



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING
Tuesday, April 20
7 p.m.

FILMING
THE WILDS OF SAN DIEGO

Photographer and filmmaker, Jim Karnik, will give a presentation on filming San Diego's incredible natural diversity for a new high definition habitat series. **The Wilds of San Diego** is a proposal to produce, display and distribute a multi media project using digital photography and high definition video to increase public awareness and appreciation for the unique beauty of wild habitats and species in San Diego County. The series will focus on connections between wildlife, habitats and humans. Jim has been filming nature in San Diego for over 20 years. He has filmed most of the habitats and species in the county and is now excited to recapture the beauty and natural diversity of San Diego using the latest DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex) cameras which allow for both high definition video and high resolution still photography.

Pre-Meeting Natives for Novices Presentation - 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. *Natives in Containers for Small Gardens or on Patios* by Susan Marchetti.



WILDFLOWERS ARRIVE

April is the month to see wildflowers in San Diego County. Southern California has always been known for wildflower displays, and not just in the desert. During the 1920's Carroll de Wilton Scott, a local naturalist, described fifty species of wildflowers in the canyons and mesas of San Diego County. There are photographs of Ocean Beach covered with tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*) and sun cup (*Camissonia cheiranthifolia*) from that era (the sun cups still hang on in the landscaping at the end of I-8). The mesas of San Diego County were also described as supporting a vast array of color with goldfields, (*Lasthenia chrysostoma*), ground pinks (*Linanthus dianthiflorus*), southern suncups (*Camissonia bistorta*) and popcorn flowers (*Cryptantha* sp.) mixed into and between the shrubs of chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculata*) in the Kearny Mesa area and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and flat topped buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) on the southern mesas and canyons.

A number of events have occurred that eliminated most of the native wildflowers. Urban development removed the majority of them, and disturbance to the soil from a variety of sources has allowed non-native species to invade. In the mid-1970s, crown daisy (*Chrysanthemum coronarium*) spread in all of the coastal lands providing what the uninitiated may perceive as a wildflower cover to the Mission Bay and Tijuana River Valleys. While most of the old wildflower displays have been replaced by urbanization and landscaping, there are still a few locations that are quite reliable for observing native wildflowers. However, these only exist due to

(cont. p. 6)

PREZ SEZ

What a glorious spring! If the Eskimos have 23 words to describe snow, and Munz has 36 ways to describe the hairs on a leaf (really, from arachnoid to wooly), I think we need a better vocabulary to describe the nuances and variations of spring in southern California. Here's a start:

Borraginum – that time in early spring when the foothills are carpeted with orange fiddlenecks, tiny white popcorn flowers and other members of the Borage family. Not to be confused with the Brassinum, the mustard show in most of our urban canyons.

Borreginum – the time in early spring when the masses flock to Anza Borrego State Park, *e.g.*, “During the height of the Borreginum, try to get out there on a weekday if you can.”

Botanza – a sudden, intense wildflower bloom that comes a few weeks after a really good rain. This can be exhilarating, or heartbreaking, if it's the only good bloom of the season.

El Noño – the sad and barren spectacle when a promised El Niño fails to appear.

Floribunda – a great year, with a great crescendo of floral abundance and diversity everywhere. Not to be confused with “Floribunga!” the cry made as a new hillside of flowers comes into view.

Impatiens – what CNPSers experience when the rains are late. In February we can be distracted by groundhogs, valentines, and presidents, but if this goes too long, it can lead to saintpatricide.

Papaverpaloosa – that great poppy-dominated flower show the year after a backcountry wildfire.

Primovera – a first rate spring, with steady rains bringing wildflowers everywhere. “After years of drought, 2010 finally looks like a real primovera.”

I hope you're now fired up to get out and enjoy this too-fleeting phenomenon. To share your wildflower photos (or some more definitions), please visit the new Wildflower Forum on the Flora Fora at cnpsd.org.

One last definition – **Plantatic**: “Be a true plantatic this primovera and introduce your friends to both the wonders of nature and the fellowship of CNPS.”

~ **Dave Flietner**, President

BOARD NOTES

March 2010. Connie Di Girolamo and Bobbie Stephenson were elected to the CNPS Board at our March meeting. Connie and Bobbie are stepping in for Julie Janssen and Hank Kraus, respectively. Connie's term will end in December 2011 and Bobbie's in December 2010. Claude Edwards was elected Program Chair. Dave Flietner announced that Marty Foltyn has accepted the position of Chapter Council Secretary. Marty's replacement Chapter Council Delegate has yet to be elected by the Board. The Board discussed the 2010 chapter budget at length. The budget is anticipated to be finalized at the April Board meeting.

Hank Kraus and **Julie Janssen** have made valuable contributions to the chapter over the past few years. Both are taking a break from their responsibilities as Board members and committee chairs, due to health constraints and/or family obligations. As Program Chair, Hank has often had to bring in additional chairs to our meetings, due to the great response to his selection of popular speakers. Some high points include Nevin Smith's talk on wild plant collecting, a Native American dinner, and John Muir Lawe's overview of the Sierra Nevada. As Newsletter Editor, Julie did the hard work of coordinating the editing and production of the high quality publication that you have been enjoying. During her tenure, she introduced photographs and more drawings to enliven the publication.

~**Tom Beltran**, Secretary

NEW DIGS FOR BOARD MEETINGS

The Board will meet on Wednesday, **April 2**, but at a **new time and location**. The meeting will be at 6:30 to avoid the worst of the rush hour and still leave ample time to discuss our business. Our new meeting location is generously provided by our friends at the beautiful new San Diego Audubon office at **4010 Morena Boulevard**, Ste. 100. From the I-5, exit Balboa east and turn north on Morena.

MEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Members and their guests can enjoy some great field trips this month. Please RSVP to fieldtrips@cnpssd.org, leave your cell phone number, and where you plan to meet. As always, come prepared with sun protection, comfortable shoes, and plenty of water.

~ **Kay Stewart**, Field Trip Chair

Sunday, April 11: Warner Springs Grasslands, 9 a.m. to 12 noon

(optional: lower Santa Ysabel Preserve 12 to 3 p.m.) This field trip will feature spring wildflowers and high-elevation grassland in northern San Diego County. We will explore meadows along two to three miles of an easy section of the Pacific Crest Trail and off trail sites. Species may include common meadow plants like owl's clover and tidy tips as well as the endemic Ranchita lessingia (*Lessingia glandulifera tomentosa*) and some desert-type grasses such as six weeks grama (*Bouteloua barbata*) and desert needlegrass (*Achnatherum speciosum*). Kirsten Winter, Forest Biologist for the Cleveland National Forest, will assist as we enjoy common and uncommon species likely to be seen. (After the grassland tour and brownbag lunch, some will head south ten miles to spend time in the lower Santa Ysabel Preserve. The entry is on the east side of State 79, 1/2 mile north of the 78/79 junction.)

Meet at the Warner Springs California Department of Forestry Warner Community Resource parking lot (Thomas Guide 409 K8) at 9 a.m. Take State Route Hwy 79 north of Lake Hemet and look for the parking lot on the west side of 79. From there we will caravan to the trail head. No passes are required. To ride share from coastal San Diego, meet at 8 a.m. at the Park'n'ride on Saber Springs Road just north of Poway Road. Turn left into the shopping center driveway, and turn right into the north end of the shopping center parking lot.

SAVE A TREE!

Members can receive this newsletter digitally. Not only do you save a tree, you save the chapter the cost of printing and mailing. Email the info on your mailing label to: enewsletter@cnpssd.org

Sunday, April 18: San Diego Mountains and Valleys Impacted by the Sunrise Powerlink, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

A string of southeastern San Diego County mountains & canyons are natural treasures that SDG&E's Sunrise Powerlink is planned to traverse. Sierra Club's Cindy Buxton will guide the trip and Chezzie Brungraber, consulting botanist, will help identify plant species. We'll study power-line plans to see where pads and lines would be sited, and focus on plant conservation issues raised by SDG&E's plans.

The first trek will be a mile walk on lower Gaskill Peak, partly on steep uneven ground, with a couple of boulder hops, to observe mature manzanita and a riparian area with very old mossy trees. We'll then stop at a "well-kept local secret," Deerhorn Valley, to walk three-plus miles below Barber Mountain. The trail is graced with southern mountain misery (*Chamaebatia australis*), the pungent signature fragrance of the chaparral that Cindy calls "the smell of drought tolerance." We'll cover 400 feet of elevation gain/loss to view white granite boulders and plants along a gorgeous stream in Cottonwood Canyon. This is a trail the ancients took to their beloved Tecate Mountain, or Kuchama.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the heliport parking lot on Lyons Valley Road. From I-8 at Alpine exit right on Tavern Road. In three miles Tavern becomes Japatul Valley Road. Continue nine miles (and a few jogs) and turn right on Lyons Valley Road. After 1.7 miles the turnout for the heliport is near the fire station. Option: meet at the Tavern Road offramp just south of I-8 at 8:00. Wear long sleeves & clothes that can take scratchy vegetation.

Thursday, April 22: Plants of Miramar Mounds National Natural Landmark, 8:50 to 11 a.m.

This trip will award attendees with a rare close-up look at the plants of Miramar Mounds National Natural Landmark (Landmark). MCAS Miramar Botanist JoEllen Kassebaum, who has spent more than ten years working with the plant life at Miramar, will interpret. (cont. pg. 4)

Located in the southern edge of MCAS Miramar, the Landmark sets aside approximately 400 acres of threatened vernal pool and mima mound topography that is home to the endangered San Diego mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*) and San Diego button celery (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii*). We will compare adjacent pools and observe different species mixes. Between the pools, higher mima mounds support coastal sage scrub. Weather preceding will determine what will be in bloom.

Arrive no later than 8:50 a.m. From Highway 52 take Convoy Street north toward the landfill, and park in the lot right past the recycling center. The group will ride-share in no more than five vehicles onto the base, and will leave the other vehicles in the lot. The tour will cover a mile or so of cross-country walking on uneven footing, with very little elevation gain. Though we will be welcome to photograph pools and plants, photography of aircraft, structures or military personnel is forbidden.

The field trip is limited to 20 participants. **Please RSVP by Monday, April 19.** Please say if you have a high clearance vehicle and will be willing to drive.

If the Landmark route is not passable due to recent rains, a pool and mound complex that is not formally part of the Landmark but that has many of the features of the Landmark will be our destination.

Sunday, April 25: Old-growth Chaparral at Indian Flats, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

CNPS Members (and guests) will explore one of the best remaining old-growth stands of chaparral in San Diego County. We will study the remarkable area around Indian Flats Campground north of Warner Springs, an infrequently visited gem within the Cleveland National Forest. Although the campground is closed to camping this time of year, we can still enjoy the natural environment there during our visit.

We will botanize not only the red shank/manzanita chaparral ecosystem, but also discover grassland and riparian species. The East Fork of the San Luis Rey River runs nearby. The route will cover a few miles of walking, starting along a small dirt road, taking several off-trail adventures over moderate terrain, and paying a visit to the small, boulder strewn river which should be filled with tadpoles and frogs.

Meet at Indian Flats Campground entrance. From I-15, take the most direct route to Santa Ysabel at the Hwy 78/79 intersection, then north on Hwy 79 past Warner Springs about 1.7 miles and turn right on Lost Creek Rd (Forest Road 9S05). Take this good dirt road about 6.5 miles to the campground. An adventure pass is not required for parking in the campground, though is required elsewhere.

To ride-share from coastal San Diego, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Park'n'ride on Sabre Springs Road just north of Poway Road (Thomas Guide 1189 H6). Make the first left into the shopping center driveway, and turn right into the north end of the shopping center lot.

Sunday, May 2: Lakeside Ceanothus & Grassland Restoration, Crestridge Ecological Preserve, 1 to 4 p.m.

CNPS members and guests will be delighted to explore this 2,600+-acre California Department of Fish and Game preserve in the rocky foothills east of El Cajon. The preserve protects a magnificent stand of Lakeside ceanothus (*Ceanothus cyaneus*) and San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*). Botanist Patricia Gordon-Reedy will guide our group to several sites, and Cathy Chadwick, director of the preserve's caretaker group, the Earth Discovery Institute, will be our host for the afternoon.

We will walk the lower portions of the preserve to observe a five-acre native grassland restoration and then study a nearby mature Engelmann oak grove, as well as other native plant associations nearby. Then we will caravan/drive to a trailhead to access a different part of the preserve on footpaths.

Meet at 1 p.m. at the Crestridge entrance on Horsemill Rd. From I-8 east of El Cajon, exit on Greenfield Rd, proceed 1/2 mile then turn left on La Cresta Rd. Approx 3.5 miles turn left on Mountain View and proceed 1 mile, then left on Horsemill Rd and 1/2 mile to the preserve entrance at the end.



PUBLIC PLANT WALKS

Our public native plant hikes continue in April. All walks start at **10 a.m.** and last about 90 minutes. The terrain is easy to moderate; as always bring sturdy shoes, water, and sunscreen. Join us:

April 3. La Costa Hills: Paul Hormick leads. Meet at the end of Swallowtail Dr. Exit I-5 east at La Costa Ave., turn right on Saxony (2nd light), left on Quail Hollow Dr., left on Swallowtail Dr. (Thomas Guide 1147, D2).

April 10. Bonita Long Canyon: Betsy Cory and Elizabeth Wilkinson lead. From 805 take H street East for 4.3 miles. Left turn on Corral Canyon Rd. In 0.7 miles turn Left onto Coltridge Lane. The park is immediately on your right. Over flow parking is on the street. (Thomas Guide 1311 C3).

April 17. Miramar Lake: This plant walk is wheelchair accessible. Adrienne Heinzelman and Dave Flietner lead. Exit I-15 east at Mira Mesa Blvd; right on Scripps Ranch Blvd; left on Scripps Lake Drive. Look for the Lake Miramar sign on the left. Meet at eastern edge of Lake Miramar parking lot (Thomas Guide 1209-H3).

April 24. Marion Bear: Frank Landis and Michael Murphy lead. From Highway 52, exit at Regents Street. Turn south, go 200 yards, turn right, drive to parking lot (Thomas Guide 1228, C7).

~ **Paul Hormick**, Public Plant Walks Coordinator

INVASIVE PLANTS HANDS-ON TRAINING

Saturday, April 3, 9 a.m. to noon. At this regularly scheduled hands-on training date we focus on the tools for controlling invasive weeds for the purpose of habitat restoration and fire prevention. We try to touch on all aspects from evaluation and planning, laws and regulations, various techniques, through to maintenance. All members are welcome. We meet once a month but other times may be arranged to fit your schedule. Boots, long pants and long sleeves are required, and eye protection is optional. Meet at 17269 Silver Gum Way (TG 1169-D2) in the west Rancho Bernardo area. Contact **Arne Johanson** for gate code and further information at: invasiveplants@cnpsd.org

CONSERVATION UPDATE

March was a mixed month. The City of San Diego will be issuing their final stormwater EIR after this newsletter goes to press. The document has substantial problems (our comment letter thudded when it hit their desk), and we want the City to focus on better methods (*e.g.*, environmentally benign and less costly) for maintaining our stormwater infrastructure. Solar Two, the massive solar project south of Anza Borrego Desert State Park, is proceeding. The EIS was released in March, and the agencies have already harshly commented on its poor quality. There are rare plants and rare plant communities on the solar plant's proposed site, and CNPS is pushing for a better alternative. We will be working to find better ways to help southern California go solar.

Now the good news. Our chapter has participated in the coalition that produced San Diego's Environmental Report Card, which was rolled out March 10, 2010. You can read it at: <http://www.cnpsd.org>. Better yet, the California Chaparral Institute and CNPS won their lawsuit against the County of San Diego. Here is **Rick Halsey's** take on that victory:

On March 4, 2010, the Superior Court rejected the County of San Diego's position that their proposed \$7 million, 3-4 year project to remove dead, dying and diseased trees up to 500 feet beyond roads and structures, and other vegetation up to 30 feet from roads in the backcountry, was exempt from environmental review under CEQA. To avoid that review, the county had used the emergency exemption clause in CEQA by claiming that the annual threat of fire meant emergency action must be taken. The court made it very clear that this position had no merit and that the County must refrain from carrying out its project until it has taken all actions necessary to meet the requirements of CEQA. This is a victory for both nature and people because it forces the County to allow independent review of its vegetation management activities by citizens and scientists, and will help protect fragile native plant communities from unnecessary damage.

~ **Frank Landis**, Rare Plant Surveys Chair

(Wildflowers, con't from p. 1)

concerted conservation efforts to remove invasive weeds. Since an African veldt grass (*Ehrharta longiflora*) infestation was removed by the park and Mike Kelly, now the best location to observe native wildflowers on the coast is on the Guy Fleming trail in Torrey Pines State Reserve. California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), goldfields, ground pinks, southern sun cups and popcorn flowers are very common as well as lupines (*Lupinus bicolor*). In the shaded areas are milk maids (*Cardamine californica*) and sea dahlia (*Coreopsis maritima*). Here, above the crashing waves, the poppies have a maritime look to them, a bit yellow in color and small, but with dark orange centers. The other coastal location for observing wildflowers is the west side of Cabrillo National Monument near the tide pools. The flowers are generally the same as those in Torrey Pines except that there is the added treat of Shaw's agave (*Agave shawii*). On the bayside trail, the California encelia shrubs (*Encelia californica*) may also provide nice flowering color with their brown centered daisy flowers. ~ **Tom Oberbauer**, Member

VEGETATION SURVEYS

Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m. Join us at Otay Mountain for the next rapid assessment survey. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Hollenbeck Canyon dirt parking lot. To get there from west of Jamul, take SR 94 east to Honey Springs Road. The parking lot is on the left approximately 0.15 miles after the turn off to Honey Springs Road. From here, we will caravan to our survey location. Survey events are free and open to the public (although CNPS membership is encouraged!). Light snacks and beverages are provided for volunteers. If you are interested, we could use your help, regardless of your experience. To RSVP or request more information, email vegetation@cnpsd.org. I will email you a list of what to bring, or you may call **Anna Bennett** at (559) 443-9233.

RARE PLANT SURVEYS

Our chapter will survey for the endangered San Diego thornmint this month. If you attended the March chapter meeting, you know that these cute little annuals are found in tiny populations from Oceanside down into Baja California.

San Diego thornmint only blooms in mid-April, so our surveys are scheduled for three weekends: **April 10-11, April 17-18, and April 24-25.**

How hard can it be to determine the status of a rare plant? That is the subject of this month's column. Last month there was a day-long workshop on rare plant monitoring in San Diego, and one of the stars of the show was the thornmint. It turns out that a number of groups (city, county, and various non-profits) are monitoring populations they know about. Some of these populations are on the State's list. Some are not. Local botanists also know of current and former populations that are not on any list. Some of the thornmint populations have been monitored every year for over a decade. Some have not been checked in over a decade. Compiling all this information is a challenge. As a result of the workshop, our chapter's 2010 survey goals have changed. We will be focusing on populations that are not being surveyed by other groups. In some ways, we will be on a treasure hunt this spring.

Do you want to join the hunt? All it requires is moderate hiking ability, reasonably good vision, and a strong willingness not to step on small (and rare!) plants while you search for them. Having a camera and a GPS unit are a plus but not necessary. If you do want to join us, there is a **required, short training session on April 3, 9-11 a.m.** at Manchester Reserve in Encinitas. E-mail **Frank Landis** at franklandis03@yahoo.com to sign up or to get further information.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Our Chapter will participate in several outreach events in April and May. Please join us in representing CNPS by volunteering to help staff our tables at the following events:

- Earth Fair in Balboa Park (Sunday April 18)
- Chicano Park Day Celebration in Barrio Logan (Saturday April 24)
- Sage and Songbirds Festival in Alpine (Saturday & Sunday May 1-2)
- Explore Mission Trails Day (Sunday May 15)

All are wonderful opportunities to interact with other members and inform the public about the benefits of native plants and CNPS! Please contact **David Varner** to learn how you can participate: outreach@cnpsd.org or 619-630-4591.

FALL PLANT SALE

The fall plant sale will take place on **Saturday, October 16**, at the courtyard next to Casa del Prado and across from the west entrance of the Natural History Museum, Balboa Park. The plant sale committee is looking for volunteers. No plant experience necessary, just organized individuals with good communication skills. E-mail plantsale@cnpsd.org if you are interested in the following:

Home Growers: Member grown plants increase profits, enabling CNPS to protect more native plants and their habitats. Perhaps you have some plants on your property that can be re-potted or propagated from cuttings? If you are a novice at propagation, see the CNPS website for a complete listing of resources, or e-mail our experienced members with your questions on how to get started.

Seed and Bulb Team: Help collect and package seeds and bulbs!

Comments Wanted: Do you have any ideas that would help us improve our fall plant sale? What plants do you really want to buy at the plant sale? How can we make things easier for customers at the sale?

~ Plant Sale Committee

WORK PARTIES

Old Town State Park Native Garden: **Saturday, April 10, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** Rain cancels. The native plants benefit from our weeding exotics, so please bring your favorite weeding tools, hand pruners, loppers and gloves. A drinking fountain is on site. The garden is located at the western edge of Old Town State Park, across from the Trolley station at Taylor and Congress Streets. Park at the west end of the free State Park parking lot, between the garden and Calhoun Street.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: **April 3 and 18, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Rain cancels. Bring water. All tools and supplies are provided. No facilities are on site. Contact Richard Dhu at Richard@sandiegoriver.org.

YOUR NATIVE GARDEN IN APRIL

April's mild weather means new native plantings will thrive. New cuttings will settle easily into your ever expanding and diversifying native garden. Established plants will be rewarding your efforts with showy outbursts of color. While you are enjoying your garden's warm breezes, the CNPS Native Gardening Committee and resident pros remind you to do the following to ensure its year-round health and beauty:

☞ Weed, weed and weed some more! Keeping weeds down while small is the simplest way to beautify and strengthen native plantings.

☞ Check irrigation lines and mulch coverage! Your April natives need to be ready to enter the hotter summer months ahead.

☞ Look for rain in the forecast! Rain means there is still time to sow your favorite wildflower seeds.

~ **Juliana Morse**, Member

CALENDAR

4/2: Board Meeting (p. 2)

4/3: Rare Plant Survey Training (p. 5)

4/3: Invasive Plant Removal (p. 5)

4/3: Pt. Loma Work Party (p. 7)

4/3: La Costa Hills Public Plant Walk (p. 5)

4/10: Bonita Long Canyon Public Plant Walk (p. 5)

4/10-11: Rare Plant Surveys (p. 6)

4/10: Old Town Work Party (p. 7)

4/11: Warner Springs Field Trip (p.3)

4/17: Miramar Lake Public Plant Walk (p. 5)

4/17-18: Rare Plant Surveys (p. 6)

4/18: Sunrise Powerlink Fld Trip (p. 3)

4/18: Earth Fair in Balboa Park (p. 6)

4/18: Pt. Loma Work Party (p. 7)

4/20: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)

4/22: Miramar Mounds Field Trip (p. 3)

4/24: Marion Bear Park Public Plant Walk (p. 5)

4/24: Vegetation Surveys (p. 6)

4/24-25: Rare Plant Surveys (p. 6)

4/25: Indian Flats Field Trip (p. 4)

5/01-02: Sage and Songbirds Festival (p. 6)

5/2: Crestridge Ecol. Preserve Field Trip (p. 4)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

___ Student or Limited Income \$25; ___ Individual \$45; ___ Family, Group or Library \$75
___ Plant Lover \$100; ___ Patron \$300; ___ Benefactor \$600; ___ Mariposa Lily \$1,500

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Mail check payable to "CNPS" to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

C/o San Diego Natural History Museum

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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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