

THE GREEN SHEET

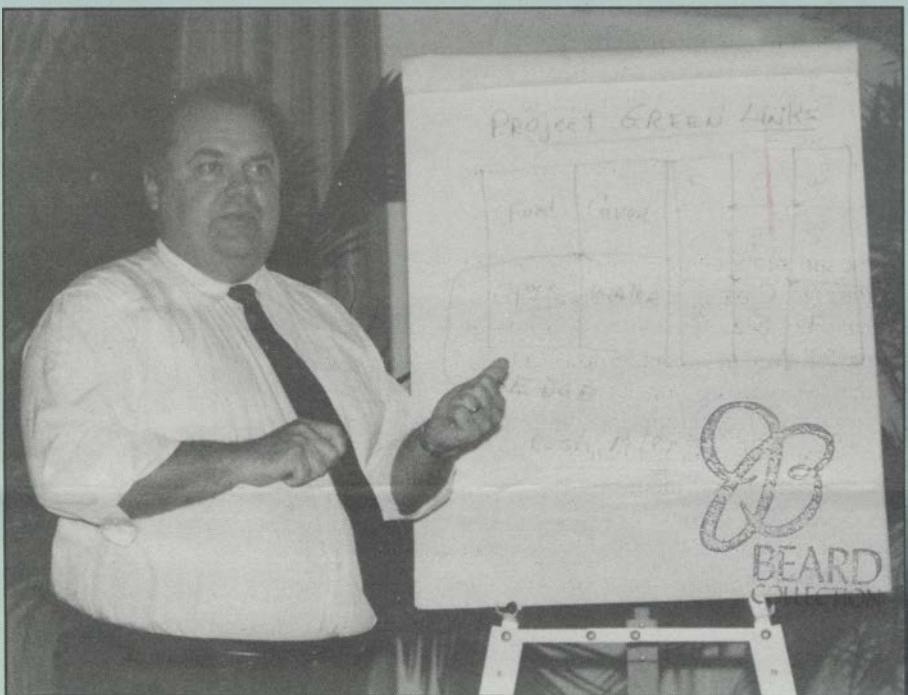


VOLUME IX, PART 1, JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1993

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan. 9 FGCSA Board Meeting, Marriott Courtyard, Orlando
- Jan. 11 Central Florida chapter's Research Tournament, Interlachen CC
- Jan. 12 North Florida chapter meeting, Palm Harbor GC
- Jan. 14 Assistant Superintendents Day, Palm Beach Community College
- Jan. 15 Annual Mid-Florida Turfgrass Conference, Sanford. Contact Uday Yadav, 407-836-7570
- Jan. 18 Suncoast chapter meeting, Bradenton CC
- Jan. 19 Everglades chapter sponsored Pesticide seminar, Airport Ramada, Fort Myers
- Jan. 23-30 64th International GCSAA Conference, Anaheim
- Jan. 27 FGCSA Reception, Anaheim Hilton Hotel, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Feb. 23 Suncoast chapter meeting, Misty Creek G&CC
- March 2 USGA Green Section Regional Conference, Marriott Hotel, Palm Beach Gardens
- March 4 USGA Green Section Regional Conference, Marriott, Orlando
- April 1 University of Florida/IFAS Field Day, Fort Lauderdale Research Center



Ron Dodson describes the benefits of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program at the GCSAA/FGCSA Regional Seminar.

The Naples Beach Hotel was the setting for the November 13th GCSAA Regional Seminar presented by Ron Dodson of the New York Audubon Society. He is the originator of a program co-sponsored by the USGA entitled the "Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program" for golf courses. This program is founded on the principle that golf courses can enhance and protect wildlife habitat and water resources. Its purpose is to provide an advisory service to help golf courses develop effective conservation and wildlife enhancement programs within their practical limitation. We may never change the mindset of those who argue that the best use of the land is to leave it alone, but critics will be hard pressed to find fault with such a proactive approach to land management.

Ron's testimony of the open opposition and skepticism of many of the members of his organization and other "environmental" groups to this program clearly demonstrates golf's poor environmental image and our need to change it.

For more information on this program, the USGA office in Hobe Sound has copies of a video available for loan to FGCSA members entitled "Green Sanctuaries". Call Shelly Foy at 407-546-2620 to request a copy for your members.

Editors Note: See Page 3 for Editorial Comment.



President's Message by Mark Jarrell, CGCS

As the year closes, I think it appropriate to use this space to update FGCSA members on their association's activities.

The expansion of the FGCSA research green in Ft. Lauderdale has taken place and most of the putting green quality grasses to be evaluated have been planted. Included are two promising varieties brought back from Hawaii by Dr. Al Dudeck. Our thanks to Quality Grassing and Golf Agronomics for providing the construction services and materials at cost.

At this writing, the results of the turf research fund-raising programs through Ciba Geigy and DowElanco have not been tabulated but it appears we fell short of expectations. It is hoped that we will be able to continue and expand such programs in 1993, and that our members will get behind these efforts and support them.

On November 13th at the Naples Beach Club, an outstanding GCSAA Regional Seminar was presented by Ron Dodson of the New York

Audubon Society. The subject was the Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses. I was so impressed that I wrote a lengthy article for the December 19th issue of *Golfweek*. Those of us in attendance learned a lot about how golf courses can enhance and protect wildlife and water resources. It really opened my eyes to the possibilities for golf courses to reverse the perception that golf is an environmental bad guy. The great thing about the program is that every golf course can participate at some level regardless of its physical, political, financial, or regulatory limitations. I highly recommend that every golf course look into this program. For details, please contact the USGA or call Ron Dodson at (518) 767-9051.

The GCSAA proposed by-law changes have created quite a controversy around the country and prompted a special meeting of your Board on December 2nd. We asked GCSAA Director Gary Grigg and GCSAA Standards Committee member Kevin Downing to attend our meeting to answer questions and provide more detailed information. Our purpose was to determine how we are going to vote for these various proposals as a state organization. We have printed the results in this issue of the

Green Sheet (see pages 4 and 5) to give our members the opportunity to vote as an individual if they disagree with our position. A secondary purpose was to propose alternatives or modifications for the GCSAA Board to consider for any of the proposed by-law changes that fail to get passed in Anaheim. The actions we have taken should clearly demonstrate Florida's integrity and sincerity to avoid back-door politics.

A recent letter from Jack Mathis of the Florida Golf Council has raised the question of our continued financial support for that organization.

The FGCSA Board will probably decide on this at the January meeting, after tabulations on our fund-raising programs have been calculated. These numbers and our commitment to fund half the cost of a lobbyist with the FTGA will factor heavily into this decision.



Mark Jarrell, CGCS

Those of us in the South Florida Water Management District owe a great debt to Tom Benefield for the very favorable treatment golf courses will receive under the recently adopted water use rules changes. Tom has taken this project on almost single-handedly over the past couple of years and his hard work and diligence have paid off for all golf courses in the district. As most of you know, Tom has also taken on the duties as Editor of the *Florida Green* magazine. In 1993 we will be returning to four issues per year. Thanks, Tom!

All External Vice Presidents were recently given the names of the DACS inspectors in their areas, following a letter to DACS Administrator Elizabeth Braxton, with the recommendation that each local chapter invite them to a meeting to find out what they will be looking for during their inspections. Some south Florida courses have already found out how tough these guys

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Deadline next issue, February 15

can be, citing such violations as mixing two products together when the label of one said it should not be mixed with any other pesticide. Read your labels carefully! Seriously consider inviting these inspectors to your chapter meetings.

We begin the new year with a trip to Anaheim for the GCSAA Convention. Don't forget that the FGCSA will be holding a reception at the Anaheim Hilton Hotel on Wednesday, January 27th.

Happy holidays to all FGCSA members and their families.



FGCSA Reception in Anaheim

The FGCSA is sponsoring a reception at the Anaheim Hilton and Towers, Laguna Room, on Wednesday, January 27, 1993, from 6-8 p.m. All FGCSA members and their guests who are attending the GCSAA Convention are invited to attend for cocktails and hors-doeuvres.

This reception was well attended last year in New Orleans and we hope all our members who are attending the Conference will drop by to socialize with their fellow Florida superintendents.



Central Florida Research Golf Tournament

Stuart Leventhal and the Interlachen Country Club in Winter Park are hosting this year's Central Florida Research Golf Tournament on Monday, January 11, 1993.

This year's tournament is a two-man team scramble. The teams will consist of a golf course superintendent and an official from his club.

The meeting will begin promptly at 10:00 with talks by Dr. Al Dudeck on new grasses and Dr. Bert McCarty who will give an update on the Envirotron.

Entry fee is \$120 per team.

Editor's Comments: The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program

by Thomas Benefield, CGCS

To hear Mr. Ron Dodson speak you would never believe that years ago he used to be someone who did not look kindly on golf courses. But then he started to look at the cold, hard facts of what his association, the National Audubon Society, stood for and how they arrived at their conclusions. He decided he wanted to know the truth about their issues and he dug for the facts. What he came back with was that sometimes the NAS was wrong, sometimes they were harming the very resource they set out to preserve by not looking honestly at the facts.

What Ron found out about golf courses was that they could be an integral part of his association's goals. What he found out was that instead of eliminating wildlife sanctuaries, these much maligned "playgrounds for the well heeled" were also a valuable link in the preservation of large numbers of animal and bird species. That's when he decided action was needed to exploit this resource for what it could be and to work with the golf industry instead of against it.

Such was the conceptualization of the environmental program, The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. With grant money from the USGA, Ron has set out to illustrate to the rest of the environmental movement that you have to put issues and industries in their proper perspective. His program is one which does not dictate how you run your golf course but rather one which will provide guidance and information on habitat enhancement and conservation.

One of the keys to realizing just how committed Ron is to the program and to the full usage of golf courses can

be summed up in this statement in a letter he wrote back to me. He said, I fully agree with you that golf courses "are the last vestige of green space in many parts of the country and it is us acting like wildlife managers that allow for the continued existence of many species that could not find a home elsewhere". His message has not fallen on deaf ears; to date over 500 golf courses nationwide are participating with more waiting to be certified.

There are plenty of reasons to become involved with this program. The largest reason is that of public perception of golf courses and the alleged damage they do to the environment and particularly the wildlife populations. It is thru programs such as these that we are able to focus the public on what reality is, to gain some hard data on what we provide for the environment and to convince people in power that we are not part of the problem, rather we are part of the solution. I think every golf course owes it to the industry to become involved in this program. Mr. Dodson and the USGA have provided us the vehicle. It is our duty to get in and ride; the rewards will benefit us all.

If you missed Ron's presentation and would like to see it, there is opportunity to take it again in Anaheim at the GCSAA Conference and Show. I think you will agree it is well worth the time and money spent.



FGCSA Winter Board Meeting

DATE: Saturday, January 9

TIME: 12:00 noon

PLACE: Marriott Courtyard
Orlando Airport

All FGCSA members are
invited to attend.

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FGCSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGARDING GCSAA BY-LAW CHANGES

A meeting of the FGCSA Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, December 2, 1992, at Palm Beach National GC. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed GCSAA ByLaw amendments and establish a "Position Statement" that would be published in the next issue of the *Green Sheet* and *Florida Green*.

All officers were present. Also attending were External Vice Presidents Dale Kuehner, Prentice Knotts, Alan Puckett and John Gallagher. Kevin Downing who served on the GCSAA Standards Committee and Gary Grigg, GCSAA Board member were also present.

President Mark Jarrell began the meeting by stating that the FGCSA wants to be open-minded about our views on the proposed amendments. Much time has been spent studying them at board meetings, informal discussions, and at the local chapter level. By coming up with a published "position statement", the FGCSA is letting our position be known so that any FGCSA member who is planning to vote with the FGCSA block and disagrees with any of our views, will still have time to remove their name from the block at Anaheim during checkin.

It is no secret that the FGCSA is opposed to many of the proposed changes and we do not feel that we are the only chapter opposed to the amendments as they are written. We feel that compromises could be made to make them more acceptable and, where prudent, will offer suggestions to improve the current procedures. Our statement is not to be misconstrued as a vote of "no confidence" to the current GCSAA Board, rather we feel it is our inherent right as dues paying members of this association to disagree with any proposed change to the GCSAA ByLaws that we feel are not in our best interest.

After some discussion, the following was established for each of the ballot proposals. In the interest of space, we have condensed the reasoning behind the decisions.

Ballot A: Name Change.

Position: YES

Ballot B: Majority Vote.

Position: NO

Reason: We feel that if the proposed amendment is a good amendment then it should not have trouble getting 2/3rds of the voters to agree that it should pass. If it can not get this type of support, then maybe it is not a good amendment.

Ballot C: Elimination of Voting

Delegate

Position: NO

Reason: While we feel there are some problems with the current method of voting at the Annual Meeting, we do not feel that a members right to vote thru either a delegate or a proxie should be eliminated. Rather we propose that it be amended to allow for voice vote or have all vote results published, listing each chapter's vote.

Ballot D: Legal changes

Position: YES

Ballot E: Qualifications for memberships

Position: NO

Reason: Qualifications for Class A memberships should be set and approved by member vote.

Ballot F: Additional Classifications

Position: YES

Ballot G: Dues increase without membership approval.

Position: NO

Reason: We feel this proposed amendment could merit our approval if it were re-written to include a ceiling for the

amount the increase could be in any one year, and perhaps a time lapse period between increases. As far as anyone could remember, the GCSAA has always received approval by the membership when a dues increase was needed.

Ballot H: Voting Procedure

Position: NO

Reason: As stated above, we are in favor of Delegate Voting. However, we do agree with the proposal to vote for Secretary/Treasurer rather than having an appointed position. We also agree with having the option of running the President Elect unopposed

Ballot I: Majority Voting

Position: NO

Reason: See Ballot B above.

The FGCSA Board voiced their concerns with the Field Staffing program. Even though the majority of the Board is in favor of Field Staffing, it was felt that this should be phased in very slowly. This person should do more than recruit new members. Concern was raised over the type of person that would be hired for these positions. Would we be creating our own outside consultants? The Board is aware that if Ballot G is not approved, there will be a vote at the Annual Meeting to increase dues to cover expenses of Field Staffing.

We, the FGCSA, feel that the best course of action on many of these proposed amendments would be to re-structure them into member-oriented positive changes which would merit further consideration and put to rest those proposed changes which offer little value to the membership. In that line of thinking, we have offered brief descriptions of how some of the changes might be changed for the betterment of the association. In the essence of space we deliberately made them brief and are available for further discussion on the options we feel are open to us.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The letter below was received from Past President Cecil Johnston. His thoughts and concerns on the proposed ByLaw changes are of such great interest to our association that it was deemed appropriate to publish them in this issue. We appreciate Cecil's candid statements and encourage other members to write letters to the editor on topics they would like to share their viewpoints on.

Editor

Dear Tom:

I received the ByLaw change information today and I'm wondering what you are thinking.

I guess what bothers me the most is the way our media has given such a one-sided viewpoint. Before the vote has even been taken, brochures have been sent out about the changes that only express the need for change with no dissenting opinions. I saw a lot of smiling faces saying how necessary and important the changes are and that was it.

Surely there is some wisdom in the ByLaws we have successfully lived with all of these years.

When it comes time for the mail-in votes next year, will all of the individuals voting get the same one-sided snow job? Is it really better for mail-in voters to choose candidates they have never even met? I wonder if this type of voting might lead to a lot of "yes" men as directors with no consideration as to how these individuals may interact with others on the board.

I know as a past voting delegate that even after meeting the candidates, hearing them speak, and watching them interact with others, it was still very difficult to decide who would be best for our organization. Will these people give a fair analysis of character and abilities of each candidate so the mail-in voters can make a wise decision or will they, in fact, control the elections even more than at present?

Ballot C. What is so bad about

trusting your vote to someone who knows the people and understands the politics better than you do? If businesses and governments elected their leaders without proxy and delegate votes, many would be in much worse condition.

Ballot D. I don't like saying that a "Golf Course Superintendent" is responsible for the environmentally sound management of a golf course. I wouldn't want to be sued by someone who tries to use this document to prove my responsibility. I think even greater responsibility lies with the owners of these properties and then maybe general managers. I wouldn't want an owner someday saying that the superintendent accepted responsibility for the environment and was negligent.

Example: "After all, the superintendent said he was a GCSAA member. The GCSAA ByLaws state that the superintendent is responsible for the environmentally sound management of the golf course. I even paid his dues to be a member."

Maybe we are going a little overboard here — is mentioning environmental responsibility really necessary.

This is a minute point but is 30 members constituting a forum at a special meeting really a fair representation of an association of more than 11,000 members?

Ballot F (Section 3). What is wrong with members voting on what membership classes they want in their organization? If the board wants to make other membership classifications, why don't they just come out and tell us? Can't they call a meeting or wait until the annual meeting? OK, they say they have a plan to expand our membership base. Why doesn't someone tell our members what the plan is or are they worried that most members (a 2/3rd majority) might not really want everyone remotely involved with our industry as members. It already bothers me somewhat when I see an affiliate or associate member advertise that they are a member of the GCSAA. People on this side of the planet still think it is important when someone says they are a member of the GCSAA and I hate to see this privilege abused.

Ballot G. Let me get this straight. The board wants to set all different types of (discount?) dues rates for all different types of memberships so more people are involved. Then the GCSAA will need a larger staff to help all of these people. Next, they want to increase our dues \$40-50 per year to pay for increased services. Some of this new staff will be assigned to visit courses where the superintendents are not members and try to encourage the superintendent and owners of courses that they should become members of the GCSAA (I hope they don't start going door-to-door on Sundays!).

Maybe they can also start a consulting service like the USGA Greens Section soon after that!

Ballot H. You already know my concerns about individual voting.

Article IV, Elections. Brings a few more questions to mind. It is going to take 7-20 days for me to receive a letter. If that letter must be returned to the Association within 15 days, I guess I had better vote at the annual meeting. Does a ballot being postmarked by a certain day qualify the same as "being returned to the Association by a certain day".

When you establish a 15 day window for members to mail-in their votes, and no longer permit proxy or delegate voting, I wonder how many people will actually be making the decision of who will lead our Association. One factor to consider is that 60-45 days before the annual meeting, some members may consider budget planning and holiday affairs more important. I am also a little skeptical about the future efficiency of the mail system preceding the holidays. Time will tell.

I assume that all mail-in votes will be kept in confidence until after the vote at the annual meeting. Now that there may or may not be an Election Committee, I suppose it is possible that members of the Board or others could hear some of the preliminary results. I prefer that the existence of an impartial Election Committee be specified in the ByLaws.

Sincerely,
Cecil Johnston, CGCS
Green Valley Engineering Co
Thailand

JOB CHANGES

Dwight Pickett, CGCS, has moved from Monarch CC to become superintendent at Pipers Landing GC in Stuart. Jack Hester has been moved up to head superintendent at Monarch CC.

John Snyder, formerly at PGA National, is now superintendent at Kendale Lakes

David Bailey is now the superintendent at Emerald Hills CC.

Robert Swinson, formerly at Magnolia Point, is now superintendent at the Champions Club. Mike Sbarro is the new superintendent at Magnolia Point.

Bobby Ellis, formerly at Oakbridge-Grasslands, is now superintendent at Queens Harbor in Jacksonville.

Frank Sbarro, formerly at Queens Harbor, is now at TPC Sawgrass.

Geri Buchheit is the new superintendent at Killearn GC in Tallahassee.

Phil Peterson, formerly at Jupiter Dunes, is now the superintendent at Indian River Plantation in Stuart. Chris Leahy is now at Atlantis GC.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Superintendent. Contact Chris Sova at 305-782-8983.

Asst. Supt. CC at Woodfield. Send resume to Andy Lemmel, 3650 Club Road, Boca Raton, FL 33496.

Assistant Superintendent. Stonebridge G&CC. Contact Bob Jacks a 483-8444.

Our Condolences

Tresca Industries was saddened by the recent death of Mike Richards. He passed away on December 3rd after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife, Mary Anne, son Michael Jon, II and daughter, Elizabeth Deane Wilcox. Mike has been at Tresca's since 1968. He'll be missed by all.



Marcus Prevatte, FGCSA technician, has been busy sprigging the Tifdwarf plots at the Otto Schmeisser Research Green in Fort Lauderdale.

Tifdwarf Comparison Project

by Kevin Downing, CGCS
Research Chairman

The FGCSA Research Committee announces that the Tifdwarf project has begun on the Otto Schmeisser Research Green located at the University of Florida IFAS station in Fort Lauderdale.

Companies participating in the Tifdwarf demonstration are: Central Florida Turf, Nutri-Turf, Pursley Turf, Quality Grassing, Rapid Turf, Southeastern Grassing, Southern Turf Nurseries, South Florida Grassing and Tifton Turf.

Each company has been given a 500 sq. ft. plot. To date, five of these plots have been planted, with an average of 250 plugs per section. All soils are being root washed from the plugs to insure the growing medium is consistent. For purity sake, there will be a 12" sand strip between each plot which will be chemically maintained on a monthly basis. All plots will be aerified, verticut, and top dressed at separate times to maintain purity. All plots are expected to be planted by the end of the year. Other plots which will be planted with experimental grasses from the University of Florida and the USGA sample will be done in the spring.

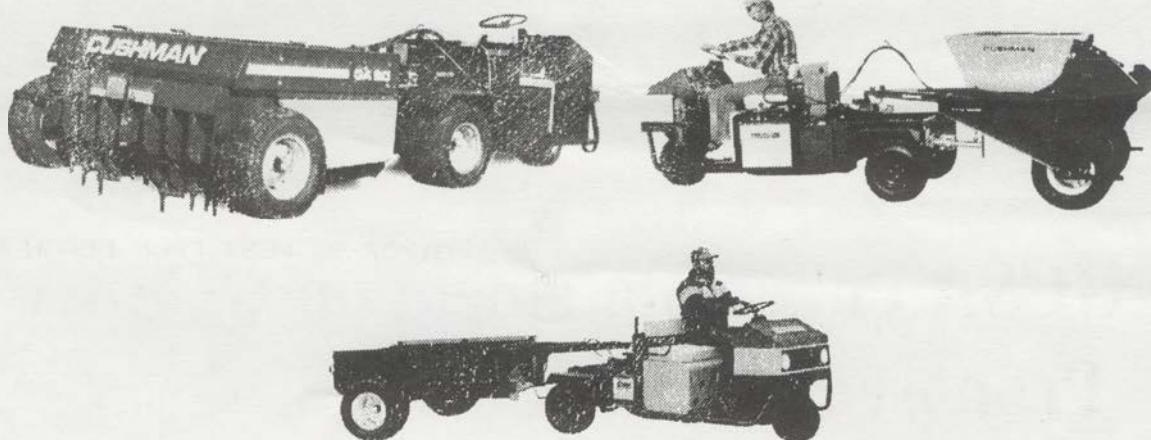
The purpose of this project is to establish a source where those of you who are rebuilding your greens may go to evaluate the different grasses available to you. Neither the FGCSA nor the University of Florida will evaluate these grasses. Beginning in the late spring, superintendents may bring their Greens Chairman or other interested parties to the Fort Lauderdale site for observation or to select material for planting. The plots will be numbered. After the superintendent has selected the plot that is considered best for his golf course, he will be told the name of the company that is responsible for the plot. All other plots will remain anonymous.



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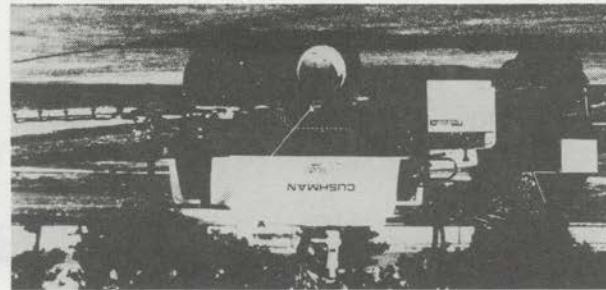
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01/07/93 WEST PALM BEACH

FGCSA Policy Statement on GCSAA Proposed ByLaw Changes. See Page 4

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