



THE MINERAL VEIN

THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA NEWSLETTER

September 2006

The Mineral Society of
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2005 – 06 EXECUTIVE

President: Margarette Marion-Akins Ph. 204 222 1080

Vice President: Chris Lammers
Ph 204 488 0087

Secretary: George Green
Ph 204 489 8945

Treasurer: Yvonne Searle
Ph 204 663 6637

Field Trip Chairman: Jack Bauer
Ph 204 632 6934

Newsletter Editors: Marion
Foster & Marjorie Turton
Ph 204 775 0625
1199 Valour Rd., R3E 2W6
Email: 2mandm@mts.net

Past President Yvonne Searle
Ph 204 663 6637

Members at Large:
Tony Smith
Ph 204 489 23081

Society News

Dues are \$10/year (\$15 for families) and are payable at the October meeting or by mail during October.

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month from September to May inclusive at the Manitoba Museum in room P47 on the Planetarium level. They begin at 7:30 PM and feature announcements, an invited speaker and a draw. Members are encouraged to bring along any new, interesting specimens or specimens appropriate to the speaker's topic.

Field trips take place from May to September to interesting sites in Manitoba, neighboring provinces and states.

Next meeting Wednesday, October 4, 2006.

The executive meeting is at 6:45 PM prior to the regular meeting. All members who wish to attend the executive meeting are welcome.

This is a very important meeting.

Elections for the executive will be held at the regular meeting. It is time for all good mineral and rock hounds to step up and serve

Illness, exhaustion and burnout are taking its toll on the existing executive. Even one of the editors suffered a heart attack and has not been able to participate in events.

At the point of publication, candidates for all executive positions have not been obtained. Positions need to be filled if the Mineral Society of Manitoba is to survive

The Sept 6 Meeting

This was a non-event. Our regular room at the Manitoba museum was being painted. Other facilities just weren't available in time.

Field Trips

At the time of publication we have received a report on only one field trip, that to the Wilson River. We invite members who have been on other field trips to send us a synopsis of their experiences.

Wilson River / Valley River Fieldtrip

We started our fieldtrip on the Wilson River, where it crosses Hwy #5 west of Dauphin. At this point the Wilson River cuts through and exposes the Ashville formation of Cretaceous age. The weather was excellent; the water levels were low making it easier exploring the bed. Soft shale exposures were evident but the majority of the bottom seemed to be covered with glacial erratics consisting mostly of limestone and Granite rocks.

From here we drove south and further west where the Wilson River cuts through and exposes the Favel Formation. We parked well off the road next to the bridge. At this point walking down to the Riverbed was easier than stop one. It was not long and we found evidence of the giant cretaceous oysters, the "INUCERANUS". Here we explored the Favel Formation from this point. If we were to walk east and down stream from this location we would encounter the contact between the Favel and Ashville Formation. Walking southwest and upstream I was impressed by the steep shale cliffs of the Favel Formation. The shale layering was evident at the base of the cliffs. Glacial scouring was apparent where the layers of shale were curved up and over. A group of fossil collectors were harvesting a number of Cretaceous fish fossils. A near complete vertebra was in the final stages of packaging prior to removal. The gravel beds yielded a number of excellent "Inucranus" fossil shell specimens. One piece of shell fragment came from an oyster 3 feet across.

At this point, I would like to make a correction, the Wilson River Selenites were in fact found in the Valley River directly north of stop #1. One the error was realized, the site was quickly located and those who persisted found many nice Valley River Selenites.

Jack Bauer
Fieldtrip Chairman



Wilson River Ashville Formation



Wilson River Ashville Formation



Favel Formation

There is a fish fossil adjacent to brush.
Fossil destined for Dauphin museum
Pictures by Marion Foster