



**GET INVOLVED IN
YOUR LAKE—
IF YOU DON'T,
WHO WILL?!**

The Newsletter of the Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc. • February 2006

A Beautiful Day on the Lake...with the Real Fisher

By Nancy Dunn, BLPA President



Living on the lake provides a fabulous opportunity to enjoy nature and maybe catch some fish. The American eagle, fishing for its dinner, performs one of the best-watched sports.

On Thanksgiving weekend, my mom and I escaped all kitchen duties, took the boat out to the middle of Bear Lake and drifted with the breeze. We began fishing with minnows and jigs in 35'

deep water. The view was better than any fish that would bite our hooks. We enjoyed blue water, the nice breeze, the wading birds, the winter seagulls, and, of course, the eagles!

The Bear Lakes residents can usually see at least one eagle every day hunting for a fish on the lakes.

The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus Leucocephalus*) is the only eagle species living strictly in North America. It is a fish eagle that has a presence in every state in the U.S.A. except Hawaii. The Bald Eagle can have a wing span of up to eight feet and can weigh up to 15 pounds. It inhabits areas near large bodies of water where there are plenty of fish to eat and tall trees in which to nest and roost. Bald Eagles are monogamous and remain faithful to their mate until death. Females lay one to three eggs annually in the spring time, and the incubation period is approximately 35 days.

Prior to the cold front coming through on Thanksgiving weekend, just a few seagulls resided on the lake. By Sunday, we became the home of 60+ seagulls. Our Florida LAKEWATCH data also includes counting the birds on the lake. That day we collected the lake water samples for the LAKEWATCH program. It's quite a challenge counting seagulls! It's still better than being in the kitchen and we had a color TV on board so we didn't miss the football games. By the way, we caught our share of bluegills, a few bass and speckled perch. Whether you are fishing on the surface or fishing 35' deep, you can catch fish, like the eagles, and enjoy a beautiful day on the lake.

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

BLPA General Meeting • February 21, 2006
Guest Speaker: Seminole County Stormwater
Dept. Staff — Update on Stormwater Projects
7:30 p.m. • St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

MEMBER DOOR PRIZE DRAWING:
\$100 off any service by Abel Septic Tanks, Inc.

The mission of the Bear Lake Preservation Association is to provide environmental and civic stewardship for the Bear Lakes watershed. This is achieved through water quality monitoring, scientific understanding, public education, governmental intervention, and watershed improvements for the enhancement and preservation of the water quality and biological integrity of clean lakes.

www.blpa.net

BLPA Boat Parade Highlights

The BLPA held its annual Boat Parade on December 11, 2005. Gray skies and rain early in the day decreased our participation this year. After meeting at the Ison's dock, a parade of only five brightly lit boats slowly circled the lake under beautiful night skies and calm waters for all to enjoy. Those who braved the weather to decorate their boats included Dave and Maryann Brown, Bruce and Denise Fitzgerald, Bob Heideman, Doug and Corrie Hungerford, and Dave and Nancy Kaplan.

All of the boats looked great! Many

people exchanged holiday greetings. Awards will be presented at the next BLPA general meeting on February 21, 2006, to the Fitzgeralds' for the first place and the Browns' for second place. We will also present an award to Gary and Brenda Vallancourt for the best decorated dock and yard.

The annual parade provides another opportunity for all of us to share the beauty of our lake together as neighbors. Thanks to all who participated and all who waved from the shore.

Second Successful Hyacinth Party

The growth rate of water hyacinths is among the highest of any known plant. In three short months the hyacinth mat in the canal grew back to the same size it was in August. The canal acts as a funnel for wind blown plants and debris from the main lake body as well as stormwater runoff from the surrounding water shed. Following the

August cleanup, volunteers from the BLPA board, ecology committee and neighbors returned on December 4th for another attack on the hyacinths. The plants were bagged and volunteers placed the bags for trash pickup. Watch for the next hyacinth party when needed and come join in the fun! Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Bear Lake Road Progress Report

As most of you are aware, Seminole County has contracted Bowyer-Singleton & Associates, Inc. to prepare the final design and construction documents for the drainage improvements that were recommended in the Preliminary Engineering Technical Memorandum that was presented at the Public Information Meeting held in August 2005.

Bowyer-Singleton & Associates, Inc. received the Notice to Proceed for the Final Design from Seminole County on November 16, 2005, and has since completed the Design Survey of the corridor and the proposed joint-use pond sites. The geotechnical program, which includes soil borings,

permeability tests and pavement cores, is already underway. The final design is beginning and plans are currently being prepared. The 60% plans submittal for the County's review is scheduled for the end of May. Notices will be mailed to the adjacent property owners and the meeting will also be announced in the next newsletter.

We encourage you to contact the project managers with any information you think may help in our design, such as photographs of chronic flooding areas, areas in need of maintenance or historical information. Contact Brett Blackadar (bblackadar@seminolecountyfl.gov) or Barry Switzer (bswitzer@bsaorl.com).



2005 Board of Directors

Officers

President	Nancy Dunn
	407-295-6335
Vice President.....	Holly Gosney
	407-774-0859
Secretary	Sue Parker
	407-294-6026
Treasurer.....	Pam Ison
	407-682-5485
Correspondence Secretary	Mike Ison
	407-682-5485

Committees

Ecology.....	Bill Houston
	407-521-8031
Lakewatch	Nancy Dunn
	407-295-6335
	Jan Brown
	407-295-6739
Newsletter	Holly Long, Editor
	407-290-1593
	Vicki Jameson
	407-822-4202
	Nancy Dunn
	407-295-6335
Social.....	Mike Ison
	407-682-5485
Political	Dick Dominica
	407-522-4402

Directors

Patsy Cumbie.....	407-886-5588
Mike Kafer	407-298-5865
Buddy Hutson	407-298-3681
Judy Ihrig.....	407-292-4632
Bob Heideman	407-865-3333
Bob Shields	407-294-9093

Board Supporters

Erma Cardilli	407-293-5227
Susan Burton.....	407-521-8212
Brian Allen	407-580-6979

Board of Directors Election Scheduled at Meeting on February 21, 2006

The 2006 election of the BLPA Board of Directors will take place at the General Meeting on February 21, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

You may also vote by mail. Use the ballot on this page and mail it in an envelope with your name and return address to Bear Lake Preservation Association, c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703. Ballots must be postmarked no later than February 20, 2006.

After the ballots are in, all ballots, both absentee and those cast at the meeting, will be counted by a non-board member. There is only one vote per qualifying household (husband and wife owners may only vote once on the same ballot).

The BLPA would like to have as many interested, active Board members as possible (for a maximum of 11, minimum of

7) to share the responsibility of maintaining the integrity of the association.

If you know of someone who would be willing to serve, including yourself, write his or her name in one of the write-in candidate spaces on the ballot and place a check mark in front of it.

The time commitment required of Board members is not substantial. (Home-makers and retirees make excellent board members.) Any questions about what is required, please call Mike Ison at 407-682-5485.

If you are not already involved in the Bear Lake Preservation Association, and preserving the quality of our neighborhood and the Bear Lake watershed is important to you, please volunteer to help support the association. Remember that BLPA is only as strong as the support of its members.

BLPA thanks our Board Supporters:
*Dick Dominica • Ned Woolfolk • Anne Juergensen •
 Mike Kafer • Buddy Hutson • Erma Cardilli*

More Talk on Less Fertilizer

Fertilizers promote green, lush lawns, but they also promote algae and weed growth that reduces everyone's enjoyment of our waters, decreases property values, and harms fish and wildlife. When fertilizers are applied improperly or excessively, they end up in the lake.

The two main nutrients in lawn fertilizers are phosphorous and nitrogen. Terrestrial plants, including lawns, rely mostly on nitrogen to promote growth. Unfortunately, in an aquatic environment, lake weeds and algae rely mostly on phosphorous and require very little nitrogen. Just the opposite of a lawn! The problem is that much of the excess phosphorous added to lawns washes off into the lake, feeding troublesome algae and weed growth. A pound of phosphorus in a lake can result in 500 pounds of algae.

Why pick on lawn fertilizer instead of the other sources of phosphorous? Because the run-off from residential lawn fertilizer contributes much of the

phosphorous found in our lakes and ground water. Most lawns in central Florida need NO phosphorous added for healthy growth. This is one source of phosphorous pollution we can eliminate very easily.

There is a way to have a green lawn AND a blue lake. It is actually very simple: Use a lake-friendly fertilizer when you really need fertilizer. These are fertilizers that contain zero or very low amounts of phosphorous (the middle number). Liquid is preferred because it won't dissolve and wash off with the rain like granular fertilizers can.

Be very careful where you put it. Keep it away from slopes, ditches, tree banks, shorelines, and other areas where it could wash off in a heavy rain and get carried to the lake.

Remember, your property value is enhanced much more by keeping a blue lake than it is by keeping a green lawn!

BLPA Ballot

Place a check mark in front of your choices. (11 maximum or 7 minimum). Only one ballot per household:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holly Gosney | <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Allen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Houston | <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Shields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bob Heideman | <input type="checkbox"/> Susan Burton |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nancy Dunn | <input type="checkbox"/> Sue Parker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judy Ihrig | <input type="checkbox"/> Pam Ison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Holly Long | <input type="checkbox"/> Vicki Jameson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mike Ison | <input type="checkbox"/> Jan Brown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patsy Cumbie | <input type="checkbox"/> Pat Brown |

Write-in Candidates:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Only one ballot is allowed per member family. Bring your ballot with you to the February 21, 2006, meeting (extra ballots will be available). If you choose to mail your ballot, it must be postmarked no later than February 20, 2006. Marked ballots which are mailed should not be signed, but should be placed in an envelope bearing your name and return address. Address your envelope to: Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc., c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Avenue, Apopka, FL 32703.

Any person may be elected to the Board. Candidates do not have to be BLPA members but you must be a paid member to vote. Write-ins may be yourself or any person you think would do a good job.

Your Name: _____

Mobile Marine

Business Card Ad

Pick up Feb. 2005
page 5

**FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING AT THE
FEBRUARY 21, 2006, BLPA GENERAL MEETING!**

The Doctor will see you *now*.

When you need an outstanding primary care doctor, who can offer you privacy and personal attention in the comfort of your home or office. At Your Home M.D., P.A. will see you now.

Brian Scott Allen M.D., is an experienced,

board certified family Physician, who is dedicated to delivering the clinical excellence he would provide to his own family. And at a price you can afford.

AT YOUR HOME M.D., P.A. —your family doctor bringing back the "HOUSE CALL!"

AT YOUR HOME M.D., P.A., IS FOR YOU IF YOU ARE:

- ▶ SEARCHING FOR A COMPASSIONATE PHYSICIAN WHO WILL LISTEN TO YOUR CONCERNS
- ▶ A BUSY FAMILY NEEDING ATTENTIVE MEDICAL CARE
- ▶ REQUIRING EFFECTIVE MEDICAL CARE THAT RESPECTS YOUR TIME
- ▶ NEEDING ROUTINE OR SPECIALIZED LABORATORY ANALYSES
- ▶ CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBLE SUBSTANCE ABUSE IN YOUR FAMILY AND WANT TESTING
- ▶ UNABLE TO OBTAIN A TIMELY APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR DOCTOR
- ▶ UNABLE TO LEAVE YOUR HOME
- ▶ NEEDING ACUTE CARE, BUT ARE UNABLE TO DRIVE
- ▶ WANTING TO AVOID EXPOSURE TO OTHER ILL PEOPLE



At Your Home M.D.

BRIAN SCOTT ALLEN, M.D.

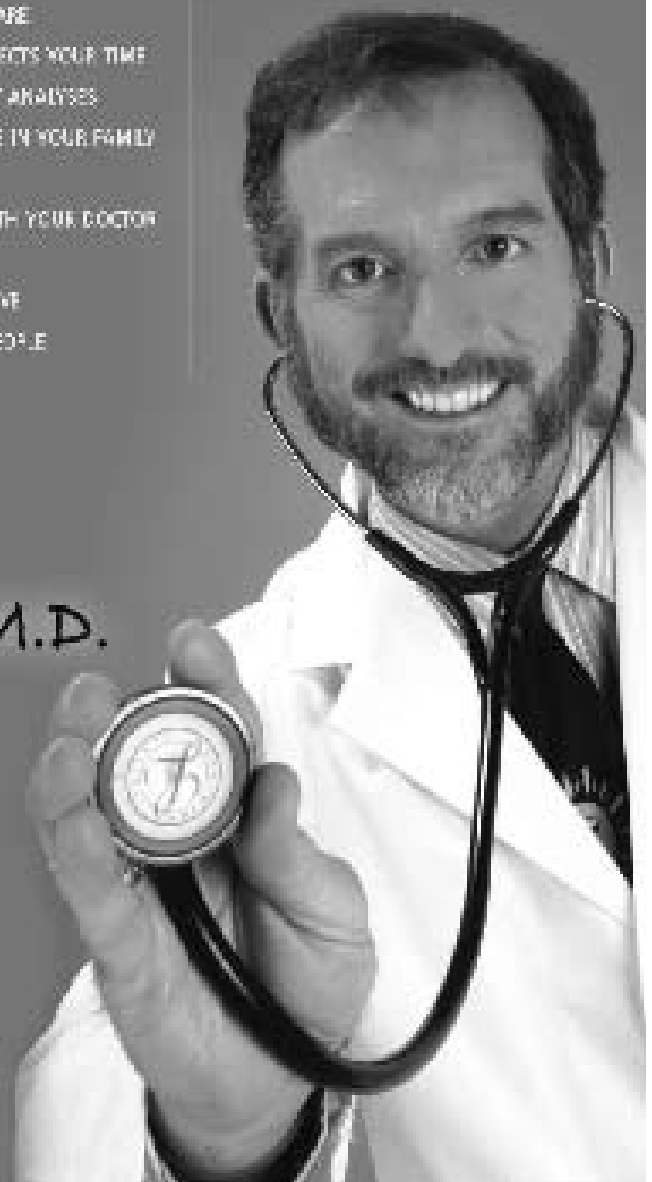
Diplomate, American Board
of Family Medicine

Certified, American Association
of Medical Review Offices



407.580.6979

Minor Major Credit Cards Accepted
Credit card availability limited until 4/30/06
Documentation is provided for those who seek
insurance reimbursement.





Why Florida LAKEWATCH?

Florida LAKEWATCH was created by the state legislature in 1991 (Chapter 91-69, s240.5329, F.S.) to enhance the level of scientific knowledge available about Florida lakes; to help citizens and lake users understand and manage their lakes; and to develop an educated, well-informed constituency.

With so much to know about lakes and so many different stakeholders involved in managing lakes, it's a good idea to have a list of the contact information for some of the major groups that can be involved.

LAKEWATCH staff serve as a sounding board for folks who don't know where to start in their efforts to manage their water. But ultimately you, as a concerned citizen, will generally be referred to one of the agencies or groups listed.

Water Management Districts: The State of Florida is split up between five water management districts (WMD) as set forth in Section 373 F.S. Each WMD has taxing authority.

There are some differences between the five water management districts. But generally, the mission of each WMD is to manage the water and water-related resources within its boundaries. Central to the mission is maintaining the balance between the water needs of current and future users while protecting and maintaining the natural systems that provide the District with its existing and future water supply. These programs include, but are not limited to, flood control, regulatory programs, water conservation, education, and supportive data collection and analysis efforts.

St. Johns River (SJRWMD): *Brevard, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Indian River, Nassau, Seminole, St. Johns, Volusia, portions of Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Lake, Marion, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Putnam* — 4049 Reid Street, PO Box 1429, Palatka, FL 32178-1429; 386-329-4500. Contact: Wayne Corbin. <http://sjr.state.fl.us>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection: The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) was created by the Florida Legislature when the Florida

Department of Environmental Regulation and the Florida Department of Natural Resources were merged in 1993. The FDEP is the lead agency in state government for environmental management and stewardship. The department administers regulatory programs and issues permits for air, water and waste management. It oversees the State's land and water conservation program, Florida Forever, and manages the nationally award-winning Florida Park Service.

Bureau of Invasive Plant Management: The FDEP's Bureau of Invasive Plant Management is the lead agency in Florida for aquatic plant management. Regional biologists can make site visits to identify plants, spot current or potential problems, recommend methods for removal or control, as well as provide lists of certified professional aquatic plant control specialists. They also issue permits to control aquatic plants (on both private and public waters).

St. Johns River: *Brevard, Flagler, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, St. Johns, Volusia* — 5882 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, FL 32822; 407-275-4004. Contact: **Ed Harris**, Ed.harris@dep.state.fl.us; **Nathalie Visscher**, Nathalie.visscher@dep.state.fl.us; **Shannon Brittain**, Shannon.brittain@dep.state.fl.us.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: Formally known as the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (GFC), the Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management (DFFM) within FWCC provides expertise on freshwater fish populations, angler use, and other aspects of freshwater fisheries. DFFM are the first line of support for inquiries by the public for information on freshwater fisheries management, fishing opportunities, fish pond management, fish kills and other general fisheries-related issues.

FWCC Regional Office Northeast Region: *Brevard, Flagler, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Orange,*

Osceola, Putnam, Seminole, St. Johns, Sumter, Volusia — Contact: Sam McKinney, 1239 SW 10th Street, Ocala, FL 34474-2797 • 352-732-1225; sam.mckinney@fwc.state.fl.us; 24-Hr Law Enforcement: 352-732-1228.

Fish Kill Hotline: You can report a fish kill, diseased fish or fish with other abnormalities directly to the Aquatic Health Group at FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (800-636-0511).

Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Science) is a research/education center dedicated primarily to studying aquatic weeds and techniques used to control them in water bodies.

Contact: Dr. Ken Langeland, 7922 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL 32653; 352-392-9613; kal@ifas.ufl.edu.

Seminole County Stormwater: Contact: Gloria Eby, 407-665-5765; GEby@co.seminole.fl.us; Shannon Wetzel; www.seminole.wateratlas.org

Water Atlas: Seminole, Polk, Hillsborough, Lake, Sarasota, SWFWMD — FCCDR/USF, Contact: Shawn Landry, 3650 Spectrum Blvd., Ste. 185, Tampa, FL, 813-974-4042; <http://wateratlas.org>.

For more information, contact Florida LAKEWATCH, Dept. of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, University of Florida/Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, 7922 NW 71st Street, Gainesville, FL 32653-3071. Citizen Hotline: 1-800-LAKEWATCH (525-3928) or 352-392-4817.

Frank's Upholstery

Pick up from previous issue.



Information on Lakewatch...Rainfall Data

Rainfall Versus Water Clarity

The following Lakewatch data covers the last 10 months (collected in the third week of each month). Clarity level is the average of four locations on Big Bear Lake and Little Bear Lake. Lake levels determined by surveyed elevation markers set on the lakes by Seminole County.

Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	4/05	3-1/8"	10'	104.8-1/2
	5/05	4"	9'	104.4
	6/05	14-1/4"	8'	104.9
	7/05	11-3/8"	7'	105.4
	8/05	7-3/4"	8-1/2'	104.6
	9/05	7-3/4"	7-1/2'	104.6-1/2
	10/05	6"	7'	104.6-1/2
	11/05	7-3/4"	7-1/2'	104.6
	12/05	3"	8-1/2'	104.5
	1/06	7/8"	10-1/2'	104.5

Little Bear Lake	Date	Rainfall	Clarity Level	Water Level (Above Sea Level)
	4/05	3-1/8"	11'	103.6
	5/05	4"	13'	103.82
	6/05	14-1/4"	10-1/2'	104.9
	7/05	11-3/8"	7-1/2'	104.0
	8/05	7-3/4"	9'	103.8
	9/05	7-3/4"	7-1/2'	104.1
	10/05	6"	7'	104
	11/05	7-3/4"	8-1/2'	103.9
	12/05	3"	10'	103.85
	1/06	7/8"	no data	no data

The Lakes May Not Be Clean Tomorrow!

Remember to report any water quality changes immediately to your LAKEWATCH captains such as improper use of liquids, garbage or yard waste in the water or in ditches or storm drains. You can report this information to the following LAKEWATCH captains: Bear Lake, Nancy Dunn, 407-295-6335; Little Bear Lake, Janet Brown, 407-295-6739; Cub Lake, Margaret Bundy, 407-523-1064.

We Need LAKEWATCH Volunteers on Lake Asher

Volunteers are needed to continue monthly sampling of this lake. All you need is a couple of hours each month, lake access and a boat or canoe. Please call David Watson, University of Florida, 1-800-LAKEWATCH or contact Nancy Dunn, 407-295-6335.



Real Estate Watch

By Susan Burton, Realtor®

Welcome 2006! Last year was a record year in real estate. This year looks to be on the same track. Call me if you have any questions (407-682-1214). The following is the most current information regarding the activity on our lakes:

Active Listings.....None

Pending Sales

10026 Bear Lake Road..... \$375,000
3304 Holliday Avenue \$600,000

Closed Sales

5724 Bear Lake Circle..... \$699,000
6103 Linneal Beach..... \$999,000

The BLPA Wants YOU!

The BLPA is committed to preserving the lakes and community to protect our lifestyle and property values. The BLPA invites you to join our organization. Be Aware! Get Involved!

Look at the membership advantages the organization provides:

- Free BLPA license tag.
- Lake preserving activities and ideas for residents.
- “Watchdog” challenges to encroachment by developers and government.
- Neighborhood social activities (picnics, block parties, boat parade, etc.)
- Monthly Lakewatch testing and analysis.
- Expert speakers on environmental topics such as lake management and water quality.
- Coordination of Neighborhood Watch communities.
- Town Hall forums for homeowners to express pros and cons of neighborhood projects.
- Liaison with the county on issues such as traffic, lake patrols, and water run-off problems.
- Other activity suggestions welcomed by members.
- Annual community picnic.

Please add your voice and financial support by joining this community enhancement group.

NOTE: BLPA annual dues have been increased for the first time in 15 years, covering printing and postage costs.

New/Renewal Member • Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc.
c/o Pam Ison, 3010 Holliday Ave, Apopka, FL 32703

Name(s) of Home Owner(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please mail this form to the above address with your check for \$75.00; senior citizens, \$35.00. Please make your checks payable to Bear Lake Preservation Association, Inc.

GET INVOLVED AND DO YOUR PART! WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Abel Septic Tanks, Inc.

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407-889-2704 • 407-509-4611 (mobile)

Email: dabel79935@aol.com

Website: www.abelseptic.com

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

9913 Bear Lake Road • Apopka, FL

407-293-6802 • Worship: 10:00 am

Eurographix

Printer to drop in.

Susan Burton

Pick up from previous issue.

www.blpa.net

February 21 General Meeting/Elections
 March 14 Board of Directors Meeting
 April 18 Board of Directors Meeting
 May 16 General Meeting
 July 18 Board of Directors Meeting
 August 15 Board of Directors Meeting
 October 17 Board of Directors Meeting
 November 14 General Meeting
 December 9 or 10 Boat Parade (TBD)

For committee meeting dates, please contact one of the Board members.

Calendar of Events



c/o Pam Ison
 3010 Holliday Avenue
 Apopka, FL 32703

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