



A New Format for the WTA Winter EXPO

By Dr. Doug Soldat, Department of Soil Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Turfgrass Research Day
Registration Page 11**

The WTA Winter EXPO has a new look. In fact, the changes were so sweeping, we decided to change the name. That new name is WTA Turfgrass Research Day. The inaugural event will be held on Tuesday, January 15th, 2013 at the Pyle Center in Madison, Wisconsin. For those familiar with Madison, the Pyle Center is on Lake Mendota next to the UW Memorial Union.

With so many competing educational events (Reinders Show, Spring Valley Turf Fair, WGCSA Symposium, etc.), we felt the WTA EXPO no longer provided the unique experience it once did, so we made some changes to regain that uniqueness. First, you will be able to attend Turfgrass Research Day via webinar. While in-person attendance is still encouraged and available, many turf professionals are comfortable and may even prefer an online viewing option. The online option may also be preferred by folks that need to plow snow in the event of a storm.

Second, the format of the presentations will be different. The UW-Madison turfgrass team has several talented graduate students and staff that are heavily involved in the research. The WTA funds many of these students through the four Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research (the Berbee, Kurth, Kussow, and Newman Fellowships), and many of their projects are also funded by WGCSA. We wanted to give those team members a chance to present the results of the studies they work so hard on every year. The talks from the students and staff will be short and to the point, while the professors have longer more traditional time slots and will cover topics more broadly. Bringing in outside speakers will remain an option for future years, but there is so much turfgrass work being done at UW-Madison that we wanted to share that work with the industry that supports us. Check out the schedule below to get a feel for the variety of presentations being made.

We are very excited about the new format and hope you are too. This is only the first year, and we have already discussed some other innovative and exciting ideas that will be implemented in future years.

Registration costs are very reasonable. WTA member price is \$25 and non-member is \$40 for the online webinar. The cost is \$40 to attend the live Turfgrass Research Day at the Pyle Center



and that will include snacks, refreshments, and lunch. You may register and pay online at www.wisconsin-turfgrass-association.org, or print off a registration form from the website and mail in your fee. Contact Audra Anderson at 608-845-6536 or ajander2@wisc.edu if you have any questions. Hope you are able to partake in this inaugural Turfgrass Research Day. There will be so much to learn!

Turfgrass Research Day Schedule (January 15, 2013):

- 8:00: Coffee and donuts
- 8:30: Welcome/Introductions/Announcements/Scholarship Presentation
- 8:45: Radiometric sensing as a turfgrass evapotranspiration measurement tool (Brad DeBels, Soil Science Ph.D. Student)
- 9:00: Understanding the dynamics of carbon storage in turfgrass system (Sabrina Ruis, Soil Science Ph.D. Student)
- 9:15: Iron layering in sand-based putting greens (Glen Obear, Soil Science M.S. Student)

Continued on page 3

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks for the Privilege

By Dan Biddick



It has been my privilege to lead the Wisconsin Turfgrass Association for the past five years. This is one of the most rewarding experiences I have ever had. I want to thank everyone for their support over these few years. The WTA is a volunteer organization. The board of directors consists of talented dedicated individuals. Each has been willing to take up the torch and serve as committee chairs and do what needs to be done to

make the association successful. I am proud that virtually every issue that has come before the board we have been able to reach consensus and pass motions unanimously. The membership has also been terrific. In these difficult times our membership has been there whenever the call has gone forth. The vendors have been there for the association, making suggestions, recommendations, and supporting changes that have been necessary. The staff at the OJ Noer has been more than understanding and willing to do

things behind the scenes that make the association activities flow. I have enjoyed the UW professors, their work ethic, reputations in the field, and successful endeavors. Monroe Miller has been a true warrior and keeper of the mission. He has been an excellent ambassador of the WTA. He has led the association through some difficult times. The green industry continues to be a terrific career. It is full of great people. In the end it is the relationships we cultivate that enrich our lives and make them worth living.

It is time to pass the torch of leadership to another who will bring new ideas, energy, and vision to the WTA. There is always another who will step up, grab the reins, shake off the nay sayers, and lead forth into the future. As long as one candle burns, darkness is at bay. Well, the WTA has many candles burning which makes each day bright and full of opportunities to make a difference in the WTA, our green industry, and our world.

Mother always told me, "Where there is a will, there is a way." Grab the will, find the way, and make great things happen! We can do this! ■

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Year behind board member name, is the expiration of their current term.
January is the month the term is up.

A New Format for the WTA Winter EXPO - *continued*

- 9:30: Algae and bicarbonate: is there a connection? (Glen Obear, Soil Science M.S. Student)
- 9:45: Trends in bentgrass fertility (Dr. Doug Soldat, Soil Science)
- 10:15: Coffee Break
- 10:30: Plant defenses against dollar spot (Renee Rioux, Plant Pathology Ph.D. Student)
- 10:45: Effect of snow cover on the duration of Microdochium patch control provided by chlorothalonil on golf course turfgrass (Dr. Paul Koch, Plant Pathology)
- 11:00: Effect of temperature and mowing on the persistence of iprodione and chlorothalonil on golf course turfgrass (Dr. Paul Koch, Plant Pathology)
- 11:15: Getting the most out of your fungicide program (Dr. Jim Kerns, Plant Pathology)
- 12:00: Lunch
- 1:00: Controlling black cutworm: some products work, other just don't... (PJ Liesch, Entomology Research Staff)
- 1:15: Which caterpillars are chewing on your turf, and what is chewing on them? (PJ Liesch, Entomology Research Staff)
- 1:30: Do fungicides provide control of white grubs? (Glen Obear, Soil Science M.S. Student)
- 1:45: A year of chaos and a glimpse to the future (Dr. Chris Williamson, Entomology)
- 2:30: Coffee Break
- 2:45: Nitrous oxide emissions and nitrate leaching from synthetic and alternative turfgrass management programs (Mark Garrison, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies Ph.D. Student)
- 3:00: Do native plant mixtures reduce invasions along roadsides in Wisconsin? (Joslyn Mink, Agronomy Ph.D. Student)
- 3:15: Organic and Reduced Risk Turf Management (Dr. Doug Soldat, Soil Science)
- 4:00: Adjourn

Turfgrass Research Day will be held at the Pyle Center on Lake Mendota in Madison on January 15th, 2013. Don't count on any sailboats, however. ■

Thank You Dr. Kerns!

By Dr. Paul Koch, Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Editor's note: This article is reprinted from the Nov/Dec issue of the WGCSA Grassroots Newsletter with permission of the editor.

The first time Dr. Kerns and I spent any significant time together was during his first week as Wisconsin's Turfgrass Pathologist back in the summer of 2008. I had met him during the interview, and had seen him present at academic meetings, but our interactions had been brief. I knew that he enjoyed golf, and to begin the process of getting to know him I asked Tom Harrison to set up a round of golf for us at Maple Bluff CC. Anyone that knows Jim knows he is a tremendous golfer, anyone that knows me knows that I am not. We arrive at the first tee, and Jim promptly slices his tee shot well onto the adjacent fairway. After explaining how I'm not very good, I proceed to effortlessly hit my tee shot long and straight down the middle of the fairway. "There's my good one for the day" I proclaim with great humor, and we stride off down the first fairway. While he's off looking for his ball in nearby

Waukesha County, I hit a little wedge up to the green that bounces once, bounces a second time, trickles for a foot or two and falls into the cup for the first eagle of my entire life. Rather than whooping and running around riding my pitching wedge like a pony though, I felt rather sheepish. I had just spent the past hour explaining to him how I'm not very good, and I chip in for eagle on the first hole we play together.

After knocking his ball up near the green, he walks up, surveys the area and asks "Where did you go?" "Um, I think it went in" was my confident reply. "What? What do you mean you *think* it went in?" replies Dr. Kerns. To which I replied, "well I guess I haven't really looked yet, but I know it's in there, I don't want you to think I'm hustling you." So began a 5 year relationship that saw the development of Dr. Kerns as one of the foremost turf pathologists in the country, the growth of myself as a scientist and an extension specialist, and together as a team the expansion of the turf pathology program at Wisconsin to one of the most respected in the nation.



Dr. Kerns and myself at my Ph.D. graduation in May of 2012. I will forever be grateful to his guidance throughout my Ph.D. pursuit.

I am personally grateful to Jim on many levels. First, he allowed me to stay on as Turfgrass Diagnostic Lab manager AND simultaneously pursue my Ph.D. This is exceedingly rare, and was a significant risk for his young program back in 2008. If I had failed miserably, not only would the most public face of his program (the TDL) fail, but so would

Continued on page 4

his first Ph.D. student. Those would both look bad for him, and I made sure not to point out this fact when discussing the potential Ph.D. pursuit. The successful completion of my Ph.D. though this past summer allowed me to pursue my own research ambitions while still maintaining my close connections with the industry, something that will prove valuable as I scan the horizon near and far for potential employment.

In addition, Jim has been a valuable mentor on far ranging issues from writing to fundamentals about plant pathology. His guidance on public speaking, however, may be among the most valuable guidance he has provided over the years. Jim is one of the most prolific speakers available on the 'turf circuit' today, and with his help I have improved significantly and will work to continue to improve moving forward. An ability to speak effectively in public is essential as an extension specialist, and any success I have in the future in this area will be largely thanks to Jim.

In addition to my own gratitude, I know all segments of the industry are just as grateful for the services he provided over the last 5 years. Jim has been quick to respond to calls and emails from turf managers of all stripes, and has even found time to make numerous site visits to golf courses, athletic fields, sod farms, and home lawns. One elderly woman in north central Wisconsin even paid him in cookies for driving 3 hours to look at her lawn, something I'm sure the industry in North Carolina would like to know. Jim has initiated numerous research projects that have benefited the state industries; including research into the basic ecology and pathogenicity of the dollar spot and anthracnose pathogens, novel fungicide strategies for reducing overall inputs, and a new characterization of rust pathogens that will greatly aid the sod industry. In addition, with the tireless promotional abilities of Dr. Kerns on the speaking circuit the TDL is quickly becoming known around the country as a fast, accurate, and unbiased source of diagnostic information for turfgrass managers.



Dr. Kerns grooming future graduate students at a 'Grandparents University' event in 2010.



Dr. Kerns' speaking abilities have made him one of the most sought-after speakers at turf events around the country, and has greatly increased the visibility of the UW turf program.

Jim arrived at Wisconsin's small turfgrass pathology program in 2008. In just 5 short years, and with the help of numerous students and staff, he managed to transform it into one of the largest and most active turfgrass pathology programs in country. While I am sad to see him leave on December 15th, I am excited for the opportunities that await him at one of the traditional turfgrass powers at North Carolina State University. I think it's safe to say we will

watch his progress closely, and take pride in the fact that one of the most well-known turf pathologists got his start working with the great turfgrass industry right here in Wisconsin.

Oh and that first golf outing? I double-bogeyed the second hole, he had the lead by the third hole, and I'm not sure I've ever been in front of him since. At least he knew I wasn't hustling him. ■

Wee One Launches Endowment Campaign for All

By Luke Cella, Wee One Foundation



The Wee One Foundation unveiled their new endeavor to permanently fund its mission of helping those in need. The goal is to raise \$10 million in 10 years to fund a perpetual endowment to make sure there is always funding available to help. The name of the campaign is called *One for the Wee One* and is based on a person, a group, a course, or a company pledging to give 1% of their salary, their budget, or their revenue over a ten-year period. The idea is that each entity will support the Foundation by giving the same percentage based upon their financial position.



An example contribution:

- My current salary is \$65,000
- 1% of that is \$650
- I donate that amount in total to the Wee One spread over the next ten years
- $\$650 \div 10 = \65 per year

The Wee One Foundation has designed the One for the Wee One so all can participate on equal levels, hence the 1% pledge to the Endowment Fund. Visit weeone.org and click on One Percent Endowment for further information or to pledge.

The endowment will provide a permanent source of supplemental funding for the Wee One's mission and new endeavors to benefit individuals and families in the golf course industry. 100% of funds generated through this campaign will be placed in a permanent endowment fund where only interest will be used. Unfortunately, the need for the work and gifts the Wee One Foundation generates continues to grow each year. The endowment will ensure the Foundation can meet this need and provide relief to those who suffer from sickness and difficult times associated with their health.

The gifts given help to relieve some of the financial burden and have allowed those encumbered to focus on their health and wellness. There will always be someone in need. Help us to make sure there is funding to make someone's life a little easier, a little more peaceful.

History of the Wee One Foundation

The Wee One Foundation was founded in 2004 when friends of Wayne Otto, CGCS came together to financially assist him in his battle with cancer. Wayne was a pioneer in the turf industry always searching for new and better ways to produce a finer playing surface. As Wayne learned more about his disease, he applied those same pioneering principles to overcome his illness.

Those that knew Wayne knew a man small in stature and a man that placed tremendous effort and enthusiasm into his friendships and care for his fellow man. As passionate as Wayne was about turf, his love for life could not be measured. Wayne died in the fall of 2004 but his passion for life and his willingness to help others still lives on because of the work of the Wee One Foundation.

Through the perseverance and hard work of several friends of Wayne, the group developed its mission of helping those in need. Founded on the principles of assisting golf course management professionals (and their dependents) who incur overwhelming expenses due to medical hardship without comprehensive insurance or adequate financial resources, the Foundation has evolved into a cause that goes way beyond its initial reason for existence.

The Wee One Foundation was aptly named to honor Wayne. Nicknames are rarely chosen by their owner. On a golfing trip to Scotland with some friends, one of the group's caddies decided to place his wager on the "wee one". A small action (as legend has it) that turned out to be a sound decision by the caddie that day and a small gesture that has helped many other individuals through economic hardships due to overwhelming medical expenses. Simply put, that is what the Wee One Foundation accomplishes today.

Since its inception in 2004 the Wee One Foundation has gifted over \$500,000 to those in need. The Foundation raises money through its memberships, golf outings, sponsorships, and now the *One for the Wee One* campaign. To pledge, donate, or let the Foundation know of someone in need, please visit weeone.org today. ■



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Resounding Success at Ozaukee

By Tom Schwab, O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research and Education Facility, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Colin Seaberg, his crew and all the staff of Ozaukee Country Club conducted one of the finest WTA Golf Fundraisers this past October. The course could not have been more enjoyable or in more fabulous shape. The greens were lightning fast, the fairways thick and tight, bunkers consistent, and everything else proved a perfect example of great course management. Additionally the trees were in peak autumn color and the weather was perfect with temps near 80° with no wind and sunny skies. Everything came together to give attendees a most enjoyable round of golf near the end of the season.

The fundraiser was enjoyed by an even 100 golfers at this year's event. The other beneficiary of the day was the Wisconsin Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Over the WTA Golf Fundraiser's long history, proceeds have gone directly to support turf research and more recently to fund the Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowships in Turfgrass Research. Beginning two years ago, proceeds have gone to the Turfgrass Research Sustainability Fund that was created to support ever more turfgrass research initiatives.

The golf fundraiser generated nearly \$8,400 this year thanks to the Ozaukee CC members donating the use of their club for an unbelievably low fixed cost. Another \$8,250 was presented to the WTA, during the event, from the WGCSA Par 4 Research Program. Both of these events contribute to the success of the WTA. Special thanks go to the WGCSA and the golf outing hole sponsors for making the day a financial success. The generous hole sponsors are listed here:

Agrium Advanced Technology
BASF

Bayer / Stressgard Protection
Blackhawk Country Club
Burris Equipment

DHD Turf & Tree Products
Dow AgroSciences

Excacto Turf Management Solutions

Excacto Turf Management Solutions (second hole sponsorship)

Maple Bluff Country Club
National Golf Graphics
SAS Management

SentryWorld
Soldat Family
Syngenta

Tom & Sandy Schwab
Turfgrass Disease Lab
Wausau Country Club
Wayne Horman
Westmoor Country Club



Our gracious host Colin Seaberg

The day was not all about raising research money. It was full of fun events too. The main event of the day was a four person best ball tournament. The event winners were:

1st Place

Darrin DiChristopher, Steve Fisher, Chris Goodwick,
and Joe Brown

2nd Place

Tom Wentz, Mark Wentz, Mike Skenandore, Trygve Ekern

Middle Place

Dave Kloss, Jim Hasz, Scott Bartosh, Dominic Frese

Hardest Working Place

Karl Wehausen, Ryan Rusch, Dan Dammer, Marcus VerDuin

Other golf winners, Skills Events:

Longest Drive # 5
Tim Schmidt

Longest Putt # 7
Ryan Rethetford

Closest to Hole # 9
Scott Bushman

Shortest Drive # 10
Jon Hegge

Closest to Hole # 16
Josh Hounsell

Longest Putt # 18
Randy DuPont

There were other fun events both on and off the course. The most significant was a drawing for an Ipad II Computer with Mark Kienert from Bull's Eye CC taking home the prize. Additionally there was a door prize giveaway where every participant took home something, many prizes being worth

Continued on page 7

more than the registration fee. The door prize donors and gifts are listed here: I'm sorry if I've missed noting one of your donations.

ASGCA	Book
Bruce Schweiger	Bike, 2 golf clubs, 2 books
Bruce Worzella	Golf shirt
Chuck Schwab	2 golf shirts
Club at Strawberry Creek	3 shirts, 4 caps
Colin Seaberg	Book
Dan Quast	Golf bag
Evansville CC	Foursome of Golf
Evergreen GC	Foursome of Golf with Carts
Glen Erin GC	Foursome of Golf with Carts
Janesville CC	Foursome of Golf with Carts
John Deere Landscapes	Carhart sweatshirt, 2 stocking caps
John Turner	Shirt
Jon Hegge	2 football tickets to Badgers vs. Minnesota
Lawsonia Links	Foursome of Golf with Carts
Mark Kienert	2 shirts
Mark Schwarting	Umbrella
Mike Bremmer	4 six packs of beer
Mike Lee	20 USGA caps
Monroe CC	Foursome of Golf with Carts
Monroe Miller	Book
Nakoma CC	Shirt
National Golf Graphics	Dozen golf balls
New Berlin Hill GC	Foursome of Golf with Carts
Nick Strain	Beer, gift card
Oconomowoc GC	Dozen Srixon balls and golf towel
Pendelton Turf	2 x \$50 gift certificate to Menards, beer
Phil Spitz	2 Windshirts
Randy Lusher	2 Golf Shirts
Rod Johnson	Bottle of Vodka
Sandy Cashman (EPIC)	4 color prints of her original artwork
Scott Bushman	Shirt
Scott White	Packer head covers for a driver and putter
Stoughton CC	2 Foursomes of Golf with Carts
TimberStone GC	Foursome of Golf with Carts
Tom Funne	Fleece pullover and pack of balls
Tom Wentz Lebonon	Dozen Pro V golf balls, logo blanket
Trappers Turn Golf Club	2 Twosome of Golf with Carts
University Ridge GC	Foursome of Golf w/ Carts
Wayne Horman	2 backpacks, 10 golf caps

The day could not have been so successful without everyone's help including all the participants, door prize donors, hole sponsors, volunteers, and especially the golf course staff and Ozaukee Country Club members. The WTA is so fortunate to having everyone pull together to make the day a resounding success. ■



See more photos on page 8



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan 8	WGCSA Assistant Seminar	Whispering Springs GC, Fond du Lac
Jan 9-11	Northern Green Expo	Minneapolis, MN
Jan 15	WTA Turfgrass Research Day (formerly Winter EXPO)	Pyle Center, UW-Madison Campus
Jan 15-18	Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show	Navy Pier, Chicago
Jan 15-19	STMA Annual Conference and Exhibition.....	Daytona Beach, FL
Jan 28	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0)	American Family Center, Madison
Jan 30-Feb 1	UMN & UW-Madison School of Turfgrass Management	Gross National Golf Club, Minneapolis
Feb 11-15	TPI Midwinter Conference	San Antonio, TX
Feb 4-8	GCSAA Education Conference & Golf Industry Show	San Diego, CA
Feb 6	GIS Wisconsin Room (6:00 - 9:00 PM)	Bootlegger, San Diego, CA
Feb 21	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Carroll University, Waukesha
Feb 25	WGCSA Spring Business Meeting	Ramada Inn, Fond du Lac, WI
Feb 27	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0)	Clarion Hotel, Green Bay
Mar 4,5	NGLGCSA Educational Conference	Wausau
Mar 6	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	America's Best Value Inn, Eau Claire
Mar 11	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0)	American Family Center, Madison
Mar 13,14	Reinders 21st Green Industry Conference	Waukesha Expo Center, Waukesha
Mar 28	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Carroll University, Waukesha
Apr 4	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and Landscape 3.0).....	Carroll University, Waukesha
Apr 23	WGCSA Monthly Meeting.....	The Club at Strawberry Creek , Kenosha
May 6	WGCSA Monthly Meeting.....	North Hills CC, Mequon
May 29	WGCSA Super/Pro	Fox Valley GC, Kaukauna
June 17	WGCSA Tournament Meeting	South Hills CC, Fond du Lac
July 30	WTA Summer Field Day.....	OJ Noer Turfgrass Research Facility, Verona
Aug 20	WGCSA/NGLGCSA Joint Meeting.....	Stevens Point CC, Stevens Point
Sept 16	Wee One	Pine Hills CC, Sheboygan
Sept ??	WTA Golf Fundraiser.....	Location TBD
Oct 5	WGCSA Couples Outing/Party	Wild Rock GC, WI Dells
Dec 3,4	WI Golf Turf Symposium	Location TBD

WTA Members — If you have an important date you'd like to share with other members,
Call 608-845-6895 or email tgswab@wisc.edu to include it in the next calendar.

Contact Telephone Numbers

GCSAA/GIS	Golf Industry Show.....	800-472-7878
Mid-Am	Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show	www.midam.org
NGLGCSA	Northern Great Lakes Golf Course Superintendents Assoc.	www.nglturf.org
Northern	Northern Green Expo	888-886-6652
PAT	Pesticide Applicator Training (Turf and landscape 3.0)	608-262-7588
Reinders	Reinders 21st Green Industry Conference	www.reinders.com
STMA	Sports Turf Managers Association Conference	800-323-3875
School	UMN & UW-Madison School of Turfgrass Management	763-767-3518
Symposium	Wisconsin Golf Turf Symposium	800-287-9645
TPI	Turf Producers International	800-405-8873
Wee One	Wee One Foundation Golf Outing	630-457-7276
WGCSA	Wisconsin Golf Course Superintendents Association	920-643-4888
WGIF	Wisconsin Green Industry Federation Annual Convention	414-529-4705
WSPA	Wisconsin Sod Producers Association.....	262-895-6820
WSTMA	Wisconsin Sports Turf Manager Association	608-845-6895
WTA	Wisconsin Turfgrass Association	608-845-6536



2013 WTA Turfgrass Research Day Attendee Registration Form

Please submit the following registration form by Friday, January 11th, 2013 to WTA / 2502 Hwy M / Verona / WI / 53593

Company _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone & Fax number _____

Email address _____

Attendee Names (Only if attending at Pyle Center)

**Registration prices are before the January 11, 2013 deadline.
 After that date, and/or if you plan to register on-site add \$10 per person.**

Webinar Only - WTA members \$25 each X ____ = \$ _____

Webinar Only - Non WTA members \$40 each X ____ = \$ _____

Attendance at Pyle Center \$40 each X ____ = \$ _____

2013 WTA Membership Dues X \$125 = \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

You may pay by check or credit card. If paying by check, please make the check payable to WTA and return to 2502 Highway M / Verona / WI / 53593. If paying by credit card, fill out the information below and mail to above address or fax to 608-845-8162. You may also register online at www.wisconsinturfgrassassociation.org.

Visa MasterCard CC#: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Discover American Express Signature: _____



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