



# Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust

Winter 2010 Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

This year the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust marks two milestones—our 20th anniversary as an organization and the Spalding House's 250th birthday. That we have been actively preserving our natural, cultural and historical treasures for two decades is remarkable. That the Spalding House, an invaluable treasure, remains standing and accessible to remind us of our community's rich history after 25 decades is truly amazing.

While the core of our mission is to preserve open space, our organization has undertaken a variety of projects and initiatives over the years that extend our positive preservation goals and remind us of our pre-industrial history. Last year's protection of the historic Hawk Valley Farm, through a conservation restriction in cooperation with The Trustees of Reservation and Louisa Varnum, whose family originally farmed the land in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, is one example.

Coburn Park at the corner of Chelmsford and Stevens Street is another example that combines the preservation of old farmland with the refurbishment of a forgotten neighborhood park. This green space is an oasis for neighbors and passersby in a very busy area made up of residential and commercial properties. It was great to work with Mr. Alfred Coburn, a descendent of the original farm family that owned the surrounding land and with the city's Parks Department to create this unique space.

And now, with other interested parties, we're looking at what role, if any, we might play in **protecting the 1673 Jerathmell Bowers House that is currently for sale along with 3 acres of commercially zoned land along Wood Street. It is Lowell's oldest house and is on the National Register of Historic Homes.** Please see more information on this elsewhere in this issue.

These projects along with the ongoing Concord River Greenway, spring rafting, environmental education programming and upcoming outdoor winter activities (please see Calendar) are all made possible by the generosity of you, our members and by the hard work of our staff. Thank you so much for all of your support and for all that you do to make the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust a community "treasure" as we begin our third decade.

Kind regards,

Henri Marchand

## LOWELL'S OLDEST HOUSE AT RISK!



The Jerathmell Bowers House (c1673) sits on Wood Street, near one of Lowell's busiest intersections close to Drum Hill. You'd never know it is Lowell's oldest home - and the 18th oldest in the state. This house has been in the Bowers family since it was originally built as part of the Middlesex Village

settlement of the late 1600's. It grew to become a 150-acre farm and a garrison house, protecting settlers from the feuding Wamesit and Mohawk tribes. Until the 1950's it was sold off parcel-by-parcel until it was whittled down to the three acres it now sits on. Black Brook flows through the northern portion of the property and it abuts significant conservation land that once sited a well where the city drew its water from before it began taking drinking water from the Merrimack. Many original features of the house remain, including a beehive oven and wide-board wooden floorboards and wallboards.

The development pressure on this site is immense. The family is looking for alternatives to protect the house while also possibly developing the corner portion of the lot. LP&CT is working with the family and various agencies to increase community awareness about the threat to the home. Please call Jane at 978-934-0030 with your concerns and suggestions.

## POSITIVE CHANGE ON THE GROUND



**Your Support Made City-Wide Parks Clean-Up Possible.** Over 200 people contributed over 350 hours to improve 12 parks throughout the City of Lowell. From top: Donahue Park on Fairmount Street; Lawrence Lawrence Community Day Charter Public School at Clay Pit Cemetery; and Lowell Unleashed at the Lowell Dog Park. (more on p.2)



**Save The Date**  
**Riverfest 2010**

**June 12, 12-5 p.m.**

**Celebrating the Concord River Greenway, local music and local art.**

## STEWARDSHIP THROUGH LEADERSHIP



**“Wow, I never even saw a grasshopper before!”** Those are the words of joy of a boy in our environmental education program, words which tell us what a special experience it is to explore the habitats of Lowell and to witness the beauty that this city reveals upon a closer look. This past fall we presented STL at two sites through Community Teamwork Inc., at the Robinson Middle School, and at the Phoenix Avenue center. Each group explored the habitats of their respective sites through hands-on

activities learning about the interrelationships of local plants and animals. It has been remarkable to witness the youth delve into the natural environment with such curious animation. Equipped with their “critter-catching bug boxes” they enthusiastically observed up-close every insect and invertebrate they could possibly find. This was more than simply capturing critters, this was the youth capturing a connection to the land; realizing that they too play a significant role in nature. This means that we are indeed achieving our goal of exposing youth to the outdoor classroom and promoting an experience that will enrich their lives in so many ways and lead them to taking action to protect the natural environment.



## CITY-WIDE PARKS BEAUTIFICATION

We thank the following groups that volunteered and contributed resources to support LP&CT’s **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual City-wide Parks Beautification Day this past October**. Your service has helped to maintain a more vibrant and green Lowell community!

LP&CT Land Stewards, City of Lowell, JAMBRA, Belvidere Neighborhood Council, Lower Highlands Neighborhood Group, Cub Scout Pack 23, Community Gardens Greenhouse, Friends of Rogers Fort Hill Park, LHS Business Professionals Club, LHS ROTC, Spindle City Garden Club, Lowell Historic Board, Lawrence Community Day Charter Public School, Lowell Unleashed, Keep Lowell Beautiful, Harbor of Hope Church, Lowell National Historical Park, and many community members.

Cereal for volunteers was donated by **Newman’s Own**.

This event was held in coordination with a larger day of service known as **USA Weekend Magazine’s “Make a Difference Day.”**

## MOTOROLA GLOBAL DAY OF SERVICE



### Motorola Volunteers at Spalding House & Jollene Dubner Park

The Trust kindly thanks **Motorola Wireline Access Networks volunteers** for their recent volunteer service and in-kind donations during **Motorola’s Global Day of Service** at LP&CT’s historic **Spalding House** and scenic **Jollene Dubner Park**. Special thanks to John Intorcio and Kerri Anne Wilson of Motorola and for making this event possible. The event was held on October 14, 2009 in coordination with similar projects being carried out simultaneously by Motorola volunteers around the globe. Through their donation of time, skills, and tools, our neighbors at **Motorola** helped us implement several projects that our small LP&CT staff of two would otherwise have little opportunity to accomplish. The Spalding House and its landscape are now better preserved for future generations, while Dubner Park will be more scenic and vibrant than ever. Motorola’s donated tools also came in handy during our City-Wide Parks Beautification Day!

*Thank you for facilitating a great work day for us. I think the whole group had some fun and got a real feeling of satisfaction from helping out LP&CT! The tour of the Spalding House and your tales of its history were great - really made us feel like the project there was worthwhile! And at Jollene Dubner Park, we got to enjoy those great fall views up the river all day while seeing immediate impact from the work we were doing! Thank you for these great opportunities!*

- John Intorcio, Motorola

## LP&CT RECEIVES SIGNIFICANT GRANT SUPPORT FROM:

Theodore Edson Parker Fdn.

City of Lowell CDBG Program

Massachusetts Cultural Council



Massachusetts Cultural Council

Art and Community Landscapes

(a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Park Service and the New England Foundation for the Arts)

Aubert J. Fay Charitable Fund

Cultural Organization of Lowell (COOL)

Richard K. Donahue Sr. Park Maintenance Fund &

Alfred H. and Kathryn E. Coburn Park Fund of the Greater Lowell Community Foundation (GLCF)

Demoulas Foundation

Frances R. Dewing Foundation

Joseph P. Donahue Charitable Foundation Trust

EPA Healthy Communities Grant Program

Fieldstone Foundation

Greater Lowell Community Foundation

Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Fund

Lowell Cultural Council

MA Cultural Facilities Fund

New England Foundation for the Arts—Arts Jobs (see p. 4)

NLT Foundation

Fund for the Arts, a restricted fund of the NE Foundation for the Arts

Philips Medical Systems

## QUALITY OF LIFE CAMPAIGN

### WHAT DOES QUALITY OF LIFE MEAN TO YOU?

We thank the following 2009 donors to our Quality of Life Campaign, which will provide important discretionary funds to expand our diverse programs and projects. Please let us know if you would like to invest in Lowell's "Quality of Life"; we can send you information or meet with you in person.

**James Calvin & Kamala Madhu**  
**James Cooney Real Estate & Ins.**  
**Courier Corporation**  
**Gururaj Deshpande**  
**Demoulas Foundation**  
**George & Carol Duncan**  
**Enterprise Bank**  
**Lowell Five**

## JERICHO ROAD IMPACT

### New Web Site & Strategic Planning Efforts Supported

The Trust kindly thanks and extends enormous gratitude to The **Jericho Road Project (JR)** and their remarkable volunteers for their recent assistance with two big Trust projects, the redevelopment of our organizational web site and strategic planning retreat with our Board of Directors. JR Lowell Program Director, Jodi DeLibertis, matched us with two professionals with us to help us meet our needs. Web designer, **Charles Frean** of Frean Design, and JR intern **Andrew Chen** both volunteered to transition our web site into a new Drupal-based design, including extensive staff training. We hope that you find the new site to have a refreshed look and feel to it, as well as to navigate; for us it will be easier to maintain. Visit [www.lowellandtrust.org](http://www.lowellandtrust.org) to view their impact!

Jericho Road also connected us with **Alan Hurvitz** who facilitated a very fruitful strategic planning retreat with the Trust's Board of Directors. We'll continue that process this winter and early spring.

## DOUBLE YOUR DONATION

### Ask your employer about its Matching Gift Program.

Current business participants include:

**Arbella, Aspect, Autodesk, Inc., Bickling Financial, Bristol-Myers Squibb, ca, FHI, HP, IBM, Juniper Networks, Millipore, National Grid/MA Electric, Polaroid, Sun Microsystems, and Verizon.**

Please remember to submit your **matching gift form** with your next donation to LP&CT.

### FIND US ON:



facebook

### WE THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR SIGNIFICANT IN-KIND SUPPORT:

**Anstiss & Co., P.C.**  
**Eno, Boulay, Martin & Donahue**  
**LDFC/Lowell Plan**  
**Jericho Road**

## WINTER 2010 PROGRAM SERIES

PLEASE RSVP (978) 934-0030



### Winter Wildlife Tracking Saturday, February 6, 2010 8-10:00am

Location: Meet at Lowell Cemetery,  
Lawrence Street entrance, Lowell

Do you ever wonder who's tracks those are in the snow? If so, please join us on this winter wildlife tracking walk through Lowell Cemetery and along the Concord River Greenway. Learn about tracking techniques to help you recognize different prints, animal behaviors, and signs. During prior walks we've identified fox, fisher, otter, and many other diverse species. **Space is limited, so please RSVP.**

### Wildlife Program and Demonstration

Saturday, February 6, 2010 11am-12:30pm  
 Brush Art Gallery & Studios, 256 Market Street

Later on, at the you will have the chance to see wildlife, such as an American kestrel and a spotted turtle, "upclose and personal" and learn about the challenges they face when it comes to survival in the wild. All ages welcome.

*These wildlife programs are offered in partnership with Mass Audubon-Drumlin Farm.*

### EXTINCT!... Endangered Species and Habitats

Exhibition: January 17 through February 21, 2010

Brush Art Gallery & Studios, 256 Market Street

A compelling exhibition featuring artworks that focus attention on endangered species and their shrinking habitats. EXTINCT! exhibit is a collaboration by the Brush Gallery & Artists Studios and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and Tufts University.



### Maple Sugaring

From Sap to Syrup  
 Saturday, February 27, 10am-12pm

Location: Rogers Fort Hill Park, Rogers  
 Street entrance, Lowell

Can you tell the real stuff from the imitation brands? Come on out to test your senses and learn about what it takes to tap a sugar maple and create a tasty delight. This is a fun activity for the whole family. Wear warm clothes and boots (we'll meet rain, snow or shine). This program is offered in partnership with Mass Audubon -Drumlin Farm and The Friends of Rogers Fort Hill Park. **Space is limited, so please RSVP.**



### Whitewater Rafting

Season begins April 3, 2010  
 Saturdays and Sundays, April & May,  
 Trips run at 9:00 am and 1:00 pm  
 and raft Class III & IV rapids of the  
 Concord River, Lowell

It's not too early to sign up for the Spring 2010 Concord River Whitewater Rafting season. Starting April 3rd, we'll be offering the region's "Best Urban Adventure," right here in Lowell on the Concord River. Experience the thrill of this unique experience and get a whole new look at Lowell.

**For further information, visit [www.lowellandtrust.org](http://www.lowellandtrust.org) or you can make your early reservations now by calling 800-532-7483.**

## ANNUAL MEETING



### 19th Annual Meeting: Features Author John Wargo

Our Annual Meeting, held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 was a great success and well attended. Guest speaker author John Wargo, professor of environmental policy at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, discussed his new book *Green Intelligence: Creating Environments That Protect Human Health*. He wove together stories of land protection in Puerto Rico, toxins in the environment, and personal insights on influencing environmental policy. A portion of the proceeds from his books sales through Barnes & Noble were donated to LP&CT. This event was co-sponsored by the Concord Festival of Authors—Lowell and the UMass Lowell Toxics Use Reduction Center (TURI). We thank UMass Lowell for the use of our meeting space at Wannalancit Mills. **Thank you to all who were able to attend!**



### Meet a few members from our Board of Directors:

From left, **Stephen A. Conant**, LP&CT Past President, Senior Vice President Anbaric Transmission & New England Independent Transmission Company, LLC; **Brian Chapman**, President Mill City Environmental; **William Martin, Jr., Esq.**, Eno, Boulay, Martin & Donahue; and **Christine Cole**, LP&CT Treasurer, Executive Director, Program in Criminal Justice Policy and Management, Harvard Kennedy School at our recent Annual Meeting.

## RENEWING MEMBERS, Continued from p. 5

**HEFCO Wiring Co., Inc.**, Robert Hevey, Kenneth Hitz, Patricia Hogan, Nancy Hogan, Raymond Houde, Martha Jackson, Richard Kinnal, Justin Kwan, Curtis LeMay, **Lowell Central Electric Co.**, Yona & Sinn Nin Mak, Jane McCaffrey, Patricia McCoy, **McDonough Funeral Home**, Susan McGilvary, Bernard & Roberta McNeil, Charles Meagher, Eric & Carrie Meikle, Frederick Mellish, Arthur Milliken, Judith Mizner, Patrick & Mary Mogan, Richard & Ann Molloy, Doris Molloy, Nathan Moore & Heddi Nieuwsma, Gail & William Noonan, Roger & Joyce Normand, Carol O'Dea, Ann O'Donnell, Catherine O'Donnell, Edward Parsons, Carlo Piacenza, Alma Ploof, Mr. William Riley, Richard & Virginia Roberto, Ann Romanowsky, Mary Sampas, Charles & Elizabeth Santagati, Marina Schell, Vito & Vasiliki Selvaggio, Brent Smith, Mary & John Splaine, **Subway**, Daniel Tenczar, Frank Thoms, Mr. J. David Titterington, Mark Turner, Peter Ventura, Reginald & Ruby Walker, Alethea Yates & Lee Walus, James Wilde, Hongwen Zhang

## CONCORD RIVER GREENWAY NEWS

### Public Art Installed on Greenway

The Concord River Greenway is a great place to get out and explore this winter—perfect for cross-country skiing! While you're out enjoying the scenic vistas over the Concord at the Davidson section (across from the Lowell Memorial Auditorium), you'll notice two public art pieces, designed by artist Wopo Holup. As you enter the Greenway, you'll notice four new bollards, three with cast iron native birds sitting on top. The long ornamental "text" fence ahead of you includes a long quote by Henry David Thoreau. You will also find multi-lingual signage that orients you to the natural resources and history of the immediate area.

The southern end of the Greenway, near the Lowell Cemetery entrance on Lawrence Street has also seen a lot of foot traffic. There is parking available and you can enjoy a long peaceful walk (ski) along the river's bank. This spring, a granite stack will grace the gateway at this end of the Greenway, including a quote by Paul Tsongas and a carving by local artist Jay Hungate.

*Funded in part by the Arts Jobs program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, made possible with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.*



*This program is also supported in part by a grant from the Lowell Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.*



*Our newest funding partner for the Concord River Greenway Public Art Program is the NLT Foundation.*

### Concord River Greenway Classroom

The Greenway has inspired not only public art and multi-lingual signage, but broad interest from educators. LP&CT has teamed up with the Tsongas Industrial History Center (TIHC), UMass Lowell's Chad Montrie, with support from a UML Creative Economy grant to create a Greenway Classroom website with both history and science content that will enhance any visit to the Concord River in Lowell. Content and editing for the site was provided by Gray Fitzsimmons, LP&CT's Brian Cutler, Sheila Kirschbaum (TIHC) and Chad Montrie. Special thanks to Cheryl Gray for website development. LP&CT is proud to host the site at:

<http://lowelllandtrust.org/greenwayclassroom/index.htm>



**Students from Pelham, New Hampshire attending the very first Classroom by the Concord tour - November 6, 2009**

**PLEASE NOTE:** ALL DONATIONS LISTED BELOW WERE RECEIVED BETWEEN **August 31—December 31, 2009**

**SUSTAINING MEMBERS**

*Sustaining members provide ongoing monthly support. Donations noted below are annualized. We've now made it easier for you to become a sustaining member (monthly donor)!*

[Click Donate Now on our website!](#)

**Sustaining Members (\$250+)**

Walter Bacigalupo  
Stephen A. Conant & Nancy Rourke  
Matthew C. Donahue  
Nancy & Henri Marchand  
The McCauley Family

**Sustaining Members (\$100-249)**

Cynthia & Charles Calvin  
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**Sustaining Members (\$1-99)**

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**J. DUBNER PARK DONORS**

Nancy Dubner  
Wayne & Susan VanBenschoten (new member)

**ANNUAL FUND DONORS**

*Please support those businesses that support our work (in bold).*

**Annual Fund Donors (\$500+)**

Richard K. & Nancy Donahue  
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**Centennial Island Hydroelectric Company**  
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**Annual Fund Donors (\$1-49)**

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**Moynihan, New England Communities Inc.,**

Richard & Mary Noon, **Notini's**, Melissa Pennell, Jack & Michele Reynolds, Norma Ricci, **Sagendorf, Taupier and Assoc.**, Sally Seaver, Daniel Singer, Karen Szczesiul, H. Bailey & Audrey Trull, Mr. Arthur Turner, Carolyn Walsh, Francis Warren, Jr., **Washington Savings Bank**

**Renewing Members \$50-99**

John & Mary Abraham, Arthur & Despina Anton, Stephen M. Laput & Adam Baacke, **Belanger & Foley, Inc.**, Bob & Rita Bowen,

*Thank you for facilitating a great work day for us. ...We got to enjoy those great fall views up the river all day while seeing immediate impact from the work we were doing!*  
- John Intorcio, Motorola

Donna & Daniel Brennan, Carla Corey & Paul Buckley, Mike & Debra Caldwell, Mary Costello, Charles & Phyllis Cutler, Virginia Day, Carol Drapeau, William Duncklee, Judith Durant, **Frank P. McCartin Co., Inc.**, Richard & Christine Gaiero, Richard Gardner, Stephen and Maureen

*We were inspired by everyone's on-the-ground illustrations of dealing with a variety of issues; how you each found help from many corners ...and your examples of saving a whole of lot of acreage for public good.*

-K. Brown, Southside Community Land Trust, after a visit from the Urban Land Protection Council, coordinated by LP&CT.

Gervais, Robert & Hilde Gilman, Richard & Maritza Hansen, William & Eleanor Harrington, Eva Herndon, Ms. Rachel Hervieux, **Highland Maintenance Co.**, Ernest & Ellen Huber, William Lipchitz, Phillippe & Jennifer Loher, Eleanor Lynch, Rosemary Noon & Paul Marion, Kathy Muldoon, James & Patricia O'Donnell, Martha & Rod Owen, **Pawtucket Pharmacy**, Edward Pery, Bernard & Kathleen Petruzzello, James Polcari, Donna & Peter Richards, Johanna Bohan Riley, Corey Sciuto, Maurice Shirley, Deborah Sofia, Jean Sweatt, Eileen Trainor, Leanne Gillis & Kevin Wayne, Nancy Williams, Mike & Carolyn Wurm, **Zoar Outdoor**

**Renewing Members \$1-49**

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**RENEWING MEMBERS**

**Renewing Members (\$500+)**

**Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank**

**Renewing Members \$250+**

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Grace Conway  
Steven & Jan Demetriou  
Robert & Carolyn Gregoire  
**Lowell National Historical Park**  
Donald Pearson  
Mark & Renee Romanowsky

**Renewing Members \$100-249**

**Anonymous, Anton's Cleaners**, Robert Bassett, **Behrakis Foundation**, Robert Caruso, Alfred Coburn, Beverly Coughlin, John & Pat Crane, Sr., Joanne Doherty, Lauris Donovan, Christine Dunlap, Cynthia McLain & John Edward, Allegra & David Fieldsend, Dr. Stephen Fisher, **Friends of the Bruce Freeman RT, Frontier Development Corp., Gath Insurance Agency, Inc.**, Terrence & Mary Gormley, William Foss & Charles Griffiths, Bob & Marianne Innis, Belinda Juran, Paula & Ray

# Support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust. Become a member or renew today!

The **Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust** relies on membership dues for continuing our **mission** to protect the parks and open spaces of Lowell. If you haven't already, please consider joining the Trust today or renewing your membership.

**Is your membership current?**  
Please see your address label.

## Yes, I want to support the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust!

\$250  \$100  \$50  \$25  \$15  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Notecards:** # \_\_\_\_\_ sets (\$10/set + \$2/shipping)

I've enclosed a **matching gift** form from my/my spouse's employer.

**SPECIAL!**

I'd like to become a **sustaining 'green' member** and donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly through my credit card

Please call or email me about **volunteering**: \_\_\_\_\_ (mailings, land stewards, lock tending, etc.).

**Payment method:**  Check enclosed

**Charge my credit card:**

Visa

MasterCard

AmEx

**Account #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Name & address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**(For new e-news!) EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: LP&CT, PO Box 7162, Lowell, MA 01852

### Would you like to make a special donation?

We have established separate funds to support these projects, *above and beyond* membership dues:

- LP&CT Endowment Fund
- Spalding House Maintenance Fund
- Jollene Dubner Park Maintenance Fund
- Hawk Valley Farm Endowment Fund—**NEW!**

----- Winter 2010 -----

Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust  
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Winter 2010 NEWSLETTER

Printed on recycled paper

## Special Places Prints on Canvas



A large selection of Mark Romanowsky's paintings are now available as true-to-size professional prints on canvas. All proceeds support the Conservation Trust.

Brochure & order form on-line  
[www.lowelllandtrust.org](http://www.lowelllandtrust.org) or  
call us at (978) 934-0030.

## Winter 2010 Events

Please RSVP (978)934-0030

### **Winter Wildlife Tracking**

Saturday, February 6, 2010 (8-10am)  
*Meet at the Lawrence Street entrance  
to the Lowell Cemetery.*

Followed by:

### **Live Wildlife Program**

Saturday, February 6, 2010 (11am-12:30)  
*Brush Gallery & Artist Studios  
256 Market St., Lowell*

### **Maple Sugaring**

Saturday, February 27, 2010 (10am-12pm)  
*Rogers Fort Hill Park, Rogers Ave., Lowell*

**Animal Tracking & Maple Sugaring are popular programs—reservations required, please call early to reserve your spot. Families welcome.**

## **LP&CT Board of Directors**

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