

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed it is the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead

PATHWAYS

VOL 16 NO 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MENDON FOUNDATION

FALL 2009

A Member of the National Land Trust Alliance

www.MendonFoundation.com



Mendon Station Festival Poster Contest Winner!

Ann Kelly, a student in Kelly Recktenwald's high school class, submitted the 2009 Mendon Station Festival Poster Contest winning entry. The Juror, Jean Lindsay, chose Kelly's entry from among six finalists.

The Mendon Foundation and 2009 HF-L Student Art Show sponsors, Honeoye Falls Market Place, and Mendon Meadows Market Place, congratulate Kelly for her winning entry.

Inside:

MENDON FALL FESTIVAL • HOW THE ERIE CANAL IMPACTED MENDON • SILENT AUCTION • COMMUTING ON THE TRAIL • MF BLUEBELLS TAKE ROOT • BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM • BRAVO TO MENDON VOLUNTEERS!



DREAM



Join us for our Fall Open House tour September 13 in Mendon NY to benefit the Mendon Foundation. The featured home is located on scenic farmland, with highlights including the Douglas fir timber frame, a unique custom floor plan, reclaimed barn siding, reclaimed hardwood flooring, wine room, his & her offices & a custom beech kitchen.

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2009 MENDON STATION FESTIVAL EVENTS & TIMES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

12 PM - 5 PM (Bagpipe opening at noon)

- Artists & Craft Vendors
- Good Food at the Food Court (½ lb. Angus Beef Hamburgers)
- HF-L Student Art Show
- Scouting and Robotics Demonstrations
- Mendon Historical Exhibit with Town Historian - Diane Ham
- Mendon Fire Department Display
- British Colonial Life Demonstrations

12:30 - 4:30 PM

- Pony Rides
- Horse Drawn Wagon Rides (along the Lehigh Valley Trail)
- Free Miniature Train Rides
- Inflatable - Triple Fun Combo (12-5 PM)

12:00 -12:30 PM Young School of Irish Dance Demonstration

1:00 PM Horse Event - Bristol Valley Mounted Drill Team

1:30 - 2:00 PM 64th Regiment of Foot - British Colonial Demonstration

2:00 - 3:00 PM Music - The Boughton Hill Band

3:00 PM Horse Event - Harnessing and Driving Exhibition

3:30 - 5:00 PM Music - The Bob Squad

5:00 - 7:00 PM DINNER - Cool Jazz with the GABE CONDEN Quartet,
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Fun For All Ages

Program Scheduling is Subject to Change Without Notice

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2009 MENDON STATION FESTIVAL EVENTS & TIMES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

12 PM - 5 PM (Bagpipe opening at noon)

- Artists & Craft Vendors
- Good Food at the Food Court (½ lb. Angus Beef Hamburgers)
- HF-L Student Art Show
- Scouting and Robotics Demonstrations
- Mendon Historical Exhibit with Town Historian - Diane Ham
- Mendon Fire Department Display
- British Colonial Life Demonstrations

12:30 - 4:30 PM

- Pony Rides
- Horse Drawn Carriage Rides (along the Lehigh Valley Trail)
- Free Miniature Train Rides
- Inflatable: Triple Fun Combo (12-5 PM)

12:00 - 4:00 PM NEW ENERGY WORKS TIMBER FRAME OPEN HOUSE TOUR

(Horse Drawn Wagon and Van rides from Festival grounds to Open House)

12:00 - 12:30 PM Pet Parade with bagpipes

1:00 PM Horse Event: Mendon Pony Club Riding Demonstration

1:30 - 3:00 PM Music - The Bob Squad

2:30 PM Student Art Show Awards

3:00 - 3:30 PM 64th Regiment of Foot - British Colonial Demonstration

3:30 - 5:00 PM Music - The Bob Squad


Free Admission and Parking, plus Handicap Accessible Rest Room Facilities.

Mendon Station Park is located between Routes 64 and 251 in the Hamlet of Mendon.

For more information call 624-3182 or 738-5405

Program Scheduling is Subject to Change Without Notice

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How The Erie Canal Impacted Mendon

In 1825, the Erie Canal finally crossed New York State – 363 miles from east to west – from the Hudson River to Lake Erie when DeWitt Clinton was the governor of New York.

Unlike many of the earlier canals that were made of wood, the Erie Canal was built of stone and iron so that it would last. It was one of the greatest engineering feats in American history, despite the fact that it was constructed entirely without the aid of a single professional engineer. Engineers and laborers were mainly the Irish who learned on the job as they worked to create an entirely manmade waterway. The main part of the original canal was only four feet deep and forty feet wide.

Before construction on the canal began, merchandise from New York City could take several weeks to travel to western New York. These goods would be loaded and unloaded onto wagons, and bounce along dusty, dirt roads or trails. Many foods and supplies were not shipped at all because they could not survive the trip. The Erie Canal provided a way to ship large quantities of goods much less expensively than ever before.

The “Erie” followed a path created by nature and glaciers that dropped 573 feet in elevation from Albany to Lockport. To handle this change in elevation, 83 locks were built that raised or lowered boats 15 feet at a time. Eighteen aqueducts were constructed to carry the canal over rivers and valleys. The builders knew that the level of the Canal had

to be built below Lake Erie so that the lake water would help to fill the Canal.

Planned in three sections, construction on the middle part of the canal began on July 4, 1817 in Rome and moved westward. In 1821, the Canal reached Bushnell’s Basin, which was the western terminus for the next two years. The canal eastward from Rochester to Albany opened in 1823, and the westward link to Buffalo opened in 1825. One of the aqueducts was constructed in Rochester in 1823 to carry the canal over the Genesee River. A second aqueduct was built in 1842, which currently supports the Broad Street Bridge in Rochester.

The canal did more than simply serve as the nation’s first super highway. It made New York City the premier port of the United States and opened the regions that are now Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan for trade.

In the canal’s first year of operation, more than 217,000 tons of goods were transported across the state via the waterway that connected the manufacturing centers of the east with the food-producing west. Fifteen years later, the tonnage increased to 467,000, and by 1860, more than two million tons of goods were being moved across the state on the Erie Canal, or sometimes called “Clinton’s Ditch.”

Trade, businesses, and communities grew along the Erie Canal because it

continued on page 8

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MONROE COUNTY SOIL AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT **Backyard Conservation Program**

More than ever, the District is finding homeowners, landowners, and residents looking for opportunities to observe wildlife in their natural habitat. Area parks and preserves can offer wonderful opportunities to see butterflies, migratory birds, song birds, small mammals, and other wildlife. In an effort to improve the habitat across the county the District is offering the Backyard Conservation Program to improve the environment in your backyard.

If you're wondering what kind of tree is growing in your backyard? Or interested in learning how to attract wildlife such as birds and butterflies to your birdfeeders and flowering shrubs? The Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District is scheduling backyard conservation appointments for the summer. The Backyard Conservation Program offers residents of Monroe County information on how conservation practices can help conserve and improve natural resources, increase food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, control soil erosion, reduce

sediment in waterways, conserve water and improve water quality, inspire a stewardship ethic, and beautify the landscape.

Have a pond or other aquatic environment? Have you ever considered the addition of a pond to your property, or have ever looked for solutions to water issues. The addition of a pond to your property can not only add aesthetic beauty, recreational area and increase the value of your property, but can also provide protection from stormwater flooding, create a refuge for wildlife and change an unsightly landscape. With proper site selection, construction and maintenance, the benefits of a pond can impact many aspects of your daily life. If you have questions or would like a site visit, please contact the Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District office at 473-2120 x3. A Technician will walk your property for 1-2 hours looking for ways to enhance your backyard in an effort to create a more wildlife friendly environment. The charge for appointment is \$50



Our Old Oak Tree

BAD NEWS – MISCARRIAGES!

In our last PATHWAYS we were excited to think the Old Oak Tree was going to have babies, summer '09. Alas, it is not to be. John Cintineo, Countryside Flower Farm owner, is disappointed that the acorns we were able to find last fall were not productive.

We were late with our idea and missed on the early, best, acorns. John speculates that busy squirrels and acorn weevils got there first, in fall '08. The acorn weevil makes a tiny hole in an acorn, and lays its eggs. The new generation weevil then dines on acorn "meat". And we all know what squirrels do!

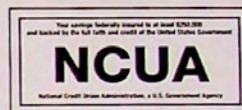
In '09 we will be watching acorn developments! We are not discouraged! Squirrels and weevils will not "get there" first again! More news about next generation "Old Oak Trees" will be in our winter PATHWAYS.



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became much easier to move freight across the state. The canal promoted local flourmills and sawmills, with 160 canal boats operating out of Rochester. Mills dotted the landscape of the Monroe County, from Zebulon Norton's grist mill built on Honeoye Creek in Honeoye Falls in 1792 to similar enterprises in Scottsville, Pittsford, and Chili which relied not only on the harvest of local farmers, but also imported Canadian crops to meet the increasing demands.

Farmers' wagons lined up for half a mile waiting to unload their potatoes, grain and other produce at the docks. Along with trade, the Canal brought many thousands of people in record numbers to Monroe County. In 1820, the federal census reported that the population of the county was 26,855; by 1830, it had risen to 49,862 and in 1840 it was 60,000. This rapid expansion brought about opportunities for employment and business establishments for residents and new arrivals.

Although the Erie Canal didn't pass through Mendon, it did pass through Pittsford, which was only a few miles from the trading centers of Mendon. The section of the canal through Pittsford opened in 1822, making Pittsford an active commercial port.

At that time in the Town of Mendon, Truman Smith, a school teacher, was one of the old and worthy townsmen and was familiar with the hardships of the past and eager to reap the advantages offered by the future. His home, on Mendon Center-Pittsford Road was built circa 1836 as a tavern. During the early days of the Erie Canal, this tavern was called Halfway House because it was four miles from both Pittsford and Honeoye Falls. "Teamsters" hauling loads of flour, woolen cloth, and other merchandise made along Honeoye Creek destined for shipment on the Erie Canal, used the tavern for a rest and drink stop. After the Erie Canal opened, Rochester became the first boomtown on the Canal. It made New York the Empire State, and it made Rochester and nearby towns one of the state's

leading communities. First and foremost, the Erie Canal was an artery of commerce which linked upstate New York's raw materials—lumber, wheat, and salt – with New York City – a trading and manufacturing center.

The New York Canal System opened for the 184th consecutive navigation season on Friday, May 1, 2009 and will be open through November 15. According to the Western Erie Canal Alliance, "The Erie Canal is one of New York's best kept secrets. The opening of the canal in 1825 shaped our nation's future. The canal thrives today as an attractive waterway for recreational boats and occasional freight barges. It is also a National Heritage Corridor and tourist destination that will likely be vital to Upstate New York's economy and future economic development."

The next issue of Pathways will include an article about life in and around Mendon during the years after the Erie Canal was finished through Monroe County.



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The Mendon Station Festival

2009 HF-L Student Art Show

Saturday, September 12 (12 to 5 PM) & Sunday, September, 13 (12 to 5 PM)

2009 BEST OF SHOW



Best of Show: Kari Forstrom is the 2009 Grand Winner with her acrylic painting, entitled "Shear Jubilation." Kari was a student in Mrs. Recktenwald's 11th grade class at HF-L High School.

ARTISTS AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 AT 2:30 PM

Proud Sponsors of the 2009 Student Art Show



Mendon Station Festival

September 12 and 13, 2009

Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District Student Art Show 2009 Winners

BEST OF SHOW

Kari Forstrom

BEST OF SCHOOL

High School - Vania Sagredo

Manor School -

Liam Lyle

Middle School - Lauren DePont

Lima Primary School - Michael Cavallaro

JUROR'S AWARDS

Samantha Tunney

Mike Trinidad

Tess Gilmore

Paige Smith

Emily Leonard

Brooke D'April

Hannah Buschang

Megan Owens

Kelsey Putnam

Elizabeth McGuire

Jake DiTucci

Troy Baker

Robin Willick

Emily Borden

Amy Li

Jayna Lester

Erin Olin

Allie Joseph

Alexandra Northrup

Eddie Gartland

Awards to be presented during the Student Art Show at 4:00 PM on Sunday, September 13, 2009

The Art Education program in the Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District provides all students (K-12) with the opportunity to develop artistic literacy and expression. The program strives to produce creative and critical thinkers. Students participate in the areas of production, aesthetics, art history/appreciation and art criticism. Many of the students have won prestigious awards and scholarships in various art contests, juried shows and colleges. Each year an increasing number of high school art students continue their studies in competitive post secondary art programs.

Students are under the guidance of the following Art department faculty:

Lima Primary School: Jennifer Gillette

Manor School: Cindy Zauski

Middle School: Bonnie Foster & Cindy Morsheimer

High School: Harold Coogan, Kelly Recktenwald and Jenna Thompson

Juror's Statement: Jeanne Lindsay - W.S.H. - B.A. degree from Empire State Collage She has exhibited and received awards in numerous national and international exhibitions. She is a member of Watercolor USA Honor Society, and will exhibit with this society in Tokyo, Japan in April 2010.

Jeanne is a member of the Rochester Art Club and has been on the teaching staff of the Memorial Art Gallery (Creative Workshop) for the past 25 years.

COME TO THE MENDON STATION FESTIVAL

- See all the selected art work from all four schools and enjoy the fun
- Vote for your choice of Art for the "People's Choice Award" until 4:00PM on Sunday, September 13.

- Taste test Custom BrewCrafter's Root Beer -

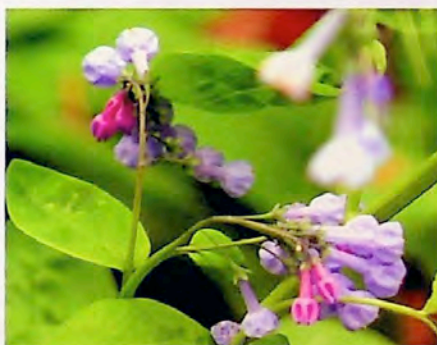
The Mendon Foundation Bluebells Take Root!

Thanks to the generosity of Victor Farmer Brice Bowerman, America's favorite wildflower – *Mertensia virginica* or bluebells to you – were dug in mid-May on Bowerman's farm and transported to new paths in Mendon. Schools, public gardens, and many private individuals – and of course the Trail – quickly took root and began new bluebell locations. Made available free of charge to members of the Mendon Foundation



and a few other plant specialists, the Bowerman bluebells, as we like to call them, encourage the greening of Mendon and other places by carefully transplanting native plants.

Spearheaded by Arlene Cluff, Mendon Foundation Board Member, the flowering perennial plants were dug in an area of Bowerman's property that, because of their density, is formally called a "bluebell woods." The stunning buds, on 12-24 inch green stems, reveal clusters of pendulous flowers of pastel blue. As they mature, the flowers slowly turn a subtle shade of pink.



Once a cow path, now the tractor path for Bowerman's bluebells.

Bluebells turn from blue to pink during their maturation. The blooms last for weeks and the plants spread in ideal locations including damp places, under trees, and along wetlands.



Arlene Cluff, Mendon Foundation Board Member, with Brice Bowerman and his daughter Linda Armstrong during the bluebell dig and distribution for Mendon Foundation Members.

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Bravo to the Volunteers of Mendon!

This spring several people who live and work in Mendon decided to give back to the community by volunteering their time, energy and skills. Many thanks to Lauri Hofmann who organized the groups and worked closely with Arlene Cluff, Director in completing the projects. For many years, she and her husband Jim have worked tirelessly on community and Mendon Foundation projects.

In the beginning of May the following people weeded, trimmed, planted and mulched the stairway garden at Mendon Station Park. The multiple weeds were big and deep rooted. The native plantings were trimmed and more flowers were planted. Our thanks to: Doreen Haller from Best Times Financial Planning, her husband Terry and friend Barb Schaeffer, Dan Swaenepoel of Swaenepoel Construction, Carey Whitmore, owner of Radiant Skin Clinic and Jennifer Recard, Mendon Foundation member and Foundation Birders Group.



The following week brought together several employees from Southco Corporation to weed plant and mulch the Mendon Community Center garden. Jeanelle Baraszack even bought her granddaughter to help. The community really appreciates the work of: Scott Hammond, Deb Renner, Lynne Amorese, Joe Follett, Ken Greenwood and Jeanelle in sprucing up this garden.



The Sunday before Memorial Day, we were fortunate to have several employees of Five Star Bank weed, plant and mulch the Rochester Junction 1920 garden and the Hosta Garden. Fortunately with all their hard work we were able to bring the Hosta garden back to life. Several donations of plants, shrubs and a tulip tree were planted. Lauri & Jim Hofmann planted the tulip tree donated by Robert and Sandra Lovell of Victor next to the picnic table. In the next few years there will be shade to enjoy a nice picnic lunch. Our special thanks to: Jordan & Doug Crego, Barb Moore, Melissa Luft, Kevin Keefe and his children, Norma Raven and Kirsti Allison.



Most of these volunteers live in or near Mendon. They all work here and are very proud of their community. Many are also members of the Mendon Foundation and enjoy and use the Trail frequently. We are blessed with a community of unique and natural beauty. In order to maintain the tranquil and beautiful character of our town, we need

continued on page 15

A Bear Visits Mendon!

Sometime, early morning, July 4th, evidence in a back yard on Parrish Road indicated a large creature had enjoyed a bird seed picnic! Two feeders mounted on sturdy steel poles had been attacked. One steel pole was broken, the other was bent at about a sixty degree angle. The steel feeder on the bent pole was twisted with pieces torn loose, but still attached. No sign of bird seed could be found. The other feeder was wooden, with a clever opening device. It was no where to be found, on site or in the nearby woods. Nor was there any remaining evidence of bird seed. Mission accomplished apparently.



Ground evidence indicated the presence of a large animal that had to maneuver on two feet to get to the bird seed. A DEC wildlife officer confirmed that it could only be a bear.

The site is adjacent to a tributary of Irondequoit Creek. The tributary is in a wide gully, all creek and woods, and originates far south of the Town of Mendon. The DEC officer considers it an ideal wild animal transportation corridor. Does that forecast more bears in Mendon?

A Silent Auction Is In Your Future

Our Mendon Station Festival will be lots of fun for all – this coming September 12th and 13th. Some of the most fun might be a Silent Auction in a big tent at the Festival. It will raise funds for the many Mendon Foundation, and Partners, projects.

Most of us have saved – for years – treasures that are out of sight in attics, cellars, and garages. Donated to the Mendon Foundation and sold at auction they become tax deductions, at the successful bid price, for the donors. And each item sold becomes a treasured possession again.

We are anxious to hear from you about possible auction donations. To date we have received – a day sail for 4, with a gourmet lunch, on Lake Ontario; a thorough review and analysis of an investment/retirement portfolio; new Marshawn Lynch, Tom Brady, and Eli Manning jerseys; and other interesting bidding opportunities.

If you would like to create some empty space at home (or office) consider donating an old relic/new treasure to our Silent Auction. The donor, the successful bidder, and Mendon Community all benefit! Contact us at mendonfoundationinc.org, write to Mendon Foundation, P.O. Box 231, Mendon, NY 14506, or call 385-2330 during weekday office hours.

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Commuting to Work on the Trail



By David Henderson

I have been a runner for almost 20 years using the roads in Mendon to stay in shape and train for some races. Once the Lehigh Valley Trail was completed it became a part of my regular running route.

Two events over the past few years triggered my interest in biking. The first was some nagging injuries that were brought on by running long distances. My physician suggested that at some point adding biking to my running routine would be easier on my joints.

The second event was a surprise 50th birthday party my wife threw for me last December. I received a number of gift cards from my family towards the purchase of a new bike. In May I purchased a bike with the intention of using it to commute to work. I first looked at road bikes but decided to purchase a cyclocross bike, which can be ridden on roads as well as trails.

Since the beginning of June I have been commuting to work 2 days per week. The best part of my 8.5 mile ride is the 5 mile stretch on trails. I pickup the Lehigh Valley Trail on West Bloomfield Road and ride east to where it connects to the Auburn trail in Victor before popping out on route 251 very close to route 96. A short ride takes me to High Street and my job at Victor Central Schools. During my 35-minute ride, I have seen an abundance of wildlife including deer, fox, rabbits, snakes, and turtles. The most difficult part was learning how to use clipless pedals. Clipless pedals lock a bike shoe to the pedal for better power transfer but when coming to a stop, I have to unclip the shoe from the pedal or fall over.

Commuting to work via bike on the Lehigh Valley Trail has been great. The trail provides a safer and quieter alternative to biking the roads. I am looking forward to exploring the Lehigh Valley west, and plan on biking the Trail south to visit my daughter at SUNY Geneseo in the fall.

St. John's Episcopal Church

11 Episcopal Ave. Honeoye Falls
(beyond the Post Office)

Rev. Dahn Gandell
624-4074
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 10:00 AM



Handicapped Accessible Nursery Available

An open church community to which all are welcome, without qualification.

BRAVO continued from page 12

volunteers to take an interest and help. This was a productive and terrific way to give back to our lovely community.

Jim Howe began a volunteer after becoming a member of the Foundation Birders Group. He has been mowing the Mendon Foundation properties and Lehigh Valley Trail for the past two years. There are many other volunteers who offer their time and expertise with the many events sponsored by the Foundation. Many thanks to them as well. They have provided a valuable service to the organization.

Mendon Foundation Tent at the Festival!



Elm Trees, Lehigh Valley Trail caps, T-shirts, polo shirts, and sweat shirts, will all be for sale at our tent. In a variety of sizes – both trees and garments – and with a choice of colors. (Not the elm trees!)

While at our tent you might bid on some interesting opportunities. For instance, a soda parlor table and 4 chairs, a Tom Brady Patriots jersey, or maybe a day sail on Lake Ontario for four including a gourmet lunch.

A box of 15 all purpose note cards, 5 very special Mendon pictures (3 cards each) will be available for \$20.

We hope to see you at the Tent!

PATHWAYS

is the newsletter of the Mendon Foundation, a completely volunteer organization which exists with the generous support of its members, volunteers, and contributors. This newsletter is published three times a year and paid for through the generous support of our advertisers.

The Mendon Foundation
P.O. Box 231
Mendon, N.Y. 14506-0231

www.MendonFoundation.com

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OUR VISION STATEMENT

We believe in preservation.
We believe in recreation.
We believe in education.
We believe in community stewardship.

OUR PURPOSE

To improve the quality of life in our community.

As we succeed in these objectives, we enhance property values for all Mendon property owners. The Foundation is supported by membership fees, grants and other contributions. Donations to the Mendon Foundation are tax deductible. Proceeds are used to cover easement acquisitions, monitoring and communications. All labor is volunteer.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Sign me up!

- Senior/Student \$20
- Individual \$25
- Family \$40
- Business \$50
- Sponsor \$100
- Sustainer \$250
- Patron \$500
- Benefactor \$1000

I want to volunteer.

My interests are:

- Lehigh Valley Trail
- Mendon Station Park
- Community Playground
- Mendon Hamlet
- Fundraising
- Communications
- Open Space/Preservation

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day/Evening Phone _____

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Please make checks payable to:

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SILENT AUCTION

COMMUTING ON THE TRAIL

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