

THE TENNESSEE EASTMAN HIKING & PADDLING NEWS

May 1999

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NEXT TWO MONTHS AT A GLANCE				
May 1	Wildflower Hike: Hughes Gap-Little Rock Knob	E	J. Deloach	423-753-7903
May 8	AT: Camp Creek Bald - Devils Fork Gap	D	K. Wilson	423-239-7554
May 8-9	Bluestone XXI	II+	T. Dougherty	423-323-2647
May 13, 15, 16	Introductory Whitewater School	I-II	M. Morrow	423-245-1201
May 14-16	Damascus AT Days			
May 15	Third Saturday Maintenance		B. Stowell	423-239-7697
May 15	AT: McQueens Gap - Damascus	M	R. Colberg	423-288-8333
May 22	AT: Carvers Gap - U.S. 19E	D	S. Wilson	423-239-0456
Jun 5	Family/Beginner Hike: Smokies Hike/Swim/Fish - Mouse Creek Falls	E	E. Oliver	423-349-6668
Jun 5-6	Chattooga Section III	III	R. Culbertson	423-239-9795
Jun 12	Smokies Dayhike: Thunderhead Mountain	D	N. Dotson	423-245-8316
Jun 13	Leader's Choice	IV-V	M. Morrow	423-245-1201
Jun 19	Third Saturday Maintenance		B. Stowell	423-239-7697
Jun 19	Roan Mountain Rhododendron Hike	M	S. Perri	423-349-5091
Jun 26	AT: Carvers Gap - Grassy Ridge	E-M	S. Falling	423-239-5502

TEHCC Winter Dinner Meeting

Carl Fritz reporting

Before getting down to serious food, we enjoyed some appetizers plus the hiking and paddling gear display at Mahoney's Sportsman Paradise and organized by Dixie Hoilman. About fifty people came to the Eastman to enjoy the marinated smoked chicken buffet catered by Sharon's BBQ. Another dozen people joined us for the annual awards. The annual awards were a highlight. Cheryl Somers, Forest Service Partnership Coordinator, presented

patches to our many members who have provided hundreds and thousands of hours maintaining the trail. AT Maintenance Coordinator, followed up with TEHCC maintenance patches. Derrick Stowell for the second row earned the 1998 Maintainer of the Year Award. Also, for a second time Brad Dayvolt earned the Padlock Award for participating in and leading many trips and schools. Neil Dotson, as a frequent hike leader and participant, earned the Hiker of the Year.

Ed Oliver received the Stan Murray Award for his constant and seemingly tireless dedication to our club and the Appalachian Trail over many years. Frequently, Ed is found coordinating the fieldwork for many major AT relocations and special projects. There are few active hiking or maintaining members of TEHCC that do not have a leader and worker.

Ed Schell accompanied by his wife Barbara capped the evening with an enticing slide program, "The Road to the Past." The entire display was set to soothing music and is a must see if you missed it.

Konnarock Crew

Wilder Mine Hollow Relocation Konnarock Crew

Wilder Mine Hollow Relocation

Joe DeLoach reporting

This year we have four consecutive weeks (May 20-24, May 27-31, June 3-7, and June 10-14) of the Konnarock Crew working early in their season. We asked for four consecutive weeks to work on a relocation from Carvers Gap to Little Rock Knob. We continue having difficulties getting the necessary approvals and working out the logistics for this project so we are shifting the Crew to work on a relocation near Roan Mountain. Specifically, this project is between Appleton and the Doll Flats Relocation we installed several years ago. It will eliminate some steep, eroding sections of the Trail away from private land that is very close.

This is our major special project of the year and we hope to get a good turnout of Club volunteers. Trail relocations require some hard work, mainly digging, but there are many other less strenuous but no less necessary tasks like clipping and raking leaves onto the newly dug Trail to prevent erosion. Volunteers are sought any day throughout the week and if you're interested in a non-weekend day please contact Joe to learn who might be going out. We will be departing from the parking lot between Burger King and McDonald's in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM on the following days. Bring lunch, work gloves, and plenty of water. Also, it always helps if you will notify me in advance (423-753-7903) so we can bring the right tools. Hope to see many of you there!

Scheduled Activities and Trip Reports

Spring Wildflower Hike - Little Rock Knob, May 1

Leader: Joe DeLoach 423-753-7903, Rating: Easy

This year's Spring Wildflower Hike will not only go to an area where there should be plentiful wildflowers, but also traverse the Little Rock Knob Relocation that we completed with the Konnarock Crew in 1998. If you've ever hiked (or driven down) Little Rock Knob from Hughes Gap before, you'll remember a steep trench through a dry woods that was unpleasant. The relocation adds some distance but now goes through a much moister and more scenic forest. The great views from Little Rock Knob (elevation 4918') remain. The hike is approximately 2.5 miles in each direction, making it on the long end of easy by our guidelines. We will drive past Iron Mountain Gap on the way to our destination at Hughes Gap; so those wishing to make a longer hike (about 9 miles total) could leave cars at Iron Mt. Gap. Meet us at 8:00 in the parking lot between Burger King and McDonald's in Colonial Heights; bring lunch, water, and a hat. Please contact Joe for more information or to sign up for the hike.

AT Hike: Camp Creek Bald to Devils Fork Gap, May 8

Leader: Kent Wilson, 239-7554. Rating: Difficult (13.2 mi)

This is a relatively strenuous hike (because of the distance) from the top of Camp Creek Bald to Devils Fork Gap. We will meet at the parking lot between Burger King and McDonalds in Colonial Heights with a planned departure at 8:00 AM (because of the length of the shuttle and hike). Please contact the trip leader (home phone 239-7554) so we don't leave you. If you have a 4-wheel drive please bring it because it may be useful in getting to Camp Creek Bald (trip leader will assure that there at least 2 4-wheel drive vehicles). Hopefully the wild flowers will be out in bloom for this spring hike.

AT Hike: McQueens Gap to Damascus, May 15

Leader: Richard Colberg, 288-8333. Rating: Moderate (11 mi, 2500 ft elev gain)

This hike starts at McQueens Gap and follows mostly level ridge top, with some downhill at the end near Damascus. The wildflowers should just be coming out at this elevation and several wildflowers should be in bloom. Come join us for a very pleasant hike. We'll meet at 8am in the parking lot between McDonald's and Burger King in Colonial Heights. Bring appropriate clothing, lunch and water. Call hike leader for details.

Third Saturday Maintenance, May 15

Leader: Bill Stowell

We will either do some trail rehab in the Greasy Creek Gap area or start brush clearing for the Konnarock area to begin the next week. Meet at Burger King to leave at 8:00AM. Contact me if you are going so we can plan.

AT Hike: Carver's Gap to Hwy 19E, May 22

Leader: Steve Wilson, 423-239-0456. Rating: Difficult

This should be a long, but beautiful hike starting at Carver's Gap and ending at highway 19E. The length is approximately 13 miles. During the hike, we'll cross the Roan Mountain balds, followed by Big Hump and Roan Mountains. With clear weather, the views should be impressive. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate clothing for the weather. Meet between McDonalds and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM. Please call me if you want to participate.

Family/Beginner Hike: Mouse Creek Falls Hike, June 5

Leader: Ed Oliver, 423-349-6668. Rating: Easy

This is an easy hike along an old railroad grade in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This hike is suitable for beginners, families, or anyone who enjoys a leisurely hike. We will drive to the Big Creek Ranger Station and hike about 3 miles to Mouse Creek Falls. We will return by the same trail. The trail follows Big Creek that is one of the most beautiful mountain streams in the park. The stream has trout and also has several places where you can go fishing. Bring your swimsuit if you want to take a dip in the cold, clear waters. If anyone is interested, we can continue on the old railroad grade past the falls until we decide to turn around and head back to the cars. Bring water and appropriate clothing. Meet at the parking area between McDonalds and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 8:00 AM. For additional information, contact Ed Oliver at (423) 349-6668.

AT Hike: Carvers Gap to Grassy Ridge, June 26

Leader: Steve Falling, 239-5502. Rating: Easy to moderate

One of the most beautiful places in East Tennessee is the Roan Highlands. In particular, the section of trail between Carvers Gap and Grassy Ridge is always a treat. The broad, grassy balds have an abundance of wild rhododendrons. We hope this trip is timed to hit the bloom near its peak. The temperature is much lower at this elevation so bring appropriate clothing and rain gear. Also bring lunch, water, sunscreen, hat, camera, etc. This is about a 6 mile hike although a shorter trip may be taken if desired. Therefore I rate the trip easy to moderate. We will meet at the parking area between McDonalds and Burger King in Colonial Heights at 8:00 a.m.

Mount LeConte Trail Trip, July 10 - 11

Leader: Steve Falling, 239-5502. Rating: Moderate

The Hiking Club will repeat its annual overnight hike to Mount LeConte Lodge in the Great Smoky Mountain Park. We will hike up on Saturday, spend the night in two small cabins (double bunk beds) and hike back Sunday. The distance is 5.5 to 7.8 miles one-way depending on the route. The cost per person is \$79.75 covers supper on Saturday, lodging for the night and breakfast on Sunday. We only have eight reservations on your request first.

AT Section Maintenance and Special Projects

March 13, Roan Mountain Trail Maintenance

Gregory Kramer reporting

Troop 387 went to Roan Mountain intending to do trail maintenance. The plan was to go in at Yellow Mountain mark trail and clip going both directions at one time. One half was to go toward Stan Murray Shelter and the other half toward Bradley Gap. This scout outing was planned well in advance, and we took our chances with the weather. It was well, with 3 feet of snow still on the ground and more coming down during the day. The boys and leaders made an attempt but cold and wind had the upper hand. The group going to Stan Murray made the shelter and returned. The group going toward Bradley did the wise thing and turned around. The group spent 5 hours up on the mountain. Leaders: Bob Clemens, Dwight Ford, Tish Kashdan and Jon Mather. Boys participating were Mike Clemens, Andrew Jackson, Steven Jones, Lee Kashdan, Graham Kramer, Alex McClelland, Hunter McClelland and Brian V.

March 19, AT Trail Maintenance - Abingdon Gap Shelter to Backbone

Rock Trail

Gary Luttrell reporting

I drove to McQueen's Gap and walked to within a mile of the Backbone Rock trail. I cleared several small sections with a bow saw, left a new logbook at the shelter, and carried out a bag of garbage. There are three large sections starting at about a mile trail north of the shelter, but these should not be given high priority for removal since they can be walked around or through. Several short sections of the trail need sidehill work. One through-hiker and two UT were spending the night in Abingdon Gap Shelter. Total: 6 hours.

March 20, Install Bog Bridges At Cross Mountain

Ed Oliver reporting

We had an excellent turnout for the Third Saturday Special Project Trip. Thirty-two people helped replace and install bog bridges on Cross Mountain. A RECORD TURNOUT!! This project was funded by a grant from the Appalachian Conference. There was some concern on the part of the trip leader as to whether or not there would be enough volunteers. It turned out that there was plenty of work for everyone. We would not have finished the work back in time for the TEHCC Winter Dinner meeting if everyone had not helped. We removed the old bog bridges and installed eighteen new bog bridges. We were able to nail wire mesh to most of the bridges to improve traction. I would like to express my thanks to all the volunteers who helped on these bridges (those who helped on the old bridges and those who helped construct the bridges in Kingsport). A special note of thanks for the Eastman Co-op students from Appalachian State University and to Cliff Vogh who drove all the way from Hiddenite, North Carolina for help. Those who helped with this work on Saturday included Kent & Nancy Wilson, Derrick & Bill Stowell, Pierce, Phyllis Cairnes, Cliff Vogh, Frank Williams, Ed Oliver, Carl Fritz, Steve Perri, Steve Banks, Joe D. Oglesby, Steve Wilson, Bob Peoples, Emmett Dougherty, Bill Murdock, Bryan Mattingly, Transito Macias, Angle Pagen, Ean Schiller, Clay Coffey, Jasper Filiss, McKinley Johnson, Grayson Newell, Manuela Stangor, Wilkie, Steuart Wilkins, and Wendy Yow. Total: 226 hours.

March 21, AT Trail Maintenance

Collins Chew reporting

Bob Harvey and Collins Chew blazed the A.T. from Little Rock Knob to Iron Mountain Gap. A notebook was left at Clyde Smith Shelter and leaves were cleared from that spring. We also cleared blowdowns and clipped vegetation from Little Rock Knob almost to Greasy Creek Gap (2 1/2 miles). That was all we had time to do although we walked from Hughes Gap to Iron Mountain Gap. There were many blowdowns and limb debris from ice storms. I think there are 10 or more of the blowdowns. We could perhaps get most of the rest in another trip that cannot be this week. There are quite large blowdowns that definitely require chainsaws. One is just Trail north of Little Rock Knob (not on the trail) is about 2 feet thick and more or less in the trail lengthwise. You sort of have to crawl over it. There is another one just south of Little Rock Knob, also more or less in the trail but it is easier to slip through. It is detached from the trail ball in a way and you can squeeze through, perhaps slightly uphill from the regular trail. I can perhaps get it through with me with a chainsaw. Although there are a few other large ones, we might get all the rest with chainsaws. There are only two which really require one to step off the trail and they are tree tops from an ice storm and they are cut with bow saws. The rest can be crossed fairly easily at or very near the trail. We hiked 8.5 miles. Total: 12 hours.

March 21, Inspect Bridges at Laurel Fork Gorge

Bill Stowell reporting

We decided to check on the progress of the bridge work in Laurel Fork Gorge. Bob Peoples had told us that work had begun. The blue blaze trail to the wilderness boundary is now a bulldozed road. The old bypass at the end of the road down to the sign in box is now a road straight to the water. There is evidence of chain saw use and bulldozing in the wilderness area. They have crossed the stream in several places cutting a new road up to the first bridge. The logs for the first bridge are laying at the bridge site trail south of the stream. They have not started to build the trail to support the logs yet. There is a sign on the gate at the Hampton parking lot posted Do Not Enter. Along with me were Bill Stowell, Ed Oliver, and Darrol Nickels. Total: 12 hours.

March 23, Flag Relocation Trail North Of Walnut Mtn. Road

Ed Oliver reporting

Bruce Cunningham, Bill Elderbrock, Frank Williams and Ed Oliver continued flagging the relocation of the trail between Walnut Mountain Road and Bitter End. We now have a flag line that eliminates all the steep stream crossings three or four stream crossings trail north of Walnut Mountain Road. We will review the relocations with M. Sommerville of ATC before submitting them to the Forest Service for approval. Total: 32 hours.

March 24, Inspect Prescribed Burn Along AT by USFS

Steve Perri reporting

Frank Williams and Darrol Nickels met with Ronnie Lintz from the USFS to inspect a prescribed burn from Temple Hill Gap to Temple Hill Gap (Section 20). The intent of the burn is to minimize non-native vegetation that has been proliferating in the area and to reduce potential fuel from underlying trees and brush on the ground. This area has evolved since the Yellowstone fires in the 1980's. The area had been previously scheduled for inspection but numerous cancellations due to weather prevented the inspection from occurring earlier. The USFS had determined they were going to do this, it was just a matter of when. ATC recommended doing this very quickly (by April 15th) due to impending thru-hikers passing through. The tentative plan is to do the burn March 27th (if weather changes) by closing the trail for a day, making sure no one is on the trail, placing a break around Temple Hill Shelter, staff USFS people at Spivey Gap and Noli. River, and shuttle any hikers around the section as needed. It is indicated the burn would be carried out by an aerial drop from the ridge and would burn primarily low lying vegetation. The area would be impacted along the AT, but is anticipated to recover quickly since most vegetation will grow back in the spring. Total: 18 hours.

March 26-28 Trail Maintenance

Bill Stowell reporting

Over a three day period, Dixie & Fred Hoilman, Pat Buchanan, and Kathy Lewis worked on spring maintenance and cleared blow downs between Indian Grave and Chestoa. This section is now clear. Total: 92 hours.

March 26-28, ATC Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting

Steve Perri reporting

Steve Banks, Bruce Cunningham, Mary Cunningham, Ray Hunt, Ted Malone, and Steve Perri attended the Southern Regional Management Committee Meeting in Brown Summit, NC as part of the annual planning process for maintaining trail clubs and associated agency partners from the Southern Region. The Agency Partners reported on the current projects on going in their organizations. TEHC participated in numerous discussion groups including Recruitment, Club Communications, American Disabilities ACT and the AT, and Wilderness Management. Clubs reported their concerns regarding management of the AT in Wilderness under the restrictive management enforced by the USFS. The discussion panel identified several disagreements and determined there were several areas where the trail clubs, ATC, and the USFS identified in descriptions, definitions, and interpretations. ATC will coordinate the resolution of a number of these issues. The meeting was very productive, informative, and provided our club members to meet other trail club members and Agency Partners for lots of individual discussions.

March 27, Trail Maintenance

Bill Berry reporting

I repaired a hole in trail south of Temple Hill Gap. I had a report from three hikers that trail was clear from Temple Hill Gap as of 3/27/99. Looks like the controlled burn went off okay on the 3/30. I plan to repaint a section and south from Spivey to Temple Hill in the next few months. Total: 6 hours.

March 29, Laurel Fork Gorge Bridge Inspection

Bill Stowell reporting

Bill & Derrick Stowell drove to Hampton to check the progress of the Laurel Fork Gorge Bridge work. The logs are on the first bridge piers. The contractor was dragging the second set of logs to the second bridge piers. They are using the big rock and the existing pier on the first bridge as supports with a 12 x 12 on the concrete piers. Total: 8 hours.

March 30, Annual Maintenance - Vandeventer Shelter to Pond Flats

Ed Oliver reporting

Bill & Derrick Stowell, Ed Oliver, Darrol Nickels, Frank Williams, John Kiefer, Bill Elderbrock, Bruce Cunningham, and John Thompson removed blowdowns, clipped, painted blazes, and picked up trash from Vandeventer Shelter to Pond Flats. Bruce Cunningham and Bob Peoples reinforced the hand rail on the Koonford Bridge in Laurel Fork. Total: 90 hours.

March 31, Controlled Burn Inspection

Bill Stowell reporting

Bill & Derrick Stowell drove to Can Lot to check out the controlled burn that was done the previous day. The burn occurred along the forest service road and along the road going up from Can Lot to Devils Creek Gap and back down the side. We headed toward No Business Knob. The burn could only be seen for about three ridges then not visible. Some spots were still burning. The coverage was very spotty. Total: 8 hours.

April 1, AT Trail Maintenance - Iron Mountain Gap to Greasy Creek

Collins Chew reporting

John Kiefer, Bill and Derrick Stowell, and Collins Chew cleared blowdowns and ice storm debris on 5 miles of Iron Mountain Gap to past Greasy Creek Gap. The rain threatened, but did not appear and the day was quiet. The first spring flowers appeared as several patches of Spring Beauties. The five through hikers we saw were complimentary of our Trail and thanked us for our efforts. Total: 32 hours.

April 2, Trail Maintenance on Iron Mountain - Vandeventer Shelter to Highway 91

Steve Wilson reporting

An energetic crew of eight spent Good Friday on Iron Mountain clearing blowdowns and lopping. We cleared a trail from Vandeventer Shelter to Highway 91. The day started with Steve Perri and I driving our four-wheeler on Hurley Hollow Forest Road to reach the side trail near Turkey Pen Gap. Ted Malone, Scott Thomson, and I cleared trees blocking the trail with a chainsaw for the six miles going trail north - passing Iron Mountain State Grindstaff Monument to Highway 91. Steve Perri, Bill Elderbrock, and I cleared with a chainsaw and lopped from Turkey Pen Gap to the Wilderness Boundary for 4 miles going trail south. The high-mileage crew was Carl Fritz and I who hiked into the Wilderness area and cleared the section from the boundary to Vandeventer Shelter (2 miles). I used a large bow saw and cleared over 30 blowdowns and hiked a total of 12 miles. The day ended with the four-wheeling back down the forest road in the dark and then stopping for dinner at The Classic Malt Shop in Elizabethton. Total: 100 hours.

Future work: We need to aggressively cut back the rhododendron between the shelter and the wilderness area. They are getting really thick due to limited trimming. It's a four-mile walk into the section - no matter what direction you approach it - making it a 12-mile day.

(Webmaster's note: due to abuse by hikers, the Hurley Hollow access point has been CLOSED. DO NOT attempt to reach A.T. via this road).

April 3, AT Trail Blaze

Bill Stowell reporting

Bill & Derrick Stowell drove to Watauga Dam Road and white blazed north to the flag we had left previously. They then blazed back to the road to complete the white blazing on this section. Total: 8 hours.

April 4, Pick Up Trash at US 19E

Ed Oliver reporting

Bruce, Mary, Doug, and Sindy Cunningham picked up trash near the stream crossing trail north of US 19E.

AT Conference, Radford 1999

Carl Fritz reporting

The 32nd Biennial Appalachian Trail Conference will be held July 9-16 at Radford University in Virginia. Since we are co-hosting the meeting, many of our members are actively organizing and planning the 75 hikes and almost 100 workshops. The early registration deadline is May 15. Registration information as well as the registration form are available on the ATC web site. If you desire hardcopy registration information, please contact Carl Fritz at carlfritz@atc.org.

Web Site Update

Steve Banks reporting

During March 1999, we had good news and bad news for our web site. The good news is that we had over 100 hits to our site during the month. The bad news is that the company that previously hosted our web site, Service

Johnson City, was sold to HostServer in Laurel, Maryland. Since that sale, service has deteriorated and including our search page no longer work. I am trying to get everything working correctly again.

First Aid Training

Bill Stowell reporting

The ATC will pick up the cost for each club to provide First Aid and CPR training up to \$200. It would be good for every trail team to have a member with this type training in case anyone gets hurt. Also when using chain saws there are safety requirements. If someone would get hurt using a chain saw and not have the proper safety gear and training, it would be covered by the Forest Service for payment of medical expenses. This is a good opportunity to get this training that would be good for trail use and for every day use. Please consider this for your self and forward to your club members. If you are interested contact Steve Perri or me.

Introductory Whitewater School Instructor/Safety Boaters Needed

Mike Morrow reporting

The 28th annual TEHCC/APE's Introduction to Paddling Clinic "Canoe School" is quickly approaching. This weekend of May 15th and 16th. Volunteers are needed to help instruct and Safety boat. The clinic will only be successful if I have your help. PLEASE volunteer to help at this year's clinic. Call Mike Morrow at (423) 253-1234. I can help on one or both days. Thanks in advance.

Introductory Whitewater School 1999

Mike Morrow reporting

The 28th annual "Canoe School", sponsored by the Tennessee Eastman Hiking and Canoeing Club in association with the Appalachian Paddling Enthusiast's (APEs), will be held May 13, 15, 16. The school is targeted for beginning to intermediate solo and tandem whitewater canoeists and kayakers, and consists of an evening of lecture and two days on the water. As in the past there will continue to be a strong emphasis on river safety. Participants are responsible for providing their own gear and transportation.

Minimum required gear: Whitewater canoe w/ one paddle per paddler plus one spare per boat, and helmet for whitewater kayak w/ paddle, sprayskirt and helmet. 1 PFD (life jacket) per person. Canoes should have 15' lines. Rain jacket. Knee pads. Lunch. Change of clothes in a waterproof bag.

Schedule:

May 13 Thur	Lecture and films. 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Eastman Lodge, Room A2 Eastman Recreation Area, Near Bay's Mountain
May 16 Sat	Lake and River Trip, class I-II. 9:00 AM Duck Island Parking Lot Warriors Path State Park, Kingsport, Tennessee
May 17 Sun	River Trip, class I-II. 10:00 AM Chestoa Forest Service Picnic Area Erwin, Tennessee (Subject to change)

Note: New students are expected to attend Thursday night and Saturday if they intend to paddle on Sunday. We reserve the right to exclude anyone if they believe safety will be compromised.

Cost: \$15.00 per student payable at the school. If you are a member of the American Canoe Association

bring your membership card and member number. This will save you \$5.00.

To register contact Mike Morrow at 423-245-1201 or complete and return the form below and mail it to Mike Morrow, May 3rd, 1028 Surmont Ct. Kingsport, Tennessee 37660. Feel free to call for more details.

Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Work Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Solo Canoe _____ Tandem Canoe _____ Kayak _____

Experience: Beginner _____ Novice _____ Intermediate _____

My tandem partner's name _____

I need a partner _____

List of previous clinics I have taken:

List up to 5 rivers previously paddled (include level):

To submit an article for the newsletter, contact:

Shannon Stanforth
1122 Catawba Street
Kingsport, Tennessee 37660
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