

Volume 44 Number 3

March 2009

ESPINAS Y FLORES

**The Newsletter of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society
Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America**



Program: Brian Kemble on Jalisco, Mexico

Cactus of the month: Mark Fryer on Lobivia

Succulent of the month: Chris Miller on Gasterias

Saturday, March 14, 1:00pm

Casa Del Prado, Room 101

Balboa Park

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All I can say is **WOW!!!!** An unbelievable Winter Show and Sale. With the weather threat all week and the economy, none of us expected the crowd we had or how the weather took such good care of us. The Show was beautiful, the volunteer support was awesome, and the company divine. A wonderful Valentine's Day was had by all!



So many plants to choose from!

Peter Walkowiak and Steve Harris did a great job on putting the Show together and all of you that brought your plants made this the best Winter Show ever!

The Friday night crew of George Plaisted, Tom Demerritt, Peter Walkowiak, Lisa Kirchner, Matt Maggio, and Ed Case set up the Show and Sales tables, which made the set up rush Saturday morning go smooth and with minimum pain. This was especially important since we had 24 vendors to set up by 9, which we did with the help of Ed Case, Janet Svoboda, Joanne Quinn, Linda Rivera, and Jerry Garner. Our vendors were great, giving the customers lots of information, supplying a great variety of plants and pots, and helping with the set up, sales and clean up. We certainly couldn't have a sale without them. The sales were our highest for a winter show, over \$21,000, another record broken.

The cash register crew worked non-stop through the morning, with long lines despite having three registers working. Mr. Fertilizer worked the line on the north side of the room, giving out information and handouts and Check Ever-son worked the south side with his information on books. Special thanks to Joe Kraatz, Lynn Elliot, Jim Deforest, Cathy Clark, Tom, Katya and Yulia DeMerritt, Jesica McGee, Pat Marshall, Joan Lozoya, and Michelle Heckathorn for doing such a great job working our customers through the check out process. Most of them worked all day instead of a couple of hours and I truly appreciate their efforts. Most of them didn't get a chance to shop and we are going to do something about that in June..

Show security was handled by Ed Case, Monika Crotta, Elibet Marshall, Pat

On the cover: Mark Fryer's Lobivia wrightiana

Bryan, Jerry Garner, Chris Worton, Gene and Judy Walkowiak, and Kathy Harris. Our special thanks go to Elizabeth Glover who froze her boonie woonies off outside in the plant holding area, with Kaija Marcon relieving her for lunch.

Pam Badger and Carol Jean Wolcott did a fantastic job running the kitchen crew. Breakfast and lunch was great and the goodies supplied by members lasted all day (I know, because I kept going back for snacks.)

Clean up was a group effort with the vendors helping Ed Case, Chris Worton, George Plaisted, Tom DeMerritt & his crew to clean the room up. We do tend to make one hell of a mess and it is great to leave the room ready for the next users. Ed is my special hero since he also loaded my stuff into the truck at the end of the day.

So a great Winter Show and Sale was had by all of us and we have already started looking at our lesson learned to see how we can improve for next year. Thanks to all of you for a great day!

The Board Meeting was held on the 19th of February at he DeMerritts. It was a long meeting with a lot of ideas generated. Don Hunt has agreed to be the "Down Link" from the Board to a Web Site Committee. We are looking for members for that committee. We want to leverage our web site. Our web master currently lives in Texas and needs support for redesign of the web site and input into the web site. So if you are interested please contact Don Hunt or myself.

We are also looking for volunteers to work with our Strategy Owners on the four strategies we are focusing on this year to support our Strategic Goal. If you are interested in working on Improving Volunteerism contact Susan Hopkins. If you are interested in working on building and maintaining Membership contact Frank Lozoya. If you are interested in improving Promotion of SDCSS contact Ken Blackford. If you are interested in improving Sales venues call me.

Special thanks to Collette Parr, who is stepping down from the Membership Chair position after 7 stellar years of service. The Membership Chair is a critical position in the organization. It is responsible for keeping track of membership status, a constantly moving target, responding to membership questions from our web site, interfacing with the Board, and printing the newsletter labels. During the time Collette held this position she has cleaned up the data base, started tracking more information around each persons membership, revised the SDCSS Bylaws to annual membership starting in January, and transitioned the labels to the new bar code requirements that the post office has mandated for bulk mailing. She also initialed the membership card program. BJ Miller will be taking on the responsibilities as the new Membership Chair.

Thanks you all for making this a great organization to be a part of, see you at the meeting.

Chris Miller
Santee, February 28th 2009

YOU SAY BOLIVIA ~ I SAY LOBIVIA!

By Mark Fryer



Lobivia peclardiana

I've never been to Bolivia, although I fully intend to before I'm too old to climb up into altitude and view these plants in their native habitats. Like so many of my vegetable friends, they are completely oblivious to borders, and in the case of this particular genus, are hardly restricted to it. The range of these south American hedgehog cacti extends from Argentina in the south, to Peru in the north. Depending on how narrow or all-encompassing you want to view the genus, they may be a small, discreet group of day-flowering Echinopsis, or they are Echinopsis, and have a range from Patagonia to Venezuela!

The name is indeed an anagram of Bolivia, the type-location (hereafter "TL") for the genus. Named by Britton and Rose in 1922, "Lobivia" has had a tough time of it as names go, being

conceived in controversy and more or less being bandied about in the same

manner, and now being relegated to "Echinopsis" by current taxonomic consensus. Since its inception, the name has not been widely accepted. In 1936, von Roeder wrote of B&R's description, "The genus Lobivia instituted by Britton and Rose, has from the point of view of botanical systematics a very weak foundation and is only artificially separated from Echinopsis, Trichocereus, and some Rebutia groups". He called it, "An extremely worthless genus." This is just the sort of proclamation that inspired more proclamations of the same, which in time justified even further splitting/lumping and the typical tug of war in the gutters of nomenclature, which has left many a new cactophile scratching their head at just what the heck IS a Lobivia and why do so many growers continue to use the name?



L. maximilliana

Perhaps growers are reluctant to abandon the name because *Lobivia* describes that colorful portion of a number of beautiful cultivated cacti: Paramount hybrids, Schick hybrids, Dimitt hybrids, etcetera- a good number of historic nurseries have selected and hybridized against these 'standards' of color and fragrance, ease of growth, etcetera. So many of us know *Lobivia* is a component, but how and what exactly are more elusive questions. These sorts of questions are particularly perplexing since we have such a poor image of *Lobivia*; either as an enormous, catch-all genus, or a smaller segment of a medium sized genus, or some other portion thereof.

We can agree the genus is different from *Echinopsis*, white flowers are the exception, not the norm (as they are with *Echinopsis* and *Trichocereus*). Day-flowering is normal, almost the exact opposite from nocturnal *Echinopsis* and *Trichocereus* flowering. I think we can even nudge things a little further by examining the potential of attracting crawling pollinators with their secondary ring of stamens, resembling a small pool of water at the edge of the flower, similar to some *Notocacti* (section *Notocactus*) where the pollen falls down into the flower and becomes sticky. *Lobivia* as an artificial entity (what "species" isn't artificial?) seems even more logical when one considers the vast similarity of fruit and seed morphology, differing from *Echinopsis*' black shiny ceroid looking seeds, to the dingy browns and blacks with pebbly surfaces more similar to smaller globular genera like *Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia*, and kin. If we really should accept these genera as one and the same, then *Pediocactus*, *Turbinicarpus*, and *Gymnocalyx* (along with a number of other genera) should be subsumed under *Mammillaria*!

When we start trying to break *Lobivia* down into species, we encounter yet another problem! What is the "type" species? Some would say it's the earliest discovered/described, which would leave us somewhere in the realm of *L. cinnabarina* or *L. maximilliana* or *L. caineana* or *L. famatimensis*, in other words, nowhere! All four of these forms are distinct from one another in at least their stem and spine morphology, in floral morphology from the *maximilliana* type, to the turnip-rooted *L. famatimensis*. I have shrugged and given it up to some sort of wide-ranging morphology akin to something along the lines of the differences in *Echinocereus*, of which the description of *Lobivia* might share more than a couple of traits. No doubt there are superfluous regional forms, but the species types have held up pretty well in cultivation, although they aren't as widely grown as I think they should be.

I don't think I've ever met a *Lobivia* I didn't love in some way, but here are a half-dozen or so suggestions of pretty forms and what I find enchanting about them:

Please address correspondence to: The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society P.O. Box 33181 San Diego, Ca 92136-3181
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Lobivia wrightiana:

Lobivia wrightiana is known for its dense, long, wispy spines and almost uniform pink flower. These usually flower early in the season and the flowers open early in the morning, staying open all day if temperatures are cool enough.



Lobivia acanthoplegma cv. roseiflora

Lobivia acanthoplegma cv. roseiflora:

Lobivia acanthoplegma cv. roseiflora is an intriguing member of Backeberg's subgenera 'Neolobivia' series Breviflorae, being simply globbose with short-tubed flowers and straight, stiff spines. This plant has one of the most unique fragrances you'll ever smell, and is almost always dioecious (separate male and female plants). The plant pictured is obviously a male, females have no pollen at all!

Lobivia echinata ex Lau:

Lobivia echinata ex Lau is an interesting orange-colored form that seems to mostly come true from seed. Another stiff-spined clumpette, this little *Lobivia* really resembles the growth habit of our native claret cups, *Echinocereus triglochidiatus*, until they flower. When in flower it's not uncommon to have the entire plant body hidden beneath these awesome orange-red flowers.

Lobivia haageana:

Lobivia haageana has a beautiful form even when it's not in flower, but with some careful selection one can find some really outstanding floral traits. This plant has been selected for its flowering habit now, but do not know if sexual propagation has yielded any stable forms like this.



Lobivia haageana



Lobivia echinata ex Lau

Lobivia peclardiana:

Lobivia peclardiana has a few forms, this pink-flowering form being one of the more desirable. There are many forms very close to this plant, but none share the light fragrance and long-lived flowers. Typically dark red, and occasionally white, this pink form has beautiful subtle markings that highlight the subtlety of it's fragrance.

Lobivia famatimensis:

Lobivia famatimensis is one of the true miniatures of the clan. With a thickened taproot, these plants are rarely available in the normal cactus trade. Superficially resembling a Rebutia or Sulcorebutia, these are really striking when they erupt with typical Lobivia-sized flowers!

Lobivia maximilliana:

Lobivia maximilliana is another mega-clumper, which is good news for those who want to grow these things vegetatively, or those who want a massive clump in their cactus garden. Having flowers that more resemble Oroya or Neoperteria, this species is unique but extremely variable. I've seen examples of this one from this tiny, nearly closed flower to long, tubular orange flowers, but they all clump and they all have great spination!

Well this barely scrapes the surface of this genus, and I'm sure everyone has their own favorite species, but this is definitely not a genus any cactophile wants to be without!

Look forward to visiting with you all about it in March!



Lobivia famatimensis

GASTERIAS REVISITED

By Chris Miller

It has been 6 years since the last time we talked about *Gasterias*. The first question I have is, those of you who received a *Gasteria* after that talk, is it still alive? The next question is, do you know which one it is? Let me know at the meeting.



Gasteria armstrongii

Gasterias are a plant from South Africa. They grow in best in bright in-direct light. The more light they get, the redder the plant and red can be cool. I have larger plants in the ground where they do receive a significant amount of direct sun, especially in the winter and they can look a bit stressed, but they survive and bloom wonderfully. So far, like most plants, they are happier in the ground than in a pot. They do need to have well draining soil, either in the ground or in a pot.

So what have I found out over the last six years? Other than plants that I expected to get big stay small and ones I expect to stay small can get huge? I have learned that:

- It takes time to finally see the shape a *Gasteria* will take in maturity.
- What starts out fan shaped gets to be a rosette a lot of the time
- Being in a small pot doesn't stop the *Gasteria* from becoming huge, but it can limit the growth and cause pups – who's confused?
- On the same shelf I can have one plant that splits a leaf or two because it gets too much water and a plant that the leaves are flat from too little water.
- Black spots are still a mystery, but since no two people can agree on the cause I don't feel so bad.
- I still can't take all the separated pups to the meeting for sale because they don't all look alike and they all seem special, unfortunately that holds true for bigger plants too.

- I am stronger at resisting every *Gasteria* I see for sale, but some still end up my box at the end of the meeting.
- It is a pain to weed oxalis out of large clumps of *Gasterias*, so always get them when they first show up.

Obviously I have not become a rocket scientist when it comes to *Gasterias* and I probably won't. But they still make me happy and I don't grow tired of spending time with them. So come to the meeting and I'll take questions best I can on general care. We have other members who are closer to being experts on these plants and they will share as they can. I will have copies of my other articles and spreadsheet for newer members.

If you have a very happy *Gasteria* in your collection bring it to the meeting, the brag table could use more *Gasterias* and I would love to see yours there.



Gasteria rawlinsonii



Gasteria verrucosa

WHATISIT???!



Here's the answer to February's Whatisit???:

It's a Fouquieria burragii which typically flowers in November.

Did you get it right?

- Juergen Menzel

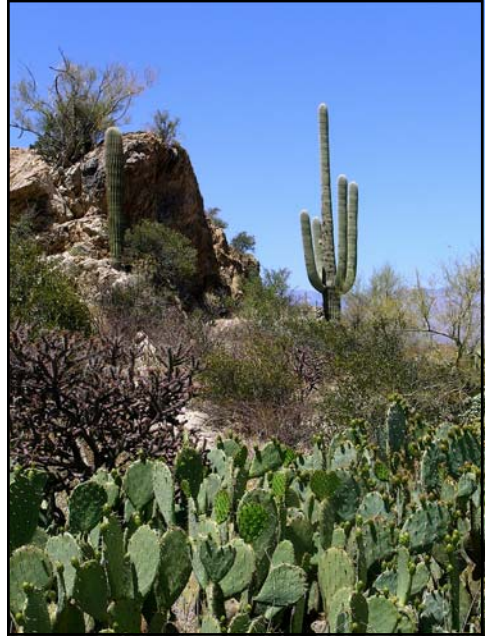
DESERT ROAD TRIPS

by Candy and Jerry Garner

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

As many of us will be heading to Tucson for the upcoming CSSA convention in April we would like to encourage you to visit the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum.

Founded in 1952 and located 12 miles west of downtown in the hills of Tucson Mountain Park, the Desert Museum is a multifaceted gem. Combining the plants, animals, minerals, ecology and ethnography of the Sonora Desert it provides the visitor with a unique focused experience. Sited on a prime desert hillside, the grounds been enhanced to bring a wide variety of desert habitats into close proximity to the visitor. Of special note are tasteful animal enclosures that provide sightings of desert fauna that rarely happen in the wild.



Botanically, the gardens are quite striking. Having started with land close to Saguaro National Park the staff has amended and supplemented the grounds with many plantings. We particularly enjoyed seeing many of the Echinocereus species planted together. It made for easy comparisons. We were there in April, the same month as the upcoming CSSA convention, and the flowers on the hedgehogs were spectacular. Nothing about the gardens feels forced, just an enhancement of the surrounding desert.

April is also particularly interesting for birders. While the walk-in aviaries provide easy bird viewing, the Desert Museum's location provides many opportunities for sighting local and migrant birds. Just sit quietly next to a water source and many wild birds will soon be on display.

Food services range from an upscale restaurant to more typical snack type amenities. Southwest fare is featured.

Where: 2021 North Kinney Rd. (East of) Tucson, AZ 85743

Admission: \$13.00 adults

Hours: March to September 7:30am to 5:00pm
October to February 8:30am to 5:00pm



MEMBERSHIP NOTES



reetings to My Fellow SDC&SS Members:

We're now into our third month of 2009, and that means that quite a few of you are overdue with your membership renewals. This is a gentle reminder to please renew your membership dues this month. The By-Laws adopted last year require me to drop any members who have not renewed after their second month of a lapse in their membership. So, please consider rejoining **now** if you haven't done so already. Know that your membership money only partially covers the newsletter production and mailing costs, so that means your membership dues are very important to our organization.

I would like to remind everyone that you may pay for as many years in advance as you like, and I have a few members who choose to do so. That is good for both sides of the membership equation - you only have to write one check for several years of membership, and we also have your money up front to utilize for the benefit of **your** organization. Since we are completely self-supporting, every dollar counts!

Lastly, I would like to also remind everyone that the SDC&SS is very happy to accept donations beyond the cost of your yearly membership. As a matter of fact, one member made a \$25. donation above and beyond the cost of her membership in February, and the SDC&SS really appreciates that. So, if you are so inclined, please feel free to do the same as well. Every dollar you donate to the SDC&SS is put directly to use in our organization. All our management and chair positions are staff by unpaid volunteers, so there's no "overhead" cost to which your donations would be used.

Wishing all of you the best and looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting this month!

Collette Parr
SDC&SS Membership Chair

Members take a break at the
2009 Winter Show & sale.



FYI (FOR YOUR INFORMATION)

Plant identification help needed: Joel Kalmonson, President, Point Loma Native Plant Reserve, has asked the SDCSS for assistance with cactus identification at the Point Loma Reserve His phone number is 619 251-0599 and his email is goaliehouse@cox.net. The address is 4891 Pacific Highway, Suite 114, SD, CA 92110.

Praise from Doug Taylor of the SDRPF: "I thought the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale last weekend was great ! My wife and I actually ended up with some new succulents for our patio.

It was very nice of all three of you to work with us to have a spot for our brochures and volunteer information. Several people signed up for our newsletter, and judging by the small amount of info. left over at the end of the show, we had a lot of people interested in what our agency is doing. Also, thank you very much for the invite to have a staffed table at the big June 6th & 7th Show and Sale. We greatly appreciate your help getting the public involved with all the work we are doing at The San Diego River Park Foundation, and will gladly spread the word about your upcoming summer event. I have a feeling our back patio will have some more new residents after the show.

In addition, I really look forward to working with someone from your Society to help us plan a beautiful cactus and succulent area at our "River Garden" site located right in Mission Valley. As I mentioned in a previous e-mail, I live right around the corner and can meet someone at their convenience to go over any native species and planting suggestions."

New plant website run by Allen Repashy : "I decided to make use of my time and build a new online community. I have a lot of experience running forums and such from my gecko community, so I thought I would port it over to build a new community with the specific focus of Xeric Plants. I have monitored and joined a lot of plant communities, mailing lists, etc, but have been disappointed at all attempts to find a website that has a xeric plant focus. So I thought I would make it myself.

Please take a moment if you can find the time and check it out. I would love to have you register and help me get the place rolling, or possibly just make some comments on how I have the thing laid out. I am just inviting some personal friends and contacts to try and help get the site up and running. I am more interested in a small and tight group of knowledgeable people exchanging information, than having a million members. I am just doing this because I enjoyed building my other community, and the contacts and friends I have met in the process. Please check out:

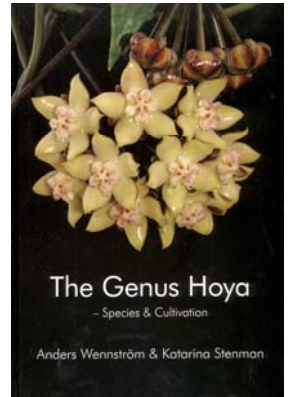
<http://www.xericworld.com/forums/>

BOOK REVIEW

THE GENUS HOYA—Species and Cultivation. by Anders Wennstrom & Katarina Stenman.

This is a brand new book on hoyas, published in 2008. The book covers 118 species. Each of these hoyas are briefly described with, for example, information on origin, size, color and shape plus some hints on successful growing. There are also general facts about the genus - appearance, pollination and growing. All sections of the book are accompanied by spectacular color photos--250 in all. I found the descriptions accurate and easy to understand. The color photos of each of the 118 hoyas show an oversized picture of a hoya, and a nice photo of the leaves of that particular hoya.

The photos are of outstanding quality---some of the best I've ever seen in print. Both authors are Swedish, and both are biologists. Together they have traveled to many tropical places to look for and photograph hoyas. Jointly, they own a small nursery in Sweden - Botanova - mainly selling hoyas. Their extensive collection of 300+ hoya taxa is still expanding. The book has 144 pages, is 6-3/4" x 9-3/4" in size, and hardbound w/laminated color cover. I recommend this book for any person with even a passing interest in hoyas. The book is reasonably priced at only U.S.\$45.00 (via airmail, delivered anywhere in the world). To order, visit their website at: www.freewebs.com/botanova.



Reviewed by Chuck Everson

FYI continued:

Environmental fair a success:

Sara Schell reports: "Here is a picture of me that was taken by one of the people who put on the environmental event we attended on Feb.1 at the Congregation Beth Israel. It was fun, the people were wonderful, and we had a real good response from everyone who attended. We hope to do this again next year."



Snacks for the break: Those with last names beginning with A through M, please bring a snack to share at the break.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2009

Mar 14: California-Friendly[®] Plant Sale at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614, www.thegarden.org.

Apr 10-15: The Cactus & Succulent Society of America's Biennial Convention, at the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa, Tucson, AZ.

Apr 25: Spring Garden Festival at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614, www.thegarden.org.

May 2&3: Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Verterns Memorial Center, Garden Room. 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City. Info: 310-822-1783.

May 9: Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Show , Sale and Green Faire, 9:00am-4:00pm, Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon.

May 17: Huntington Plant Sale, 10:00am-5:00pm, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Info: 626-405-2160.

Jun 6&7: SDCSS Summer Show & Sale.

Jun 25-28: CSSA Annual Show & Sale, Huntington Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. Info: 626-405-2160 or 2277.

Aug 15&16: 24th Annual Intercity Show and Sale. L.A. County Arboretum, 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Info: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or Barbara Hall 818-368-6914.

Sept 26&27: Sustainable Gardening Symposium in Santa Barbara, "Gardening under Mediterranean Skies. Optional winery tour Friday 9/25. Please see Chris Miller or Kathy Harris for info.

Oct TBD: California-Friendly[®] Gardening Festival at the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Info: 619-660-0614, www.thegarden.org.

The due date for submission of articles for Plants of the Month, information on the program/speaker, letters, regular columns, brag table winners, and the President's Message will be the 15th of each month preceding the next issue. All submissions are to be made to the Editors. Please email your articles to Kathy at harriskd@cox.net and Steve at steveharris3@cox.net.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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STANDING COMMITTEES & SUB COMMITTEES

Education, Conservation & Exhibits

Conservation: Joe Kraatz & Herb Stern

Brag Table: Candy Garner

Plants of the Month: TBD

Summer Show: Tom Knapik

Winter Show: Peter Walkowiak

Historian: Terry Parr

Library: Don Hunt, Chris Miller, Jeanette Dutton, Steve Harris

Exchange Plants & Seeds: Michelle Heckathorn & Sara Schell

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Monthly Plant Sales: Joe Kraatz & Lynn Elliott

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Publicity: Tom DeMerritt & Joe Kraatz

Programs: TBD

Reception: Susan Hopkins & Judy Walkowiak

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Picnic Regalement: Laura & Tom DeMerritt

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Quail Botanical Gardens: Phyllis Flechsig

SD Botanical Garden Foundation: George Plaisted

SD Floral Association: Elizabeth Glover

SD Wild Animal Park Baja & Old World Gardens: Chris Miller

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