

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