

Sargeant Bay Society  
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## Newsletter #115 - Spring 2026

Editor - Rand Rudland

### SBS AGM, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2026

The SBS AGM for 2026 will be held by Zoom and a link has been forwarded by email to all active members of the Society in advance of the meeting. If you recently received a renewal reminder, please renew your membership soon so as to remain on the active membership mailing list for the AGM Zoom notice. Membership form is included in the email notification or on our [website](#).

### Agenda

1. Call to order – 7:00 PM
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Adoption of 2025 minutes
4. Business arising from 2025 AGM minutes
  - a. Burgerjon Endowment update
5. Reports
  - a. President's – Rand R.
  - b. Finance – Garry P.
  - c. Membership – Rand R.
  - d. Salmon Update – Dave Spicer
  - e. Highschool scholarship
6. New business
7. Election of directors

### Joop & Jessie Burgerjon Endowment Update

This Endowment was established with the [Sunshine Coast Foundation](#) to honour the contributions of Joop and Jesse in the formation of the Sargeant Bay Provincial Park. Without their tireless work in the early days of the Sargeant Bay Society we would not be able to enjoy the natural beauty of this Park today.

As of Dec. 31st 2025, the total contributed capital amounted to \$26,300.00. Adding in retained earnings, the Fund balance is now \$31,760.

With a recent 2026 disbursement of \$1,390, this brings the total to \$8,788 disbursements to date, or about one-third of the capital investment.

Continued donations will further increase the value of the Fund over time, and will result in higher disbursements. [Donations](#) may be made at any time, and are always welcomed.

Funds generated from this Endowment go towards Society projects in the Parks, as well as the bursary to SD #46 graduating students.



## SBS SD #46 Bursary Committee Report

A \$1,000 SBS Bursary to be applied to tuition expenses will again be offered to a SD #46 graduating student for upcoming attendance in fisheries, forestry, or other natural history pursuits. If you know of any students that may be interested in specific details, please have them ask their school counsellors to provide the required application forms.

## Yellow Flag Iris Removal - Wednesday June 3rd, 0900 hrs.

Once again this spring our intrepid volunteers will don their marsh gear and wade into the waters behind the berm to remove all the flowering stems of the invasive Yellow Flag Iris.

If you are able to help with this, please advise Jeff Muckle by email at [sargbay@gmail.com](mailto:sargbay@gmail.com)

See the letter below from the Society for Ecological Restoration regarding last year's event.



GLOBAL PARTNER

The Society for Ecological Restoration's  
**Make a Difference Week**

Dear Jeff Muckle,

Thank you for your support and engagement with this year's *Make a Difference Week*! We had a record-breaking year thanks to you and all of our event hosts around the world. I'm very happy to share the results of this year's Week, including your organization's contribution!



Image credit: Imran Chowdhury Jesan

Your event, Removal of Invasive Yellow Iris Flowers and Seed Pods from Sargeant Bay Provincial Park, was one of 70 events that took place in North America. Your event hosted 8 of the 8339 volunteers who participated in MADW2025 globally.



Image credit: Nikki Steyn

Your event completed 24 of the 33214 person-hours of work that were completed during MADW2025. 69551 plants were planted during MADW2025. Your event removed 117.5 kilograms of the 33642 kilograms of invasive plant material that were removed globally. 48077 kilograms of litter were collected from ecosystems around the world. Your event was one of 32 Invasive species management and control events that took place this year.

We deeply appreciate your contribution to *MADW 2025*! You can find the results of this year's Week, as well as the results from past years on our website at: [makeadifferenceweek.org](http://makeadifferenceweek.org).

If you have any questions, or would like to learn more about this initiative and how you can be involved, please reach out to me at [keith@ser.org](mailto:keith@ser.org) or by Whatsapp at 506-588-0251.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith MacCallum'.

Keith MacCallum  
SER Programs Coordinator

## Berm Invasive Species and Trail Cleanup - May 14th.

A spring clean-up of the berm and foreshore will be held on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 0900 hrs. Please email [sargbay@gmail.com](mailto:sargbay@gmail.com) if you are able to assist in this volunteer effort. Clippers, rakes, pitchforks, grass trimmers - etc, etc. We will be clearing any and all invasives, as well as trimming the margins of the pathways that access the marsh viewing areas.



## ***Fall/winter Salmon Report*** ***Dave Spicer***

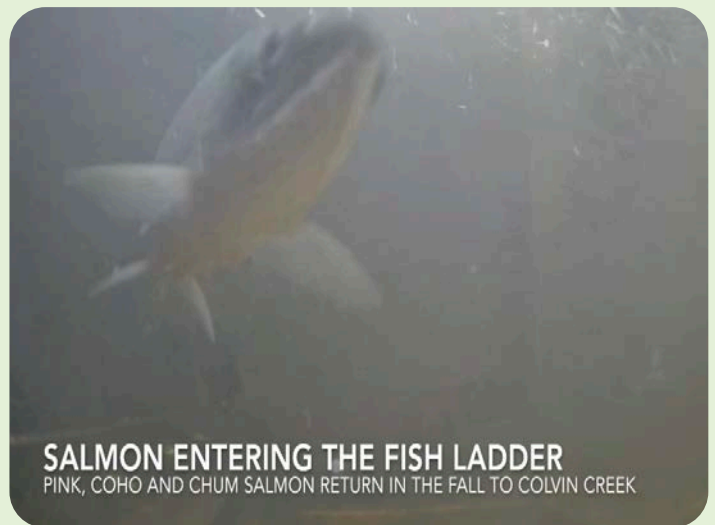
At Sargeant Bay Provincial Park, each fall, salmon return to Colvin Lake and Colvin Creek to spawn. Pink, coho and chum salmon are the three species of salmon that return to spawn. For over 35 years members of Sargeant Bay Society (SBS) and also the Sargeant Bay Streamkeepers have worked to maintain the fish ladder that allows the salmon to move from the ocean estuary to Colvin Lake. In 2024 DFO, BC Parks, Pacific Salmon Foundation, SBS and other volunteers and groups helped with the installation of a new fish ladder in the Park. This was a major accomplishment and once it was completed the question SBS asked was "what is next?". One of the answers to that question we realized was that better monitoring of salmon returns would be very helpful. In the past we have relied on volunteers who in the Fall have worked to do a daily check of the fish ladder and creek. Of course, that only allows a very short viewing window and it was often only luck to see salmon moving through the fish ladders. With some discussions with our local DFO contact Jim Wilson it was decided that an underwater camera placed in the fish ladder may give us a great opportunity to better monitor salmon returns.

An equipment list was made up as to our best guess of what may work. We worked to put together a relatively inexpensive and simple set up. With the amazing help of a grant made possible by the Karuna Fund at the Sunshine Coast Foundation we were able to get the funding to make this fish ladder camera project a reality in the fall of 2025.

The camera was up and running by early October and was able to capture some amazing underwater video footage. The camera was set to activate on motion when an object moved through the fish ladder. Many video clips of sticks and leaves had to be sorted through on some days. The exciting part came when we started to see the camera capture video clips of small fish that someone would never have seen if they just looked down into the fish ladder. The camera really allowed the life of the fish ladder to be more understood. In October, November and December the camera caught images of chum, coho, northern anchovy, pile perch, sculpin, river otter and North American beaver. We also were able for the first time to see on a few days juvenile coho smolts leaving the lake through the fish ladder to enter the ocean. We previously would never have been able to see that or know exact dates.

Quality of the images depended on the ambient light of the day and the turbidity of the water that day. By the end of October we also added a solar light that did allow the camera to catch images of any passing salmon at night. This also worked successfully.

The camera project was original conceived to monitor returning salmon but it shows that it has the ability to teach, showing us a lot more about the movements of fish and animals between the ocean and the freshwater Colvin Lake and Colvin Creek. The project was a real success in many ways and did achieve its goal of allowing us to count salmon that



we would otherwise not have known had been returning. The camera will be put back into place next Fall to help again count salmon returns.

## **Upcoming Educational Events:**

### **Bats over the Berm, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 PM, Lower Parking Lot:**

Never knew that you could “listen” to bats as they fly around you in the evening while they are hunting for insects over the marsh in Sargeant Bay? Dr. Michelle Evelyn of the Sunshine Coast Wildlife Project will show how bat researchers can listen to bat signals with digital technology and bring their high frequency calls down to a level that humans can hear - and see displayed visually on a tablet.

### **Botany of Sargeant Bay Provincial Park, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM, Main Parking Lot:**

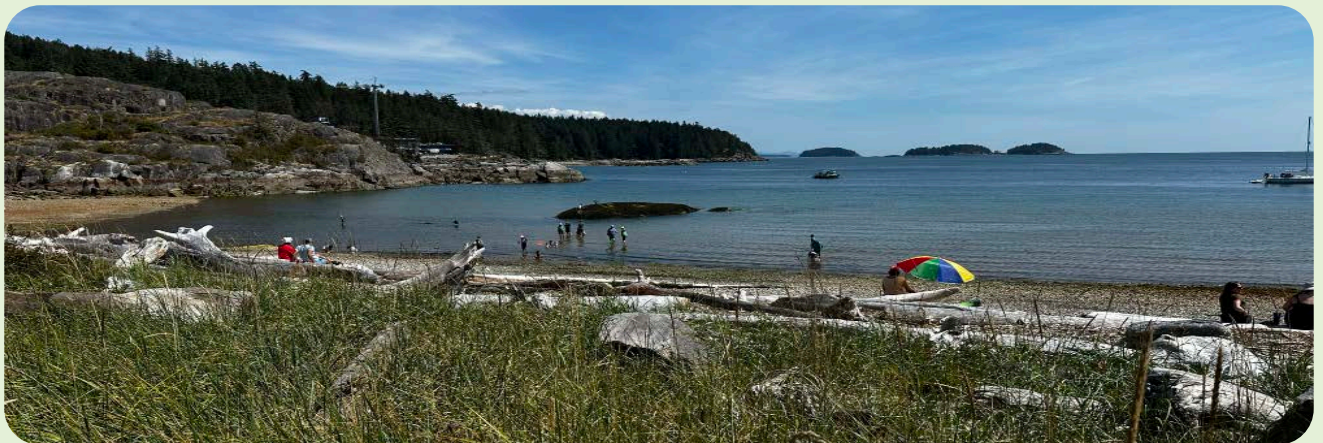
Join our favorite local botany expert Kye Goodwin in a morning exploration of the trails above and below Redrooffs for plants, fungi, mosses, and who knows what else. Good footwear is advised.

### **Birding on the Berm May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 AM, Main Parking Lot:**

Tony Greenfield once again will lead our intrepid birders in listening and looking for all the recently-arriving migrants and the long-term residents of the berm and adjacent forested areas.

### **Intertidal Beach Exploration, Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. VERY LOW TIDE Starting at 11 AM**

Join LeeAnn Ennis and SBS crew in another beach exploration event at a super low tide of -0.7' at 12 noon. This will be at the lowest tide that we have been able to host this event in decades so the possibilities of new and exciting findings are high. Bring the kids, grandkids, grandparents etc, along with a beach pail, sunscreen, and beach shovel if you have one - if not we will have some on hand. There will be wet tanks to display your findings before returning them to their natural environment.



## Sargeant Bay Ruminations

by Richard Rowberry, SBS's newest board member and a relatively recent arrival from the Kootenays.



Spotted Ratfish (*Hydrolagus colliei*) are cartilaginous, not bony like other fish like salmon and trout. Their closest relatives are sharks.

Our ancestors put a lot of store by omens - you know, those events, phenomena, or signs believed to foretell the future, often signaling impending change, good fortune, or disaster? And why not? They were as good a way as any to make sense of this crazy world. But they don't seem to enjoy the currency they once had. Not much of a career path in soothsaying. Unless you're a stock market analyst or a meteorologist, I suppose.

In fact, until recently, I've only come across one bona fide omen in all my almost eighty years. And it wasn't even mine. It happened to my son, about thirty years ago when he was competing in a mock Olympics put on by his school. His chosen sport was the javelin toss and he was about to step

up to the line when suddenly there was a squawking commotion in the sky directly overhead. An Osprey and a Bald Eagle were squabbling over a fish. The former had it and the latter wanted it but neither got it. It landed, a small Kokanee, right at my son's feet. And here comes the omen - he won the competition!

So, anyway, a couple of weeks ago I was walking along the shoreline of Sargeant Bay when I saw an odd-looking object making its way toward me. It turned out to be a fish (coincidence? I think not). The oddness was in the fact that it swam along on the surface, came right up to the beach, wallowed around long enough for me to get my phone camera out, then started to swim away. I took a picture (see attached) and then videoed it for about five seconds. Unfortunately, just after I had turned my camera off, a Bald Eagle, with a truly heart-stopping rush of wings, swooped down and seized the fish in its talons, flew up to a tree overlooking the fish ladder and began to eat it.

I think that qualifies as an omen - don't you? Especially when it occurred on April fifth, the day that American pilot was rescued in Iran. And the fish? It was a rat fish - edible but apparently leaving a bad taste in your mouth afterwards. Link [HERE](#).

I'm still trying to figure it out. Omens are like that sometimes.

In other news: I saw a River Otter swimming across the bay today and a couple of Green-winged Teal two days ago. Oh, and a pair of mature Bald Eagles seem to have taken up residence in their Douglas-fir nest across the lake.

## ***Invasive Plant Species #4***

### ***Foxglove*** (*Digitalis purpurea*)

Rand Rudland

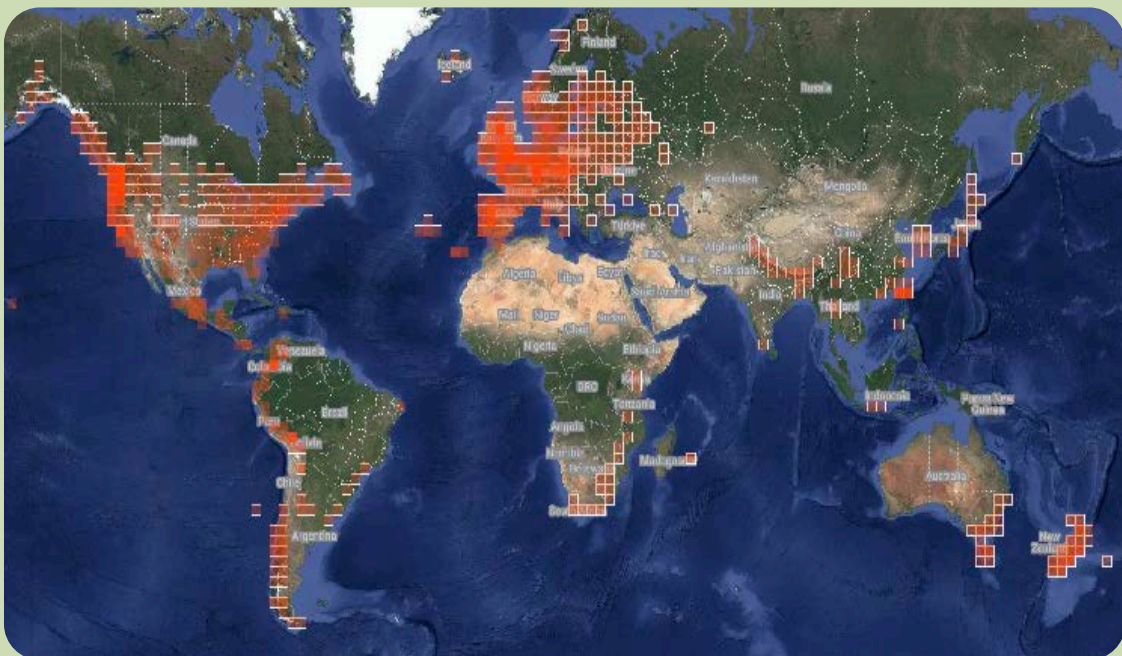


Purple flowers on a tall stem originating from furry leaves at the stem base make this an easy ID.

Foxglove, or Purple Foxglove to some, has become so prevalent across BC's roadsides, logging roads, newly cleared openings, and farmers' fields, that one wouldn't be too hard pressed to think that it was a native species. But it is not!! Originating in Europe, each plant can produce thousands of seeds each year, so it doesn't take very long before a very large area is totally covered with Foxglove, and very few of our native species can compete.

All parts of the plant are poisonous. *Digitalis*, the genus name, derives from the chemical produced by the plant that has historically been used as a cardiac medication to control atrial fibrillation primarily. Which makes me wonder whether or not the pollen also contains digitalis, as hummingbirds, bees and other pollinators seem immune.

Removal of plants prior to seed production is the only effective method of control in established areas of infestation. Pulling young basal rosettes early in the spring prevents growth to adult size.



As the map illustrates, the plant hasn't made it to, or isn't being reported from, Russia and northern Canada, the drier desert areas, nor the Antarctic - yet.

# ***Invasive Plant Species #5***

## ***English Ivy*** (*Hedera helix helix*)

Rand Rudland



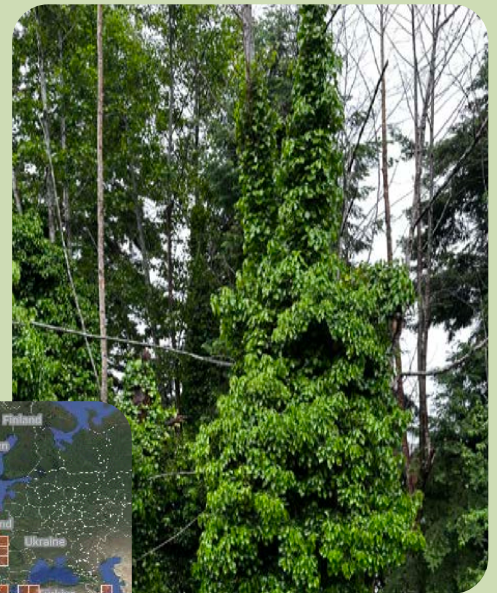
Do you know that there are ways to control this unchecked spread. First, we need to recognize that there are two growth patterns to this species—horizontal and vertical. Second, that “only” the vertical portion becomes reproductive, with fruit and seeds being dispersed by birds and gravity.

The horizontal plants certainly account for extensive & spreading ground cover, and they are difficult to completely remove, but preventing vertical growth up trees, fences and poles can greatly reduce the plants’ ability to expand the size of any ivy patches.

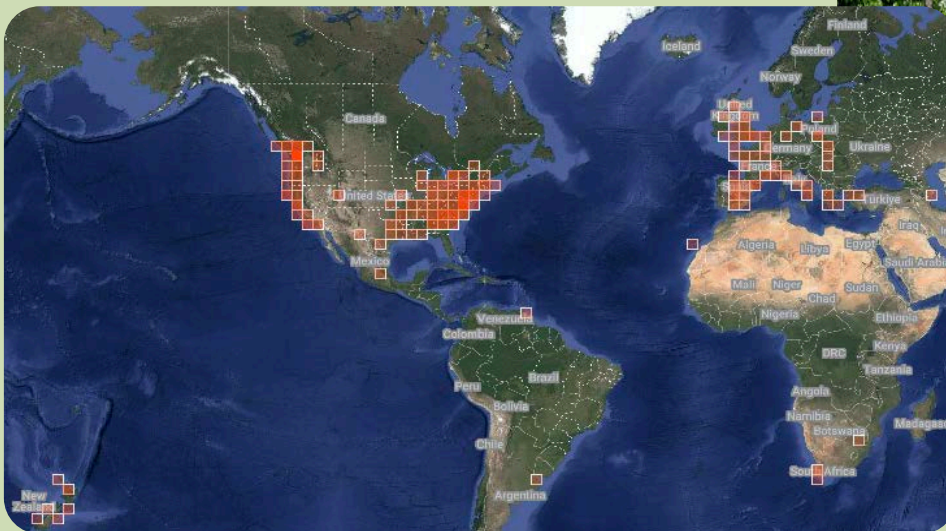
There is an available disposal method on the Sunshine Coast.

Cutting at this stage .....

English Ivy (but not Japanese Knotweed or Scotch Broom) is accepted as garden waste at Salish Soils. We can prevent vertical growth and aerial seeding by simply cutting out a section of the ivy stem at the base of trees, fences and poles, causing the climbing portion to dry out and die.



.....prevents progression to this stage

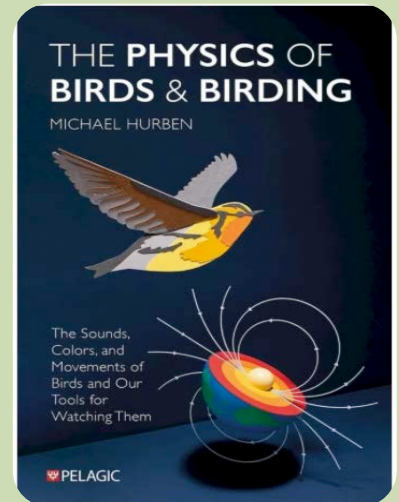


As the map illustrates, the plant has been introduced to many countries, and will continue to be spread unless significant controls are put in place locally & internationally.

## How Birds Work - Michael Hurben

Thanks to Jack Pope for sending along this link to a book review by Rachel Clark on what should be an intriguing read for any of us interested in avian physiology, flight and colours.

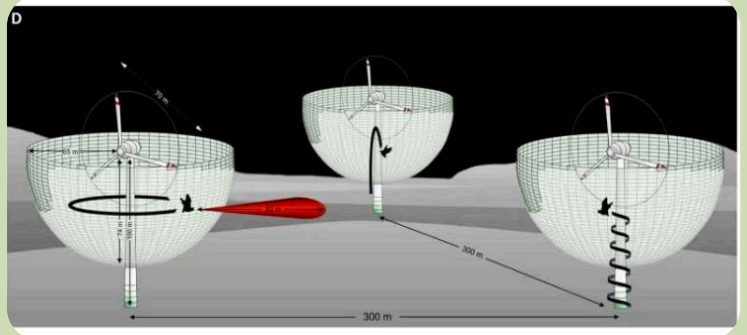
ABA Website Link [HERE](#)



## Bat Mortality & Wind Turbines

Male bats sing in the rotor-swept zone of wind turbines, potentially raising collision risk. Check out this summary in Phys.Org by the Leibniz Association

Link [HERE](#)



## iNaturalist wins again - a new spider species!

During a nighttime wildlife tour in Ecuador's Amazon, guide Alexander Bentley turned over a leaf to point out a parasitic fungus to his group — the kind that hijacks and kills its hosts. In this case, that host was a spider, and at first, it appeared fully infected and dead. But when he poked the “fungus-riddled” spider, it moved.

He photographed the spider and shared it on iNaturalist. Community members quickly realized that the spider wasn't being taken over by fungus at all — it was a spider mimicking the fungus. Specifically the fungus *Gibellula*, which colonizes spiders and sprouts pale, tendril-like growths from their bodies. This spider had evolved to resemble the very thing that destroys its kind, possibly as camouflage.

Researchers formally described this spider as a new species, *Taczanowskia waska*, in a peer-reviewed paper published earlier this year. “Everyone can contribute to scientific knowledge using something as simple as a mobile phone,” said David Ricardo Díaz-Guevara, one of the paper's authors. “Even a single well-documented record can become scientifically valuable.”

Check out this New York Times article for more details. Link [HERE](#)



*Join us at*  
**Chapman Creek  
Hatchery**

4381 Parkway Drive, Sechelt, BC,  
(off Sunshine Coast Hwy on to Field Road, 950 metres  
to Parkway Drive then down the dirt road)

# Salmon Release Festival

**Saturday, May 16, 2026**

**11:00 am – 3 pm**

**A Family & Community Day**

**Salmon Release Day**

**FREE Admission FREE Parking**

**Bring your camp chair and water bottle - seating is limited**

## Schedule for the Day

### Opening Ceremony

Shísháhlh Nation will be opening the festival and providing a blessing to the salmon

### Release of young Salmon –

Children and adults will assist and release young Coho Salmon into Chapman Creek

### Other Activities

- Arts and Crafts
- SC Rod & Gun Club - Archery Demonstration / Participation - Bouncy Castle for the kids, Face Painting and more....
- Scavenger Hunt
- Fly Tying, Casting Demonstrations by Sean Van “The Fish Whisperer”, Jim Verret, John Gibson and Tall Paul
- Rotary Club Food concession
- “Duke of Earles” Music Duo
- And much more.....

### Also Attending:

SC Streamkeepers, SC Community Forest, Butterfly Rangers,  
Conservation Officers (time permitting), Bear Alliance, SCR  
FireSmart, SC Astronomy Club, and many more.....

Scan QR Code for Online Auction:

