



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

May 2019

Improving Your Casting Practices

By Sybil Hunter

“Any cast is a good cast if the line does what you want and goes where you want it to go,” said Bill Mangan one of only 35 FFI certified Casting Instructors in Michigan and owner of Mangan’s Cast A Fly, MFFC’s April guest speaker said during his casting demonstration.

“Sometimes you want a wide loop. One thing you *never* want to throw is a tailing loop. When you are casting, you’re *pulling* your line to a stop....you’re pulling the line forward and back. You want smooth acceleration. You’re not pushing it. The crisper I can stop that rod, the tighter it’s going to be.”

Remember, the faster the line goes, the more line out there means more bend in the rod. A short line should yield a short casting arc. A long line should yield a longer casting arc. “The longer the line, the longer the pause.”

“Always keep a little force against that line, against that reel,” said Mangan. “As soon as you make the fly move, the rod is starting to load. If it’s tight, all you have to do is lift it up to 12 or so...and make the cast.

“Whatever the tip does, the line will mimic,” Mangan said. If there is a tailing loop, at some point the rod tip dropped below that line creating a tailing loop.



This is what makes “wind knots,” not wind.

When shooting line, if you stop too soon, the line is going to crash, if you stop to late, the line is not going to do anything. “Stop it, let it go.”

When doing a double haul, “My left hand is my speedometer,” said Mangan.

Then when roll casting, “You want at least 20% of the line in the water. I need to make a nice D-loop. I can make a roll cast without a D,” said Mangan, “but it’s a lot easier with a D...it’s less work.”

Mangan proceeded to demonstrate the difference, and the benefit of the D-loop.

Practice roll casting with a weight, like a screwdriver, tied to the end of the line, as the grass provides no resistance.

“Start with a little flick, then flick harder...then flick harder,” said Mangan.

“Any time you roll cast, bring it back slowly. Keep about a three finger difference between your wrist and rod

MFFC Calendar



May 15, 2019

MFFC Banquet

Speaker: Phil Rowley

Topic: Fly Fishing Argentina

Italian American Center

Livonia, 5:30 p.m.

June 12, 2019

International Fly Fishing Film Festival Showing

VisTaTek Center

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

July 10, 2019

Speaker Meeting

TBD

VisTaTek Center

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

August 14, 2019

Speaker Meeting

Erin Dreelin

Of MSU Fisheries & Wildlife

VisTaTek Center

Livonia, 7:30 p.m.



Continued from page 1
handle. Once I finish my cast, I stop it, and follow it down.”

Remember on the pick-up that, “Whenever the line leaves the water, there’s gonna be a waterfall...about one inch up the line. Squeeze the handle at 12. When I start to go around - that’s when I start my power,” said Mangan.

Next Mangan showed the audience the Voodoo cast for drying off one’s fly. “It kinda looks like a figure 8,” said Mangan. “Start off low. Only go shoulder length up...oval...oval...cast.”

Next on the agenda: Mends. Aerial Mends, Water Mends, Wiggle Mends, a Bump Cast and Curve Cast were demonstrated.

“Any time you mend in the air, *mend after the stop*,” said Mangan. “Cast above where the fish is. A lot of fish won’t move. They might only move one to two feet to get the fly.” Mangan demonstrated a mend hooking right, to avoid obstacles. “All it takes is practice, until you can put that fly exactly where you want it.”

There is a one foot wiggle, 3 foot wiggle, 6 foot wiggle, it depends on what is trying to be achieved. “Everything’s gotta be on the stop,” said Mangan. “Lean into it. Stop. Wiggle. Lean into it.”

A Bump Cast is good for fishing a seam. “Stop and bump. Stop, wait and bump. Stop wait, wait and bump,” Mangan showed how timing effects the cast. “The faster you bump, the further out the things will be.”

For a Curve Cast, “I want some speed and I’m going to stop real hard,” said Mangan. A Curve Cast is a mending cast that is good to get around rocks and blind bends.

Lastly, he demonstrated styles of casts, Tension, Belgian, and Russian.

“Keep your arm out and just make a figure eight,” said Mangan explaining a

Tension Cast. “Make it tighter...Make it tighter...All I have to do is stop my rod tip 180 degrees from my target. Anyone can do it — even a kid.”

For a Belgian cast, “Keep constant tension on the line. It’s just constant tension — no stopping.” This type of cast helps when the wind kicks up.

The Russian Cast, “I simply lift up, get the line going where I want it to go and... send it,” he said as everyone watched the line shoot out beautifully in front of him.

Mangan said anyone can learn to be a good caster with practice. “You have to learn the foundations, which would be loop control, before moving on to any cast. Then all mends are after the stop because you have to send the fly to the target. Stop, send the fly, then mend.”

“Any cast is a good cast, if you make it on purpose!”

Bill Mangan summarized a few key points of casting:

- Any Cast is a good cast, if you can make it on purpose!!
- You will never make good casts until you achieve a good foundation.
- With a good foundation you will be able to CONTROL your Loops.
- It will then just be a matter of practice to learn the more advanced casts.
- Learning the 5 Essentials of fly casting will help build you foundation.
- I wrote a five part series on the Essentials, for the Woods-n-Water News magazine. My articles are on my website, hopefully they will be of some help for the members: manganscastafly.com
- Presentation is the most important part of fly fishing. The perfect fly will do you know good if you can not put the fly where it belongs and make it act like the natural.
- Practice before you go!! Don’t wait until your fishing trip to practice your casting!
- The width of the casting arc & the pause,

at the end of the rod stop, changes with the amount of line your casting.

Short line, short (narrower) casting arc & short pause

Long line, long (wider) casting arc & longer pause

- The line should be straight when you start the opposite forward or back cast.

- Therefore when you stop the rod you must *pause*.

- Try saying: Hi Mom, Hi Mother or Hi Mother how are you?, depending on

the amount of line you have outside the rod tip.

- Whatever the rod tip does the line will mimic.

For instance: If the tip travels straight, the line will go straight. If the tip wiggles the line wiggles.

- The line and fly will go in the direction the rod tip stops.

- Once you stop the rod tip you can not change the direction the fly will go, unless you pull it back with the line.

- Water Mends occur once the line is on the water.

- Aerial Mends occur in the air.

- Before you make a Aerial Mend you must send the fly in the direction of the target.

- Therefore all Aerial Mends occur after the rod stop.

- Practice your roll cast on the grass, with the fly pinned, in some fashion, to the ground.

- Roll Cast: You can not cross the Railroad Track.

Need a good D-loop

Rod canted out away from your body, about 1:00, or line will hit rod.

Downward trajectory on forward cast, don’t apply power till after midnight.

Elliptical head high of lower loop.

- You can Pantomime all casts with just your hand, or kid’s swimming noodle.



MFFC Business



Meeting Minutes Michigan Fly Fishing Club Board Meeting April 10, 2019

Rollcall

Present: Vanderhoof; Strachan; Nowicki; Bada; S. Hunter; Selinger; Summers; Oehring; Niemi; Freeburg; Briggs
Visitors: H. Vingsness; C. Hunter; K. Lipp; D. Mayes

Approval of Minutes - Approved.

Approval of Agenda - Approved.

Officer Reports

President - Vanderhoof

Tabled.

Vice President - Strachan

Tabled.

Treasurer - Nowicki

Nowicki presented the proposed budget for the next year. A line by line review was done and changes were made to Equipment expense; Board meeting expense; Conservation Grand expense; Expo Hospitality Room expense, and Expo shirts.

Corresponding Secretary - Hunter

Tabled.

Membership - Bada

Tabled

Events & Outings

Items: tabled.

New Business

Website: Haley Vingsness, a Microsoft employee, made a presentation on updating our current website. She is an expert on the use of WordPress, our current website website creation application. She provided insight on how our current website could be updated to provide for easier updating, and to provide automated updating of Social Media sites using the add-on package called Jet Pack.

Old Business

Items: tabled.

Visitor Comments: See New Business.

Roundtable

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:25 PM

Conservation Committee Report 2019-2019

This year there were 12 requests for Conservation Funds. These requests were submitted to the committee composed of Scott Freeburg, Barry Green, Alan Haxton, Kevin Lipp, Joe Sprys, Craig Summers and myself, Eric Center. The budget for Conservation that was established by the board and approved by the membership was \$21, 245. The requested amounts totaled \$30,430. The committee after looking over the requests granted these requests and amounts to the following groups.

1. Nicole Watson/MSU - Collecting data regarding the reintroduction of Grayling into Michigan waters. \$380
2. Muskegon Riverbank Rehabilitation – To develop a site plan and start working on erosion site approximately two miles upstream from the Thornapple boat launch. \$2,928
3. Au Sable River Property Owners Association – To plant Cedar trees to help with the stabilization of the riverbank and to provide the needed shade for the fish environment. \$929
4. Anglers of the Au Sable – Analysis of insects at six sites on the North Branch of the Au Sable to establish a baseline data of the macro invertebrate population. \$1,171
5. Pere Marquette Stream Bank Erosion – Fund for two projects to help stop occurring bank erosion. \$1,707
6. Big Sable River Large Woody Debris Project Phase 3 – Place LWD in designated areas and clear out the log jams in the unwanted locations. \$3,286
7. Boardman River Placement of a New Vault toilet – The site determined for the toilet is at the Boardman Landing. \$786
8. Paint Creek Fish Habitat Restoration - Place LWD in designated areas and clear out the log jams in the unwanted locations. \$2,195
9. Upper Black River Council – Install LWD into the Black River between Sparr Road and Tyrolean Hills. \$ 2,281
10. Clinton River Data Collection – To collect and analyze data of the North Branch of the Clinton River by the Clinton River Coldwater Conservation Program. \$1,686
11. Dam Four Porta-Potty – To place and maintain a porta-potty at the Dam Four access site. \$800
12. Miller Van Winkle Chapter TU – Funding for the habitat mapping of the Maple River in Emmet County, which will include fish counts, monitoring the river temperature and sediment impact due to the removal of the dam. \$3,097



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Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Boffin

Al The Hackleman

Books I Refer To Often

Recently I was looking at a couple of fly fishing websites I enjoy and noted a couple of similar new posts. Both posts were about books that folks keep going back to, for fun, for information, or just for some nice relaxing reading. That got me to thinking about some books that I consider fun, informative or good technical fly fishing books. I know that each of us, if asked, would have a different group of books that move us, but for discussion purposes here are some of my favorite books about the sport we love.

General fly tying books

Probably my favorite fly tying book is Dave Hughes book, *Wet flies*. This book, published way back in 1995 and finally signed by the author in 2000 at our show, was the book that first got me interested in flymphs. These flies caught my attention and have been a favorite to tie and fish since then. When the fly tying show was still in the Lansing area I showed these flies every time I was there. These flies, to me, are the perfect fly for all times of the season. They can be fished dry, wet or submerged and catch fish in every way possible. As Dave Hughes said in the book, "If flymphs were developed today they would be called emergers" because that is what they are. Back when they were first developed they were called flymphs because they were not a fly and not a nymph, they are a flymph. This book began my long term hunt for other books about these patterns, and I have to say I have found quite a few books about this type of fly since then.

Another fly tying book that made a difference in my fishing is *The Soft-Hackled Fly*, by Sylvester Nemes. Notes in the book show that I purchased this book from Freeland Outfitters in 1989. It was signed by Syl in 1997 at our Southfield show. This is another book that started me on a quest for more information about these types of flies. Since then I have accumulated about 25 other books about soft hackles and I love to fish these types of flies

often as I can. One thing I love about fishing soft hackle flies is the ability to cast the fly into the stream, throw in an upstream mend, and then just look around and enjoy the scenery of the river. These flies don't have to be drag free and if a fish eats the fly you know it by the tug. This allows me to enjoy the river and nature while I fish. A very nice thing IMHO.

One other fly tying book that has really made a difference in my tying is *The Fly Tier's Benchside Reference*, by Ted Leeson and Jim Schollmeyer. I find that this book, it truly does have just about every fly tying technique shown and explained, is the first book I look at if I have an issue or problem with some fly I am working on. I think the multi-page Index at the end of the book is just superb and I use it often. That Index notes not only the techniques shown but also some other phrases that might be used for certain techniques. I have shown this book to others and find that there are times when the book is far more correct and straight forward in the teaching of techniques than perhaps I am. This book sits near the area where I tie flies and is always available and useful. It has helped me make improvements to many of my flies over the years.

General fly fishing books

I would have to say that the one book about fly fishing that I refer to the most is *Presentation* by Gary Borger. I bought this book back in 1995 and have referred to it literally hundreds of times since then. I have probably read this book cover to cover about a dozen times, and each time I learn something new. From some great notes about leaders, to illustrations about knots and how to tie them properly, to ideas of where and why fish are where they are, this book is a wealth of information. Gary has added notes that are as appropriate to our Michigan streams as they are to stream out west. From notes about equipment to information about different line techniques, this book just stands out. This is one book that helps with the fact that "fly fishing is a never ending learning experience." I know it has sure helped me learn more.

Another book that has helped me learn and maybe got me to experiment a bit is *Fishing Tandem Flies*, but Charles Meck. This book, published in 2007, was the perfect book for me to use to really focus my ideas and thoughts on fishing

two flies at a time. From simple dropper suggestions to more involved dry fly/dropper fly ideas, this book seemed to have more information than I had ever seen in just one book. I had been using two fly rigs for some time, but this book really seemed to encompass and explain the method in so many new ways. From use of different tippet materials to distances from one fly to the next, this book solidified and confirmed some of the stuff that I had sort of learned on my own. I guess what I am saying is this book noted things that I thought I had learned, but also confirmed many things that I was in the process of learning. I know that now I am far more confident in my two fly rigs than I was then.

Perhaps one of the books that made more difference in my fishing was *Prospecting for Trout*, by Tom Rosenbauer. I think this book settled some questions for me about where to fish. And what flies to use. This book mentioned that there are many different spots in a river that trout will stay in, and each spot has both good qualities and not so good qualities. Basically Tom says to cast your fly anywhere that there might be a fish. There are no promises, but without trying there is never any catching. I know that sure makes sense, but I was sort of passing on areas that might have had fish in them, looking for the perfect spot that was just a bit further away. I guess what this book did for me is tell me its ok to fish in unlikely spots, because every once in a while, that spot is the spot holding the biggest fish of the day. I feel that this book gave me permission to just fish the river and enjoy all the potential of the entire river, and not just the best spots.

General fun reading, maybe best in the winter

In this category my first and favorite book is *The Earth is Enough* by Harry Middleton. This book just spoke to me in so many ways. Perhaps the first way was the fact that I was introduced to fishing, before fly fishing, by my uncle and grandfather. My first Zebco rod and reel were a birthday present when I was about eight, and the fishing with that rod started me on my long love of the outdoors and fishing. Sort of like the main character in this book, I started young and the joy stayed with me throughout my life. This book has brought me more relaxed winter evenings of memories and promise than any book I have ever read.

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May Fly Of The Month

Smallmouth Look Out

Clouser Half and Half

By Todd A. Schotts

For this month's fly, I decided to bring you an amazing fly for fishing the flats up and around Port Austin. If you going to the famed MFFC Smallmouth Outing, you will want at least one of these flies in your box. The fly in question is the famed Clouser Half and Half fly by Bob Clouser.

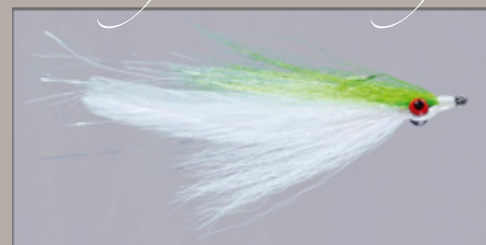
Bob is an innovator of many fly patterns, all of which gained worldwide popularity. He's a guide, fly tying instructor, and caster. Bob resides by the waters of Susquehanna River, for which his patterns were designed. Some of Bob's famed patterns are: Clouser Minnow, Clouser Crawfish, Swimming Nymph, Mad Tom, and Floating Minnow, just to name a few. He has written books Clouser Flies and Fly Fishing for Smallmouth in Rivers and Streams, plus various articles. Bob's Clouser's minnow is claimed to be the most effective underwater fly ever developed and is rated as #1 by *Field and Stream*.

So for this month's fly, we are going to take the concept of the Clouser Minnow and marry the design with Lefty Kreh's Deceiver to come up with the Clouser Half and Half. This combination has the rear of Lefty's Deceiver and the front portion of the Clouser Minnow. Bob came up with this idea when he needed to have a big fly in his fly box to imitate the Fallfish in the Susquehanna River. He claimed big Smallmouth eat big Fallfish, so to catch those fish you need some groceries on the end of your fly line. He said his Clouser Minnow didn't have the bulk he wanted, so he added the Deceivers back end

to come up with the desired appearance he was seeking. The first time he fished this fly, was on the Susquehanna River during a blitz of Smallmouth, or so he mentioned. Watching the fly disappear in the depths of the water, he started stripping it in, and the set the hook on a four pound Smallmouth; he repeated this once again very quickly. All of this happened before his clients showed up for a guide trip.

When tying this pattern, tie in the saddle hackle in the rear; do two at a time on one side and then two on the other side. Or you can do as Lefty always did when tying the Deceiver, just tie in all four at the same time. This makes tying easier, and if not straight, run it under hot water to straighten it out. Now tie in the buck tail; tie in behind the eye a clump of white bucktail on top of the hook shank, tie back to the bend of the hook. Take the thread in front of the eye, tie in another clump of white buck tail, but do not tie right up to the eye! You want to achieve a smooth tapered head up to in front of the eye, then sling the thread under the eye and tie down the white bucktail in back of the eye. Then sling the thread back in front of the eye and rotate your hook over so hook point is on top. When tying in the flash, make it a little longer than the hackle; remember that is the bait fish's lateral line. Now take your contrasting color and just tie in up to the same area as the white, tie off and finish with head cement, using UV Glue, or Sally Hansen's on the front tapered part. Do not tie the contrasting color down behind the eye, this will defeat the purpose of the size of this fly that you are achieving. You want that appearance of a large baitfish. The most popular color combination is white with Chartreuse buck tail as contrast. My favorite is brown hackle, brown on the bottom, using blue contrast. I have landed many Smallmouth on the flats with this color combination and the Muskegon River, Grand River, Huron River, and Looking Glass River as well.

*Clouser
Half and Half*



HOOK: Size 1/0 – 3/0 Mustad 34007

THREAD: 140 Denier/6/0 color to match body material

EYES: Large Lead double pupil painted lead eyes

FLASH: Silver

SADDLE HACKLE: 5" to 7" White saddle Hackle

COLLAR: White Deer Hair Bucktail

BELLY: White Deer Hair Bucktail

BACK/CONTRAST COLOR: Chartreuse Bucktail

When fishing this pattern, if you are on a lake, cast to where you see the bait fish, debris (like rocks, stumps, etc), let it sink and then strip it back to you using the strip, strip, twitch method. Fish it basically the same on a river. On a river look for deep pockets of water. With the eyes on top of the hook shank, the hook point will ride up, so it will aid in less snag up's in the watersheds you fish.

So if you want a fly pattern that is totally an enjoyable experience to fish, and brings you a lot tight lines. Then start slinging those bobbins and tie up this amazing creation from two different flies. Until next month, Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.



May Tier Of The Month



Griz's Emerger

Taking The E-Train

For the May activity meeting I was asked to sling bobbins as the Featured Tier and I want to thank Ray for asking me. I am delighted to, but then the question came about, what I was going to tie? I was thinking maybe one of the flies I have written about, or maybe a warm water Fly. Then it dawned on me, why not tie one of my newest patterns for 2019 that was such a huge success with Trout last year? So without any further delay, the fly I will talk about tying is my "Griz's E-Train Emerger." I am very glad to share this fly with club members.

This pattern came about during the winter of 2017-2018 after looking at few different soft hackle/flymph style patterns. I wasn't too excited about what I was seeing, so I took ideas from this fly, and that fly, then put my ideas in there, stirred it up, and got what I was looking for. I did the colors on this fly to represent the famed Hendrickson Hatch that we have in the spring time on our Michigan waterways. One major change was the under wing; I used Polypro Floatable under the soft hackle, instead of the CDC that I kept seeing on all the other patterns. I believe this helps in the appearance of the fly by adding immense appearance of a wing case. Plus it helps to keep the fly pattern in the top part of the water column. When adding the tail material, I have down in the recipe 5 or 6 strands of mallard flank, but if you get

more than that, it doesn't really affect the effectiveness of the fly. Make sure when tying this pattern, you keep a very tight and thin body with a cigar or cone taper of dubbing. With the body dubbing being done tight, when I counter wrap the wire, it stays on top of the body instead of sinking into the depths of the dubbing. And as always when tying, make sure you do not crowd the eye of the hook.

This fly pattern was tested for the very first time last year (2018) on Michigan's famed Trout Opener, on the Upper White River waterways (Michigan). I wasn't sure on what to expect, but after using it Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, the verdict was in...it is a very effective fly! The best part of the whole thing was watching the Brookies, and Browns dart out of their lairs of logs and rocks to attack this morsel. This pattern was even effective throughout the summer season into the fall, on the waters I fished for Trout.

When fishing this fly pattern, cast to the side, and let the current take the fly down river, then strip back up, short, slow retrieves worked with many tight lines. If you can cast under trees along the river banks, like cedar sweepers or bushes, you will have a blast for sure. If you see a lot of swirls around you in the river or streams and no rises, those are usually fish taking emergers before they actually materialize from the water; this is a great time for your favorite emerger pattern.

Make sure you get on board this May, and enjoy the trip of the Griz's "E-Train Emerger," before the "E-Train Emerger" leaves the station! ALL ABOARD! Tight Lines and Snazzy Flies.

Griz's E-Train Emerger



HOOK: Sizes 12 & 14 1x length 2x Gape-Heavy Nymph/Wet Nymph Hook (My preference is FireSticks 633 from Fire Hole Outdoors or Hanak H230BL Hooks)

THREAD: 8/0 or 70 Denier Brown or Black

TAIL: 5 or 6 Duck Flank Feather segments

BODY: SLF Squirrel Spikey Dubbing Rusty Brown

RIBBING: BR Red Wire (14) Small Red Wire (12)

COLLAR: SLF Squirrel Spikey Dubbing Golden Olive

UNDERWING: Gray Polypro Yarn

WING: Hungarian Partridge or Whiting Brahma Hen Mottled Gray





Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events



Little Josie

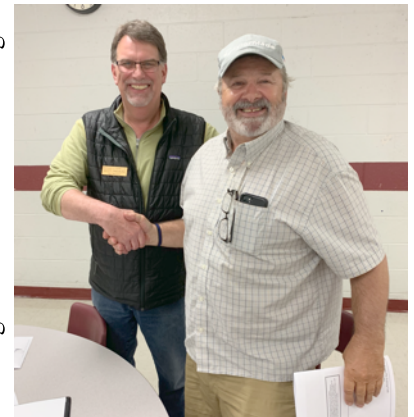
Kid's Corner At The Expo



The Expo Kid's Corner offers fly tying, casting, and block painting fish tees to all participants. Funning it up, little Josie, accompanied by her father Matt, tried them all! Thanks for sharing her with us! We look forward to seeing Josie on the stream some day!

Welcome

New member Rodd Miller,
college friends of Scott Freeburg



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For other relaxing and pleasing books I look to three authors that have shared many books with our world. Between John Gierach, Jerry Dennis and Kathy Scott, I can sit and read and immerse myself in any of their books. I feel that they all write from their heart, about all subjects they have explored. Books from these folks are the most read and noted and highlighted of any books I own. I must admit I own every book from each of these fine authors and look forward to any new offering they write. From historical information to facts and feelings about our great lakes, these folks just make my reading times so very special. A wonderful bonus is that I have had the pleasure of meeting all these folks and that just makes the books all the more special for me.

Books make our lives richer and more diverse. We are very fortunate to have a very large library at our club meetings. Check out the books, take one home and read it and learn, or enjoy the stories. Find some books that speak to you and enjoy the shared fun.

With all that being said, I am going to take the summer off from writing and do some important chores. We want to fish more, and then we also need to fish new spots. When that is done we plan to fish some of our new flies that we tied this past winter. And then we are going to do some fishing. When that gets boring we plan to fish out in the Yellowstone area for a bit. Then back home to fish more. So no articles for the summer. Back in the fall for new fun and adventures. Have a great summer of fishing.



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