



THE MINERAL VEIN

Official Newsletter of

THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

MARCH 2023

MESSAGE FROM OUR FIELD TRIP CHAIRMAN

Please be advised that I am working on setting the dates for our MSM fieldtrips. A lot of changes have come about during these times of change, that is still effecting everyone. I know our members are trying to organize their vacation plans. I will provide as much lead time/information as possible, as to help facilitate your vacation plans.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: HOBBY SHOWCASE

We are looking for volunteers to help set-up the black light display, be present at the display and take it down.

Window of opportunity June 16-25

June 16, 17, 18 (Fri, Sat., Sun.) Hours 3 pm-9pm

June 19, 20, 21 (Mon. Tues. Wed.) 3pm-9pm

June 22, 23, 24, 25 (Thursday, Fri., Sat., Sunday)

Please let Jack Bauer know if you are interested in volunteering by April 05, 2023, for a portion of the 3 day window.

NEW MONTHLY MEETING LOCATION

FOR 2023 SEASON

Our new location is at the AN&AF Legion on 300-1395 Ellice Avenue. Our next meeting is Wednesday March 8th, will be a live physical and virtual meeting. We will be there for 6pm. We will go live at 6.45pm pm. Our raffle will start at 7.20 pm. And the presentation will start at 7.30 PM.

PLEASE REMOVE HEAD WEAR WHEN ENTERING THE LEGION

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING

Ron Zeilstra from BC, will be speaking about collecting world famous pyrites from Spain.

Join us at the John Osborn ANAF legion for his interesting virtual only presentation, on March 8th, 7 pm. Jack will be at the Legion by 6.15 preparing for our meeting.

Thank you Ron, for sharing your collecting stories.



Membership renewals requested

Please be advised that MSM memberships are good only for one year, from October to September of the next year. The MSM will not accept any new memberships after March 31, 2023.

THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

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Membership / Treasurer:

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Newsletter Editor:

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Ron Zeilstra

Members at Large:

Dagan Moss

Michael Way

The Mineral Vein is published monthly from September to June.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May inclusive at the ANAF legion at 300-1395 Ellice Avenue. They begin at 6:30 PM and feature announcements, an invited speaker and a raffle. Members are encouraged to bring along any interesting specimens, appropriate to the speaker's topic.

Field Trips take place from May to September to interesting sites in Manitoba or neighbouring provinces and states.

Membership: A single membership is \$15 while a family membership is \$20. Memberships run from October to September.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

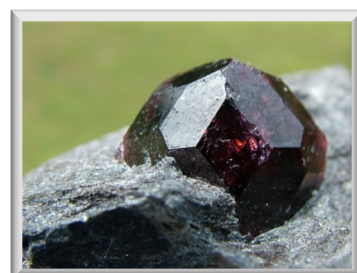
MARCH 08, 2023 ; Ron Zeilstra, collecting World famous pyrite crystals from Spain

APRIL 12, 2023; Marty Lewadny, collecting World class "thumbnail" minerals

MAY 13, 2023; John Osborn ANAF Fund raising dinner and live auction. Are you down sizing your mineral collection? donations are accepted and will be auctioned off.

JUNE 24, 2023; MSM BBQ, Pot Luck, bring specimens, for trade, sale or donations

MEMBERSHIP; Our in person meetings are now at the John Osborn ANAF Legion at 300-1395 Ellice Avenue. Door entrance is on Empress. New Membership dead line for the 2022-2023 season, is March 31.



Founded in 1971, the Mineral Society of Manitoba is dedicated to promoting the study of crystal minerals, rocks and fossils for their scientific and recreational value.

The Mineral Society of Manitoba hosts monthly meetings covering a variety of mineral related topics. In addition, the Mineral Society organizes summer field trips to collecting localities, hosts educational exhibits about minerals, fossils at local trade events.

VIRTUAL MEETING ETIQUETTE

When joining; check if your microphone is on/off.

When a presenter begins speaking; turn off your MIC

When your MIC is on: refrain from eating or creating back round noise.

When a presenter is speaking; please keep questions on topic or preferably after the presentation.

Keep off topic questions to the end of meeting

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING TEAMS FROM YOUR WEB BROWSER:

Step 1: The Teams meeting invite should look like this:

[March Monthly MSM Meeting Link](#)

The link will be sent with the newsletter to join the meeting you just click on the “*click here to join the meeting*” the link will be blue in color. This link will take you directly to the “*lobby*” of the meeting and the host will let you in. You can add this event to your calendar, if your e-mail is set-up with the calendar function.

During the meeting there will be a chat function, through out the presentation you are more than welcome to pose questions or make comments. The presentation will begin at 6:30pm, the meeting room will be open at 6:15pm for those who would like to see and chat with other members prior to the presentation.

If you want to watch the presentation on a tablet/ cell phone or desk top computer, you may need to install the Teams App or free software prior to the meeting.

NEW ROCK DOCTOR

Corey Leblans has volunteered to be our new ROCK DOCTOR. Members can contact Corey with information and **a good quality close up of your specimen**. Any pertinent information that you can provide, like hardness or if it is magnetic, would be useful. Contact Corey; geologycl@gmail.com

FIELD TRIP UPDATES

OUR ITINERARY FOR 2023

1. Gillis Quarry; Ordovician fossils
2. Souris MB; Agates and petrified wood
3. The Red River Floodway Selenite dig is scheduled for June, or as soon as the floodwaters recede and the floodway channel has had sufficient time to dry and support the weight of vehicles.
4. Cat lake; will be revisited. We will look for garnets. Open only to members in good standing.
5. Tanco, under ground tour and pegmatite minerals. We will plan to bring up a couple of buckets of material, for members to collect. Open only to members in good standing.
6. Dumbartin mine/Maskwa pit, top 12” will be stripped exposing fresh collecting opportunities on the rubble pile.

WE ARE CLOSELY WATCHING THE SPRING SNOW MELT, TO PLAN ACCORDINGLY

ALL FIELD TRIPS DATES FOR 2023 ARE TBD

BELOW; FIELDTRIPS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

1. Meteorite hunt; S/E MB
2. Steep Rock, MB; Calcite crystals
3. Thunder Bay, Blue Points mine; Amethyst
4. Thompson, Inco/Vale; collect garnets on the waste dump & underground tour
5. Snow Lake MB; Garnets and Staurolite crystals

FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY

Dr. Ed Cloutis has been working with “Perseverance” Nasa’s Mars rover, providing the Geological perspective, needed to complete this far reaching project. He has revealed some of the many challenges of doing mineralogy on Mars, from 50 million Kilometers away, in a dusty environment.



We would like to thank Dr. Ed Cloutis for sharing his unique work/experience and journey to Mars, with the MSM.

Initially colours and spectra from earth based observations, were the limited tools available when making Geological determinations and if life exists on Mars.

Scientific priorities, latest discoveries and technological feasibility have been driving the will to explore Mars.

In the 1890s the probability of life on Mars was high, partially due to the canals that were visible from Earth based viewing. After a 70 year lull, and many disappointments, Mariner 9 did provided some high resolution color imagery. IR Spectroscopy indicated iron oxides, pyroxene (basalt), clays (unspecified) and rutile/anatase. In 1976 the Viking rover was another disappointing effort, when it came to life detection on Mars, in turn put another damper on Mars exploration.

Between 1997 and 2003, there were many new discoveries that prompted a mind set change.

The biological life detection equipment on the “Sojourner” the first Mars rover, was removed in favor of an advanced technological instrument suite. This included, multispectral stereo cameras, B & W Navcams and one color camera. APXS elemental abundances were also included.

The mars meteorite showing microscopic fossilized life, along with some new discoveries, gave new energy to the search for life. However, their intention no longer looks for life, but what is needed to support life on Mars. These things would be water and minerals. To facilitate their perspective change, big innovations were added to the Perseverance rover, which included, returning to Earth with mineral samples for close analysis. UV fluorescence detection, RAMAN, LIBS and hyperspectral tools are some of the leading innovations. Grinding and retrieval tools which would aid the collecting process were also included.

SOME RECENT MINERAL DISCOVERIES INCLUDE:

Olivine	Orthopyroxene
Clinopyroxene	Plagioclase Feldspar
Hematite	Magnetite
Sulfates	Gypsum
Kieserite	Polyhydrated Sulphate
Carbonates, Calcite	Clays
Nontronite	Chamosite
Montmorillonite	Zeolites
Abundant near surface	Hydrogen

The Rover “Perseverance”, with its new mandate and tools, must still face the harsh dusty conditions, as many important details can be obscured. Despite all of the many challenges they face on Mars the list of mineral discoveries has virtually quadrupled.