

Keep Minnesota Lakes Healthy - Simple Steps for Protecting Water Quality

For many families, Memorial Day weekend means going to the lake and getting the cabin and yard ready for summertime fun. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) reminds Minnesotans that the quality of life at the lake depends, in part, on the quality of water in the lake. With more and more people enjoying Minnesota lakes, some are suffering from pollution, mainly nutrients from yard runoff. Here are some things families can do this Memorial Day weekend and throughout the summer to help reduce and prevent pollution.

- Don't mow by the shore. Letting a strip of vegetation grow along the shore helps keep fertilizer and soil out of the lake. Vegetated buffer strips also discourage ducks and geese from visiting the yard. The Department of Natural Resources Web site (www.dnr.state.mn.us) has information on how to "Restore Your Shore" to an attractive but more natural state that will protect water quality. Also, leaving shallow water aquatic plants in place provides great habitat for fish and, hence, entertainment for grandkids on the dock.
- Avoid fertilizing the lawn. Nutrient runoff is a primary source of water pollution.
- When collecting leaves and grass clippings, rake or blow them away from the lake and/or bag and dispose of them away from the lake. Grass and leaves can carry nutrients into the water and take oxygen out of the water as they decompose.
- When enjoying an outdoor fire at the lake or when camping, remember that burning any garbage (plastic and styrofoam, etc.) is illegal statewide because it is extremely unhealthy, especially for children. For more information on obtaining the appropriate permit to safely burn approved vegetation, contact the local fire marshal or Department of Natural Resources office. Permits are also available at many convenience stores.
- Don't drain old gas from a mower or outboard onto the ground; use it up by mixing with fresh fuel or add it to the fuel in your car or truck.
- Take care of the septic tank. It needs to be pumped occasionally or waste solids could reach a drainfield and clog it, requiring a very expensive fix or replacement. How often it needs to be pumped depends on how much it's used. Seasonal properties may get by for years without pumping. Others may need to be pumped regularly if a lot of water is used. Ask the county or University of Minnesota Extension Service.
- Does your lake have an association? Consider joining it or starting one. Water quality is one of the primary concerns for such groups.
- Become a volunteer water monitor. The MPCA has volunteer monitoring programs to help track water clarity in both lakes and streams, and welcomes new volunteers.

This Memorial Day weekend, many Minnesotans will be performing the time-honored ritual of opening the lake cabin for the summer. It's a good time to remember that our quality of life at the lake depends on the quality of water in the lake. Give extra thought to how you can protect your lake's water quality as you get ready for warm weather fun.

Minnesotans love our lakes. Keeping them clean is everybody's job. For more information on how to protect lakes and improve water quality, check the MPCA's Web site at www.pca.state.mn.us/water/lake.html.

DNR offers 28 parcels of land for sale

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will offer 28 parcels of land for sale at public auction scheduled for June 22 at 11 a.m., with registration beginning at 10:45 a.m.

The parcels will be offered at an oral auction at the DNR Northeast Regional Office, 1201 East Highway 2, Grand Rapids, MN 55744.

A variety of parcels are being offered including residential, recreational, lakeshore, and parcels with development potential in the Twin Cities metro area.

Additional information regarding the land sales and terms and conditions can be found at:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/landsale

Organic Farm School

An Exploration of Organic Farming and the Foods Revolution

Organic Farm School is a ten-week lecture, discussion, and field course on organic food production and agriculture from environmental, social, and historical perspectives, connecting environmental justice with agriculture and food justice. Participants will also have the opportunity to develop practical skills in organic horticulture through hands-on workshops at the WEI alternative farm campus and farm field trips

June 7: "Hmong Family Farming and Sustainable Agriculture in Minnesota" Mhonpaj Lee— (Mhonpaj's Garden— Organic Hmong-owned CSA)

June 14: "Effects of Common Pesticides at Environmental Concentrations" Warren Porter— (Zoology Professor)- University of Wisconsin-Madison

June 21: "What IS Organic?" Meg Moynihan - (Organic & Diversification Specialist) - MN Department of Agriculture

June 28: "Can Organic Food Feed the World?" Bud Markhart — (Organic Horticulture Professor and Researcher) - University of MN-Twin Cities

July 12: "It All Comes Down to Humus" Pat Farrell (Geography Professor)- University of MN Duluth

July 19: "Urban Farming Basics" Courtney Tschida (Student Program Coordinator) Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture

July 23: (NOTE: this is a Friday Lecture at U of M Coffman Theatre): "The Good Food Revolution" Will Allen -(Urban Farmer and CEO) - Growing Power Inc., Milwaukee

Aug 2: "Biodiversity in Organic Farming" Atina Diffley- (Farmer and Educator)- Organic Farming Works

Aug 9: TBD

Aug 16: "The Future of Alternative Farming and Food Justice in Minnesota --Mark Ritchie (Minnesota Secretary of State)

Registration includes three Saturday Field Days-Hands-On Workshops and Tours! Classes start Monday, June 7th at 6pm at the Midtown Global Market located at 920 E Lake St ,Minneapolis Full class registration is \$120, drop-in class- \$20, drop-in field day- \$10. Parking Validation for students enrolled in 10 week session. For more info or to register, call WEI at 651.583.0705 or visit www.w-e-i.org

Magic Show to Benefit Environmental Awareness in the Upper MN River Valley

Brookings, South Dakota born, nationally touring illusionist Reza will give a single performance of his critically acclaimed magic show on Monday, June 7 starting at 7 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center in Montevideo. A portion of the proceeds from the event will go to benefit Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) and the student group the Montevideo Planeteers. Tickets are on sale at the CURE office. For more information, call 320-269-2984.

Growing up in Brookings, South Dakota, Reza saw a David Copperfield show and set his sights on becoming like the internationally respected magician who is known for his high profile acts such as making the Statue of Liberty vanish and walking through the Great Wall of China.

Now Reza tours the country and has been acclaimed as "one of the world's top illusionists." Reza's magic has taken him to theatres from Denver to New York and Orlando to LA., but he has remained true to his Midwestern roots by maintaining his home in Brookings. Reza has been featured on television and radio shows broadcast in 31 Countries around the World. Now working with a top television producer, Reza is currently in the development of a new primetime reality show based on the performer's day-to-day life, both on and off stage.

Reza's show involves more than 15,000 lbs of lighting and sound equipment that will be carried in and out of the Fine Arts Center by CURE and Planeteers volunteers. If anyone would like to help with this set up

and tear down work, please call the CURE office at 320-269-2984. Anyone who helps with the set up and tear down will be invited to meet personally with Reza before the show.

\$2 of every ticket sold before the concert will go to support CURE's and the Planeteers Mission of environmental awareness. Founded in 1992, CURE is a grass roots, citizen science based organization that works to restore, celebrate and protect the Upper Minnesota River Watershed.

'Some say it will be magical if we ever get this Minnesota River cleaned up to the point where it is fishable and swimmable once again,' stated CURE Executive Director Patrick Moore. "We're making progress on that dream but we're hoping that Reza will give us some pointers on some new ways to make pollution in the river disappear!"

HOUSEHOLD THINK CLEAN, THINK GREEN MPCA PROVIDES TIPS FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL AND LAWN CARE

As spring turns into summer, many people are motivated to spruce up their lawn, home and clean out the clutter. Americans generate 1.6 million tons of waste each year from common household products. These products can include paint, grease and rust removers, mold and mildew removers, oven cleaners and many more. Leftovers of these products, often referred to as household hazardous waste (HHW), may contain corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive ingredients.

Improper disposal of household hazardous waste can include pouring them down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or in some cases putting them in the trash. Improper disposal of these materials can pollute the environment.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) provides the following tips:

- Before you buy, always check the product labels -- Look for labeling that reads "DANGER," "WARNING," "CAUTION," "TOXIC" or "POISON." These warnings tell you if the product is harmful and how to use, store, and dispose of it safely.
- Dispose of household products safely -- Never pour corrosive, toxic, flammable, or reactive household products down the sink, toilet or bathtub drain unless the products are made for that purpose.
- Try alternative products when available -- Reach into the cupboard for common household materials such as baking soda and vinegar that can often do the job of a heavy-duty cleaner.
- Keep leaves and other debris out of the street -- Leaves and grass can go in a backyard composter or compostable bag for transport to a local waste composting site. Just make sure to only bring the leaves and twigs, not the sand and grit. The sand and dirt mixed with the leaves belongs on your lawn, where it is good for the soil and vegetation.
- Consider using phosphorus-free fertilizers if you fertilize your lawn -- Maintain a healthy lawn without contributing excess phosphorus to stormwater runoff. This helps to keep our lakes and wetlands free of excessive algae growth.
- Be sure not to sweep debris into the street -- Oil-soaked dirt and grime can get washed into storm sewers and eventually end up in nearby streams, rivers or lakes. This material should go in the trash.

Many communities in Minnesota offer a variety of options for safely managing your HHW. Check with your local solid waste authority and or county for collections in your area. You can also check out the MPCA Web site for locations of household hazardous waste collections at www.pca.state.mn.us/hhw.

Conservation Drainage Flyer

The terms conservation and drainage may seem to be at opposite ends of management approaches when dealing with runoff coming from our lands. But recently these two important and needed components of land management have come together to form a new innovative technology and approach. This approach has the potential to benefit crops and water quality and may significantly improve our Minnesota River Watershed.

The public is invited to attend the events in their area and learn more about this exciting way of water management. Experts who have been working on the development of this concept along with those who have been involved with it for several years will be on hand to provide an overview and answer questions

from the public. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with free refreshments. For more information:
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/drainageflyer.pdf>

- June 16th (Wednesday) from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Le Sueur County Environmental Services Building in LeCenter
- June 22nd (Tuesday) from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Arlington Community Center in Arlington
- June 23rd (Wednesday) from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Redwood Falls Community Center in Redwood Falls

Events:

June 1st (Tuesday) are **Walking Tours** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at FarmAmerica in Waseca. Experiences the changes over time from the prairie and 1850s farm site to the 1930s farm site and beyond. Enjoy the animals and exhibits on display at the sites. For more information go to <http://www.greatermankatoevents.com/event-details.php?id=9173>

June 6th (Sunday) is the **15th annual celebration of the Earth Sabbath**. The day begins at 1:00 and features Sabbath Sites: Blacksmithing, Weaving, Miniature Horses, Walking the Evolving Universe Story, tours, DVD "Story of Stuff", Live Music, Silent Auction and much more..... At 6:00 join us for the Sabbath Ceremony followed by an Earthrise grown and roasted turkey, baked benas, tabouli, garden greens and rhubarb crisp. Following this meal we will feast on the beautiful concert music of Sara Thomsen. We'd love to have you come. If you need to stay overnight we will soon be listing accommodation places on our website <http://earthrisefarmfoundation.org/>. More information is also included on our website. Please bring a loaf of your favorite bread to share and call or e-mail us if you think you can stay and eat supper with us. Admission for the events of this day is \$15.00 per adult or \$25.00 for the entire family.

June 8th (Tuesday) is a **Trail Planning Regional Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Bryant Lake Park (6800 Rowland Road) in Eden Prairie.

June 9th (Wednesday) is a **Trail Planning Regional Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Southwest Minnesota State University (1501 State Street, Room 117, Conference Center) in Marshall.

June 9th, 10th & 11th (Wednesday, Thursday & Friday) is a **High School River Expedition** at the Lac qui Parle River. Camp out at the LqP County Park, the State Park and at Lagoon Park. Call 320-269-2984 to sign up or to volunteer to help.

June 12th (Saturday) is the launch of the **Minnesota River Paddler Patch Program** at 9:00 a.m. below the Rapidan Dam (on the Blue Earth River west of Rapidan in Blue Earth County). Canoe rides, information booths, and music. Post-paddle ceremony and music starts at 2:00 p.m. *See attachment for more information*

June 15th (Tuesday) is an event talking about how to **Improve Water Quality with Native Plants** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Mt.Olivet Lutheran Church. Learn how to plan, purchase and plant native gardens, rain gardens, and shorelines. For more information visit <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/node/741>

June 16th (Monday) is **Women's Conservation Day 2010** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Prairie Event Center in Marshall. A day provided for women landowners and operators to further their knowledge of conservation programs. For more information visit <http://www.redwoodswcd.org/Women's%20Day.htm>

June 17th (Thursday) is a **Trail Planning Regional Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at South Central College (1920 Lee Boulevard E119 and E121) in North Mankato.

June 22nd (Tuesday) is a **Cottonwood River Paddle** from County Road 11 to Flandrau State Park in New Ulm sponsored by Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). Please register by June 16th by calling RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext. 2.

June 24th (Thursday) is a **Redwood River Paddle** from County Road 6 to Lake Redwood sponsored by Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA). Please register by June 16th by calling RCRCA at 507-637-2142, ext. 2.

July 19th (Monday) is a **Minneosta River Board Meeting** in New Ulm, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

July 20th (Tuesday) is a **Minneosta River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Hutchinson Event Center in Hutchinson. For more information visit www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com

September 3rd & 4th (Friday & Saturday) is **Riverblast 2010** in New Ulm, MN (Center and Front Streets). For more information visit www.riverblast.org

September 20th (Monday) is a **Minneosta River Board Meeting** in Montevideo, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

November 15th (Monday) is a **Minneosta River Board Meeting** in Gaylord, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Job Postings:

LSP Job Announcement

Land Stewardship Project has a job opening for an organizer to work in Washington County, MN, with the St. Croix River Valley /Buy Fresh Buy Local/ Chapter and the Washington County Public Health Department to increase community access to nutritious foods (fresh fruits and vegetables) under a grant from the Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP). The full time position with benefits is secured for one year. Salary depends upon experience and qualifications. Applications are due June 10 and start date is July 1. Contact Dana Jackson at 612-722-6377 or danaj@landstewardshipproject.org. Mail to: danaj@landstewardshipproject.org for a full job description and application details.

Director of Development and Systems

MOSES is currently accepting resumes for a newly created position, Director of Development and Systems. Reporting to the Executive Director, the MOSES Director of Development and Systems will help guide the organization in both donor development as well as create organizational systems and processes which support the continued growth of MOSES. This position will spearhead fundraising development efforts to raise awareness at a regional and national level about MOSES' mission and services. This position will also assess, design and implement organizational systems to optimize our people, strategy, structure, processes and culture.

A complete job announcement is attached, or you can view this job opportunity on our website: www.mosesorganic.org

ITS Vacancy

ITS has just posted a vacancy in Marshall, MN (Lyon County). The announcement number is "10-ITS-054" and it closes on June 11th.

This is a "status" announcement. So if someone is searching for this position in USAJOBS (www.usajobs.gov), they need to either do an advanced search, put the announcement number in the Keyword Search box and click the "yes" at the bottom in the Applicant Eligibility section. Or if they just search from the main page, it will not find it, but give them option to switch to "all Jobs" that will then show this announcement.

Agricultural Advisory, Agricultural Chemicals

\$40,361 - \$59,195 annually

Location: Saint Paul

Closing Date: 05/28/2010 (may be extended)

Posting Number: 10AGR000071

Job Description: To assist with the coordination and implementation of MDA's Pesticide Management Plan and related functions. This position will also be responsible for assisting with the coordination of appropriate staff within and outside the agency on the pesticide review process for products which require in-depth evaluation in conjunction with a state registration decision. Additionally, this position will develop materials and implement outreach programs designed to educate homeowners, lawn care industry professionals, and other non-agricultural users of fertilizers and pesticides about responsible lawn care, landscape management and structural protection.

More details on the job are available at <https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting>. Search under "Agriculture Dept." Applying for the position is straightforward and is done through the same site.

More information on the MDA Pesticide Management Program can be found at www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticides.

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

[Conservation program supports high tunnels](#) (AgriNews). Nearly 100 Minnesota producers will receive financial support to put up seasonal high tunnels on their farms this year as part of an environment conservation program.

[Minnewaska People's Garden dedicated](#) (AgriNews). It's not unusual for Pope County SWCD office manager Luan Johnsrud to help with tree plantings.

[Need, desire to live locally will only grow](#) (Mankato Free Press). Truly, what would be the harm in passing a temporary ordinance allowing hens in Mankato (as is currently being done in Grand Rapids and what Rochester did 18 years ago) and evaluating the situation at the end of one year? The ordinance has already been prepared by the city so little additional staff time would be needed.

[How local is local? Lake Elmo farm law the target of federal suit](#) (Pioneer Press). How "local" does locally grown produce have to be? That is the question at the heart of a federal lawsuit expected to be filed today — pitting Lake Elmo against a national advocacy group and its own local farmers.

[Klobuchar calls for criminal investigation into BP oil spill](#) (MinnPost). Sen. Amy Klobuchar Monday called for the Justice Department to "open an inquiry into whether British Petroleum (BP) made false and misleading statements to the federal government regarding its ability to respond to oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico."

[Exploiting North Dakota's 'massive oil field' simply a matter of time, technology and capital](#) (MinnPost). Michael Reger has North Dakota oil in his blood. As the fourth generation in his family to work in the oil fields in western North Dakota, Reger boasts that his family has "leased more land, drilled more wells,

shopped more seismic [data] and managed more production than everyone else combined from the 1930s to today.”

[Alternative fuel vehicles find more use among fleets](#) (MPR). Firing up a large, hybrid delivery truck, Ken Norton, distribution manager for Coca-Cola in the Twin Cities, said what isn't heard in the familiar growl of the diesel engine is the electricity coursing through the propulsion system at the same time.

[Hennepin and Xcel battling over rights to energy credits](#) (Star Tribune). Hennepin County is engaged in a tug-of-war with Xcel Energy Inc. over who gets to keep renewable energy credits generated by the county's garbage burner.

[St. Paul / County drafts plan to fight emerald ash borer](#) (Pioneer Press). Ramsey County officials have a plan to address the growing threat of the emerald ash borer beetle, which was discovered in St. Paul a year ago.

[St. Paul crafting a vision for parks and rec](#) (Pioneer Press). St. Paul is a city of neighborhoods. And for decades, most St. Paul neighborhoods had a nearby park with a small recreation center where neighbors could gather.

[Researchers find pollutant from hand soap in Lake Pepin](#) (MPR). University of Minnesota researchers have found dioxins derived from a common additive to hand soap, in Mississippi River sediments.

[Last year's solar installations break state record](#) (MPR). More solar energy systems were installed in Minnesota in 2009 than in any other year, state energy officials said Wednesday.

[St. Paul offers no-interest loans for energy-saving home improvements](#) (MPR). The city of St Paul is offering no-interest loans of up to \$6,500 for homeowners to make energy-saving improvements to their properties.

[An eagle expedition](#) (MPR). Every year, ecologists with climbing gear scramble to the tops of trees in Minnesota and Wisconsin to gather baby eagles from their nests. They're testing the eaglets for a variety of chemicals, including DDT, the one that nearly wiped out the eagle population decades ago.

[Think of the birds, don't get rid of dead trees](#) (Star Tribune). Think of the birds, don't get rid of dead trees. In the wild, numerous species nest in cavities of standing dead trees, which are sometimes called snags. Many people are not aware of the value of dead, dying and hollow trees, as well as logs on the ground, for birds and other wildlife. The loss of suitable nesting sites is a major factor in the decline of some bird species.

[\\$26 million in environmental projects to start in July](#) (MPR). Research covering sustainable biofuels, bee colony collapse disorder and a new microbe discovered in the Soudan mine are among the projects receiving money from this year's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

[Ill. river being poisoned today in search for Asian carp](#) (MPR). Officials in Illinois are poisoning part of a river that connects to Lake Michigan in search for Asian carp, an invasive fish that could threaten the Great Lakes ecosystem.

[Minn. senator regrets fishing change that irked DNR](#) (MPR). Republicans in the Minnesota Senate say they want an ethics panel to look into potential conflict of interest questions raised by a DFL lawmaker's push for new fishing rules on the lake where he owns a cabin.

[Scientists begin to assess how Gulf 'dead zone' and oil spill might interact](#) (MinnPost). A few days after BP's ruptured oil pipes began contaminating the Gulf of Mexico, [Minnpost reported](#) that the disaster threatened double environmental trouble.

[There's room for both buses and rail](#) (Star Tribune). Mike Meyers' recent commentary ("Light rail: Popular

-- and a boondoggle," May 16) attempts to rekindle a decades-old fight about bus vs. rail. This is an unproductive distraction. The real question before us is how our transportation investments can create thriving, healthy communities in our region and state. Leaders in other regions, including our economic competitors, know that both bus and rail have key roles to play.

[St. Paul offers energy efficiency funding for homes and nonprofits](#) (MinnPost). Funds for energy improvements are now available in St. Paul for homeowners, apartment owners and nonprofit organizations and neighborhood and business associations.

[Northern Minn. cities burn wood for power](#) (MPR). There's a lot of interest in creating fuels that produce less carbon dioxide, such as ethanol. But in northern Minnesota, people are starting to use another one -- wood waste from logging.

[Arctic could be scene of the next \(and a worse\) disaster](#) (Star Tribune). As the May 16 article pointed out ("Gulf isn't the only place suffering oil's filthy aftermath"), there is a huge cost to oil that most of us do not see or think about.

[Governor pondering fish and game changes](#) (Star Tribune). Open-water anglers could use two fishing lines. A walk-in hunting program would be launched. Minnesota's duck season could start in September instead of October.

[Is anyone protecting Minnesota's waters?](#) (MinnPost). There is a sardonic saying that "Dilution is the solution to pollution."

[For 25 years, the gentle conscience of St. Paul's parks](#) (Pioneer Press). In the midst of raising four kids, Peggy Lynch discovered her talent for bureaucracy.

[Peat from northern Minnesota could soak up Gulf oil spill](#) (MinnPost). Could Minnesota peat be used to soak up the oil in the Gulf spill?

[So much fun, so much food, so little trash after big event](#) (Star Tribune). Doug Mensing was unprepared for what happened to him at a popular festival Sunday in Minneapolis. He got busted. For plastic foam cups.

[Bear cub whose birth was watched online missing near Ely](#) (Star Tribune). A black bear cub whose birth and early life in a den near Ely, Minn., were viewed by millions of people on the Web has gone missing.

[Riverfront Park adds quality to life](#) (Mankato Free Press). A summer full of entertainment at Riverfront Park will let residents fully enjoy Mankato's newest gem.

[Watch oil spill video to kick off a much-needed conversation](#) (Star Tribune). Thanks to technology, we have an opportunity never before available to people: We can watch live video footage of the BP oil leak.

[Hiking/biking trail scenic and challenging](#) (Mankato Free Press). A new hiking/biking trail is likely coming this fall to North Mankato and Nicollet County, but it won't be for the faint — or weak — of heart.

When the well is dry, we know the worth of water. - Benjamin Franklin

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance:

<http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

Thanks,

Scott

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