



The Green Sheet

Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendents Association

Volume 28 Issue 6

Founded ~ April 11, 1939

September/October 2021

October Meeting

Bent Creek Country Club

620 Bent Creek Drive
Lititz, PA 17543
www.bentcreekcc.com

Host -
Steven Ehrhart

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Registration - 9:15 AM
Golf - 10:00 AM Shotgun
DSL Presentation - 2:15 PM
Lunch/Golf Prizes - 3:00 PM



Wanda S. Fry

Golf Course Profile

Our 18-hole championship golf course was designed by the acclaimed course architect Jay Morrish, who won the Golf Course Architect of the Year award in 1991, the same year he began work here. Bent Creek has the distinction of being the only northeastern course designed by Morrish. The course has been praised for its beautifully-manicured, highly-challenging design. For professionals or high-handicap beginners, Bent Creek offers a rewarding golf game. The course is par 71 from all six sets of tees, and has a yardage range of 5,289 for women and 6,750 for men. It is a course that has been designed to be easy to walk, featuring the visual appeal of gently rolling hills, beautiful lakes, and a meandering creek. The playing surface consists of bent grass greens, fairways, and tees.



Superintendent Profile

Steve Ehrhart has been working for Bent Creek Country Club since 2007. He has been fortunate to have the opportunity to work under H. James Loke, CGCS of Bent Creek, Mark Malasavage of Hershey Country Club, and Bill Brooks of Hanover Country Club. A Penn State Turfgrass graduate in 1999, Steve was promoted to superintendent at Bent Creek in 2012.

Steve has been married to his wife, Erin, for 12 years. Together, they have 2 children, a daughter and a son. His hobbies are maximizing family time, health/fitness, cooking, and anything not related to yard work.

Steve and Bent Creek Country Club welcome Central Pennsylvania Golf Course Superintendent's Association Members and their guests!

Dave Rafferty Distinguished Service & Leadership Award Past Recipients

- 2003 - James MacLaren
- 2004 - Charles Cadiz
- 2005 - Terry Wueschinski
- 2006 - Gregory Borzok
- 2007 - Kenneth Dietrich
- 2008 - Jeffrey L. Fry
- 2009 - Samuel Snyder
- 2014 - Faron Stoops
- 2018 - Pete Ramsey
- 2019 - Gregory C. Fantuzzi

Presidents Message

Well so much for the prediction in my July presidents message of making it to August 15th.

Guess it was just wishful thinking. This summer never really did let up much and then Hurricane Ida slammed the region. Some courses in the association sustained major damage. I wish them all a rapid recovery. Given the circumstances after the storm the decision was made to cancel the September meeting at Foxchase. Superintendents were all exhausted and dealing with the aftermath of the storm. None of us had time to or felt like getting to a meeting. Thank you to Steve Graybill and the staff at Foxchase for their willingness to work with us. Foxchase will be rescheduled for 2022 golf meetings.

We are back on track in October with our season ending meeting at Bent Creek in Lancaster. There are several features to this meeting that will make it one to remember. We get to honor the service of Wanda Fry, the 2020 Distinguished Service Award recipient. This meeting will be a four man scramble where superintendents can bring their pro, GM, chairman or assistants. All guests related to the golf industry or your facility are welcome to attend. If not we will pair you up with other members of the association. Please try to have your four man team listed as playing partners on your reservation form.

Thank you to Steve Ehrhart for hosting and his help developing this event.

Spotted Lanternfly Makes Its Way into a 4-H Entry in Kansas, Setting Off a Federal Inquiry

Published September 12, 2021 www.pennlive.com

By [Paul Vigna | pvigna@pennlive.com](mailto:pvigna@pennlive.com)

The spotted lanternfly made a surprise appearance at the Kansas State Fair.

The invasive insect that has become notorious on the East Coast, especially across Pennsylvania, was discovered in a 4-H entomology entry that fair officials were judging last week, The Associated Press reported.

Fair board member Gregg Hadley said the student who caught the spotted lanternfly correctly identified it but had no clue it had already prompted quarantines in 34 Pennsylvania counties and another 13 in New Jersey. It was first discovered in Berks County in 2014 and was officially identified in New Jersey four years later.

Hadley is the director of Kansas State's Research and Extension office. He said it's not clear how the invasive bug made it to Kansas but it might have hitched a ride on a camper. That is the most vexing part of the lanternfly, that it can travel long distances once it attaches itself to vehicles or other outdoor equipment. When the lanternfly takes a ride, it brings along its egg masses to populate the area where it eventually jumps off.

Besides becoming a nuisance as it grows into an adult during the summer months and starts swarming residents' yards, it offers a significant economic threat to several industries.

According to the Pa Department of Agriculture website, the spotted lanternfly not only damages trees and affects residents' quality of life but "has become a major threat to the Pennsylvania agriculture industry and offers the same risk to other states as it spreads." The economic impact, the Pa. Department of Agriculture says, could total in the hundreds of millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs for those in the grape, apple, hops, and hardwood industries. It already has wiped



How did the insect get into a 4-H entry more than 1,000 miles west from the heart of the quarantine in Pennsylvania? Federal officials will have to figure that out.

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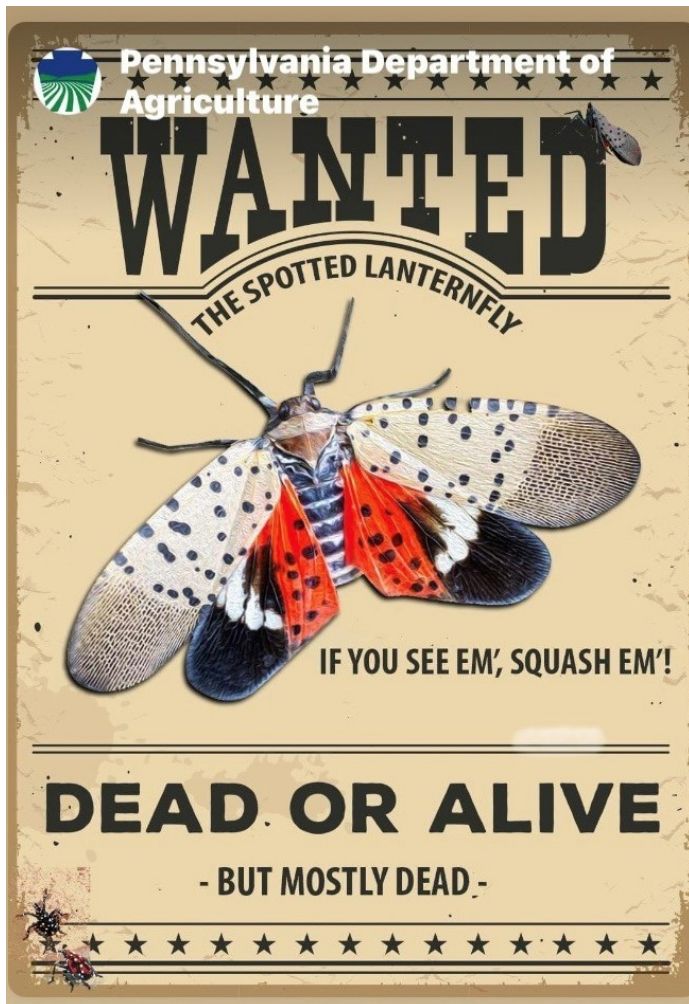
out or severely damaged several Pennsylvania vineyards.

The spotted lanternfly is a pest that's being watched closely by the U.S. wine industry clear out to the West Coast. The California Department of Food and Agriculture has several pages devoted to the potential risks of the spotted lanternfly, including this one. The Capital Press, which covers the agriculture industry in and around California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, reported in a July 26 story that California has established a quarantine aimed at prohibiting the lanternfly's host plants from entering the state.

One of the Kansas State Fair's entomology judges was familiar with the spotted lanternfly, according to a story in the Hutchinson News, and the requirement to report it to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Now that agency will conduct an investigation, trying to figure out how it traveled more than 1,000 miles from where it already has caused so much destruction, the story said.

As for the exhibit, the story noted, the student and his exhibit passed muster. It was allowed to be entered since the spotted lanternfly was dead.



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If you know of anyone who is interested in membership into the association, please have them contact Wanda at 717-279-0368 or cpgcsa@hotmail.com.

Please see a list of our Association Sponsors on Page 17. Please Support Them as they Support Us!

Membership information is also available on the Central Penn website at: www.cpgcsa.org



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USGA Update

Making Big Things Happen with Small Numbers

September 03, 2021

Elliott Dowling, agronomist, Northeast Region

The labor shortage affecting golf courses, and now permeating nearly every industry, has changed how many courses conduct daily maintenance. Faced with not having enough employees to maintain the course according to expectations, superintendents looked to high school and college students to fill those gaps this year more than many years recently. While those young men and women helped tremendously while they were able, it is time for them to return to school. Consequently, already short-staffed maintenance teams are going to see another (significant) reduction in available labor.

With several months of good golf weather coming, superintendents are still tasked with maintaining the best possible conditions, regardless of external factors like the labor market. Challenging, no doubt, but possible with some changes to how the course is maintained. Some of these changes could require facility buy-in and others can be done without much fanfare:

1. Triplex putting greens and tees if they are currently walk mowed. Many courses could triplex greens and maintain comparable quality with one or two people instead of the four or more people required to walk mow them. The same holds true for tees.

2. Use a mechanical rake for the bunkers if they are currently hand raked. Like triplexing greens and tees, using a mechanical rake for bunkers requires one or two people compared to many more to hand rake them. If you already mechanically rake, do so less often or be more selective if staff time is limited. Send one person out to rake green-side bunkers, or only those that were played from, and leave the rest. This will speed up the process with hardly any impact on playability and get that person onto another job quicker.

3. Prioritize rough mowing. Instead of trying to mow all the rough at once, perhaps make a few laps around fairways, where most balls land, and save the outer rough for weekly mowing only. This maintains good playability in the primary corridor and speeds up the mowing process. I have also seen courses stop mowing intermediate rough and walk paths with a plan to reestablish them next year.

4. Change holes less often. Many courses change holes daily to spread traffic and give players a different experience. With fewer employees, changing holes every other day or skipping certain days with minimal play will save time and the impact on wear and the golf experience should be minimal.

5. Mow fairways in the most efficient pattern possible. Striping fairways is a look some courses like, but it requires extra time. Conversely, mowing in a light-dark pattern, or with the fairway contours, can save time while maintaining good playability.



Using a triplex to mow greens can save a significant amount of staff time with no discernable impact on playability.

These are just a few examples from a nearly endless list of ideas to improve efficiency while continuing to maintain the course at an acceptable standard. Yes, there could be visual changes to mowing patterns, rough mowing and detail work but none of them affect playability on the primary surfaces. When staffing is limited, it is important for courses to put ego aside and allow superintendents to manage resources in the way they feel is best for the facility.

Northeast Region Agronomists:

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Darin Bevard, director, Championship Agronomy – dbevard@usga.org

Elliott Dowling, agronomist – edowling@usga.org

John Daniels, agronomist – jdaniels@usga.org

<https://www.usga.org/content/usga/home-page/course-care/green-section-record/59/16/making-big-things-happen-with-small-numbers.html#returnable>



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- You know how to respond to the question 'Djeetyet?' (Did you eat yet?)
- You learned to pronounce Bryn Mawr, Wilkes-Barre, Schuylkill, the Poconos, Tamaqua, Kutztown, Tunkhannock, Duquesne, Susquehanna, Monongahela, also Conshohocken.
- And we know Lancaster is pronounced Lank-ister, not Lan-kaster.
- You know what 'Punxsutawney Phil' is, and what it means if he sees his shadow.
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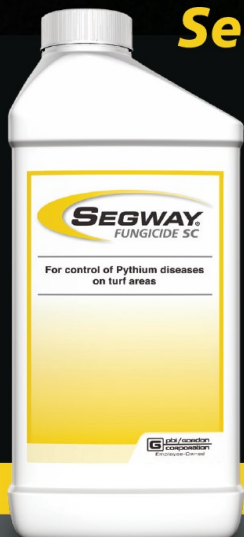


- Words like 'hoagie,' 'crick,' 'chipped ham,' 'dippy eggs', 'sticky buns,' 'red beet eggs', 'shoo-fly pie,' 'lemon sponge pie', 'pierogies' actually mean something to you.
- You can eat cold pizza (even for breakfast!) and know others who do the same. (Those from NY find this 'barbaric'.)
- You not only have heard of Birch Beer, but you know it comes in several colors.
- You live for summer, when street and county fairs signal the beginning of funnel cake season.
- You know that Blue Ball, Intercourse, Paradise, Bird-in-Hand, Beaver, Moon, Virginville, Mars, Bethlehem, Hershey, Indiana, Sinking Spring, Jersey Shore, State College, Willow Street, Washington Crossing, Jim Thorpe, King of Prussia, Wind Gap, and Slippery Rock are all PA towns ... and the first three were consecutive stops on the old Reading RR! (PS - That's pronounced Redd-ing.)
- You know what a township, borough, and commonwealth are.
- You can identify drivers from New York, New Jersey, Maryland or other neighboring states by their unique and irritating driving habits and their front license plates!
- You know several people who have hit deer more than once.
- You carry jumper cables in your car and your female passengers know how to use them.
- Driving is always better in winter because the potholes are filled with snow.
- As a kid you built snow forts and leaf piles that were taller than you were..
- You also know someone who lives 'down the lane'.

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GCSAA EMERGING LEADER AWARD

The Emerging Leader Award recognizes an individual who serves the industry as a superintendent with less than five years' experience, student, associate member, or assistant, who displays continuous growth in service and leadership.

An individual may be nominated by a chapter of GCSAA or any member of GCSAA, including self-nominations. Evidence of substantiation must accompany the nomination. Nominees for the Emerging Leader Award must currently serve the industry as a member of GCSAA within the following membership categories: superintendent with less than five years' experience, student, associate, or assistant. A Nominee must be a member in good standing, engaged in their local chapter and/or at the national level, or at the community level, as an advocate for the profession.

The Emerging Leader Award will be selected by the GCSAA Assistant Superintendent Task Group.

Submit a nomination » **Nominations are open through Nov. 2, 2021.**

For questions, contact Mollie Qualseth, executive assistant to the CEO, by email at mqualseth@gcsaa.org, by phone at 785-832-4410, or by mail to GCSAA, 1421 Research Park Dr., Lawrence, KS 66049-3859.

In recognition of the award the individual will receive the following:

- Complimentary registration to the GCSAA Conference and Trade Show and select air/hotel travel expenses.
- Complimentary registration to the Chapter Delegates Meeting and select air/hotel travel expenses.
- Recognition in GCSAA publications and websites
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- National, regional and local publicity
- Personalized plaque
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**Dollar spot, brown patch, anthracnose, gray leaf spot and snow mold were the five most common diseases according to a national survey among golf course superintendents.

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USGA NORTHEAST REGIONAL UPDATE Too Much of a Good Thing

September 17, 2021

John Daniels, agronomist, Northeast Region

The summer of 2020 marked a golf resurgence. Long-forgotten golfers dusted off their clubs and droves of beginners decided to pick up the game. Memberships at private clubs swelled to the point where many have reinstated initiation fees and some even have a long waitlist to get in. Not surprisingly, this renewed interest in golf is translating to not only more players but significantly more rounds. This shot in the arm for the industry has been a blessing for many courses that have struggled in recent years.



A significant increase in play might require a significant increase in teeing space, especially for heavily used areas like the practice tee.

Increased rounds was not just an isolated event of 2020, the trend has spilled over into 2021. Many golf courses are on pace to match, and in some cases exceed, the enormous amount of play from last year. But when is too much of a good thing a bad thing?

Increases in play are great, but it can also expose weaknesses in your golf course and maintenance operation. Some golf courses are struggling to accommodate the increase in rounds and are seeing negative impacts on course conditions as a result. Tees that are unable to recover from all the divots is a common sight. As are thin and weak turf areas from the added golf cart traffic.

The increase in play has also negatively impacted maintenance operations. Superintendents are struggling to perform necessary agronomic practices like applying sand topdressing because there are no breaks from play. Just keeping up with basic practices like mowing can be difficult.

With so much demand, now is the time to reassess and make changes. Does your course need to expand the amount of tee surface? Do you have enough employees to prepare the course each morning prior to play? Could the maintenance team benefit from more-efficient equipment, such as triplex mowers that can prepare the greens more rapidly? Does the course maintenance team have any time with unfettered access to the golf course so that they can do what they need to without interruptions?

The time issue might be the most important of all, if the course is too busy there are important tasks that simply cannot get done – especially with maintenance teams short-staffed as it is. Full or partial maintenance days are invaluable for the maintenance team. No play until noon on Mondays or Tuesdays is a good approach that many courses use, but with excessive play there might be a need to have an additional one- or two-hour gap later in the week as well. Finally, many private clubs have begun, or are strongly considering, scaling back the number of outside events they host in order to prevent course conditions from becoming worn out for their primary customers – the membership.

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The Woodlands Inn and Resort
- **February 5-10, 2022**
GCSAA Conference and Trade Show
San Diego, CA
- **February 8, 2022**
Lawn Care Association of PA Winter Lawn Care Conference
Allentown, PA
- **February 22-23, 2022**
Western PA Golf, Lawn, Landscape and Sports Turf Conference
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David Rafferty Dedication, Service & Leadership Award

The award honors the memory of Dave Rafferty. Dave was a Past President of our association as well as the Northwest PA GCSA and the Allied GCS of Pennsylvania. He was a forerunner in educating our elected and regulatory officials to the benefits of golf turf to the environment.

Dave was a mentor to literally dozens of superintendents, assistant superintendents and other members. He worked tirelessly to assist anyone who sought his council. We realize no one will fill Dave's shoes but we are dedicating this award in his memory. We recognize members who have selflessly given themselves to benefit our association and its membership.



This award is designed to honor current and former superintendents attaining a minimum of 14 years association membership. This is the number of years Dave was a CPGCSA member. All classes of membership shall be eligible to receive the award although superintendent or retired superintendent nominees will receive favored consideration. The award is dedicated to a superintendent who worked hard for our association.

Note: We will now begin to accept nominations for the 2021 DSL to be awarded next year.

Storm-carried Armyworms Devastating Pennsylvania Lawns, Fields as part of 'Once in a Generation Outbreak'

Published: Sep. 10, 2021, 5:00 a.m.

www.pennlive.com

[Marcus Schneck | mschneck@pennlive.com](mailto:mschneck@pennlive.com)

Homeowners, farmers and golf course managers in spotty locations across Pennsylvania have seen their lawns, grain fields and golf course roughs devastated in the past few weeks by hordes of plant-munching fall armyworms in what one Penn State researcher described as a "once in a generation" event.



Taking a reporter's call while working at some of his research field sites where he has seen the impact of the insects, Benjamin McGraw, associate professor of turfgrass science at Penn State, said, "This is a once-in-a-generation type outbreak."



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KATRIN WOLFE

Mid-Atlantic regional representative

Before joining the GCSAA staff, Katrin was associate athletic director for East Stroudsburg (Pa.) University and a collegiate golfer on the Penn State women's team. She resides in East Stroudsburg, Pa.

Tel. 800-472-7878, ext. 3609.

Field staff report LENDING A HELPING HAND

by Katrin Wolfe | Sep 14, 2021

The end of August and September have been difficult for the Mid-Atlantic. In a 14 day span, the Mid-Atlantic area experienced the path of two hurricanes: Henri and Ida. If that was not enough, there was more rain from summer storms to add on to all the rain totals. Henri brought a punch but Ida brought a knockout. Maryland and the metro D.C. area experienced tornados and flash flooding. The rain moved north and brought more flashing flooding to Pennsylvania to New England. Philadelphia experienced terrible tornados and flooding. Major highways closed down. News from New Jersey, NYC, and New England echoed the same. The rain did not spare the local courses. Many had to close for several days to focus up on clean up. Others worked diligently to open the courses as soon as possible to their players. Their efforts were incredible and appreci-

ated. Ida came in right before one of the biggest holiday golf events of Labor Day. In addition, Mid-Atlantic is in the yearly fall ritual of aerification. It seems appropriate that the unofficial end of summer was marked with more storms and rain.

The Forme Tour of the PGA has been in the line of fire of all the hurricane and storms. The Forme Tour was created by the PGA for the 2021 season in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and Canadian travel restrictions. The tour will provide golfers the opportunity to gain membership for the Korn Ferry Tour. The end of the season of the Forme Tour was slated for the Mid-Atlantic region. First, the Rolling Green Championship battled storms during their opening round and Ida pushing through the area. The weather event brought severe storms through the area. However, after several delays the tournament was able to get in all rounds in. The Rolling Greens ground crew were vital to the success and the ability to get all the rounds completed. Brian Chapin and his staff helped get that course in tournament shape every day with massive obstacles. Tournaments are always a little more difficult but adding Mother Nature to the mix makes it more interesting.

The following week the Forme Tour was slated to end at The Ridge at Back Brooke in Ringoes, N.J. While Rolling Green was being delayed by Ida, she had other ideas for the final event. On Wednesday, September 1, The Ridge at Back Brooke received almost 9 inches of rain from Ida and left the course unplayable. Thursday left the Forme Tour planning what to do next. That's when a friend stepped in to help. That friend came in the form of Huntsville Golf Club. On Thursday, September 2, Huntsville Golf Club said yes to hosting the final round event slated to start Wednesday, September 8. The golf club said yes to hosting a professional event in less than a week! Courses typically have months to prepare.

The tournament needed to be a completed in a set time frame due to Korn Ferry Tour qualifying requirements. Huntsville Golf Club stepped in and was able to meet the needs of the Forme Tour finishing requirements. Lets talk about how incredible this feat of hosting a tournament in one week is. First, the quick turn around shows the ability and strength of Huntsville. To be tournament ready that quickly means that the course in great shape all the time. Second, it takes a village to say yes. Huntsville has that village. General Manager Jeff Fry (GCSAA member), superintendent Mark McCormick (GCSAA member), PGA Professional Matt Occhiato and owner Dick Maslow put a strong team together and started troubleshooting. A great friend says yes and then starts to put the pieces together. That is exactly why Huntsville did, figuring out all the hurdles needed to host after agreeing



to host. I am writing this because the superintendent and his crew need to be highlighted! Many stories have come from last week and not many even talk about the work on the course. Without the course, there is no tournament. In addition, the course received major storms overnight in the middle of the event. Add to that working with a crew that was down some members due to COVID-19. Mark was able to commit and provide a fantastic course for the event. Local sport teams came out to help Mark and his crew. A local golf team and baseball team came out to help fill divots. Extremely early morning and even later nights were required to get the course ready. In addition, Mark had his course in such great shape on a daily basis that he was able to say yes to hosting event. I do not think this would have occurred either without the support of General Manager Jeff Fry, a former superintendent and a GCSAA member. Having two knowledgeable individuals on staff like Jeff and Mark is such an asset. I also want to acknowledge owner Dick Maslow who created a course and had the vision. That's quite a strong village. It's great to have a course like Huntsville in my own backyard. So proud of Huntsville and two great members of the GCSAA.

The event ended on a Friday due to events already scheduled at Huntsville. However, the players could not have been more thank-

ful for the opportunity. The club stepped up and allowed the Forme Tour to finish the year already made difficult by the global pandemic. Brad Miller raised the trophy on Friday afternoon. The win marks Miller's first at any PGA affiliate.

I think the real trophy belongs to Huntsville Golf Club. When people step up and help without hesitation, you've found yourself a winner!



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