



QUARTERLY

FALL • 1983
Vol. XXII No. 3



ACRES FALL SCHEDULE '83

Saturday

SEPT. 17: Workday and canoe hike at Bender Memorial Forest
Trail work and clean-up
Meet: at Golden Dome Bank on Coliseum Blvd. at
8:30 a.m. sharp
Bring: Sack lunch, drink, gloves, loppers, boots
and your canoe
Ted Heemstra in charge-Geo. Palmiter will join us.

Saturday

SEPT. 24: Huntington County Field Trip visiting:
Homestead High School Project
Stevens Woods and Goldenberg Woods
Meet: at Ardmore Plaza at US 24 and SR 14 at
8:30 a.m. sharp
Bring: Lunch, drink and friends
Naturalists: Robert Weber and Jay Hammel

Sunday

OCT. 9: Spend a lovely autumn afternoon at beautiful
Spurgeon Woods
Meet: at Old Fortmeyers on US 33 at 1:00 P.M.
Bring: your family and friends
Naturalist: Judy Esterline

Saturday

NOV. 12: Workday and hike at Woodland Bog and Ropchan Wildlife
Refuge
Meet: at 8:30 a.m. sharp at Golden Dome Bank on
Coliseum Blvd.
Bring: Sack lunch, drink, gloves, loppers, boots.
Art Eberhardt in charge

ACRES POLICY: EVENTS ALWAYS HELD, RAIN OR SHINE

QUARTERLY COVER ARTIST is Mary Dustin Gustafson, who contributed this work, and will be illustrating ACRES new "areas brochure" scheduled for publication later this Fall. Mary lives in Virginia and works as a commercial artist, and like many of our scattered ACRES friends, maintains a strong interest in our accomplishments.

invitation

-INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES-

The 99th annual meeting of the Indiana Academy of Sciences will be held at the Indiana U.-Purdue U. at Fort Wayne campus on October 27, 28 & 29, 1983. We encourage and welcome your attendance even though you may not be a member. Registration will take place starting at 9 a.m., October 28 at Walb Memorial Union. Also located in the Union will be a large display of scientific equipment for use in university and industrial research. Coffee and donuts will be served.

28th. Research papers will be presented starting at 10 a.m. on a variety of topics in the areas of biology, chemistry, physics, anthropology, engineering and environmental quality to name a few. Lunch will be available on campus. Friday afternoon activities include additional papers by members of the senior and junior (high school) academies.

28th. Dr. Ernest Campaigne, Professor of Chemistry at Indiana University is the Academy's "Speaker of the Year." His lecture will be presented at approximately 1:45 p.m. and will be entitled "Drugs and the Mind," an outgrowth of his research interests in Medical Chemistry.

A "Chemical Demonstration Symposium" will be ongoing between 2:45 and 5:30 and will include several chemical demonstrations that will enliven class lectures. Topics include "Cheap and Easy Demonstrations that Teach Chemistry" by Dr. George Bodner of Purdue University - West Lafayette and "Making Chemistry Lectures more Colorful" by Dr. Doris Kolb, Illinois Central College.

29th.

AM Also, of particular interest to Acres members will be a symposium on "Groundwater and Hazardous Wastes" and "Acid Rain". Speakers include Dr. Ron Wukasch from West Lafayette who will speak on "Hazardous Wastes - Generation and Disposal" and Mr. Robert A. McNight of Indiana Power & Light on "Can Acid Rain Controls be Effective?" A more detailed brochure will be available on October 28. Contact: (219) 482-5710

Jim Haddock
Doug Lyng
Program Committee

IF YOU ARE A DUES-PAYING MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING:

YOU MAY MAKE NOMINATIONS UP UNTIL OCTOBER 13 (see details).
YOU WILL RECEIVE A RETURN-BY-MAIL BALLOT BY NOVEMBER 21.
YOU MUST VOTE BY MAIL BY DECEMBER 9 or YOU MAY VOTE IN
PERSON ON DECEMBER 10, 1983, 8 PM 1802 Chapman Rd.,Huntertown.

SELECTION OF DIRECTORS: There will be 18 directors. Three are appointed for staggered three year terms, one by the Dept. of Public Instruction of the State of Indiana, one by the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, and one by the Indiana Park and Recreation Association. These appointees give broader public representation on our Board.

Fifteen directors are elected by the dues-paying members in good standing, five each year for three year terms. Since there is one vacancy on the Board in a term that expires in 1983, there will be six members to be elected this year - five for three year terms and one for one year. The procedure is as follows:

1. The statutory annual membership meeting will be held at 8PM on December 10, 1983 at 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN. At this meeting ballots will be counted, members present may vote in person and the elected directors will be determined.

NOTE This is not the annual dinner meeting at which we have a speaker. The Annual Dinner Meeting will be held November 11, 1983, 6:30 PM at Concordia.

2. Between September 13 and October 13, dues-paying members in good standing may nominate directors as follows: Any ten members in good standing may nominate a member of the Corporation by a written instrument which is a) signed by the 10 members, b) contains the nominee's written consent to serve if elected, and c) is delivered to the Secretary at 1802 Chapman Road, Huntertown, IN 46748 on or before October 13.

3. If more than six members are nominated, the six nominated by the largest number of members shall be the nominees. The nominee for the one year term will be selected by the Nominations Committee by lot.

4. If less than six nominations are made by the members, then between October 13 and October 29 the Nominations Committee may, but need not, nominate enough to make a total of ten nominees.

5. Each nominee may submit a statement of his qualifications which will be sent to members with the ballot. Such statement must be received by the Secretary before November 13.

6. No later than November 20 the Secretary will mail to members entitled to vote a ballot and the statement of nominee's qualifications, together with a short reminder of the voting procedure.

7. Members may vote by mailed ballot. Members do not need to attend the annual meeting on December 10. However, if a member does attend, he may vote in person and cancel any ballot he may have returned by mail. There are no "write-in" votes accepted for anyone not nominated pursuant to the foregoing procedure.

*****To be effective, a ballot returned by mail must a) be enclosed in an envelope signed by the voting member, b) not be marked for more than six persons and c) be received by the Secretary NO LATER THAN DEC. 9.

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

NOV. 11, 1983

CONCORDIA SEMINARY MAIN DINING HALL
6:30 P.M. \$8.50 a plate

Phone or send reservations no later than Nov. 4th to:

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Eberhardt
1621 Randalia
Fort Wayne, IN 46805
Phone: 424-2462

Decorations: Carolyn McNagly

SPEAKER: FRANK KIRSCHNER -- former ACRES Board member, now on ACRES National Advisory Board and recently retired from the Soil Conservation Service of the U.S.

TOPIC: Saudia Arabia - Its Culture & Environment

Frank Kirschner has 35 years experience in soil surveys and land classification with USDA- Soil Conservation Service. BS from Utah State University and MS from University of Florida, his areas of experience include Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Florida, Indiana, Alaska, Syria and Saudi Arabia. He spent four years with USDA-Purdue at LARS, a joint NASA-Purdue remote sensing laboratory located in West Lafayette. His assignment was to develop and apply remote sensing techniques in the soil survey program of the Soil Conservation Service. Frank writes:

"One of the primary goals of Saudi Arabia is to become self-sufficient in food production. Two major limitations are the limited extent of arable soils and essentially the absence of any permanent streams in the Kingdom. Our job was to inventory the soil resources, determine their general location and classify them accordingly to USDA soil classification system.

Saudi Arabia covers an area about 920,000 square miles- roughly the size of the US east of the Mississippi. It was previously estimated that only 2 percent was suited for irrigated agriculture. As a result of our study 5 to 10 percent is suitable.

The field soil survey part of the General Soils Map of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be completed by July, 1984. The map photo base is Landsat Imagery at a scale of 1:250,000. Each field sheet or image covers about 20,000 KM². These field sheets are about 80 miles wide and 100 miles long and a two-man crew can survey out two field sheets on an average 11 day field trip. Each soil scientist makes about 12 field trips a year and travels 1,500 to 3,000 miles each trip. A major challenge is to keep vehicles operable through 11 days of desert travel. About one-third of the field trips are aborted due to vehicle failure."

NEW NATURAL AREA REPORT FORMS HELP ACRES KEEP TRACK OF AREA USE

AND NEEDED MANAGEMENT CHORES. SIMPLE FORM - FITS IN GLOVE COMPARTMENT.

ASK US FOR SOME AND HELP ACRES KEEP TRACK OF NEEDS, USE & AREA INFO.

Wild Things

By Ed Guljas
Division of Fish and Wildlife

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot."
—Aldo Leopold

So wrote the great conservationist in his classic *A Sand County Almanac*. Leopold was referring to the importance of wild plants and animals in the lives of those who value a close association with the natural environment. We can borrow and expand the thought expressed by him to say: "There are some who *think* they can live without wild things; and those who know better." Whoever we are, and whether we realize it or not, wild things are important to all of us. Everyone needs to be concerned about the decline in the quality of our environment and the increasing worldwide loss of both plant and animal species. Those losses touch us in many ways.

Before people can be concerned about the loss of plant and animal species, they must be convinced that the object of concern has value. We may discuss the value of wild things from a number of viewpoints, but, because of our materialistic manner of assigning value, the best arguments are the economic and social benefits.

Wild things are also of value in an aesthetic and sometimes spiritual sense; they are important from a recreational viewpoint; each is a valuable component in the complex interrelationships that support all life on our planet; countless examples can be given of the contributions wild things have made to medicine and science; and they are valuable indicators of environmental quality. Let's explore these values in more detail.

There are wonderful things all around us. Living plants and animals help keep our minds fresh by feeding this sense of wonder. Is there a soul so dead that it would not look up and marvel at a flight of migrating geese winging their way to parts unknown? If given a chance, how many would not

Why are they important?

enjoy watching the antics of songbirds at a winter feeder, or be content while listening to spring peepers on a still, warm evening, or not be astounded to learn that a giraffe's neck contains the same number of vertebrae as our own?

Enjoyment, appreciation, wonder and even reverence for wild things are not just restricted to modern man. Certain species have been—and still are—important to native cultures and religions around the world. An ancient South American Indian tribe revered a species of frog so much that they sacrificed their women in appeasement. While we hope that nothing so extreme occurs today, wild things are still held in high esteem by contemporary Indian tribes. Witness the importance of eagles to native American Indian culture and religion.

If we must put a monetary value on appreciation, it can be done. Each year, hundreds of thousands of dollars are poured into our economy for such purchases as bird feed, binoculars, field guides, cameras, film and many items tied to a close association with wild things.

What about recreation? Awareness, enjoyment and appreciation of wild things lead millions of us to pursue consumptive activities such as fishing, hunting, trapping, mushroom gathering and berry picking. Who can argue against the value of such recreation for its uplifting of the spirit, for the therapeutic value of the associated exercise or for the value of happy memories of hours spent with relatives, friends and even faithful dogs?

But, economically speaking, there are other values as well. At one time, man needed to be a hunter and a gatherer to survive. While the majority of us have settled into the modern way of paying someone else to kill or grow food, some still choose to take part of their subsistence from nature.

An appreciation of the importance and magnitude of this can be realized by considering that during the 1982

Indiana deer hunting season, a record 20,706 deer were harvested by sportsmen. Assuming a very conservative average of 40 pounds of deboned meat per animal, that's more than 828,000 pounds of pure, lean, high protein, low cholesterol red meat. Add our harvest of squirrel, rabbit, muskrat, beaver, raccoon, opossum, quail, woodcock, grouse, pheasant, turkey, ducks and geese, and we are talking about three to four million pounds of meat just from wild mammals and birds. Many more pounds of fish were caught and consumed, frog legs were battered and fried and many turtles contributed their excellent flesh to our tables.

Certain furbearing animals have a known financial value. While fluctuating fur prices cause a variation in the annual amount of money paid for fur harvested in Indiana, the total in recent years has been millions of dollars. During the 1979-80 hunting and trapping season, fur sales generated a record \$12 million with more than 90 percent paid for just four species: muskrat, raccoon, and red and gray fox.

Nationwide, a recent survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service revealed that one of every two adults participated in some form of activity involving fish and wildlife during 1980. The participants spent almost \$40 billion for recreation, making fish and wildlife bigger business than many of industry's corporate giants. How is this money spent? It is spent on transportation, lodging, food, firearms, ammunition, traps, fishing gear, clothing and on innumerable other items. Expenses result in income for service station attendants, motel operators, waitresses, retail clerks, factory workers and countless others.

But let's forget about enjoyment, relaxation, food or money for a moment. Each wild thing, no matter how large or small, simple or advanced, game or nongame, is a valuable component in the network of interrelationships that support all life

on our planet—a concept known as ecology. We should be alarmed to learn that worldwide an estimated three species per day are becoming extinct! If that trend continues, 20 percent of the species now on earth will be extinct within 20 years. Most will be victims of pollution, land-filling, clearing and other massive man-made environmental changes. Another sobering statistic tells us that the disappearance of just one species, such as a particular plant, can doom 10 to 30 dependent plant, insect or animal species to the same fate!

Tragically, many of those in a position to do something to stop this needless loss of our earth's diverse life forms say, "So what?" They make decisions that show their ignorance of just how much humans depend upon wild things for their welfare. Would they say "So what?" if the honeybee or other pollinating insects were among those affected? After all, fully one-third of the plants we depend upon for food require the service of a pollinating insect. That example is obvious, but let's look at some subtle benefits of living things.

What if mosses were affected, not important enough for our concern? They are colonizers of bare rock and the basis for a sterile mineral's eventual suitability to support other life forms. What about tiny ocean plants known as phytoplankton? If we say "So what?," there goes the base of the food chain for all ocean life, including, among a great number of other species, shrimp, lobster, tuna and whales. Granted, some people don't care for seafood. Well then, what about breathing? These same phytoplankton have approximately three times as much capacity for converting carbon dioxide to oxygen as all land plants combined. Some scientists believe their present abundance is required to maintain our planet's oxygen content at a level that will support life.

What about rodents? Gray and fox squirrels are rodents and they bury seeds and nuts, some of which grow into lumber producing trees. Rodents, in general, are on nature's recycling committee. They specialize in the shells and bones that opossums, vultures, insects and other scavengers leave behind or the antlers that deer, elk, moose and others shed each year, gnawing and eating them for the calcium, minerals and other products

that they contain. Other committee members—worms and soil organisms—turn fallen tree leaves, twigs and other organic remains into soil; nitrogen, water and other essential ingredients of life are also being recycled by their own special committee members.

Where would we be without them? Every part of us was once a part of the soil, or a plant, or a river, or a mammal or a bird. Try as we may to prevent it, death will force each of our bodies to recycle.

The truth is, every living species is important. Just because we have not yet determined their exact function or specialty does not mean we should consider it valueless. A noted and well respected news commentator once called the snail darter, the little fish that allegedly held up completion of the Tellico Dam, a "worthless minnow." However, many people who believe there is a Creator, feel that God makes no mistakes. They take seriously the admonition to be "wise stewards" of His creation and believe that no life form is worthless, no matter how small.

The existence of a Creator is, of course, disputed by some. But we all think in terms of money and our physical and mental well-being. Let's look at some individual species, which, if they had become extinct, may not have caused a global catastrophe in terms of their role in the ecological scheme but would have had another type of impact.

Let's assume the plants of the genus *Cinchona*, from another part of the world, were subject to the same environmental degradation that many plants are today and had become extinct before we knew anything about them. Let's also include a mammal whose scientific name is *Macaca mulatta*; also willow trees and the little fruit fly pest that seemingly materializes from nowhere when we leave fruits and vegetables exposed in our kitchens. Throw in a cruddy fungus identified as *Penicillium notatum*. What would we have missed by not having known them?

Of course, the cruddy fungus gave us penicillin. The fruit fly is *Drosophila*, whose remarkable fertility, short life cycle and large chromosomes enable us to learn so much about genetics. Willow bark and leaves have been used since the days of Hippocrates to relieve pain and

fever. Willow's secret, uncovered in 1829, was the chemical salicin which led to the synthesis of a variant, acetylsalicylic acid or aspirin. The mammal is the rhesus monkey, widely used for the safety testing of polio and other vaccines and instrumental in the discovery of the Rh factor, an indicator of a blood disorder that can affect the developing human fetus. *Cinchona* gave us quinine, a drug that spared countless millions from the ravages of malaria.

The examples go on. All that meat in the supermarket is from a domesticated animal descended from a wild ancestor. The can of corn, the box of wheat cereal are simply products from members of the grass family. So, too, with the rest of what we eat—all descended from wild stock. The same with our pets. The hated Norway rat and the house mouse are the same species as the mice and rats in the laboratory. Another rodent, the guinea pig, is similarly useful. Much of what we know about nerve and muscle action was discovered from the study of another favorite laboratory animal, the frog.

When we fill a prescription, there is a 50 percent chance the drug was derived from a wild plant or animal. Digitalis, useful in the relief of certain heart problems, is obtained from the purple foxglove plant which grows wild in woods and fence rows. A whole series of antibacterial compounds or antibiotics, notably streptomycin, aureomycin and terramycin, are obtained from various fungi and bacteria. When certain strains of bacteria develop immunity to these common antibiotics, new controls await our discovery. Lichens, algae and fungi functioning together as single organisms, are yielding antibiotics for the treatment of certain types of ulcer, burns and tuberculosis.

Not all benefits relate to medicine. A little known desert plant was recently found to contain a wax with a very high melting point, therefore it is useful in the lubrication of heavy machinery. Compounds from algae end up in products such as toothpaste, cosmetics and even food. The yeast that raises our bread dough and ferments our beer and wine is just a type of fungi.

Many more exciting possibilities for overcoming disease and afflictions and bettering our way of life may be within our grasp, compliments of wild things. Armadillos are one of the only animals, other than humans, known to contract leprosy, and are proving invaluable in the search for a

cure. The common plant, pokeweed, was found to contain a substance that may be effective in controlling schistosomiasis, one of the world's most feared diseases. A fish, the central mudminnow, which some would consider a "worthless minnow," is a prime test model for detecting possible genetic damage or cancer that may result from industrial chemicals. A tiny Australian frog is able to swallow her fertilized eggs, shut down her digestive processes, brood her developing tadpoles in her stomach for eight weeks and then expel them from her mouth when they are mature. Discovering just how she keeps from digesting her youngsters may prove useful in the treatment of stomach ulcers. A certain hormone-like substance in the saliva of mice may aid the search to find a drug to speed the healing of burns and other wounds or maybe even help regenerate human organs.

Even leeches, considered by most to be repulsive pests, are quickly becoming one of the most valuable of laboratory animals. Continued research is expected to produce breakthroughs and a better understanding of our nervous system and of heart and blood disease. Certain obscure fish and insects are being studied to learn why they can live in extremely cold environments with the hope that their secrets will help us improve techniques for storing blood and human tissue and also help in the development of freeze-hardy agricultural plants. Extracts from tree species known to be resistant to termite attack, such as persimmon, are being isolated and identified and may possibly lead to the replacement of environmentally-damaging, persistent, chlorinated hydrocarbons presently being used as termiticides.

However, a chilling statistic connected with the growing rate of plant extinction is that only an estimated five percent of all plant species have been screened for possible drug value. Further, certain compounds that show promise for cancer treatment and other diseases are available only from obscure and rare plants growing in Third World countries where concern for wild things may be less than in our own. These compounds cannot be synthesized in the laboratory and there is a possibility that the plants holding the secret may join the list of extinct species. A tragic reality is that the secret to the cure of a particular scourge may already lie buried forever in the graveyard of extinction. Scientists know this has occurred for

certain alkaloid compounds which would have been useful in the fight to conquer cancer. It is also suspected that ways to dramatically improve food production have been lost as well. The loss of unstudied plants is especially severe in the tropics, so much that the National Cancer Institute predicts a major setback in the anti-cancer campaign if this continues.

But in the final analysis, more than our health, well-being and standard of living may be at stake. Wild things are valuable as indicators of environmental quality. Most are highly sensitive to environmental change and, as such, are able to warn us of impending disaster—if we just pay attention. The early miners knew this so they took canaries into the tunnels with them. When the air became bad, or pockets of odorless natural gas were encountered, the canary would be affected first and those miners who paid attention were able to save themselves.

Today, birds also could be used as environmental indicators. But are we paying attention to them? The reproductive problems encountered by eagles, brown pelicans and peregrine falcons because of DDT and other chemicals receive too little attention from the public. Not enough of us realize the significance of these maladies until, in some cases, it affects our own reproductive processes.

Currently, a controversy rages as to whether burning certain types of fossil fuels are contributing to acid rain, and if they are, is the rain the reason why so many lakes are becoming sterile or virtually devoid of life? Are the wild things once again indicating an approaching disaster and are we paying sufficient attention?

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ACRES NEWS AND NOTES by Larry Bieberich

April 16, Fun in the mud. Thirty-two people, including students from South Side and Homestead High Schools, joined Art Hammer in planting 675 trees in the wet field east of the Anna Brand Hammer Reserve. With all the willing help, the trees were planted by noon. After a picnic lunch along the road with cookies donated by ACRES friends and neighbors, Mr. Hammer was presented a framed print of the Quarterly cover art—the bloodroot. He responded with a little history of the woods and his hopes for the future of the area under ACRES ownership.

After this, the group (at least those that weren't stuck in the mud) strolled through the many wild flowers—spring beauty, toadshade, toothwort, purple cress, pepper & salt, dutchman's breeches. Also found were clusters of scarlet cup fungus and a large leech in the small creek that flows in the back part of the woods.

May 7, The history of the Peru area and the new ACRES area, The Seven Pillars of the Mississinewa, lured twenty-two people to the city of Peru on a blustery Saturday morning. The tour, led by Mr. Jerry Wise and his wife from the Miami County Historical Society, started in the Miami County Museum on the fourth floor of the county courthouse. This museum, which is scheduled to move to larger quarters sometime in the future, was crammed from floor to ceiling with items from pioneer days and circus days.

Lunch on the riverbank opposite the Seven Pillars area where Jerry Wise related some of the Indian history associated with the rock formation. The group was entertained by rough-winged swallows skimming the river and nesting in the cliffs of the Pillars. The group visited the top of the Pillars (area actually owned by ACRES), did a quick litter clean-up and then visited the Peru Circus Museum and Arena. Our hostess opened the museum especially for us and proudly showed the many circus posters, costumes and clippings. She opened the arena where the Peru Circus is held each July. (ACRES expresses sympathy to the Peru people on the loss of three of their young performers in an auto accident after the show this summer)

Many of the group stopped at Hanging Rock near Lagro. Trash pickup was followed by a climb to the top of the rock for a view of the Wabash River and the Virginia cowslips blooming on the back side.

MORE LANDS SAVED AT OLIN/MARTIN LAKE AREA IN LAGRANGE COUNTY ACRES ACCEPTS GIFT OF LAND FROM FREDA ROYER

If you visit the Olin Lake Nature Preserve and you stand on the shore and look to the northeast, there is a high knob of trees in the uninterrupted natural skyline—that is the Freda Royer Woods. Now, the land has been given as a gift by Freda Royer to ACRES but the big trees in the woods had to be saved from a timber contract incurred by Mrs. Royer, which would have stripped away forty-four big trees—virtually leveling the entire piece. To save the woods and make the gift of land meaningful for preservation purposes, ACRES bought out the timber contract. The agreement forfeits six of the forty-four trees which will be cut before the end of the year. ACRES doesn't like the loss of any of these trees but feels the woods has good variety and will recuperate. The cost to ACRES to save the trees was \$4,000.00. A number of friends have assisted in defraying these costs. If you wish to contribute, please make payable to ACRES, Inc. and mark for "Olin/Martin Lake Area". Thank you!

THE WIND IN MY VALLEY

WHAT makes the wind in your valley?

The Spirit Who was here before the valley.

And why did the Spirit make the wind?

To make the water ripple

And the leaves of trees flutter

on hot summer days

And to carry a message to the hearts

of all men for all times.

To carry a message?

Yes.

What message is carried by the wind in your valley?

To the hearts of all men, the wind whispers
these words:

"If you return to the land

What belongs to the land,

Your dream will forever be a reality: You,

Your children and your children's children

Will inherit

the blue heron,

the red-eye fish,

golden-horned owls,

and three streams greater in magic

than any poetry.

You, the white deer, and the moon

Will walk together

Three-by-three."

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Lafayette, Indiana

ACRES, Inc.

1802 Chapman Road

Huntertown, Indiana 46748

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