

TENNESSEE TRAILS

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VOLUME XVIII, No. 5 MAY 1987

MIDDLE TENNESSEE WATERFALLS HIKE May 30-31

Bring your swimsuit, sneakers, camera, and gear for car camping, and enjoy some of the prettiest waterfalls in Tennessee on this traditional Memorial Day weekend. This year's annual TTA waterfall jaunt will take us back to the upper Cumberlands. Here, gentle streams plunge off the Highland Rim, only to regroup in swimming holes or to foam past spring wildflowers on their way to the Roaring River, Spring Creek, or Blackburn Fork.

We will see some of the old favorites, such as Fanchers, Cummins, Hardscrabble, Waterloo, etc. You will be pleased with some "new" ones: the double cascades at Dry Creek Falls, and the elusive, yet spectacular lower falls of Mill Creek. See where "Dave" met his fate at Dave Bluff Falls. And, there are many more -- our only limitation will be time.

The individual hikes will be short (a mile or so), but sometimes quite rugged; rope hand lines may even be required at times (that's a Class V, I believe!). You won't have to rappel; however, there may be that opportunity for the more adventurous. We will car camp as guests at Hidden Springs, a lovely nursery on Spring Creek "surrounded" by waterfalls and wildflowers. No facilities -- just an open field.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Cumberland Museum in Nashville, or at 8:30 a.m. at the Rice Motor Inn Restaurant in Cookeville (Burgess Falls exit off I-40) for breakfast. Times mentioned are Central Daylight. For more information, call David Stidham: 615-859-3621 or 736-5115.

TENNESSEE SCENIC RIVERS ASSN. & HENRY HORTON STATE PARK FAMILY FLOAT DAYS

Two float trips are scheduled on the Duck River at Henry Horton State Park on Saturday, May 2nd and Sunday, May 3rd. Anyone can participate; no canoeing experience required. Canoes and paddling gear provided free to the first 40 people who register. To sign up, call Nora Binkley in Nashville (742-6675), or Ranger Kevin Tipps in Chapel Hill (364-2222). Preregistration is a requirement for all participants.

Other activities are scheduled at the park on Saturday night including a hayride, campfire program with storytelling, and folk singing. No fee will be charged for the float trips or the evening program.

SMOKIES WILDERNESS BILLS - By Ray Payne -

On March 9 and 10, 1987, bills were introduced in the Congress to protect 467,000 acres of the Smokies under the provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act. This protection is essential to

relieve us from the continuous battle to prevent unwarranted and environmentally destructive development that has been a constant threat to this park since the early sixties.

Under the leadership of Senator Jim Sasser, who has supported us on this issue since 1977, the Senate bill was introduced on March 9 with the cosponsorship of Senators Albert Gore, Jr. (TN) and Terry Sanford (NC). Congressman James Clarke (NC), with the cosponsorship of John Duncan, Jim Cooper, Don Sundquist, Marilyn Lloyd, and Bill Boner, all of Tennessee, introduced the House bill on March 10.

Both bills are essentially identical, protecting the Natural Environment - Type I subzone of the park which is defined in the 1982 General Management Plan for the Smokies.

I urge you to take time to write these sponsors to let them know of your support for a Smokies Wilderness and of your appreciation for their effort.

Cumberland Trail News

CUMBERLAND TRAIL BIRDING HIKES
May 23-24

The Cove Lake area has not been birded in the past, but we plan to change this with the first annual Cumberland Trail--Cove Lake Spring Birding Weekend.

Nashville ornithologist Michael Bierly says in <u>Birdfinding In Tennessee</u> that Cove Lake's wooded area is one of the surest places in Campbell County for nesting Pine Warblers, and the north end of the lake is good for shorebirds in a region where shorebird habitat is sparse (shorebird migration peaks in early May). Bierly also says that the top of Cross Mountain is good in spring and summer for higher altitude breeding birds and one should look for

Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-billed Cuckoo, Solitary Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

We will be led on Saturday by topnotch Knoxville birder and past TOS president, Boyd Sharp first to the Cumberland Trail boardwalk in the park's marshy area, and then up the Old Kentucky Road to Eagle Bluff and along the C.T. to Devil's Racetrack and back down to the park.

On Sunday, Chuck Nicholson of Norris, co-author with Paul Hamel of the Tennessee Breeding Bird Atlas Handbook, will lead us in birding Cove Lake and Cross Mountain.

This will be a rare opportunity to bird a neglected but productive part of the northeast Cumberlands in the company of local experts. Late spring wildflowers will be an added treat. Bring binoculars, spotting scopes, and hand lenses, and meet us both mornings at 7:30 a.m. EDT at the Cumberland Trail office in Cove Lake State Park. A 6-person cabin has been reserved at Norris Dam State Park for Friday through Sunday morning. Call Bob Brown at 615-748-4816 (wk.).

TRIP REPORT C.T. Work/Play Weekend March 14-15

After camping Friday night in a deluxe cabin at Norris Dam State Park, Pat Anderson, Ninez Giles, Evelyn Tretter, Regina McDowell, Vic Canada, and Bob Brown reported early next morning to trail crew leader Joe England at Cove Lake. David Gulbenkian had left Nashville at 2:00 a.m. to join us as we set out for Poplar Gap on the south end of C.T. Section 2.

We found the trail in good shape and used the chainsaw only a few times to clear blowdowns. Otherwise, a minimum of lopping and swingblading was required for about two miles north and Joe used a leaf blower on the return

trip south to leave a beautiful, smooth tread for early spring hikers.

David and Vic found a sizeable ridgetop pond in a broad swag between two vertical rock strata and photographed frog egg (?) masses, tadpoles, and leaf patterns in the clear water. We were surprised to find sweet gums on this ridgetop where sour gum is dominant hardwood, but the sweet gums were only standing in the pond and with Catawber Rhodadendron around a spring in another swag.

Back at the cabin that night, we feasted on Evelyn's delicious homemade chili, David's great salad, and Ninez's luscious banana nut bread. After early breakfast Sunday, we met Evan Means for a fun hike as described by him next.

TRIP REPORT Big Ridge Hike, March 15

Ten hikers joined the leader, Evan Means, at the Visitor's Center in Big Ridge State Rustic Park Sunday morning, March 15. The park maintenance crew has been upgrading the trails this year and there were new vandal-resistant signs, heavy wooden structures with routed lettering, at trail intersections.

The park crew hadn't reached the section on top of Big Ridge and we stopped a few yards short of Indian Rock at a large windfall that provided a lunch table. The route of the hike followed a gradual ascent via the Lake and Dark Hollow Trails, so that we had only two difficult sections to climb.

One of these was the climb to the top of Big Ridge from the junction of the Dark Hollow and Big Valley Trails and the other was over the saddle in Pinnacle Ridge between the Dark Hollow and Ghost House Trails. All enjoyed visiting two pioneer cemetaries, one of which had only one engraved tombstone, for a child that died in 1932. The views of Big Ridge Park

Lake and Norris Lake were beautiful.

We were sorry to learn that the severe drought last summer had damaged vegetation in the understory on the forested slopes. There was a more severe winter east of the Cumberland Plateau and spring flowers hadn't appeared. It may be three or four years before the flowers recover.

Those on the hike were Pat Anderson, Evelyn Tretter, Vic Canada, Ninez Giles, and Bob Brown, all of Nashville; Regina McDowell, Murfreesboro; Alice and Floy Wells and daughter, Amber, of Clinton, and Helen Kapral, Oak Ridge. All said they would like to follow that leader on another hike some time.

TRIP REPORT Brady Mountain Day Hike March 28

With almost perfect weather -- clear, balmy but breezy -- seven hikers (Ruth Ann Henry from McMinnville, Grimes Slaughter and Ruth Slusher from Oak Ridge, and Charlie Hann, Lita Rodriguez, David Vogt, and I from Nashville) left Hinch Gap at 10:00 a.m.

Within the first mile someone spotted the botanical find of the day, a sizeable bed of Ozark Trilliums, an endangered species, in full bloom. Two grouse were flushed later and there were frequent signs of rooting, possibly by wild hogs, along the way. Great views of Grassy Cove from "Contact Point" and the lunch-stop overlook rounded out a pleasant outing in good company on the C.T. -- Bob Brown

CARPOOL COORDINATORS

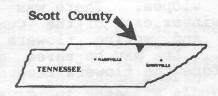
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Chapter News



Cumberland Mountain Chapter

Fourth Annual
BIG SOUTH FORK
SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE
May 1-2

The fourth annual Big South Fork Wildflower Pilgrimage will be an excellent opportunity to experience the wilderness of the nation's newest addition to the National Parks System along with portions of Fentress County and Pickett State Park.

Orientation for the pilgrimage will begin at 7:00 p.m. C.D.T. at the new Bandy Creek Recreation Area activities building. A narrative program will be presented in order to familiarize everyone with the area.

All field trips will originate at the trail heads unless specified differently. There will be no fees for the field trips and no transportation. All times listed are C.D.T.

Flint Fork Motor Tour -- Pickett State Forest; meet at Pickett State Forest Headquarters on Hwy. 154 at 9:00 a.m. Vehicles furnished by Tn Division of Forestry. Lunch and water recommended.

Hidden Passage Trail -- Pickett State Park; 5 mile hike. Meet at Pickett State Park office on Hwy. 154 at 8:00 a.m. This is a Class II hike. Water and snacks are recommended.

Colditz Cove -- Northup Falls Loop Trail; 1.5 mile hike (Class II). Meet

at Colditz Cove State Natural Area parking lot at 3:30 p.m.

John Muir Trail -- Leatherwood Ford to Fall Branch (overlook optional); 4 miles, class II. Meet at 9:00 a.m. and bring lunch and water.

John Muir Trail -- Leatherwood Ford to O & W Bridge; 4.6 miles, Class II. Meet at 1:30 p.m. at Leatherwood Ford Trailhead. Bring water and snacks.

Angel Falls Trail -- 4 miles, Class I; meet at Leatherwood Ford Trailhead at 8:30 a.m. Water and snacks recommended.

Charit Creek and Twin Arches Loop -- 5 miles (Class III); meet at Charit Creek parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Refreshments will be provided after the hike at the Charit Creek Hostel.

<u>Leatherwood</u> <u>Ford</u> <u>Loop</u> <u>Trail</u> -- 3.2 miles (Class II); meet at Leatherwood Ford Trailhead at 2:00 p.m. Water and snacks recommended.



Memphis Chapter

NOTICE

The May 9-10 hike at Montgomery Bell State Park has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict.

FORT PILLOW STATE PARK HIKE May 9

The Fort Pillow Historical Trail is a very hilly, rugged ten-mile hike. The area is very pretty and has an abundance of wildflowers and wildlife as well as good views of the Mississippi River.

The park is located in Lauderdale County, approximately twenty miles west of Henning on Hwy. 87, off Hwy. 51 North. The carpool will leave Kingsway Christian Church at 7:30 a.m. or you can meet us at the park's Interpretive Center at 10:00 a.m. Wear sturdy shoes; bring food and drink, and be sure to pack your rain gear. Any questions? Call Betty Porter at 901-363-0213.

MAY MEETING May 21

Please join us at Kingsway Christian Church for our regular monthly meeting. The program features Larry Smith discussing caving. He will show us slides on the subject as well.

OFFICERS ELECTED

The Memphis Chapter's newly elected officers for 1987 to April 1, 1988 are: Jerri Bull, Chairperson; Betty Porter, Secretary Treasurer; Anne Lindholm, Hospitality; Gene Jacobson, Carpool Coordinator.

WOLF RIVER CANOE TRIP May 24

Join the Memphis Chapter on a Sunday morning canoe float down the Wolf River. We'll canoe the only section of the Wolf that has not been dredged and straightened. This unique habitat is teaming with wildlife: cypress trees, water turtles, snakes, herons, kingfishers, and a myriad of other aquatic inhabitants. We'll be stopping along the way to view them, as well as roam sand bars and eat lunch.

So, bring your binoculars and snacks and meet Jill Norvell at Oglesby's Canoe Rental in Moscow, Tennessee at 9:00 a.m. To get there from Memphis, take Highway 57 (Poplar Avenue) east through Collierville and Rossville. Oglesby s Canoe Rental is just past

the Wolf River Bridge as you go into town, on the north side of the highway.

Canoe rentals are \$10.00/person which includes canoes, paddles, and life vests. We will have a shuttle to the put-in point. If you have your own canoe, meet us at Oglesby's at 9:00 and follow us to the put-in. If you need a canoe, call Jill before May 17 at 901-767-7322 (wk) or 873-2145 (hm). This will be great fun on the Wolf!

TRIP REPORT Natchez Trace State Park March 7

Fifteen winter weary hikers met at the Interpretive Center at Natchez Trace State Park on March 7. The day was as warm and balmy as a day in late spring or early summer, so the hikers agreed to embark on an estimated 14-mile roundtrip hike to a lake and back. As usual at Natchez Trace, the office was closed, so the only maps available were some very unsatisfactory ones in rack outside the office. Fortunately, Jerri Bull learned her lessons well as a long-time Girl Scout leader and she was "prepared" with a much better, though still not entirely satisfactory map of the area. Glad to be out in beautiful weather, the map was of little concern.

The park has moderately hilly terrain and a number of streams to cross, so the hike was interesting even though there was not much yet in bloom. About the only spring color that we saw was a few daffodils blooming near our lunch spot. Some trees were beginning to bud and from time to time some fresh green, such as seen in vines and young grasses, did help remind us of spring's impending arrival.

The red berries of the partridge vine added more color and gave us a reason to stop and admire nature's wonders. An unexpected treat was provided by a

young possum clinging to a tree that was bending over diagonally, affording us an excellent view of this interesting animal. He seemed in no hurry to move on and, in fact, seemed to find us as interesting as we him. The staring continued until both sides tired of ogling each other and moved on.

As it turned out, we didn't hike all the way to our original destination. Everyone seemed to agree that we had hiked far enough on what was becoming quite a warm and thirsty day. The group consisted of all women, including one Nashville person who heard about the hike through the Sierra Club. We were pleased to have this guest and another new hiker along. Fellas, you missed a great hike and good company! -- Gene Jacobson

TRIP REPORT March 14

We had a beautiful day to work on the Chickasaw Bluff Trail win blue skies, temperatures in the neighborhood of 60 degrees, and no mosquitoes. Eight TTA members from the Memphis Chapter worked on different sections of the trail, cleaning small limbs from the path and marking the trees, ourselves, and our equipment with fresh paint.

Ray Burkett's Boy Scout troop placed some steps near the lake with the help of John Parish. Betty Porter, John Springfield, and Julie Barham formed one team and Jerri Bull, Glenda Graff, and Anne Lindholm another. We met at the Woodland Shelter where Ranger Gary McEntire had some delicious lemonade for us thirsty trail workers. We enjoyed helping get the trail ready for Spring in the Forest on April 25th.



TRIP REPORT Shiloh National Military Park April 11

After a very foggy drive from Memphis, we enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day hiking the 12-mile Environmental Trail. Along the way, six hikers observed the trees, land, streams, and wildlife. We saw lots of dogwood in bloom in the woods, but only a few wildflowers were blooming. Several red-headed woodpeckers were seen during the day and many other birds were heard singing or calling from within the forest. Sharing this wonderful day with us were a group of Boy Scouts who use and maintain the eleven trails in the park. We were glad to have Jeanne and David walk with us and hope they will join us on a future hike. -- Betty Porter



Murfreesboro Chapter

The Murfreesboro Chapter of TTA again has an active hiking group. Six of us spent an interesting day at Jamestown, including a visit to the Winery sipping sample vintages. In a happy mood, we hiked in Colditz Cove to see the Northruth Falls and also hiked into a beautiful natural area on private land, very much like the Stonedoor Area of Beersheba. We also had a fine meal at the German restaurant in Jamestown.

On another day, we visited Shake Rag Hollow in the vicinity of the South Cumberland Recreation Area to get an early preview of the spring flora. The tiny baby shoots of forthcoming blooms were a real challenge to identify. Come join us for the Historical Bike Hike in Murfreesboro led by Maryedith McFarlin.

THIRD ANNUAL MURFREESBORO BIKE HISTORICAL TOUR Saturday, May 16

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Cannonburg in Murfreesboro. This will be an easy, leisurely ride and is a combined TTA and TSRA trip.

Families, singles, senior citizens, etc., are invited to ride to the 100-yr. old train station, Rose Cran, Stones River Battlefield, Oakland Mansion, and parts between. Bring sack lunch and water for a picnic in Oakland Park. We'll tour past town square back to Cannonburg. Come and enjoy what we hope will be a beautiful, spring day. For more information, call Maryedith McFarlin, 615-896-1344.

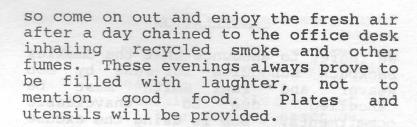
TRIP REPORT Wildflower Hike, Long Hunter State Park

Six persons braved the cold and wind to see the early blooms of the glade flowers at Long Hunter State Park on April 4th. We expected early blooms, but the cold snap had delayed some of the glade flowers and there was not much to be seen. However, we enjoyed the camaraderie and lunch together in the picnic area. In the afternoon, the group went on to the Volunteer Trail to view the woodland flowers which are a little hardier. --Bertha Chrietzberg

Nashville Chapter

MAY CHAPTER MEETING Picnic! Thursday, May 28

Meet us for a pot-luck picnic at the Percy Warner Nature Center on May 28th at 6:30 p.m. This will be our first picnic meeting since last summer



VOLUNTEER TRAIL/DAY LOOP Long Hunter State Park May 9

Meet us for a previously unscheduled hike at Long Hunter's office, 9:00 a.m. unless it is pouring rain. This is a four mile loop trail, Class I (i.e., easy). We'll be there during the park's Long Hunter Living History Days which should be fun. Bring lunch and water.

Long Hunter State Park is located on state road 171 between the Mt. Juliet exit on I-40 east and the Old Hickory Blvd. exit on I-24 east.

Only two members showed up for the Volunteer Trail cleanup day which was scheduled at the March chapter meeting. That is our chapter's adopted trail so let's show more support next time. For a sample of what Long Hunter has to offer, join us on this easy hike.

For more information, contact Pat Anderson, 615-383-2355.

MORE ON UNSCHEDULED HIKES...

The Nashville Chapter's most recent unscheduled hikes included: Lake Trail at Standing Stone State Park, Burnt Mill Bridge trail, Big Creek Gulf at South Cumberland State Recreation Area with Randy Hedgepath.

As stated in an earlier issue, if interested in joining other members on impromptu, unscheduled hikes, call Pat Anderson, 383-2355 or Charlie Hann, 367-2679.

CANCELLATION

We regret to announce that the Smokies Backpack scheduled for June by Bob Weaver and Paul Smith must be cancelled due to unavoidable commitments. Bob is using the excuse that he is getting married that month -- pretty flimsy excuse, huh? Congratulations, Bob!



LONGHUNTER STATE PARK

Unless specified otherwise, call the park office for reservations on all events at any time prior to the day of the event (615-885-2422).

Saturday, May 2

Sunrise canoe float -- 6:00 a.m. Call for reservations on Thursday, April 30th only.

Wild flowers of the Cedar Glades -- 10:30 a.m. 2 miles, easy

Sunday,

May 3 Priest Lake Bike Tour -- 2:00 p.m., approximately 25 miles

Sat/Sun.

May 9,10 Long Hunter Living History
Days -- all day both days.
An 18th century encampment
of approximately 30 campsites will be set up with
long hunters in full

costume.

Friday,

May 15 Moonlight Canoe Float -- 8:00 p.m. Make reservations on Thursday, May 14th only.

Sun.,
May 17 Spring Woodland Hike -- 4

miles, 2:00 p.m.

Sat.,

May 23 Rural Tennessee Bike Tour -- 9:30 a.m., estimated 50 miles

Outdoor Film Festival -- 8:00 p.m.

Sun.,

May 24 Nature Hike and Games for Children -- ages 6-11, 2:00 p.m.

FALL CREEK FALLS STATE PARK

May 2-3 Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage -- hikes, slide shows, guided walks, birding hike, and photography workshop

Memorial Day through Labor Day -Softball, tennis, nature
hikes, cave trips, canoe
floats, campfires, movies,
square dances, horseback
riding, and good bluegrass
music are some of the weekly
events that mark our summer
season. Recreational and
interpretive events are
scheduled daily.

WARNER PARK NATURE CENTER
7311 Hwy. 100, Nashville
615-352-6299

Friday,

May 1 Bird Hike -- 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Registration opens on April 20th.

Friday, May 8

Bird Banding Day -- 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., no reservations required. Bird banding is an important and fun way to study birds. Drop by the Nature Center anytime during the posted hours.

Tuesday,

May 12 Mushroom Slide Show -- 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., registration opens April 28

Sat., May 16	Mushroom Hike 9:00 a.m.	May 16	Waterfall Pilgrimage, 1987
-0917310	to noon. Registration opens May 4.	9:00	Monteagle Falls meet at Visitor Center, 1/2 mile, easy
Sun., May 31	Discover the Nature Center: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 a.m.	11:00	Deerlick Falls meet at Visitor Center, strenuous
	Registration required for hikes only and opens May 4.	1:00	Savage Falls Savage Gulf Ranger Station, 3 miles,
	Call for schedule of three hikes.	2:00	moderate Cascade Falls Visitor Center, 3 miles, moderate
	Grand Opening of Nature Center Library 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., no reservations	6:00	Foster Falls Foster Falls Picnic Shelter, 1 mile, strenuous
	required	Parki Hussaul	STEEL SLAY STRONG
		May 17	Waterfall Pilgrimage, 1987
	SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE RECREATION AREA	10:00	Bridal Veil Falls Visitor Center, 1 mile, strenous
	615-924-2980 or 2956	2:00	Greeter Falls Grundy Co. Courthouse, Altamount, 3
	Visitor Center is located on U.S. 41, just 3 miles from I-	6:00	miles, strenuous Big Creek Falls Overlook
	May is Waterfall Month!		Grundy County Courthouse, Altamount, 1/2 mile, easy
May 2	Savage Falls 1:00 p.m., meet at Savage Gulf Ranger Station, 3 miles moderate	May 23	Naturalist at the Door meet at Stone Door Ranger
May 3	Fiery Gizzard 10:00 a.m.,		Station at 2:00 p.m., 2 miles, easy
	Grundy Forest parking lot, 6 miles strenuous. Bring lunch, snacks, and fluids.	May 24	Ranger Falls meet at Stone Door Ranger Station at 1:00 p.m., 7 miles,
May 9	Abbo's Alley Walk 10:00 a.m., Sewanee Stadium Trailhead, 1 mile easy	ellambh eleit	strenuous
	Savage Day Loop Trail 2:00 p.m., Savage Gulf Ranger Station, 4 miles moderate		TA SUPPORTER NEWS
Mary 10	Rocky Mountain Creek	BIG	S SOUTH FORK HIKING CLUB
May 10	Excursion Savage Gulf Ranger Station at 2:00 p.m., 1 mile, strenuous	May 2	Sheltowee Trace from Alum Ford Campground to Yamacraw (Hwy. 92) wildflower hike, 6.6 miles, moderate to
	Wildflowers of Buggytop Trail Carter Natural Area Trailhead at 1:00 p.m., 2 miles, moderate		strenuous. Leave Burger King in Somerset at 8:30 a.m. or Whitley City Motel at 9:15 a.m.

UPCOMING HIKES

CUMBERLAND TRAIL:

May 23-24 Bird & Wildflower Hikes Cove Lake, details this

issue

CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN:

May 1-3 4th Annual Wildflower Pilgrimage, details this

issue

MEMPHIS:

May 9 Fort Pillow State Park,

details this issue

May 24 Wolf River Canoe Trip, de-

tails this issue

MURFREESBORO:

May 16 Bike Tour/Historic Murfrees-

boro, details this issue

NASHVILLE:

May 9 Volunteer Trail Day Loop

hike, details this issue

STATE:

May 30-31 Middle Tennessee Waterfalls

Hike, details this issue

The Montgomery Bell hike has been can-

celled (May 9-10).

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