

March, 2015



# THE MASTER GARDENER™



Josephine County OSU Master Gardener™ Association Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

By John Farias, President



I walked the yard today and was excited beyond belief. The crocuses were in full bloom, the daffodils were a day away from their beautiful yellow flowers and the tulips and hyacinths were right behind them. Every plant was sprouting buds. I was out of control and totally ignored all the cleanup work that needed to be done first. There was only one thing to do. I shouted to my wife, "Carolyn, start the truck. I need to go to the nursery and buy some new plants."

Carolyn challenged my sanity and asked me if my plan was to put the new pots next to the plants that I still have not planted from last fall. I told her there was a really good reason for not planting them, but I forgot what it was. She then chided me about preparing for this year's vegetable garden. At this time of the year you should be sowing seeds and transplanting in your vegetable garden. That assumes you determined what you actually wanted to plant, ordered the seeds and developed a seeding plan. Your plan should have included cool crops, (spring and fall/winter) as well as warm crops, (summer). And of course you remembered to rotate your vegetables.

Then she rightly pointed out that before I start planting flower beds, it would be a good idea to first clean up leaves, branches and other debris. Eradicating the weeds is paramount before they go to seed. Pruning for shape, removing dead material and encouraging growth would also be a good idea. Before buying new plants, check to see if your existing plants need to be divided. Do not be afraid to relocate or get rid of plants that are in the wrong location.

(Continued on page 4)

## CALLING ALL MASTER GARDENERS

On April 25 and 26 we are holding our annual Spring Garden Fair, which is one of the biggest money-making operations of Master Gardeners. It's also a social event for all of us and it gives students a chance to earn hours.

One of the fun features of SGF is the raffle, where we raise additional funds for the organization by letting people take a chance to win their chosen prizes. Traditionally we ask local merchants to give us products or gift certificates - but we also ask Master Gardeners to donate things that a gardener would love to have.

If you want to donate something, please drop it off in Karen's office in the Extension Office or bring it to class on Thursdays or to the Board Meetings

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### Special points of interest:

- 2015 Elected Officers
- 2015 Appointed Coordinators
- Upcoming Events
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# **BUTTERFLIES: POLLINATORS AND ECOLOGICAL INDICATORS**

While bees are our most efficient pollinators, especially of food crops, butterflies are key to the pollination of many flowering plants, producing seed to maintain biological diversity with all of its beauty. Unlike bees, butterflies are better able to distinguish bright colors and are particularly attracted to red, orange and yellow flowers. Like bees, butterflies exhibit floral constancy, usually visiting flowers of the same species repeatedly assuring pollination. As perching feeders, butterflies prefer flowers that offer landing platforms comprised of petals (coneflowers) or a concentration of many small flowers (butterfly bush, goldenrod).

Many species of flowering plants attract butterflies via scent. Butterflies, in turn, produce pheromones that mimic these scents in order to attract members of the opposite sex. The quality of the nectar reward is also important. Butterflies lay more eggs and achieve higher body weights when fed a diet of nectar with high concentrations of amino acids. Also important to butterfly breeding success are certain minerals, salts and proteins obtained by the male and transferred to the spermatheca of female during mating. Males collect these nutrients while mud puddling and feeding on dung and carrion. So when you see a wet area with a swarm of butterflies they are probably males fortifying themselves while awaiting the emergence of the females a few days later.

Butterflies are given short-shrift when it comes to research funding compared to bees because they are not important pollinators of commercial crops. However, their sensitivity to environmental changes, conferring “canary in the cage” status, indicates their value as indicators of ecosystem health. Witness the dramatic decline in the numbers of Monarchs reaching their historic overwintering sites.

While adult butterflies are generalist pollinators feeding on nectar from many species of flowers, they are quite selective when choosing plants on which to lay their eggs. Because of the constant evolution of traits by plants to discourage herbivory, caterpillars fare best when they specialize on a few closely related flower species, (Continued on page 5)

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## **STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Information provided by the Josephine County Master Gardener Newsletter is accurate to the best of our knowledge. However, readers must assume all responsibility for their own actions based on information found in this publication. If, and when, a company or product is named in an article, it is not an endorsement from the Master Gardeners, Josephine County, or the OSU Extension Service. Alternate gardening methods are sometimes presented for your information and consideration, but they are not necessarily the only approach to gardening problems.

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## **EDITOR NOTES**

Please submit notices and articles to the editor, Ruth Reel.

You can always e-mail to the editor:

**reelsox@grantspass.com**

Or mail to: 3990 Galice Rd., Merlin, OR 97532.

Or call at: 541-479-7702

**Please let the editor know if you have changed your address, phone # or e-mail address.**

***Have you paid your 2015 dues yet??  
Time is running out.***

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By Julie Kaszuba, Treasurer

Cash and savings totals: As of 1/31/15

Checking: \$18,407

Savings: \$21,356

CD: \$3,611

Total Assets: \$43,374

Total Income: \$4,221. This comes from Garden Guide Sales (\$105), SGF; Booth Rent (\$50), Donations: Fred Meyer Rewards (\$83), Used Ref. Bks. sold FBO: Plant Clinic (\$12), Member donation (\$10), 2015 Dues (\$3,240), Bulb Sales (\$524), Member Purchase G.H. soil (\$197).

Total Expenses: \$2,663. This comes from Plant Clinic Ref. Bks (\$131) SOS: Postage & Supplies (\$375), G.H.; Perennials Soil (\$83), Supplies (\$110), Pots (\$88), Seeds & Plants (\$506), G.H. Fan (\$99), Swingers (\$84), Ads: Thrive Mem-

bership fee (\$100), K-12 (\$20), Annual Liability Ins.(\$527), Newsletter; Postage (\$30), Printing (\$34),3 yr. Website Fee (\$476).

\*\*These figures are based on reconciling checks and deposits to the 1/31/15 bank statements.

\*\*Final Reminder - 2015 Dues are now PAST DUE , if you have not yet paid, please send your \$20 dues pmt to the OSU Extension Office, make your checks payable to Jo.Co. Master Gardeners.

\*\*Reminder #2 - When shopping at the Grange Co-op & Fred Meyer Reward Programs, don't forget to have them credit your purchase to Jo.Co.Master Gardeners.

## GARDEN PONDERINGS BY KAREN PLEASANT, MG COORDINATOR

I am pleased to announce the launch of OSU Extension's new catalog website. The old online catalog has been completely overhauled and it is easier than ever to find what you're looking for and to place an order. By visiting <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/> you can quickly see the new releases as well as what the most popular publications are for the week. You can also do all this from your phone or other mobile device. On the website there are over 200 research-based educational materials about gardening divided into the following categories: Flowers, Shrubs and Trees (24), Fruits and Nuts (56), General (6), Lawns (7), Pests-Insects and Animals (25), Techniques (51), Vegetables (26), and Wildlife (29). Some of the publications can be downloaded for free and the costs of others vary from \$1.00 to \$18.00 (for a book). With the launch of the new OSU Extension Catalog, the publications will retain a permanent URL, even when they are revised. This means that you can now utilize these links without worrying

they will be broken when a publication is updated. In your spare time you can spend hours perusing the website and searching a variety of topics in addition to gardening, such as natural resources, forestry, health and wellness, and more. Keep exploring the website in mind as a great activity for a rainy day!  
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### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### **Home & Garden Writer**

The Daily Courier is interested in publishing articles written by Master Gardeners in the monthly Home & Garden edition from March through August. This is a great opportunity if you enjoy writing and want to share your knowledge and love of gardening. You can commit to one or more months...you can also pick your topic and the month(s) you prefer.

#### **Compost Instructor**

One or several people are needed to become our resident "experts" on the art and science of composting. We have had several requests lately for

### *NEW EXTENSION SERVICE CATALOG*

someone (or a panel of folks) to teach about composting.

If you are interested in these volunteer opportunities, please email Karen Pleasant at [karen.pleasant@oregonstate.edu](mailto:karen.pleasant@oregonstate.edu)

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**2015 ELECTED OFFICERS**

- President ..... John Farias
- 1st Vice President ..... Charlie Newsom
- 2nd Vice President..... John Etchells
- Secretary ..... Pat Etchells
- OMGA State Rep .....Guy Young
- OMGA Alt. State Rep..... Candace Bartow
- Past President .....Peter Pernarelli

**APPOINTED COORDINATORS**

- Treasurer.....Julie Kaszuba
- Green House Managers .....Tracey Raggi/  
.....Deborrah Dunham
- Plant Clinic..... Wilma Christian
- SOS Garden Seminar..... Terry Ruitter
- Communications.....Steve Schoen
- Spring Garden Fair.....Charlie Newsom
- Newsletter Editor..... Ruth Reel
- Hospitality Chairman..... Bob Wilson
- Special Projects ..... Sybil Longinotti
- Publicity.....Art Reel
- Historian.....Carolyn Farias/Nancy Scheffel
- County Fair.....Charlie Newsom
- Growers Market..... Peter/Lori Pernarelli
- K-12 Program.....Lilly Pattee
- Mentor Committee.....Lori Pernarelli
- Paint Your Heart Out..... Sybil Longinotti
- Volunteer Hours ..... Karen Pleasant
- Computer Coordinator .....Steve Schoen
- Webmaster ..... John Farias
- Perennials .....Jean Kitchen/Joan Foley
- Young Master Gardeners.....Ruta Warren
- Master Gardener Coord.....Karen Pleasant

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(Continued from page 1 President’s Comments)

Finally she said it is extremely important to prepare a plan for this year for what needs immediate attention and what priority you want to give to your wish list. I knew she was right so I got out a pad of paper and a pen and started write.....”I will be home in an hour; I am at the nursery to buy some new plants, Love John?”. When I got home and unloaded all my new plants, there were three large boxes at the front door. They contained all the plants I forgot I ordered three months ago from one of my favorite catalogs. Now I *questioned my sanity*.

On another note; Thanks to Jim McManus and his crew for the excellent job they did in pruning our grapes and fruit trees. Thanks to Barbara Larson and her crew for maintaining our grounds. Finally thanks to all of you who are working on programs that are essential to our success, but continue to be done quietly under the radar.

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(Continued from page 1 Calling All Master Gardeners)

the first Tuesday of each month.

Questions? E-mail me at [jocomg.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:jocomg.secretary@gmail.com). And thanks for your help!

*Pat Etchells - Raffle Coordinator*

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**WANTED: BUG LOVERS**

If you gently usher insects and spiders out of the house on a tissue or find yourself thanking ladybird beetles for eating the aphids on your roses, the Plant Clinic could use your help in expanding our insect Reference Collection. The only requirement is a desire to get up close and personal with creepy crawlies. Part of our time will be spent in the field looking for and collecting specimens followed by indoor time learning how to preserve, prepare, and identify these specimens. If you are really keen on a certain group (dragonflies, moths, true bugs, spiders, etc.) you can also become our ‘in house expert’. Our first meeting will be in early April so you have plenty of time to decide if this is for you. If interested please contact Judi Maxwell at [jmaxwell9335@gmail.com](mailto:jmaxwell9335@gmail.com) or call 701-202-1521.



making it possible to rapidly evolve tolerance to any new plant defense.

However, this lock-step coevolution with one's host plant can take unexpected turns. Consider the development of extrafloral nectaries, small pores located at leaf nodes on lupine plants. These pores exude nectar thought to attract ants weeks before the nectar-rich flowers bloom. The ants, in return, patrol the lupine plant eating the eggs and caterpillar of herbivores.

Not to be foiled, several species of blue butterflies, such as our own Silvery Blue, have evolved a number of characteristics to recruit ants to act as their bodyguards against parasitic wasps. These traits include 1), thick skin to withstand nipping by ants. 2), honeydew organs that shunt concentrated nectar from their digestive systems to feed the ants. 3), appeasement organs that release pheromones to 'calm' the ants, and 4) organs that emit sounds to help ants locate them. The honeydews are such a prized food resource for ants that they, in turn, have evolved additional behaviors to benefit the caterpillars such as carrying them into their own nests during inclement weather and covering fragile cocoons with a sand/saliva mix as an extra protective layer.

To learn how to attract butterflies to your yard consider attending the class on Butterfly Gardening on April 15 and plan on providing a mud puddle to assure that male butterflies can get their "mojos" on.

*Judi Maxwell, Entomologist and Master Gardener*

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### GREENHOUSE NEWS

Greenhouse is progressing nicely. Everyone is looking to planting the next thing, transplanting the next thing and learning about propagation. Greenhouse seems to grow not only plants but friendships. Thank you again to the wonderful mentors and seniors. We are looking forward to the Spring Garden sale and will be looking for help when that comes closer. Have a great month!

*Deb and Tracey*

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**BINGO** - We had a lot of fun...playing Bingo on Friday 13th. Lots of nice snacks and big prizes...The Grand Prize was 40 bucks...wow!! Thanks to John F. and Carolyn F., Bob W. too for the coffee.

*Charlie Newsom*

### OF MOLES, MICE AND MEN

Recently, while visiting with friends, somehow the subject of mice, moles & gophers came up and how hard it is to eradicate them. Our friends told us about a sonic mouse gadget that you "just plug in" and it emits sounds only a mouse can hear. They said it works great and that they haven't seen a mouse in a long time.

I bragged that other than a rat or a lizard that our kitty may drag in through the doggie door, we haven't seen hide nor hair of a house mouse in years They same thing goes with moles and gophers. The kitty is doing a great a great job!

The very next evening I pulled open the stove drawer to fetch a pot and EEK! Mousey poop *in* the drawer and pots! The drawer and pots were immediately sterilized and we debated whether or not to get a mousetrap. No, not needed, we have a cat. As a backup though, we purchased a sonic mouse chaser, plugged it in, and boy oh boy, it worked all right! Chased us humans right out of the house from the high pitch sound it emitted. It was returned to the store on the same day.

The next day as we were out puttering in the yard, we spotted piles of dirt in the flagstone patio and new lawn areas. Moles? Gophers? Drats! Sighing and grimacing, Hubby called our friend, the "gopher-mole expert" to find out what traps to purchased to catch our critter(s). Hubby bought two mole traps and placed them in the mole run per instructions. The next day he checked the traps and Mr. Mole had filled them with dirt and skirted around them! Hubby said, "I'm not going to "go-pher this," so he re-set the traps again. Mr. Mole filled the traps again and moved on claiming more territory.

I mentioned to hubby that he might try my Mom's method - shove a garden hose in the mole run, fill it with water, wait till he comes up topside and then whack him with a hoe. Problem solved! He agreed to try that method. So, a day later, with buttons bursting, he comes in from outside and says, "Come see the mole hole, I think I got him!" He showed me where he put the hose into the run, and commented that he must've poured 30 gallons of water into that hole. Duh! I replied, "Honey, isn't that where the French Drain is?"

Day 5 - No evidence of Mr. Mole's existence. But who's bragging? Hubby says, "I either drowned 'im or he's waiting to go to higher ground to terrorize me."

(Continued on page 6)

We'll see! Our city water bill is probably going to be exorbitant and more than likely our kitty did her job and got 'im.

Submitted by Nancy Pyle, 2015 MG Trainee

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**PERENNIAL MUSINGS**

Things are well underway for our first plant sale that will be held on Saturday, March 21st. There has been a steady supply of incoming plant material to divide and a generous donation of trees to add to our existing nursery stock. The bulbs which we planted will be ready for sale, \$5.00 for a 3 gallon container and \$8.00 for the 5 gallon container. A perfect time to tuck one of these somewhere to brighten a corner of your yard or patio, to give one to a friend or neighbor or just purchase one or two to re-purpose and recycle the pot. They are a real bargain at those prices. In addition to the bulbs we will also have trees, shrubs, evergreens, nandinas, Japanese maples, Italian plum trees, other specialty trees, succulents, lilies, campanulas, assorted perennials and many more items to choose from.

We have all embraced these sunny days and can certainly feel the excitement! There is a certain energy that surrounds us this time of year as the days lengthen and the pace quickens. Have you found yourself peeking around your plants at home and enjoying the happenings in the greenhouses? We will be looking for volunteers to assist us and asking the students to become involved. Yes, this counts for your volunteer hours. We plan on scheduling in 2 hour increments. If you have any questions or want to volunteer at this event, please contact Jean Kitchen at 541-226-2295 or Joan Foley at 541-471-2103. More information will be forthcoming. *Jean and Joan aka J & J.*

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**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

Happy Birthday to Art Reel (5), Vicky Engel & Anna Swanson (7), Kimberlie Lehman & Janet Stanley (9), Bob Wilson (11), Pat Olsen (17), Breezy Schallheim (18), Rebecca Hove (19), Diane Smith (23), Susan Finley & Linda Price (30), Lynne Hon (31).



**WILMA'S CORNER**

Two areas of discussion crop up occasionally about the validity of having a growing up-do-date library versus mainly depending on the computer to answer our clients' questions.

I am amazed at the wealth of information available on the internet and how close at hand. I notice its use with tablets in the clinic and classroom the pictures available for identifying flowers and diseases are outstanding.

However, it can't do it all. e.g. many of the pictures do not show enough leaf to help with an i.d. (as is true of books). We strive to use more than one source of inquiry to confirm an answer. The more titles the better on a given subject (within reason) because one book or even two cannot contain all there is to know. Some subjects are extremely difficult in spite of good resources. So truly, the computer is a very welcome tool in combination with all the other tools at our disposal.

Secondly, there has been a bit of thought about whether the use of computers by our clients cuts into the queries that come to us. For answer, compare these figures for January since I became a member.

2015-87; 2014-75; 2013-77; 2012-83; 2011-54; 2010-64; 2009-48; 2008-20; 2007-17; 2006-28.

Lastly, my grateful thanks to the budget committee and Board for generously supporting our efforts to make this plant clinic the most useful, hands on, resource-filled clinic possible so we are sending out our new students with a lasting confidence in their abilities to serve both themselves and the public. We are so very blessed to have the quality of seniors who have chosen to dedicate some of their time to the clinic to help make all of this come true and an Extension Coordinator who knows where we live.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar. 3 9:30 MG Meeting
- Mar. 4 Fruit Tree Grafting
- Mar. 11 Pruning Roses in the Rogue Valley class
- Mar. 12 How Corny are You? class
- Mar. 18 Growing Berries for your Home Garden class
- Mar. 19 Home Made Pasta class
- Mar. 20 Newsletter Deadline
- Mar. 30 All About Roses class

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### YOUNG MASTER GARDENERS

Thank you to the new Young Master Gardeners. Ten new people from this year's Master Gardener class came to the YMG sessions, "Compost Clues" and "Winter Gardening". Thanks to all who have already planned to spend more time and to lend your skills and interests to our next session. Both Grants Pass and Illinois Valley YMG are the beneficiaries of this new energy.

The YMG Earned Book Program is definitely on a roll this season supported by the Grants Pass Friends of the Library. Last year 37 new books related to Master Gardening topics were given to YMG'ers. This year, 55 books have already have been earned and given. The age 5 and under group earn points as they read books with their parents about gardening. The older YMG'ers can add up points for attendance and by bringing a plant they have grown with required explanations. Wonderful specimens are starting to show up including some fava bean plants that have already reached a height of 2 feet. We are all looking forward to more successes and positive reports from the crocosmia bulbs given to the YMG'ers courtesy of Nancy Scheffel and her garden.

The Young Master Gardeners are ready to usher in spring with their successful plants, interest in books and growing involvement by many.

*Ruta Warren*

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**Edible flowers** have been used for centuries to enhance food and are enjoying a spectacular resurgence in popularity thanks, in part, to gourmet chefs and specialized food magazines. They offer a whole range of flavors, from peppery to citrus to, as can be expected, floral.

## MASTER FOOD PRESERVERS

### MARCH CLASSES

**How Corny are You?** Class will be held on Thursday, March 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Instructor: Hazel Griffith - Master Food Preserver. Get in the spirit of St. Patrick's Day and learn to cure, season and crock pot cook a corned beef. Now you can make this delicious specialty at home just the way you like it. Cost: \$5 per person. Pre-registration required. Class will be held at: RCC/Belt Building 24355, Redwood Hwy, in Kerby.

**Home Made Pasta** class will be held on Thursday, March 19 from 6 to 8:30 pm. Instructor: Deborrah Dunham-Master Food Preserver. Come & learn how to make pasta. This is a hands-on class. You will watch pasta being made then make some yourself to take home. There will be a ravioli making demonstration and an extruded pasta demonstration followed by pasta tasting with various sauces. Cost: \$15. Class Limit 16. Pre-registration required. This class will be held at OSU Extension Auditorium at 215 Ringuette St, G.P.

Master Gardener classes on page 8 of this Newsletter.

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### ADVICE FROM A ROSE

Make some-  
**one's day**

Enjoy the sun-  
shine

Remember your  
**beauty stems'**  
from within

Be colorful !

Look past the  
thorns

Make new buds

Be scent-sational !



## MARCH CLASSES

All classes are held at the OSU Extension Auditorium at 215 Ringuette St., G.P. To register, call the Josephine County Extension Office, 541-476-6613.

**Fruit Tree Grafting** class will be held on Wednesday, March 4 from 6 to 8 pm. Instructor: George Tiger, Retired OSU Extension Horticulture Agent. Learn how to create your own apple tree or save grandpa's favorite apple tree. The technique and tools for grafting fruit trees will be taught. Participants will choose apple tree varieties to make three grafted starts to take home. Prepayment of \$35 (\$25 materials fee and \$10 class fee) required in the Extension Office/MG\$25 materials fee only. Pre-Registration Required, class limit 25 people.

**Pruning Roses in the Rogue Valley** class will be on Wednesday, March 11 from 6 to 8 pm. Instructor: Mike Zerwer, Master Gardener. This class offers a practical guide for when and how to prune your roses. Information on pruning many rose varieties from hybrid teas to tree and climbing roses will be provided along with the benefits of the right pruning, clothing and tools and using safety practices. Cost is \$5/MG Free with Badge. Pre-registration required.

**Sustainable Lawn Maintenance** class will be held on Wednesday, March 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Instructor: Alec Kowalewski, OSU Turfgrass Specialist. Learn proper implementation of the primary cultural practices, mowing, fertilization and irrigation & more. Cost: \$10/MG Free with Badge. Pre-registration required.

**Growing Berries for your Home Garden** class will be held on Wednesday, March 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Instructor: Bernadine Strik, OSU Extension Berry Crops Professor. Grow your own berries successfully. Cost: \$10/MG Free with Badge. Pre-registration required.

**All About Roses** class will be held on Monday, March 30 from 6 to 8 pm. Instructor: Mike Zerwer, Master Gardener. Roses can be easy to grow & more. Cost: \$5/MG Free with Badge. Pre-registration required.

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OSU Extension Service, Master Gardener™ Association - Josephine County, Oregon, 541-476-6613

Our email address is: josephinemg@oregonstate.edu

Our Web Site: <http://www.jocomastergardeners.com>

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