

TROUT TIMES



Vanguard
Chapter

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BIG TURNOUT FOR BLACK RIVER WORK WEEKEND

By Dave Watson

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TOWN CORNER LAKE CAMPGROUND, PIGEON RIVER STATE FOREST—It was great get back up North and work on the Black River again the weekend of August 8th. Deep in the beautiful Pigeon River State Forest about 25 miles west of the I-75 and Gaylord, lies Town Corner Lake Campground.

Paul and Carol Rose of the Black River Restoration Committee had sent good maps to assist Vanguard volunteers with a smooth journey through the forest to the campground. Paul is also chairman of Huron Pines, a non-profit organization in Grayling dedicated to conserving the forest, lakes, and streams of Northeast Michigan.

Vanguard members Dave Thomas and Frank Penkala had driven up Thursday and prepared the camp for the rest of the work group's arrival Friday. They had also caught several good fish in beautiful Town Corner Lake.

Vanguard members occupied three large sites overlooking the lake, which we discovered held several good size bass and huge bluegills.

Carol and Paul held a reception welcoming party armed with refreshments and snacks at the work site about ¼ mile from the campsite. They had kindly re-

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Fly Tying Nights Change Venue & Night

By Tom Quail

ROCHESTER—Earlier this year Vanguard Chapter reinstated a monthly Fly Tying Night at the Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center on Avon Road west of Livernois Rd. These tying nights were held on the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Participation has been kind of light with a handful of the same members attending. In an effort to kindle some additional interest a couple of board members looked into the possibility of holding these fly tying nights at the Rochester Mills Beer Company, www.beercos.com (address below). When we approached the brewery's management they thought it would be a great idea. Remember, this is the brewery that donated two cases of beer for our hospitality hosting night at the TU National convention in August.

They agreed to give us their private party room for free one night a month.

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WORK WEEKEND

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served rustic sites for us in case the main site was full and if anyone preferred that kind of camping.

All 18 Vanguard workers made it safely to the campsite by Friday night. Dave Thomas had set up his camper for the camp kitchen. The next morning Larry and Jeff Walla and their sons Matt and Brett cooked a hearty breakfast for the well-rested workers.

Afterwards we made our way to the work site by 9 a.m. to meet with Carol Rose and the guides for the Black River Restoration group. Armed with rebar, clamps, wrenches, duckbill anchors, and chain saws, we waded downstream to the sections earmarked for improvement.

Similar to efforts by Vanguard members in the past, the plan was to create natural looking habitat and structure for the native fish. We split up into several small groups.

Woody, a local teacher, was our leader and was very experienced with this kind of work. He liked beating up the rebar with real enthusiasm and hammering the duck anchors into the stream banks. Woody selected the fallen timber to be positioned and anchored for the structures.

The rain did not dampen any enthusiasm since these tough leaders were wet wading anyway.

A group of local high school students and their teacher helped back fill the logs making six very useful natural looking structures. Around noon we stopped for a great lunch with plenty of food and delicious locally grown cherries.

It was great to meet the local people, fellow TU members, and land owners, who were grateful for our hard work and support. Fortified we returned to the river to finish off the structures, working until about 4 p.m.

Pleased with our satisfying day's

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President's Corner

By Dave Watson

"To conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries, and their watersheds."

-- Trout Unlimited's mission statement.

It's been a very English style summer; cool with lots of rain and the occasion hot days. Nevertheless, Trout Unlimited has been very busy with the 50th Anniversary celebrations. Many thanks to Tom Quail, John Sabina, and Jeff Gerwitz for their work and representation at the events for Vanguard Trout Unlimited.

We have been busy with a variety of project, events and outings. Heritage Park was very successful thanks to Pete Howard and Frank Penkala making sure all the kids caught fish and had fun. Through your teaching and encouragement of the kids in Heritage Park, you have set the seeds for great anglers who will also have an appreciation and respect for the countryside.

The Black River project was a most enjoyable experience. We had the majority of members and helped make a real difference to the river.

This week Kimberly Wetton, Chair of Michigan Trout Unlimited, has been active with the Project Healing Waters Fly

Fishing program to help returning service people adjust back to a normal life. Project Healing Waters is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly-fishing and fly-tying education and outings. Some of our members have expressed a very keen interest in helping with this project.

You maybe just starting to fly fish or like to help improve the rivers or even teach others your skills. Vanguard TU has many ways of enjoying all aspects of fishing and helping to protect the watershed.

Come along to the fly tying sessions run by Bob Schwartz in the Rochester Mills Beer Co. Vanguard also has monthly meetings at the Rochester Hills Educational Center on Avon and Livernois.

I encourage you to attend the monthly meetings or access the web site www.vanguardtu.org for more information. Check the calendar page for events, projects and outings, etc.

Enjoy the summer.

All the best, Dave Watson
President Vanguard TU



Keep your bobbers up

Rochester Mills BEER Co.
1998

mind
body &
spirits

INSPIRED DINING

400 Water Street
Rochester, Michigan
248-650-5080

301 S. Main Street
Rochester, Michigan
248-651-FOOD (3663)

It seems only fitting that we run this ad for Rochester Mills Beer Co. since Dave mentions it in his President's Corner, and like most good Englishmen, Dave is a connoisseur of fine beer. Besides donating a room for our monthly flytying along with coupons for free beer, they donated two cases of beer for the TU National convention/ celebration last month for our hospitality suite.

Vanguard Again Helps Budding Youth Fly Tiers at Heritage Days Event

By Dave Watson



LENNOX—It was a very well organized event by Joy and Mike Bennett of the Huron Pointe Sportsmen's Association, giving people an excellent introduction into outdoor life and sports. The idea of Heritage Days, which is an annual event at the Association's facility, is to keep people aware of nature and how our sportsmen's conservation activities are helping us all to enjoy our outdoor activities now and for many years to come.

The Vanguard Chapter volunteers kept fairly busy all day with a lot of new kids eager to tie a Woolly Buggers and some repeat tiers keen to try another pattern.

Every color combination under the rainbow was used providing enjoyment to the kids and parents. Several kids kept coming back to the bench for more fly tying. One lad named Alan thought fly tying was really cool; he came back five times. Member Joe Swantek taught him well.

Copies of our newsletters were given to the interested students and parents to

have an understanding of our club and also to contact us with reports on how the flies worked, and maybe get involved with Trout Unlimited.

Vanguard volunteers took turns to explore the event themselves and tie flies. The Sportsmen's club had some interesting demonstrations and new attractions. This year someone brought a very smart pot belly pig to the event. That thing could do all kinds of tricks and even oink to order.

My thanks to the entire fly tying crew: Joe Swantek, Frank Lalone, and Greg Lalone

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FLY FISHING UNLIMITED**

**Joe Barker, Editor
Dave Watson, President**

FLY TYING

Continued from Front Page

They asked if we could move the night to Tuesday because they sometimes can rent out the room for private "paying" parties on Thursdays. To accommodate that request we are now hosting the Vanguard Chapter Fly Tying Night on the third Tuesday of the month unless notified otherwise (holiday conflicts, see below).

The upcoming tying nights, starting at 7:30 p.m. are:

September 15th

October 20th

November 17th

December 15th

2010 dates will be determined at a later date.

Rochester Mills Beer Company was kind enough to give us several passes for free beer! Really, I'm not lying, FREE BEER! Beginner fly tiers and experienced tiers are welcome. We'll have some vices and tying materials for beginners so just show up and we'll tie some killer flies.

**Rochester Mills Beer Company
400 Water St.
Rochester, MI 48307
248-650-5080**

If you have any questions, please email them to vanguardtu@gmail.com.



Vanguard Chapter Helps TU Celebrate 50 Years

By Tom Quail

GRAYLING—Vanguard Chapter participated in two celebrations marking 50 years of Trout Unlimited. The first event was the celebration sponsored by Michigan Trout Unlimited. This event was held on July 18th at the DNR Rayburn property on the main branch of the Au Sable just west of Grayling. Vanguard Chapter was well represented. We shared booth/tent space with Clinton River Watershed Council, Hank's Fly Fishing Unlimited, and the Challenge Chapter.

actual birth date, July 18, 1959, with other Michigan TU members.

One of the TU founders, Art Neumann, and his wife attended as well as State Representative Rebekah Warren, Chair of the Great Lakes and Environment Committee, and DNR Director Rebecca Humphries. Michigan TU received some real important recognition that day for all we've done for coldwater conservation in Michigan.



I helped with the celebration planning, event setup, and manning our booth. Chapter President Dave Watson and Board member/Membership Chairman Jeff Gerwitz helped with the booth and provided the overnight security for the entire venue both Friday and Saturday nights. I happen to know they also got some good fishing in during the evenings.

Despite the inclement weather, rain and mid 50's, the turnout was quite good. Vanguard was represented well and even made a few bucks by selling hats, t-shirts, and water bottles. All in all, it was a successful outing and fun to celebrate TU's

In August, John Sabina, past Vanguard President and past Michigan Council TU Executive Chair, and myself, represented Vanguard Chapter at the Trout Unlimited National Convention headquartered at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City. John volunteered to be a fishing host for the hosted fishing day on Tuesday, August 18th and served as one of the tour speaker/moderators for the conservation tour. This tour spotlighted several conservation successes of MITU and its chapters.

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Trout Times is Going Electronic

By Tom Quail

ROCHESTER HILLS—The Vanguard Chapter Board of Directors is considering the discontinuing of our program of mailing out the *Trout Times* newsletter by USPS "snail mail." Instead, we're proposing going electronic. This will probably be the last issue of *Trout Times* you will receive by hardcopy mail but **Don't Panic!** We're planning a smooth transition.

Why the change? Our newsletter's printing and mailing was taking far too much time and money, a significant part of our budget that can be better spent on conservation efforts. It's a small step but it's one way we can be more "green."

Two things can keep us in touch with you. The best option is for you to send us your email address to vanguardtu@gmail.com. Per your direction, we can send you an email with *Trout Times* as an attachment or we will direct you that a new issue is available on the chapter's website, www.vanguardtu.org. It's your choice but you must indicate what you would prefer.

If you still want us to send you a hard copy by USPS mail, you will need to send us a check for \$8 for four issues annually, to the address below. The hardcopy will be a plain document, no frills or fancy stuff, in a reduced-sized format.

The Chapter board of directors wants to survey the members attending the September and October meetings before we vote on making this change. Our newsletter will no longer be restrained to an eight-page format. We will be able to include more articles and better pictures. You'll be able to share your copy with friends much easier and much quicker than previously.

Remember to send us your email address to vanguardtu@gmail.com and, if necessary, you may want to include any

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CELEBRATION

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The Vanguard Chapter also sponsored the Thursday, August 20th hospitality suite at the Grand Traverse Resort. (Each night a MITU chapter sponsored the hospitality suite.) Our chapter received two very generous beer donations; two cases each, from the Arbor Brewing Company, www.arborbrewing.com, and our hometown brewer, the Rochester Mills Beer Company, www.beercos.com. These donations of four cases of beer really helped lower our expenses.

At our hosted hospitality suite night John and I were able to meet several other state TU and TU National representatives and share our conservation experiences and concerns. Of particular note was John's persistence in questioning the TU National representatives on why Michigan is ignored in the TU Conservation Success Index (CSI). Vanguard Chapter and MITU are fortunate that we have members as passionate about Michigan's coldwater fisheries and conservation efforts as John Sabina.

The Trout Unlimited National Convention in Traverse City was great fun, very informative and, without saying too much, the hospitality suite night(s) were a blast.

VANGUARD CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <i>President</i> | |
| Dave Watson..... | (248)601-3828 |
| <i>Vice President</i> | |
| Tom Quail..... | (248)391-6718 |
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| John Gerwitz..... | (248)656-9439 |
| Jeff Walla..... | (248)236-0242 |
| Frank Lalone..... | (586)739-3273 |
| Matt Rackley..... | (586)850-1896 |
| Todd Randall..... | (586)336-0995 |

Buy Your Groceries, Save a Trout Stream

By Dan Keifer, MITU Program Coordinator

Michigan Trout Unlimited announces a new, easy way to support TU in our state and the work that the Council does. AND, IT DOES NOT COST YOU ONE DIME.

If you do your grocery shopping at Kroger or its affiliate stores in the state, your grocery purchases will earn cash for Michigan TU through the company's Kroger Community Rewards Program.

With a simple one-time registration into the program, Kroger will donate 5% of your grocery purchases each and every time you do your shopping. That's right...your grocery shopping generates a cash donation to TU from Kroger! That's right...no cost to you!

This program is a ridiculously easy way to donate a few bucks a week to coldwater conservation every time you do your grocery shopping. Kroger's program uses your existing Kroger Plus customer card...there is no separate card, matching payment, or minimum purchase requirement.

The Kroger Community Rewards Program can potentially raise thousands of dollars a year for Michigan TU efforts to preserve and protect wild trout and salmon. The key is that you need to sign up...and get your buddies, Chapter members, and family members to sign up too!

Sign up now. THAT MEANS NOW. It's quick and easy to do from your computer. You'll only be away from your fly tying bench for five minutes...honest!

Here's how to sign up and turn your grocery dollars into cash-for-coldwater-conservation. Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com

- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign

up. If a member does not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.

- Click on Sign In/Register under Welcome! (top right hand side of page)
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box at right.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number (towards bottom of the screen). Save changes.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO number or name of organization, select organization from list and click on confirm. Enter **83407**; Select **MICHIGAN COUNCIL TROUT UNLIMITED**; Save Changes
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name at the bottom of your information page.



WORK WEEKEND

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work, we returned to our lakeside camps for a delicious steak dinner. After dinner some people tried their luck on the Black River and some on the lake for the evening hatch. Others simply relaxed around the campfire, entertained with Scott's daughter playing her banjo.

The next day over breakfast, reports of prior evening's fishing revealed good Brook Trout action in the Black River and large bluegills caught in the lake.

Working on the Black River has always been a very satisfying experience. With help from Paul and Carol, the project went very smoothly.

Thanks to all the following hard workers from Vanguard, along with their family members and friends, for not only their hard work on the Black River, but also for their help with the meals and camp clean up: Phil Church, Mark Green, Scott Hummon and his daughter, Frank and Greg Lalone, Brian McKissen and his dad, Frank Penkala, Dave Thomas, Todd Randall and his son Alex, Jeff and Larry Walla and their sons Brett and Matt, Rich Walla, and Paul Paske.

NEWSLETTER

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updates to your other contact information, mailing address, phone number, etc. Also, let us know if you want us to email *Trout Times* as an attachment or just let you know when issues are available on the website, www.vanguardtu.org.

If you still want to receive *Trout Times* by hardcopy USPS mail, send your \$8 check made out to **Vanguard Chapter TU** to:

Tom Quail, Vice President
Vanguard Chapter TU
2575 Orbit Drive
Lake Orion, MI 48360

Future correspondence will be by email or listed on the Vanguard Chapter website, www.vanguardtu.org.

HEXES SHOW UP AT CHAPTER OUTING, BUT BIG FISH DON'T

By Joe Barker

GRAYLING—The weekend before the Fourth of July proved to be the right weekend for the Vanguard Chapter Hex outing. There were Hexes to be found on the Upper Manistee River as far up as above Long's Canoe Livery and the Trout Unlimited access point half way between Long's and my cabin just below the CR-612 bridge. However, they were by no means prolific and the bigger trout sat out the dance of the mayflies.

Throughout the course of the weekend, a total of 13 Vanguard members tried their hand at enticing weary trout. As it turned out, the biggest trout of the weekend was one I caught Thursday evening in front of the cabin on a Little Fat Bastard (Bat Fly) before most everyone had arrived. Not really what I expected after my expectations had been raised by the warm weather that had proceeded the weekend.

My wife, Monika, had spent the last couple weeks at the cabin before our arrival (she high-tailed it out of there at that

point). She had reported warm days and the sounds of large fish splashing at nightfall. The fly shops in the area confirmed that Hex were emerging on the lower Au Sable and Manistee Rivers. Was this the year we were really going to hit the height of the Hex hatch?

Not so fast said Mother Nature. She had some tricks up her sleeve. Although the sun warmed the waters during the day, as high as the low 60s according to some stream thermometers, the temperatures followed suit by sinking just as fast as the sun in the evening. The fish would start feeding on sporadic Hexes and Little Fat Bastards, but stop just as quickly as soon as one's breathe could be seen by flashlight.

Even when the feed was on, the fish were curiously selective. Old reliable patterns were snubbed. New and improved patterns were mocked. And it wasn't just me or our group. Even other

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OUTING

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fishermen we encountered were frustrated.

While we fished above the TU access point, further upstream at the cabin, other Vanguard members reported even fewer opportunities with no Hexes the entire weekend and only a few, fleeting, feeding fish; the horrible four "f's of fly fishing.

A couple of us stuck around after the weekend. In fact, I stayed around the entire week through the Fourth of July, but things only got worse. The warm days surrendered to cloudy skies and persistent light rain. A few brave bugs and fish tried to persevere through the adverse conditions for mid-summer, but it was no use. This would go down as another no-real Hex hatch on the Upper Manistee; the third year in a row.

That also means the third year in a row with no fish in the 20 inch range. Although such fish are by no means common in this section of the river, it's a good measure of how good of a Hex hatch has taken place.

With fish over 15 inches rare this year, the concern is that few fish are making it to that size before being crealed by an ever-increasing number of meat fishermen. That's sad prospect, but unfortunately a real possibility on this section of the river where catch-and-release, the creed of Trout Unlimited, is not a maxim of many other anglers. All the more reason for Vanguard members to spread the gospel at every opportunity.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Tuesday, September 15 @ 7:30PM – Fly Tying & Social Time, ALL TYERS & NON-TYERS WELCOME! Rochester Mills Beer Company, 400 Water St., Rochester, www.rochestermillsbeerco.com

Thursday, September 24 @ 7:30PM – VCTU Board Meeting. Tom Quail's house

Friday – Sunday, September 25-27 – Salmon Outing. Pere Marquette River, Baldwin. Contact Dave Watson or email: vanguardtu@gmail.com

Thursday, October 8 @ 7:30PM – Membership Meeting: The Amazing Caddis by Dan Keifer. RHEEC

Tuesday, October 20 @ 7:30PM – Fly Tying & Social Time, ALL TYERS & NON-TYERS WELCOME! Rochester Mills Beer Company, 400 Water St., Rochester, www.rochestermillsbeerco.com

Thursday, October 22 @ 7:30PM – VCTU Board Meeting. Jeff Gerwitz's house

Thursday, November 12 @ 7:30PM – Membership Meeting: Fly Fishing The West by VCTU members Joe Swantek & John Sabina. RHEEC

Tuesday, November 17 @ 7:30PM – Fly Tying & Social Time, ALL TYERS & NON-TYERS WELCOME! Rochester Mills Beer Company, 400 Water St., Rochester, www.rochestermillsbeerco.com

November Vanguard Chapter Board Meeting. Due to Thanksgiving holiday, TBD

Saturday, December 5, 2009 Fly Tying Expo, Holt High School, Holt, MI

Thursday, December 10 @ 7:30PM – Membership Meeting: Rich Merlino, Fly Fishing Manager at Orvis Royal Oak (Check www.vanguardtu.org for program update). RHEEC

Tuesday, December 15 @ 7:30PM – Fly Tying & Social Time, ALL TYERS & NON-TYERS WELCOME! Rochester Mills Beer Company, 400 Water St., Rochester, www.rochestermillsbeerco.com

December Vanguard Chapter Board Meeting. Due to Christmas holiday, TBD

Chapter Membership Meetings

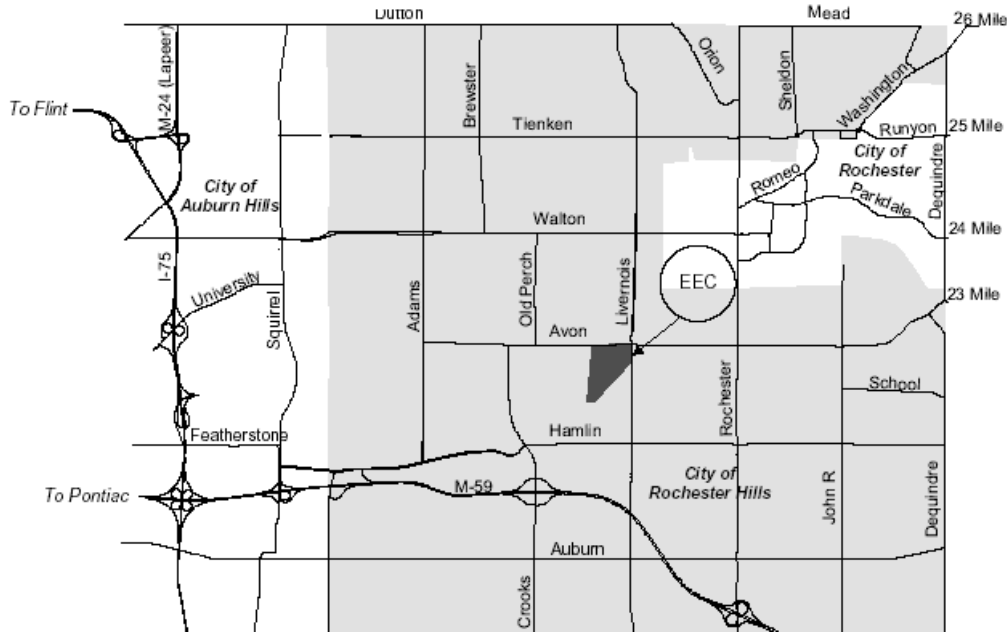
Membership meetings are currently held on the second Thursday of the month at the Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center (RHEEC) 1115 West Avon Road. Special events are held at various other locations around Southeastern Michigan.

Meetings are open to TU members and non members alike. Please feel free to attend if you are considering joining TU. Just ask any officer and we'll be happy to provide you with information and/or an application.

Meetings begin at 7:30pm and adjourn at 9:30pm. Programs for each meeting are listed on the [Calendar of Events](#). Each year we bring in renowned guides and authors from around the state as well as resource pros who make a living conserving the resources we all enjoy.

If you have ideas about a potential program drop us a line on our website at [Meeting Program Idea](#). We are always looking for ways to better the Chapter and help the members better their angling skills. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

**Our New Meeting location:
Rochester Hills Environmental Education Center (EEC)
is located at: 1115 West Avon Road in Rochester Hills**



Vanguard Chapter, Trout Unlimited
2132 Winchester Road
Rochester Hills, MI 48307

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