

# 2018 Legacy Journeys

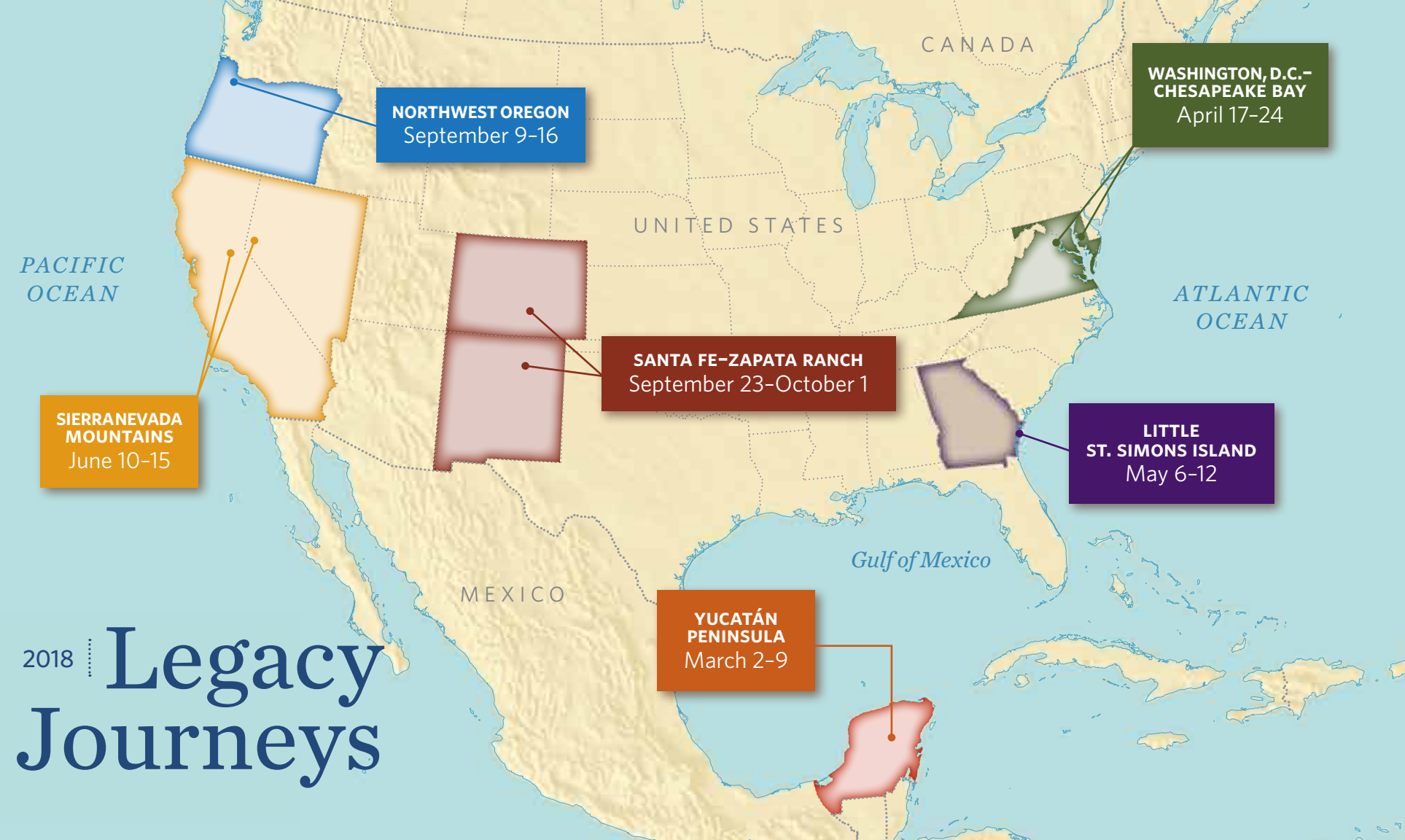
The Nature  
Conservancy



THE  
LEGACY  
CLUB

25  
YEARS

SIX EXTRAORDINARY EXCURSIONS  
*Your Invitation to Experience Nature  
with The Legacy Club*



#### JOURNEY TO:

**THE YUCATÁN PENINSULA** to explore tropical rainforests, natural pools, sparkling coastlines, Mayan ruins and exotic wildlife in one of the planet's most naturally diverse corners.

**WASHINGTON, D.C. & THE CHESAPEAKE BAY** to learn about the different facets of a productive estuary, including efforts to green the nation's capital and ways to conserve the beauty and abundance of the Chesapeake Bay.

**LITTLE ST. SIMONS ISLAND** to enjoy an eco-friendly getaway on a Georgia barrier island where nature leads the way to healthy living in beautiful surroundings.

**THE SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS** to discover how water and drought shape this breathtaking Western landscape, which supports abundant wildlife and thriving local communities.

**NORTHWEST OREGON** to take in the state's sweeping vistas, bucolic valleys, native grasslands and coastal charm through the lens of The Nature Conservancy's preserves.

**SANTA FE & ZAPATA RANCH** to celebrate fall surrounded by Southwestern beauty—from towering mesas to sparkling aspens—that has inspired artistic masterpieces.

## Celebrate with Us

The Legacy Club was founded in 1993 to honor a small but devoted group of Nature Conservancy supporters who had made a profound and lasting commitment to conservation. This year, we're excited to mark our 25th Anniversary with you, one of the more than 25,000 dedicated conservationists who now make up The Legacy Club's membership. We've reached this quarter-century milestone because of you. Thank you for your loyal support.





## Dear Legacy Club Member,

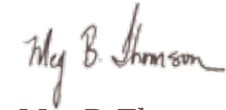
Your 2018 *Legacy Journeys* brochure highlights six exclusive adventures designed especially to showcase some of the incredible places where the Conservancy works. It also serves as an official invitation for you to join us in celebrating The Legacy Club's 25th Anniversary.

Each Legacy Journey—from Oregon's dramatic coastline to Mexico's Yucatán rainforests—promises to provide cultural and outdoor experiences executed in an environmentally responsible manner by top-notch tour operators. Each excursion also includes time for interacting with Conservancy scientists and local naturalists who are familiar with the awe-inspiring destinations we've lined up.

Whether or not you join us, allow me to thank you for your dedication to preserving the diversity of life and your foresight in providing for its future. We cannot protect our world without you.



Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meg B. Thomson".

Meg B. Thomson  
Legacy Club Manager



P.S. **Sign up for your *Legacy Journey* today** by contacting the travel specialist listed for the trip that captures your interest. Our Legacy Journeys Program Manager, Christine Kessler (877-812-3698 or [legacytrips@tnc.org](mailto:legacytrips@tnc.org)), is also happy to help you. Learn more at [nature.org/legacytrips](https://nature.org/legacytrips).

### IS A JOURNEY RIGHT FOR YOU?

When considering whether a trip is right for you, look closely at the itinerary and discuss your ability level with the tour operator if you have concerns. Travelers should be able to walk as much as three miles over uneven terrain with some elevation gain. Some trips may include activities such as boating, snorkeling or swimming. Expect to spend four to eight hours outdoors most days.

A range of weather conditions may be possible on these trips: Please pay special attention to the trip materials and pack accordingly. If you do not wish to participate in an activity, please discuss this with the tour operator before the trip and, if possible, accommodations will be made.

For more ways to connect with the Conservancy's work, see page 16.

Legacy Journeys are available on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest signing up as soon as possible to secure your spot.





# Yucatán Peninsula

DISCOVER THE SPECTACULAR BIODIVERSITY FOUND IN SOUTHEASTERN MEXICO

Join us for eight magical days dedicated to showcasing the natural and cultural wonders of Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula and The Nature Conservancy's work in the region. Our journey ranges from sparkling Caribbean beaches to lush tropical forests, with interesting pit stops along the way. Dip your toes (or more) into the crystal clear water of a cenote, a deep natural pool where submerged stalagmites and dripping stalactites provide an otherworldly glimpse into the peninsula's underground freshwater system. At the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, amble along rainforest trails and climb to the top of a 45-meter-high Mayan pyramid with a bird's-eye view of the surrounding jungle. These adventures, together with well-appointed accommodations, promise to make this the trip of a lifetime.

**HIGHLIGHTS** □ Immerse yourself in local culture by dining on Mayan cuisine and learning about traditional handicrafts. □ Help local biologists capture and measure crocodiles for a long-term population study. □ Float among tropical fish through a mangrove forest in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve. □ Trek into the rainforest around Calakmul, where spider monkeys and toucans abound. □ Watch bats emerging by the millions at dusk from caves around the Calakmul World Heritage Site.



## CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Across the Yucatán Peninsula, pressures from commercial agriculture, deforestation and tourist development jeopardize water quality, nature's resilience to climate change, and local livelihoods that depend on the region's natural resources. In response, the Conservancy works with local organizations formed around ejidos, communal lands that are individually used and collectively maintained. One, Ejido Noh-Bec, works with the Conservancy on sustainably managing forests to store carbon and mitigate climate change while generating income for the community. The Conservancy is also working with 20 de Noviembre, an ejido known for a beekeeping operation that promotes pollination, forest health and the local economy.

## TRIP DETAILS

### DATES

March 2-9, 2018

### INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

Grettel Calderon  
(206) 365-0686 | (800) 345-4453  
grettel@wildland.com

### COST

\$4,155 double occupancy, per person  
\$5,480 single occupancy, per person



# Washington, D.C. and the Chesapeake Bay

SPEND A WEEK IN SPRING EXPLORING AMERICA'S LARGEST ESTUARY

Join us on a springtime journey that traverses the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay, a national treasure. At this time of year, blooming cherry trees frame historic monuments in the nation's capital, the Potomac and Anacostia rivers swell with boaters, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia welcomes thousands of birds arriving to rest during their seasonal migrations. Whether at a cocktail reception at the Conservancy's headquarters near Washington, D.C., or enjoying the slow pace of a waterman's life on the bay, you'll discover how we're working to ensure that nature benefits people and wildlife in this busy metropolitan region.

**HIGHLIGHTS** ■ Get inspired by urban conservation projects in Washington, D.C. ■ Interact with Conservancy scientists at a lunchtime lecture along the historic Annapolis waterfront. ■ Paddle through a primeval forest of bald cypress and black gum trees at the Nassawango Creek Preserve—one of the last pieces of true wilderness left on the East Coast. ■ Visit a local aquaculture farm to learn how oysters filter pollution from tributaries flowing into the Bay.



## CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The Conservancy is working in the District of Columbia to implement the Stormwater Retention Credit Trading Program, which leverages private capital to fund efforts aimed at reducing urban runoff, the fastest-growing source of pollution in the 64,000-square-mile Chesapeake Bay watershed. Throughout this area, which covers six states and Washington, D.C., the Conservancy is restoring wetlands, cultivating oyster reefs and employing other strategies to secure clean water for local cities, agricultural communities, forests and the Bay itself, with the goal of supporting the rich wildlife and millions of people residing in the region.

## TRIP DETAILS

### DATES

April 17-24, 2018

### INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

Joe Solomon  
(800) 329-4930  
tnc@iconicadventures.com

### COST

\$4,550 double occupancy, per person  
\$5,600 single occupancy, per person



# Little St. Simons Island

PREPARE TO MOVE AT A PACE SET BY NATURE

Nature leads the way on Little St. Simons Island, making it a favored destination for those yearning for an eco-friendly respite. Join us for six days during which life follows the gentle rhythm of the tides. At the lodge located on this privately owned barrier island in Georgia, rain barrels collect and conserve water, skylights illuminate rooms and an organic garden enriches meals with fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs. Reducing impacts on the landscape—together with a conservation easement that protects the entire island from development—guarantees that the island’s beauty and ecological integrity will remain protected forever. Whether boating on tidal creeks and salt marshes or strolling through maritime forests with moss-draped oaks, you’re sure to enjoy this incredible island.

**HIGHLIGHTS** ■ Explore an undeveloped wilderness of maritime forest, tidal creeks, salt marshes and sandy beaches. ■ Join island naturalists on guided hikes to observe the island’s beauty and abundant wildlife. ■ Rise with the sun to add glossy ibises and black-necked stilts to your birding life list. ■ Boat along the tidal marshes surrounding the island. ■ Relax in the midst of ancient moss-draped oaks. ■ Feast on a low country boil served with locally sourced ingredients from the island’s garden and coastal waters.



## CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Little St. Simons Island serves as one of two pilot projects that are demonstrating how restoring native habitats like salt marshes and oyster reefs can significantly reduce coastal erosion and flooding in coastal Georgia. The Nature Conservancy is working with partners and local communities to raise awareness about these alternatives to man-made structures such as seawalls and bulkheads. Implementing natural solutions like “living shorelines”—together with land preservation, sustainable development and other strategies—goes a long way in helping the environment become more resilient to pollution, sea-level rise and other effects of a changing climate.

## TRIP DETAILS

**DATES**  
May 6–12, 2018

**INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS**  
Shana Love  
(912) 634-5382 | (888) 733-5774  
shana@littlessi.com

**COST**  
\$2,550 double occupancy, per person  
\$3,495 single occupancy, per person  
*(Please note: Final trip costs will be based on the actual number of participants.)*



# Sierra Nevada Mountains: Nevada and California

SEE WATER BRING LIFE TO AN EXTRAORDINARY WESTERN LANDSCAPE

During this excursion, we'll travel by land, water and air to appreciate how the Truckee and Carson rivers form the lifeblood of the patchwork of meadows, wetlands, pastures and forests nestled within the Sierra Nevada mountains. The Conservancy's efforts to heal these rivers, after decades of development and logging pressures, are bringing back songbirds, sandhill cranes and other wildlife while providing tangible benefits to local communities. This story plays out at two Conservancy preserves in Nevada, where innovative natural solutions are aiding in the revitalization of two damaged rivers. The adventure continues in California, on the shores of Lake Tahoe and Independence Lake, two crystalline, high-alpine lakes.

**HIGHLIGHTS** □ Go on a behind-the-scenes tour of the River Fork Ranch Preserve's state-of-the-art Whit Hall Interpretive Center, which is fueled by solar and geothermal technology. □ Take a scenic flight over the Truckee River Canyon. □ Keep a keen eye on the sky in the Sierra Valley, dubbed the "Serengeti of the Sierras," to add new entries to your birding life list. □ Revel in the splendor and serenity of two alpine gems: Lake Tahoe and Independence Lake.



## CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The Conservancy's efforts to reconnect an 11-mile stretch of the Truckee River with its original floodplain was put to the test in 2017, when a five-year drought came to an end and northern Nevada experienced unprecedented flooding. The result? Newly restored habitat effectively stored and slowly released floodwaters back into the landscape, which now looks more lush and green than it has in years. Across the state line, in California, we are sustainably managing healthy forests around Independence Lake, helping to secure a crucial source of drinking water for northern Nevada cities like Reno and providing restored habitat for rare fish, birds and other wildlife.

## TRIP DETAILS

### DATES

June 10-15, 2018

### INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

Joe Solomon  
(800) 329-4930  
tnc@iconicadventures.com

### COST

\$3,300 double occupancy, per person  
\$3,690 single occupancy, per person



# Northwest Oregon

## EXPLORE THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Join us on a journey to Nature Conservancy preserves that showcase northwest Oregon's unparalleled beauty. Our adventure begins at the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers, in Portland, the City of Roses. From there, we head out to the bucolic Willamette Valley for a picnic lunch at the Noble Oaks Preserve, where the Conservancy is restoring an imperiled oak forest and reintroducing the federally threatened Kincaid's lupine, the host plant for the endangered Fender's blue butterfly. After looping back towards the coast, we'll hike at the Cascade Head Preserve, a coastal headland where diverse grasslands overlook dramatic bluffs and offshore rock formations jutting out of the Pacific Ocean.

**HIGHLIGHTS** ■ Enjoy exclusive access and a picnic lunch at the Conservancy's Noble Oaks Preserve. ■ Take a guided tour of Newport's dock to learn about Oregon's fisheries and how to buy fish straight off the boats. ■ Scan the ocean swells for resident gray whales against the backdrop of Cascade Head during a cruise around Depoe Bay. ■ See rare flora and fauna while hiking at Cascade Head Preserve, part of a United Nations Biosphere Reserve. ■ Seek out fresh seafood and local microbrews in the quaint town of Astoria. ■ Catch a glimpse of elk in the Jewell Meadows Wildlife Area.



## CONSERVATION EFFORTS

In 2016, the Conservancy marked the 50th anniversary of protecting the 270-acre Cascade Head Preserve. Since then, we've worked to restore grasslands, maintain trails, connect with thousands of visitors and monitor rare species like the Oregon silverspot butterfly and 99 percent of the world's population of the Cascade Head catchfly, a perennial wildflower. Today, the Conservancy is moving beyond the preserve to other portions of the coastline—including tidal wetlands and fisheries that are vital in supporting local livelihoods—to illustrate our commitment to the long-term protection of Oregon's diverse and unique ecosystems.

## TRIP DETAILS

### DATES

September 9-16, 2018

### INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

Peg Abbott  
(866) 900-1146 | (520) 558-1146  
naturalistjourneys@gmail.com

### COST

\$3,490 double occupancy, per person  
\$4,385 single occupancy, per person



# Santa Fe to Zapata Ranch

REVEL IN THE AUTUMN BEAUTY OF THE SOUTHERN ROCKIES OF NEW MEXICO AND COLORADO

The towering peaks of the southern Rockies, ablaze with golden aspen, provide a stunning backdrop for this journey, which merges nature and art. Our adventure begins in New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment, with bird-watching and gallery hopping in Santa Fe. We'll then meander northeast across the Rio Chama and onward to Colorado's San Luis Valley to switch gears for a few laid-back days at The Nature Conservancy's Zapata Ranch. While there, you can stay behind and soak in the classic Western vibe or venture out to hike, horseback ride or explore Great Sand Dunes National Park. We end up in Taos, with a chance to take part in the annual San Geronimo Day festival at Taos Pueblo.

**HIGHLIGHTS** ■ See spectacular views from the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge on the way to the Conservancy's signature Rio Grande Water Fund forest and watershed-health demonstration project. ■ Visit the scenic Rio Chama, an important wildlife corridor that links Colorado and northern New Mexico. ■ Tour Georgia O'Keeffe's home and the surroundings that inspired her art. ■ Board the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad for a day trip that passes through a mountainous landscape painted in fall colors. ■ Climb to the summit of a dune at Great Sand Dunes National Park. ■ Take in the San Luis Valley at the remote and beautiful Zapata Ranch.



## CONSERVATION EFFORTS

The Conservancy is dedicated to protecting the water and ways of life of some of the most spectacular terrain in New Mexico and Colorado. In Santa Fe, this has involved creating a water fund that dedicates money from water users to pay for protecting upstream forests that keep water clean. In Colorado's San Luis Valley, the Conservancy banded together with ranchers, public officials and local citizens to prevent the export of water—a precious commodity in the arid West—to urban areas along Colorado's Front Range. This work culminated with the eventual purchase of the Baca Ranch, part of which was added to the newly established Great Sand Dunes National Park in 2004.

## TRIP DETAILS

**DATES**  
September 23–October 1, 2018

**INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS**  
Peg Abbott  
(866) 900-1146 | (520) 558-1146  
naturalistjourneys@gmail.com

**COST**  
\$4,590 double occupancy, per person  
\$5,195 single occupancy, per person  
(Please note: Zapata Ranch has limited single-occupancy availability. Check when booking.)



# Experience Nature

LOOKING FOR MORE WAYS TO ENCOUNTER THE CONSERVANCY’S WORK?

Explore your options online:

- Visit a preserve in your state—[NATURE.ORG/VISITOURPRESERVES](https://www.nature.org/visitourpreserves)
- Connect with nature by volunteering in your community—[NATURE.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://www.nature.org/volunteer)
- Check out our other customized nature tours—[NATURE.ORG/TRAVEL](https://www.nature.org/travel)
- Explore the places we protect worldwide—[NATURE.ORG/VR](https://www.nature.org/vr)

**Big adventure. Small footprint.** We invite you to calculate your environmental impact by using our voluntary carbon offset program, designed by Conservancy specialists to meet or exceed the highest standards for reducing emissions. Calculate your carbon footprint at [NATURE.ORG/CARBON](https://www.nature.org/carbon).

***Please note that the prices quoted in this brochure are estimates and may be different based on taxes and other incidental fees.***

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“I felt my lungs inflate with the inrush of scenery—  
air, mountains, trees, people. I thought,  
“This is what it is to be happy.””

—SYLVIA PLATH







# You're invited.



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Arlington, VA 22203-1606

[nature.org/legacytrips](https://nature.org/legacytrips)

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September 2017