I am aspiring to become a milkweed maven – actually a maven of the narrow leafed California native variety of the plant. At some point in the distant past, one of those tropical milkweeds got into my garden. I don’t recall planting it. However, it is there and it is prolific and fecund. It attracts monarchs who flit through my yard and lay eggs that result in caterpillars and adult butterflies. As a result, I have been hesitant to remove the tropical plants choosing instead to cut off all blooms during the winter. My attempts at planting out nursery grown native milkweed have not been successful - 75% of them failed to thrive/died. So I decided to try growing the plants from seed and am happier with the results. I gathered all the little 2 and 4 inch pots accumulated in my potting shed, filled them with cactus mix, poked in a few seeds purchased from a local native plant nursery, and watered them each day. In about a week there was germination. My little milkweed nursery produced a dozen or so plants that I have given to friends or transplanted into bigger pots. Now I am even planting some directly into my clay soil. This was so much fun that I decided to try the milkweed seed planting as a CNPS activity at events by offering attendees (mostly children) an opportunity to plant milkweed seed into a peat pot. They leave with instructions on how to care for the seed and plant and a lesson on the importance of milkweed to the survival of the monarch population. Most of the children already know the monarch story. The supplies are simple to acquire: seed, cactus mix, coir pots that can be planted directly into another pot or the earth. This activity worked beautifully at a science fair at Carthay Elementary and at the L.A. Urban Nature Fest at the Natural History Museum. Many thanks to CNPS volunteers Julie Clark DeBlasio, Mary Montes, Beth & Brian Olson, Kathy Sturdevant and Cris Sarabio for helping with this seed planting at the above events. We planted a few hundred pots of seed. Gardening, weeding, restorations are all faith based activities. No, not religion, just unbridled optimism that with the proper knowledge and supplies and growing conditions the plants will take hold and prosper. If only a small percentage of those milkweed seeds turn into plants in local gardens, we will have made some progress. The old adage think globally act locally still rings true here. Enjoy your fall planting season. I trust I will see you at our Chapter Plant Sale on Oct. 22 & 23 at the Sepulveda Garden Center. Bring a friend or two.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

September 13, 2016 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino

Traditional Uses of Native Plants
Presenter: Nicholas Hummingbird
An overview of native plants used for food, material and medicine, approached from an ecological standpoint and stressing the importance of these plants for wildlife, the earth and indigenous culture.
Nick is an indigenous Southern Californian. He is currently the nursery manager of the Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery under the Arroyo Seco Foundation in Pasadena. (http://www.arroyoseco.org/nursery.htm)

October 11, 2016 – 7:30 - 9:00PM
First United Methodist Church
Santa Monica
Diversity At Our Feet:
The Under-Appreciated Molluscan Fauna of Southern California
Presenter: Dr. Jann Vendetti, Ph.D.
The land snails and slugs of Southern California are a largely overlooked, but fascinating, fauna. Worldwide there are about 40,000 terrestrial gastropods, making up about one third of all mollusks. Our local species number in the dozens and include both native and introduced taxa, some of which have never before been documented in Southern California.
Dr. Jann Vendetti is the Twila Bratcher Chair in Malacological Research at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Among other topics, Jann is interested in the evolutionary biology and systematics of terrestrial gastropods in Southern California and works closely with volunteer citizen scientists to make discoveries about species biodiversity, range, and evolutionary history.
She began at NHM in 2014 after a postdoctoral research position at California State University, Los Angeles. Prior to that she received her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley.

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see CNPS Programs on page 3.
RESTORATION

Coastal

Beach Restoration Volunteer Days
Malibu State Beaches
Every Sunday - 9am-noon
Beach restoration activities every Sunday at Malibu State Beaches. Come and enjoy a fabulous opportunity to get up close and personal with the pocket beaches. Call (213) 481-8552 for info on which beach. (Leave your number S-L-O-W-L-Y and distinctly)"
(This is Mike O'Brien's ongoing war on invasives and coastal sage scrub restoration. Always included is a tour of the amazing diversity that you can find if you look.)

The N/E/X/T/Garden in Pacific Palisades
The Native Plant Garden in the City of L.A.'s Temescal Canyon Park
Saturdays, Sept. 24 and Oct. 29 9am-4pm
We're just a few steps east of ~700 Temescal Canyon Road, Pacific Palisades, 90272 (between the PCH and Sunset Blvd., below Bowdoin St.). Community Service Credit. Contact Barbara Marinacci at barbara.marinacci@verizon.net or Michael G. Terry at michaelgterry@hotmail.com.

LAX Dunes Volunteer Days
El Segundo Dunes
Saturdays, Sept. 17 and Oct. 1 9am-noon
Help remove non-native plants. Free parking is available in the dunes. Enter through the gate across from Trask Triangle Park at the Trask and Waterview Streets intersection in Playa Del Rey, CA 90293. Please bring your own drinking water and snacks, and wear gloves, sun protection, closed-toe shoes, and long pants. Shelter and cold water refills will be provided. Please be on time and plan to stay until the end of the volunteer event as this is a secured area.
Info: (818) 782-9346.

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

October 4, 7pm
6117 Reseda Blvd. Suite H, Tarzana
(north of Oxnard/Topham, on west side of Reseda), one block from the Orange Line Busway on Reseda Blvd. Steve Hartman's office. Join board members for dinner at 5:45pm at Garden Wok Restaurant at same address. Members welcome!

DIGITAL OUTDOORS DEBUTS

An online version of the print listing of activities in the Santa Monica Mountains and surrounds has been made available by the Santa Monica Mountains Fund. The print “Outdoors” is no more. Checkout the online Outdoors calendar at [http://samofund.org/calendar](http://samofund.org/calendar). This site may also be used to list relevant outdoor activities by using the “post your event” button at the top of the page.

Inland

Restoration
Silver Lake Meadow Native Garden
Saturdays, Sept. 24 and Oct. 29 9am-11am
Help weed, water, mulch. Bring hat, water, weeding tools. Meet at the Garden at the north end of the Silver Lake Meadow Park near Armstrong Ave. & Silver Lake Blvd. Street parking on Silver Lake Blvd. Info: meadownativegarden@silverlakenc.org.

Calabasas Blue Restoration
Juan Bautista de Anza Park
Saturday, October 15 8:45am-noon
Help restore native grasslands in the foothills west of Juan Bautista De Anza Park in Calabasas. Native grasses including purple needlegrass and creeping wildrye and flowering perennials and shrubs will be planted by volunteers under supervision by MRT tech crew from 9am-12pm. Please arrive by 8:45am and look for our group on the west side of the park. Parking is limited to street side spaces to avoid impacting parking for park visitors. Bring hat, water, snack, and sturdy shoes. Gloves and tools provided. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: (818)591-1701 x203.

Potrero Creek Restoration
Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa
Saturdays, Sept. 17 and Oct. 8 9am-noon
Help plant, weed and water oak trees and other native plants at our restoration site at Rancho Sierra Vista in Newbury Park. Meet at W. Potrero Rd. and Briar Ave. Bring hat, water, snack, and sturdy shoes. Gloves and tools provided. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: www.mountainstrust.org (818) 591-1701 x203. 3hrs

Habitat Restoration
Cold Creek Valley Preserve
Saturday, October 22 8:45am-noon
Help plant native plants for a restoration project in the Cold Creek Valley Preserve. Bring snack, water, and sturdy shoes. Gloves and tools provided. We will meet along Stunt road. Follow signs and park off Stunt Rd., 1/8 mile from the intersection with Mulholland Hwy, then we will hike down the valley to the project site. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: www.mountainstrust.org (818)591-1701 x203.

Medea Creek Revegetation Project
Medea Creek, Oak Park
Saturday, October 29 8:45am-noon
Help restore native oak woodlands and streamside habitat in Oak Park. Volunteers will help plant natives from 9am-12pm along the Medea Creek corridor to improve habitat quality and native vegetation cover. Please arrive by 8:45am and look for our group south of Conifer Street and west of Medea Creek. Bring hat, water, snack, and sturdy shoes. Gloves and tools provided. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: www.mountainstrust.org (818)591-1701 x203. 3hrs

All Restoration Activities - Rain Cancels
Native Plant Sale

OCTOBER 22 & 23, 10AM TO 3:00PM
Sepulveda Garden Center,
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino (near Hayvenhurst)

MEMBER PRE-SALE AT 9:30am-10am Saturday only

ALL CNPS MEMBERS GET 10% OFF PLANTS & BOOKS*

With over 1000 plants of over 50 California native species, there is a plant that can fill your garden's needs — from hot and dry to moist and shady. Many native plants can survive quite well with natural rainfall once they get established. Sale items include seeds, irises, mints, sages, berries, hummingbird and butterfly plants, shrubs, perennials, and trees. Wildflower seeds will be available for purchase. Also for sale are natural history and native gardening books, activity books for children, field guides, and posters. Refreshments and lunch will be available for purchase.

During the sale, experienced CNPSers can assist you in selecting plants that are suitable for your garden! Proceeds from the plant sale help support the activities of the Los Angeles / Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Featuring FREE Native Plant Gardening Talks:

Saturday - Noon
Wild Suburbia - Learning to Garden with Native Plants
Barbara Eisenstein

Thinking of getting rid of the lawn or simply improving your existing landscape? This talk will present practical approaches to transitioning from traditional resource-intensive yards to more natural, interesting and fun gardens featuring low water-use native plants. Barbara will present information from her new book, *Wild Suburbia - Learning to Garden with Native Plants*. Ample time will be left for discussion and book signing.

Sunday - Noon
Designing a Native Garden in a Limited Space
Steve Gerischer

Garden design, particularly for a small space can be challenging. Some of the best strategies are counter-intuitive. Thinking 'small' can result in a garden that isn't working at its best. Learn a few ideas for designing in confined spaces using our beautiful native flora.

To Volunteer for Friday, Saturday, or Sunday, contact Snowdy at 818-782-9346 or at snowdy.dodson@csun.edu

*to receive member discount, CNPS members must show CNPS ID card.
ANNOUNCEMENTS

CNPS STATEWIDE CONSERVATION MEETING
September 10-11 (Saturday and Sunday)
Morro Bay, California
www.cnps.org

SANTA CLARA RIVER RALLY, CLEAN UP & ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO
Saturday, Sept. 17 – 8 am to 11 am
Newhall Community Center, 22421 Market St., Santa Clarita
Help clean a portion of the River.

THEODORE PAYNE GARDEN TOUR CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
The application period for the Theodore Payne Native Garden Tour will end on Oct. 1, 2016. This curated tour seeks high end California native plant gardens in the greater Los Angeles area for the April 1 & 2, 2017 tour dates. Tour is from 10 am to 5 pm each day. April 1 will consist of gardens in the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys; April 2, greater LA and the Westside. To be considered, gardens must be at least 3 years old and have a minimum of 50% California native plants. Application details are available at: http://www.nativeplantgardentour.org/apply.

CALIFORNIA ISLANDS SYMPOSIUM
October 3-7 – Ventura Beach Marriott
Information on registration for the 9th Symposium is available via http://www.californiaislands.net/symposium/ The theme is “Connecting Communities” with presentations, field trips, an art exhibition and photo contest.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOTANISTS SYMPOSIUM
Sat. Oct. 8 Pomona College, Seaver Auditorium, Claremont
This year’s theme is “Back to the Flora II: the Future of Southern California Botany” featuring numerous speakers. The all-day event will be followed by a mixer at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden where there will be a poster session, live music, craft beers, and a gourmet food truck. Early registration of $45 deadline of Oct. 2. See http://socalbot.org/symposia.php for list of speakers and other details.

CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM
Nov. 2-5 – Tenaya Lodge in Yosemite
The 25th anniversary conference held in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of our national parks system. For registration details see: http://cal-ipc.org/symposia/index.php

Chapter Board Officer Nominations Requested for LA/SMM Chapter
We are seeking candidates for offices on the chapter board. The term of office is one year. You may nominate yourself or be nominated by another chapter member (with your permission) for the office of president, vice president, secretary or treasurer of the chapter board of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter. Chapter officers are expected to attend monthly meetings, held on the first Tuesday of the month.

The qualifications are:
1. Candidates must affirm they are members in good standing of Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter – that their dues are paid up.
2. Candidates must be active or have been active in one or more of LA/SMM Chapter's recognized or scheduled programs and projects in education, plant science, conservation, field trips, events, publication and outreach.
3. Nomination letters and e-mails must contain your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and a short statement about your CNPS activities and why you want to serve on the LA/SMM Chapter Board.
4. Nomination letters must be mailed to the CNPS Nominating Committee, 15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys, CA 91406 or e-mailed to lacnps@lacnps.org by Sept. 30, 2016.

UPCOMING NATIVE PLANT SALES
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden – Oct. 1
8 am to 10 am members only; public 10 am to 4:30 pm; free admission to the Garden that day.

CNPS LA/SMM Chapter – Oct. 22-23
(see p. 3 for details)
Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

Theodore Payne Foundation – Oct. 27, 28 & 29

CNPS San Gabriel Mountains Chapter – Nov. 5
9 am to 2 pm,
Eaton Canyon Nature Center
CNPS 2016 Spring Surveys at Malibu Bluffs
by Betsey Landis

Background: The Los Angeles / Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has led nature walks on the trails of Malibu Bluffs for years. When we heard Malibu was considering developing ball fields, Olympic swimming pool, a smaller pool and other structures on Malibu Bluffs in the Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA), based on an analysis of the ESHA resources done in 2009-2010, we commented to the Coastal Commission about the current status of natural resources in the ESHA.

There had been a wind-driven wildfire at Malibu Bluffs on January 3, 2007 which had burned most of the vegetation in the ESHA. The wildfire started at the corner of the parking lot for the Landon Center adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway and blew down the bluff to Malibu Road where it burned three homes.

Our nature walks there after the wildfire showed healthy ESHA renewal. Certain shrubs, perennials and annuals recovered immediately while others recovered more slowly as is natural in chaparral and coastal sage scrub. By 2009 and 2010 root-sprouting shrubs were several feet tall. From bluff-top trails the fields seemed to be covered by fast-growing grasses, but those grasses were hiding many young native plants that had germinated from underground seedbanks. *Malosma laurina* (laurel sumac), one of the first native shrubs to recover after a wildfire, was dominant. It has deep roots, re-sprouts quickly, grows quickly, and fruits early. Laurel sumac is a first responder for birds, rodents, ground squirrels and other fauna returning to a burned area.

By 2016 many other shrubs fill the ESHA. Understory plants are sprouting, flowering, seeding, spreading, and helping support an amazing range of wildlife in this ESHA.

Our chapter was concerned that many listed (CDFW or USFW) species are annuals or short-lived perennials and were missed by surveys done for planners in late summer or fall. Because of our concerns, several people asked us to conduct plant surveys on Malibu Bluffs this spring. In the fifth year of drought, with very chaotic weather patterns, what would we find?

The surveys were done March 2, 2016 on the top of the main bluff, March 18, 2016 on the east riparian area, south side of Marie Canyon, and the main bluff top, May 17, 2016 on the west side of Marie Canyon and the arroyo by the Landon Center, May 24, 2016 on the main bluff top, down to Malibu Road, back up to Pacific Coast Highway to the bluff west of Marie Canyon.

We found 127 different species of vascular plants. Eighty of those were native, 37 were non-native (24 of those non-natives were listed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture as invasive). Eight plant species and two lichens were not completely identified. Sixty-three percent of the plants we have surveyed so far are native plants. Given more time to recover from the severe wildfire, the native plants should displace the non-native plants.

We identified two listed plants, *Baccharis plummerae*, a threatened shrub which is List 4 RED 1-1-3, and a rare/threatened perennial, *Dudleya cymosa marcescens*, which is 1B RED 3-2-3.

On the top of the bluff plant habitats (vegetative alliances) intergrade from coastal bluff and coastal meadow to coastal sage scrub and then to chaparral, coastal sage scrub and grasslands depending on their distance from the ocean and proximity to Pacific Coast Highway. Arroyos and canyons are riparian, edged with chaparral.

We observed or found evidence for 50 different species of fauna, one of them on a CDFW Watch List. The fauna were feeding, resting, nesting, hunting or flying overhead.

Jumbled geologic structure of Malibu Bluffs is very evident to any hiker who trips along the trails. Malibu Coast Fault runs diagonally across Malibu Bluffs, from Puerco Canyon to Malibu Beach. Siting of any structures, especially something with extensive water piping and an Olympic-size pool seems problematic at best, especially as the structures would be above the houses on Malibu Road.

The wide range of native plants, from trees and shrubs to annuals and grasses, creates a vast network of deep, broad and shallow roots, all woven together, knitting the fragile geology together with ever renewing new growth to maintain the web. The ESHA is the reason Malibu Bluffs is still there and the reason native wildlife along the coast have homes to migrate to, to stay in temporarily or for a lifetime.

We plan on more surveys to expand our flora and fauna lists. Malibu Bluffs is a very valuable natural resource.

CONSERVATION UPDATE

Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountain Chapter (LA/SMM) members collaborated throughout June and July 2016 to address the many conservation issues and pressures within or affecting the area.

**Berggruen Institute, Brentwood** – The Limited Liability Corporations affiliated with the Institute recently purchased several tracts of wildland and open-space in the Santa Monica Mountains located due west of Sepulveda Boulevard and extending to Upper Mandeville Canyon. Founders of the philosophical/political “think tank” have been aggressive in promoting the Institute since April through local and national media as well as meeting individually with community leaders and neighbors in an effort to tout the importance of the Institute and cultivate support for situating it in the mountains. The founders offer no specific plans and details about land use and development at the site. LA/SMM is concerned about its proposed location in an ecologically important and healthy corridor combined with the developer's lack of transparency and political posturing. The Chapter is committed to monitoring and being active with this matter.

**California High Speed Rail Project** – The Chapter is readying to be an active participant in environmental review as the project moves into the Southern California region from the San Joaquin Valley.

**California State Assembly & Senate Trailer Bill 707** – State CNPS and the Chapter joined environmental, planning, and Native American groups throughout coastal California in opposing this bill. The poorly written legislation is intended to ensure affordable housing in the Coastal Zone. Analyses determined the bill would undermine the California Environmental Quality Act, Coastal Act, and other protections.

**California State Parks Off-trail Exploration Ban** – The Chapter shared analysis and comments to State CNPS regarding a proposed ban of public encroachment in a limited areas of a few state reserves due to ongoing damage caused by foot and other traffic. The ban is proposed after multiple efforts to protect special habitat areas from damage, such as signage and fencing, have been insufficient. The proposed ban allows for special permits and access for scientific research and monitoring.

**Canyon Oaks, Calabasas** – The planned community, which includes a hotel, recreation facility, luxury and a few affordable housing units on Las Virgenes Road is being challenged on different levels by several groups. The development awaits issuance of various permits by agencies before it can break ground. A CEQA lawsuit is filed. A referendum was approved for the Calabasas City ballot in November that addresses the changes in zoning, planning, and many environmental compromises approved by the City Council in order to allow the development. Another group is working with local governance to pro-actively ensure existing laws, ordinances and plans are upheld in the future. LA/SMM continues to support the various community groups opposing this development on a site that hosts rare water features, is an important drainage to Malibu Creek, is located within a key wildlife corridor, slated to remove numerous heritage oaks, and within the documented range of several special plant and animal species.

**Chatsworth Nature Preserve** – The Chapter worked as part of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition to document existing conditions at the site, educate land managers, and communicate the need for property owner Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) to uphold its written commitment in various correspondence over the last many years to help sustain the local and migratory plant and wildlife populations that are supported in part by the habitat at the Preserve. This fifth consecutive year drought, high heat and low humidity combined depleted surface waters on site in July. This occurred despite mechanical remediation work conducted last year by DWP to remove sediment and install guzzlers.

**Malibu Bluffs Sports Complex** – Chapter Conservation Committee members conducted a late-season floristic and snail survey at the site. Results, maps, and photographic evidence compiled during the four-day vernal floristic surveys at the site were compiled in a 30-page report (http://lasmmcnps.org/index.php/conservation - click on Malibu Bluffs Report to download pdf). The findings confirm the vast majority of the property is viable Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area supporting hundreds of coastal, canyon, riparian, and upland plant and animal species. The report was distributed to California Coastal Commission, the lead agency City of Malibu, Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, and local groups. (Also see article on page 5).

continued on page 7
**Rondell Oasis Hotel, Calabasas** – The Chapter spoke in opposition throughout the public process of this hotel located on Las Virgenes Road adjacent to the Canyon Oaks development. The parcel is part of an important wildlife corridor, has the potential to host special species, and at the time it was approved by the City in June, lacked both a confirmed conceptual design and committed hotelier.

**Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Plan Amendment** – The Chapter supported the proposed amendment by Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning that will add elements for strengthened protections of native vegetation and oaks. See next column for specific comments.

**Sepulveda Pass Rail Project** – Metropolitan Transit Authority announced plans to soon begin scoping on the line. The Chapter will follow and participate in the environmental review process.

**Sullivan Canyon Mansions, Brentwood** – The project proponents appealed an earlier decision determined by the City of Los Angeles Division of Urban Forestry that they had deliberately harmed and removed two unpermitted coast live oaks and an old growth California Sycamore. The hearing in June before the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works had testimony by numerous representatives of City offices, environmental and citizens groups, higher education and research, attorneys, State and chapter CNPS. The Board unanimously upheld the Urban Forestry decision. The recommended five-year revocation of building and grading permits awaits a vote by Los Angeles City Council.

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**Dudleya pulverulenta at La Piedra Beach.**
Photo by Michael O’Brien.

**SUPPORT FOR SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

The Los Angeles / Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of California Native Plant Society strongly supports the following amendments to the Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program (LCP):

**A. Increase public noticing.** If the current 1000-foot noticing radius does not include 15 or more parcels of real property, the radius should be expanded until the owners of at least 15 parcels will be notified.

**B. Better protection for oak trees.** There must be less discretion and more standards adopted and applied, for removal of oak trees under the premise of "emergency situations". Certainly there are some legitimate emergencies - but the current process allows for far too much abuse and it needs to be rectified and regulated. There recently was a very egregious example of tree removal in Sullivan Canyon that might have been prevented if the regulations for protection of oak and other native trees were stricter.

**C. Establish a 5 year ban on development permits as a deterrent to illegal activity.** There must be a deterrent to developers to refrain from unlawful activity. Until we have teeth behind enforcement, unscrupulous developers will continue to illegally and intentionally violate the LCP. A long history of illegal grading, illegal native tree removal, and other development violations in the Santa Monica Mountains proves that a mitigation payment on account or a replacement of illegally removed trees in some other location has become just a price of doing business. The regulation needs something stronger than fines.

The threat of a five year ban on getting permits affecting that parcel of land, regardless of ownership, if developers willfully break the law and violate the LCP, is a much more powerful deterrent.

Oaks and other native trees provide important services in maintaining watershed, healthy soils, sequestering carbon and in supporting a tremendous range of animals and plants essential to the life and beauty of Los Angeles County.
ANNUAL PLANT SALE
October 22 & 23, 2016
SEPULEVEA GARDEN CENTER,
ENCINO
SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

TIME VALUE

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