MAGE BERCKHOUND KEWE

Volume 70 ◊ Number 03 ◊ March 2024 ◊ A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

Wolf River Conservancy

Cathy Justis will present the March Program



A Message from Our Director

2024 is upon us and the Wolf River Conservancy couldn't be more excited for the year ahead! We kicked off our annual Wolf River Restoration Series presented by Brother International Corporation in January with our Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at the Epping Way Greenway. This 1.2 mile section of the Wolf River Greenway in Raleigh is surrounded by a beautiful and diverse ecosystem that includes wetlands, a twenty acre lake, and forested areas that provide *Continued, P. 4*

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CLICK TO VOLUNTEER

Look for a message from SignUp Genius. It is time to volunteer to help at the MAGS Show, April 27-28. We can't do it without you.

The Show lasts two days but we also need help before and after. We need volunteers for Thursday through Monday

(April 25-29). Lots of MAGSters come to the Show



but it's more fun to be involved.

MAGS puts on the largest mineral, fossil, and jewelry show in this part of the country, and we couldn't do it without the Members who help put it on. A major portion of your club's income comes from Show proceeds. This helps to keep

your dues lower. So click to volunteer.

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2023 MAGS BOARD

President–W. C. McDaniel (901) 274-7706 ◊ w.c.mcd@att.net

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Treasurer-Bonnie Cooper

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Director (Asst. Field Trips)-Open

Director (Asst. Adult Prog.)-Open

Director (Youth Programs)-Open

Director (Asst. Youth Prog.)-Open

Director (Librarian)-Nannett McDougal-Dykes

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Webmaster-Open

Assistant Webmaster-Open

Show Chairman-Open

Past President-Charles Hill

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MAGS AND FEDERATION NOTES

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, Memphis, Tennessee

The objectives of this society shall be as set out in the Charter of Incorporation issued by the State of Tennessee on September 29, 1958, as follows: for the purpose of promoting an active interest in the geological finds and data by scientific methods; to offer possible assistance to any archaeologist or geologist in the general area covered by the work and purposes of this society; to discourage commercialization of archaeology and work to its elimination and to assist in the younger members of the society; to publicize and create further public interest in the archaeological and geological field in the general area of the Mid-South and conduct means of displaying, publishing and conducting public forums for scientific and educational purposes.

MAGS Membership Meetings are at 7:00 P. M. on the second Friday of each month May-October, and 10:00 A.M. on Saturday after the second Friday November-April. The meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Shady Grove Presbyterian Church, 5530 Shady Grove Road, Memphis, Tennessee.

MAGS Website: memphisgeology.com

MAGS Show Website: https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/

rocks



Memphis Archaeological And Geological Society Page is where you will see accurate information about MAGS events and about the Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show.

Please contribute articles or pictures on any subject of interest to rockhounds. The 20th of the month is the deadline for next month's issue. Send material to mlybanon@yahoo.com.

Go to https://www.southeastfed.org/sfms-field-trips/dmc-field-trip-program for the DMC field trip schedule and other information.

Links to Federation News

- AFMS: www.amfed.org/afms news.htm
- → SFMS: https://www.southeastfed.org/

MAGS Rockhound News & A monthly newsletter for and by the members of MAGS

President's Message

MAGS Membership Meeting
Saturday, April 6
GRAB BAG PACKING
SHOW LAUNCH, MOVIE, & LUNCH
10:00 until all packed and back to shed

WORK + PLAY + EAT + WORK

- Work—help move material from shed to church
- Play—pack grab bags, prep other Show stuff!
- > Eat—brunch on the show>
- Movie—Vintage Show Movie; some folks were younger.
- > Work—help move stuff back to shed, clean up the church

MAGS Upcoming Schedule

- March 9—Saturday Day: Membership Meeting
- 2. March 30—Crow Creek Field Trip with David Clarke
- April 6—Saturday Day: Membership Meeting (note different time). Check out the event above.
- **4.** April 8—Solar Eclipse. Full eclipse only about 90 miles away
- **5.** April 20—Earth Day at Chucalissa (MAGS will have a table)
- **6.** April 25-29—Show and time to work
- May 4—20 Mile Creek , Joint field trip with North Mississippi Club

- **8.** May 10—Friday night: Membership Meeting
- **9.** May 25, Saturday—Rock Swap at Lou White's
- **10.** June 14—Friday night: Membership Meeting

W. C.

SHOW24

The 2024 edition of the Memphis Mineral, Fossil, Jewelry Show is approaching, and we want you to get ready and get involved.

Show Features

- Over 300 tables (about ½ mile) packed with rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, and beads
- Rockzone for kids with Rocks



Around the Clock, Palling around with Rocks, 901 Rocks

- Displays and Demonstrations.
- The Memphis Rock Food Table makes its annual appearance.
- Grab Bags
- Hourly and Grand Door Prizes

Schedule

Thursday, April 25

- Table vendors move in. Help needed early afternoon.
- 2. Rockzone /exhibition layout.

Friday, April 26

- 1. Vendors move in.
- 2. Shed delivered.
- Rockzone /exhibition area organized.

Saturday, April 27

- I. Show opens to the public 9:00 am, closes at 6:00 pm.
- 2. Lots of volunteers are needed so be sure to sign up.

Sunday, April 28

I. Show opens to the public 10:00 am, closes at 5:00 pm. *Continued, P. 5*

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Wolf River Conservancy Continued from P. 1

habitat for a wide range of wildlife. Working in the spirit of Dr. King's vision of greatness through service, volunteers from the community removed 15 large bags of trash, installed new nest boxes for native birds and planted 100 trees in an area that was once a dumping site.

The Wolf River Restoration Series comprises a total of four events during the first quarter of the year starting with the MLK Day of Service. We will be hosting our 19th Annual Tree Planting on March 2nd at New Chicago Park, celebrating World Water Day with a cleanup event on Mud Island on March 23rd and will be completing the series on April 20th with the Earth Day on the Greenway event at the Shady Grove Trailhead. We would also like to thank our presenting sponsor for the Wolf River Restoration Series, Brother International Corporation. Its support makes these important community service projects possible. Please visit our website at www.wolfriver.org for full event details.

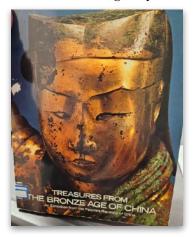
I am also pleased to announce the hiring of Natalie Schuh, our new Development Manager of Communications and Events. As our work in the community deepens it becomes necessary to bring on exceptional talent to help communicate the value and impact of our work. Natalie brings a wealth of experience to our team, and we look forward to sharing even more of our important conservation, education and outreach work through her effective storytelling and at events hosted by the



Conservancy throughout the year.

The Wolf River Conservancy has ambitious goals for 2024. We will begin construction on new phases of the Wolf River Greenway later this spring. We will continue to make significant headway in protecting the most valuable wetlands in the Wolf River watershed, adding to the more than 20,000 acres protected to date. And we will continue to provide high quality environmental education and recreational experiences to thousands of participants of all ages and backgrounds. I look forward to sharing more details about our progress in the months ahead. Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the Wolf River Conservancy.

Library ReportNannett McDougal-Dykes



Treasures From The Bronze Age of China

From: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

By: Ballantine Books

Chinese civilization is among the oldest of the world. The bronze objects of the Shang and Zhou periods represent the level of culture development achieved during the early times of Chinese slave society. They possess a unique national style, distinctive character of their time, and an outstanding degree of artistic achievement. By the Qin and Han periods, bronze vessels with inlays of gold and silver had reached a new brilliance, which today makes them artistic treasures.

The maps and drawings in this book are done by Phyllis Ward, an amazing artist.

This book has something for everyone. Who doesn't like a good terracotta soldier and terracotta horse?

This book is now available to check out in the Library in March.

Show Event

Facebook users, **Memphis Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show 2024** is the name of a new
Facebook Event. You can find it by
starting to type its name—a few
choices will come up—or by going
to https://fb.me/e/xpWhUnjpb.



You can add the event to your calendar, invite friends, and start a discussion. There will be more pictures and videos soon. Check it out.

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SHOW24 Continued from P.3

- 2. Lots of volunteers are needed so be sure to sign up.
- 3. Show breakdown and clean, need lots of help.

Monday,.April 29

1. Items back to the shed.

So, what and how can every MAGS Member help?

Promote the Show

- 1. Post it to all social media.
- 2. Email your friends.
- 3. Distribute postcards/Show announcements.
- 4. Club Show Ticket.

Provides MAGS Members the opportunity to promote the Show by distributing tickets to the general public. **Ticket procedures:**

- Available for use by current MAGS Members. No exceptions.
- Members must sign each ticket.
 et. One admission per ticket.
- Ticket holders are admitted free to Show.
- At the conclusion of the Show each Member must pay the Show-by June 1-\$3.00 for each redeemed ticket. After June 1 you must pay \$4.00 for each redeemed ticket.
- You are not responsible for tickets that are not used.

Donations

 Drinks and snacks. Please bring to the Show each and every day.

Volunteer

- I. The Show depends on you helping by volunteering.
- 2. Volunteer schedule is available.





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Adult Programs

March 9: Wolf River Conservancy April 6: Show (grab bag packing) May 10: Dr. Julie Johnson, Earth Science

Junior Programs

March-May: Same as Adult Programs.

Field Trips

March 30: Crow Creek
April: No field trip

May 4: 20 Mile Creek

∏ Rock Swap

May 25: At Lou White's residence

March Birthdays

- Debi Stanford
- 11 Nancy Folden
- 14 Danny Baker
- 17 Bob Cooper
- 25 Carole Martin
- 30 Jim Collins
 - Hisami McNeil Hunter Hill

New Members

Donna and Ron Budynas George Gregory V. Rose Gregory

Cold Case

Matthew Lybanon, Editor

MAGS Members know about Coon Creek, the world-class fossil site in McNairy County, Tennessee. Civil War buffs also know that the Battle of Shiloh was fought near there. This small Tennessee county also boasts another story of historical interest—and renewed interest.

The 1973 movie

Continued, P. 8

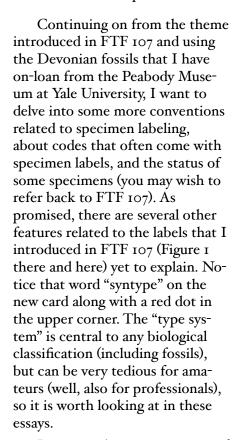
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Fabulous Tennessee Fossils

Dr. Michael A. Gibson, University of Tennessee at Martin

FTF 108

Specimen Labels & Taxonomic Nomenclature, Part 2



I am sure that you are aware of the Linnaean System of Nomenclature for the hierarchical classification of animals and plants (i.e., Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species) that I usually have in the upper right corner of any FTF that deals with a specific taxon of fossil. Paleontologists study the morphological features that identify organisms belonging to each of these taxonomic levels, especially when they are naming a new genus or species. The "type system" was devised to identify and categorize the specific and actual fossils that were studied

(measured, described, etc.) by the paleontologist in the work to establish the new taxon. Sometimes there is just one specimen (which hopefully is either typical of the entire population of this new taxon, or at least displays the important identifying features in the best way possible) and sometimes the new genus or species is based upon several specimens. These "types" are published following specific guidelines and curated in a safe place for other researchers to be able to compare their specimens with and as thus serves as the "standard" for the features that define the new species. The categorizing of a "type" can be very legalistic and there are very specific rules and categories for this, as well as review boards and evaluation procedures. Often a colored symbol is glued to the "type" fossil (and the labeling card) to indicate the status of that specimen in the box; hence, the "syntype" green diamond on the specimen of Trematospira and the box label in Figure 1.

The "typological approach" establishes reference specimens for later comparison and each new species must be represented by at least one specimen (often more than one), usually the one used in the published description, and that is "representative" for direct comparison by all other researchers. What are the "types" recognized in biological classifica-



tion of species? There are many, but most are only used in rare or unusual situations in the history of the type specimens (such as the loss of the original specimen or specimens, as happened to many during the bombings of World War II, fires, etc.). More often, a name changes because later paleontologists revise the classification of a fossil. The history of changes must follow the specimen and the literature trail of the changes must be able to determined. Here is the list of "types" that I always had my paleontology students learn:

- Holotype—A single specimen (usually one described) "representative". This is the most common "type".
- "type series" (reference grp) from which holotype was chosen. Paratypes are often designated to either alleviate the problem of a single reference specimen (which may or may not be typical of the population), or that could be lost, or when no single specimen shows all of the important features itself.
- Hypotype—A specimen referred to extend or correct species by later study.
- Syntype—Each of a set of type specimens of equal status, from which the original description and naming of a new species is based.

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Fabulous Tennessee Fossils Continued from P. 6

- *Topotype*—A specimen collected from type locality of a formation.
- Plesiotype—Specimens morphologically very close to the holotype, but that show some recognizable differences.
- Platotype—An artificial cast of original type specimen that can be used if the or needed for special preparations that could damage the original type (e.g., coating in gold for SEM analysis).
- *Neotype*—A specimen chosen to replace the lost holotype when no plesiotype.

Other "types" exist as well. In the case of the Yale specimen of Trematospira in Figure 1, this specimen was a syntype, so it was chosen out of a population of specimens used by Dunbar to erect the new species and published in 1920 in the Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Science.

Obviously, the "type" status of fossils can change (be revised) due to further study or historical happenstance. When changes occur, there are also terms used to explain these changes and the changes follow the specimen in the box labeling and publication history of the species. At the end of the last essay, I noted that on the smaller card in Dunbar's Yale specimen (Figure 1) there was a

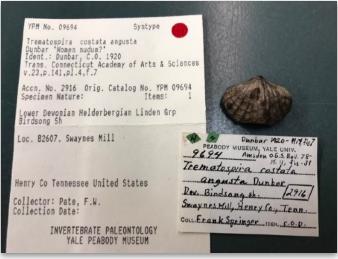


Figure I. Specimen box with labels for Trematospira athyridoid brachiopods costata angusta from the Carl O. Dunbar "type" collec- (this specimen is a retoriginal fossils are lost tions at Yale's Peabody Museum of Paleontology (Photo zoid) and erected a new Credit: MAG, 2019). See text for discussion of labeling genus, Leptospira. They details.

green diamond with the letter H in it along with the term "nomen nudum" (meaning "naked name") on the larger (newer) card. What does "nomen nudum" mean? This occurs when a named taxon is "stripped" of its original name by later workers. A taxonomic name that is considered "invalid" possibly because it was never fully or correctly described or illustrated as required by taxonomic rules. The classification of a specimen could also change as the result of later study. The original name may be used by some and for a certain period of time validly, but technically it has no true nomenclatural status once a new name is erected during revision. The old name can still be used informally because of history (perhaps the researching never finished the written published descriptions) in some cases. More importantly, a nomen nudum is available to be used by other workers in naming other species (which can ultimately lead

to confusion in the literature).

So, why is Dunbar's Trematospira costata angusta considered a "nomen nudum"? In 1964, paleontologists Art Boucot (a renowned Silurian and Devonian brachiopod worker), J.G. Johnson, and R.D. Stanton published an article in the Journal of Paleontology summarizing their re-evaluation of atrypoid, retzoid, and

also formally proposed

that Dunbar's Trematospira should be removed from the genus Trematospira and included in their new genus (along with several other taxa). The new name would then be Leptospira costata angusta. Trematospira costata angusta, as a name, could now be used for something else in the future, under certain specific situations (most workers would not do this however to avoid confusion). The "removed" status of the old name was then recorded on the label in the new box so that later workers (such as me) would know that there is more to the history of this taxon's name than what was on the original label and the in the original article naming the specimen.

One last point to make is that paleontology is a "historical science", meaning that the history of a fossil, even the scientific study of the fossil, plays a significant role in the value of the fossil. It is imperative to fully research the entire

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Fabulous Tennessee Fossils history of Continued from P. 7 every taxon of fossil

when doing paleontological work. This requires extensive archival research and familiarity with the literature chronicling historical changes in the status and naming of any fossil species (or specimen). While the mental (or movie) image of a paleontologist in the field

digging-up fossil shells and bones is iconic, so is the image of a paleontologist at his or her desk within an extensive library (usually their own library) of old books and monographs hunched-over stacks of dusty old books, reading Latin and Greek names, measuring fossils, and comparing their work to everyone else's work. Upon my retirement, I simply could not

fathom the idea of not having my library, so I now have a separate room in my retirement home full of old dusty tomes full of dry descriptions and illustrations of fossils. I take great joy in tracing the history of single specimens through these books—it's always about the hunt!

Cold Case Continued from P.5 (there was a se-

Walking Tall quel and a 2004

remake) tells the story of Sheriff Buford Pusser, who was known for cleaning up McNairy County, jailing criminals who'd run rampant before his tenure. He was elected to serve as sheriff in 1964 after serving as Adamsville police chief for three years. (Adamsville is the town closest to Coon Creek.) He served as sheriff until 1970.

In August 1967 Pusser's wife Pauline was shot to death in an ambush presumably meant to kill her husband. Pauline Pusser was only 33 years old when she was killed. She was a mother of three. Pauline was shot and killed at the scene, and Buford was shot in the chin but survived.

The Aug. 13, 1967, edition of The Tennessean said Pauline was killed and her husband "seriously wounded in the jaw when Pusser's prowl car was fired on at dawn on a lonely country road." Hugh Kirkpatrick, the then-police chief in the nearby town of Selmer, said he heard a call on the radio from Buford Pusser about 6:20 a.m. They were found about a mile north of the Tennessee-Mississippi state line on U.S. 45.





"The sheriff and his wife were en route to investigate a complaint at the time." Buford was sitting behind the wheel of his car and Pauline was lying on the seat with her head in his lap, the article said.

"Kirkpatrick said Pusser told him the shooting occurred on New Hope Road about three miles from the state line," the article said. "Investigators said they found 14 spent 30-caliber cartridges scattered on the road near where Pusser said the ambush took place." The Pusser car was hit 11 times. Buford Pusser was rushed to McNairy County General Hospital, then to Baptist Hospital in Memphis.

He survived the ambush but died a few years later, leaving the McNairy County Fairground in August 1974 when he lost control of his Corvette, crashing into an

embankment on U.S. 64 near his hometown, The Commercial Appeal reported. Buford and Pauline are both buried in Adamsville.

Pauline Pusser has been dead for 56 years without a suspect in the case. On February 8, 2024, authorities exhumed her body. A recent tip prompted a review of the case, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) said, and they discovered that an autopsy was never done after her death on August 12, 1967.

"With the support of Pauline's family and in consultation with the 25th Judicial District Attorney General Mark Davidson, TBI requested the exhumation in an attempt to answer critical questions and provide crucial information that may assist in identifying the person or persons

responsible for Continued, P. 9

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Cold Case Continued from P.8 death," TBI

Pauline Pusser's said.

A former sheriff from Arkansas, Mike Elam, who wrote a self-published book Buford Pusser: The Other Story, said he has given tips about the case to the TBI. Elam said he believes cold case investigators are trying to find answers to three main questions:

- Was Pauline Pusser killed in an ambush on New Hope Road, or somewhere else?
- Was the fatal shot fired from the front or the back?
- Do the forensics match the story Buford Pusser told about the shooting?

The investigation is ongoing, and few details are available yet. We'll try to keep you updated. Maybe this story has the makings of another movie.

January Board Minutes

Josh Anderson

Zoom meeting called to order 6:32pm. Present: W.C. McDaniel, Christine McManus, Joshua Anderson, Nannett McDougal-Dykes, Bonnie Cooper, Matthew Lybanon.

Secretary: Minutes submitted via email, presented to Board, and approved.

Treasurer: Report approved. Rent paid thru June. Newsletter printed and mailed.

Membership: 1 new Member. Renewals are slowly coming in.Federation membership annual application is in progress. 248 total Members.

Field Trips: Position empty. Need chair. February-Nonconnah Creek w/ Ryan Pudwell.

Youth Programs: Position empty.• Need chair. • Adults and youths folded

February Meeting Pictures









Photo Credits: Nannett McDougal-Dykes

together for now.

Adult Programs: Christine Mc-Manus - Needs speakers for new year. Will coordinate with W.C. for possible candidates. Jan., Lou White. Feb., W.C., Tucson show. Upcoming presenter list (order not firm): Dr. Parish, Catherine Justis (Wolf River), Dr. Julie Johnson, U of M Geology, Ryan Pudwell, Nonconnah Creek. Christine and Josh Anderson to research adapters for projector & assess laptop functionality.

Library: I new book donated by Josh Anderson: Landscape History of Hadramawt: The Roots of Agriculture in Southern Arabia (RASA) Project 1998-2008. The report won the 2022 Anna Marguerite McCann Award for Fieldwork Reports.

Editor: 2024 position was nominated to Matthew to continue and was successfully seconded and approved. Matthew needs information. He has information through February.

Rock Swaps: None scheduled.

Show: Dealers full. 2 incoming contracts and 2 inbound checks. Need concession plan for Section B. o Shed-need bodies and plans for reorganization. Show prizes-W.C. will email vote. Josh suggested recruiting Members at the Show.

New Business: W.C. mentions Jane Coop with Pink Palace (MOSH) as a contact for meeting space for MAGS. We will visit with Jane C to discuss.

Old Business: None reported.

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MAGS At A Glance March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25	26	27	27 28 Zoom Board Meeting, 6:30 F		1	
3	4	5	6	7	8	Membership Meeting, 10:00 A.M., "Wolf River Conservancy"
SPRING FORWARD	11	Find Men	us on Facebook. To phis Archaeological Geological Society Pa	cal	15	10
St. Patrick's	18	is v accu MAG Mem	where you will state information about sevents and about phis Mineral, Fos lry Show.	out the	22	DMC Field Trip
24	25			28	29	MAGS Field Trip to Crow Creek
31 200 TER	-1	2	3	4	5	

Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society
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