



THE MINERAL VEIN

THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA NEWSLETTER

April 2006

The Mineral Society of
Manitoba
c/o The Manitoba Museum
190 Rupert Avenue
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to June

Home page:

http://www.umanitoba.ca/academic/faculties/science/geological_sciences/mineralsociety/

Wednesday, May 3, We will have the pleasure of **John Biczok** delivering a presentation on "Rockhounding in Tanzania". He reports that it will be a mixture of geology, wildlife, mountain climbing and human evolution.

John Biczok is a professional geologist, a graduate from Lakehead University, who worked as an exploration geologist for several companies throughout Manitoba, NW Ontario, the Yukon, NWT and Nunavut. From 1997 – 2002 he was exploration manager for Phelps Dodge in India and got to explore much of that fascinating country.

For the past 3 years he is Senior Exploration Geologist at the Musselwhite Mine in NW Ontario

The April 5's Meeting

Anita-Maria Janzic gave a presentation on the Morden Museum, and the geology and fossils at and around the museum at Morden. This museum formerly known as the "Morden and District Museum" has undergone some changes over the last few years. Its contents are now strictly paleontology. The name is now the "**Canadian Fossil Discovery Center**". It has purchased 109 acres of the Manitoba Escarpment where it is uncovering more fossils.

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Center has an impressive display:

- Largest collection of marine vertebrates from one locality
- Largest Mosasour in Canada (the mighty Bruce)
- Close to 600 specimens catalogued
- Entire collection is from the Manitoba Escarpment

Anita-Maria Janzic, the curator of the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre,

gave a power point presentation on the geology and fossils found in the Pierre Shale. Formation located around Morden. She also bought in some rock and fossils for members to examine.

This cretaceous area, 80 to 90 million years ago, is where the Western Interior Seaway was located. Here in the Pembina member of the Pierre Shale Formation is where marine fossils excavation is taken place.



Anita-Maria Janzic holding samples of fossil teeth found in a Masseur's stomach region

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THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

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
Email: 2mandm@mts.net

Past President Yvonne Searle Ph 204 663 6637

Members at Large:
Tony Smith Ph 204 489 23081

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.

CLUB MEETINGS

May 3

John Biczok offered to speak on this day. He will give a presentation called "Rockhounding in Tanzania". He reports that it will be a mixture of geology, wildlife, mountain climbing, and human evolution. The interrelation should be interesting.

He has been collecting rocks and minerals since he was 8 years old and has quite a large collection of worldwide specimens in his overcrowded basement, shed, and garage. Thankfully he is married to an understanding wife.

As to his huge collection, the Mineral Society of Manitoba has occasionally been the grateful recipient of this overflowed collection.

This is the last speaker presentation until the first Wednesday in September.

However, there are the field trips this summer, which promise to be very exciting.

Please review the field trip schedule, make your appointments, mark your calendars, and come out for adventure.



CLUB NOTES

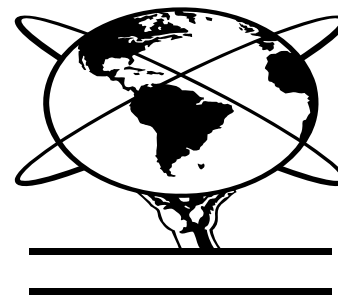
Yvonne and Chris want to step down from the executive. Both have given many years of service to the club. We need people to step forward at the October elections.

The **Provincial Mining Week Show** will be:
Thursday May 25, 9:30 am to 8:00 pm,
Friday 26, 9:30 am to 8:00 pm,
Saturday 27, 9:30 am to 6:00 pm
Set up will be Wednesday May 24 after 4:30 pm.

Volunteers are needed to man the show. Please step forward and contact Margaret at 204 222 1080.

"The Mineral Vein" is available by e-mail. It is on Microsoft Word. Those who would like to receive it by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to us at:

2mandm@mts.net



April 5 Meeting

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Fossil and rock samples being admired

In the area one finds:

- Niobrara, chalky and fossil rich and is found predominately in the USA
- Odanah, a hard grey greenish silica
- Millwood, a greenish, waxy layer above Pembina area
- Pembina membrane

The minerals found there are: Bentonite, Jerosite, Siderite, and Gypsum.

Marine fossils found here are: Mosasaurs, Pliosaurus, Plesiosaurs and various fish, some turtles, squid shark parts and birds. There were very few turtles found in Manitoba. Only the squid pins survived. Shark teeth and dermal denticles also known as placoid scales (tiny tooth-like structures) are found. Surprisingly, the birds still had their teeth.



Mosasaurs and fish vertebrae.
The fish would have been over 6 feet long.

The Canadian Fossil Discovery Center offers excursions to the latest dig sites, where you help, discover and excavate fossils, apply field jackets, and record data. Of course volunteers are always welcome. Call the museum at 204-822-3406 or check out the website www.discoverfossils.com



Bruce

The 2007 Manitoba Palaeontology Symposium will be held in Morden. See you there!

2006 Field Trips

Jacques Bourgeois (Field Trip Coordinator, Rock and Mineral Club), Brian Bilcowski (Program Coordinator, Rock and Mineral Club) and Jack Bauer (Field Trip Coordinator, Mineral Society of Manitoba) have combined their resources to organize an exciting season of trips to popular collecting localities. We planned multiple day trips, many convenient one-day excursions.

Long Lake, Manitoba, June 3, 2006

Departure: from the Forks at 7:30.

Ogama-Rockland mine, Kiwago mine and Eldorado mine, Long Lake mine, near Bisset are names that evoke the gold rush of Manitoba, in the early part of the 20th century. Tourism promoters of the region are trying to attract visitors by connecting these old mine sites with accessible trails. Some of the tailings of these mines are still gold bearing and some may even have some visible gold. Interested members should consider bringing a good quality metal detector that could discriminate between ferrous and non-ferrous metals.

For more information, **contact Jacques Bourgeois at 467-3282.**

Gillis Quarry, Garson, Manitoba - June 17, 2006

Departure is from Jack Bauer's house at 8:30 a.m. or meet separately at the Gillis quarry at 9:15 am.

This excursion to the Gillis quarry (Tyndall Stone) will be our chance to find some great Ordovician fossils in one of Manitoba's most famous limestone. When arriving at the quarry, park across the street, by the school to receive some preliminary information and go over some safety concerns. Be prepared to sign a waiver to go into the quarry. We will then proceed to the rubble pile to look for Ordovician fossils.

For more information, **contact Jack Bauer at 632-6934.**

Thunder Bay, Ontario – June 30 to July 3, 2006

Departure from Winnipeg; is scheduled for Friday, at your convenience, June 30, 2006.

Meet Brian at 9AM, Saturday, at the Terry Fox Look Out, East side of Thunder Bay, for two days of collecting fun.

Call the **Old Country Motel** for reservations @ 1-800-454-7658. The July long weekend is busy, so make your reservations as soon as possible and avoid disappointment. Also, let them know you are with the Winnipeg rock club or the Mineral Society of Manitoba; we will get better service as a group. This popular field trip will surely satisfy the amethyst collector in you. Please reserve your place for this trip, before, June 23. Note* this is hard rock country, please bring and use, eye protection.

For more information; **contact Brian Bilcowski at 233-1270.**

Tanco Mine, Bernic Lake, Manitoba – July 29, 2006

Departure to Tanco, is from the Forks, at 8:30 am.

For many years, the Tanco Mine trip has been a favourite from Winnipeg's rock hounds. In recent years, the picking has been somewhat less than fruitful, since Tanco has not brought any new material, to the surface. After discussing with the chief geologist, I decided to try to go again this year, with hopes, that new material will be brought to the surface. This summer, when the machinery comes to the surface for maintenance, they will try to bring some new material to the surface. The Bernic Lake deposit is one of the largest rare element bearing deposits in the world and contains two thirds of the worlds known reserves of pollucite. Black tourmaline, beryl, spodumene, lepidolite and feldspar are also abundant at this mine.

For more information, **contact Jacques Bourgeois at 467-3282.**

Souris, Manitoba – July 22, 2006

Departure is from Salisbury House in Headingley (Perimeter Hwy) at 8.30 a.m.

Our first tentative stop, at about 9:30 a.m., will be at Vic Schupley's Rock Creation Center in Portage at ~10:15 a.m., we will continue on to the Souris Agate Pit to collect epidote, jasper, petrified wood, fossils and of course many varieties of agate. While at The Rock Shop, we will pick up our Pit permit (\$1.50 per person). Upon arrival, we will meet in the back of the Rock Shop for a bit of orientation, to shop, or to have lunch in the restaurant across the street.

For more information, **contact Jack Bauer at 632-6934.**

Morden, Manitoba - August 12th, 2006

Departure is from the Forks Travel Centre at 8:00 a.m. or meet at the Morden and District Museum at 9:30 a.m. A \$5 fee will cover a guided tour of the museum and the dig.

Take a trip back in time as we explore the ancient seabed of the Cretaceous that once covered Manitoba in search of mosasaur and plesiosaur fossils. The area around Morden is also rich in other minerals such as jarosite and selenite.

For more information, **contact Jacques Bourgeois at 467-3282.**

Wilson River, Manitoba, September 9, 2006

Departure is from Salisbury House in Headingley (Perimeter Hwy) at 7.00 a.m.

I would suggest we double up, for approximately 3.5 hours drive, north to Dauphin, to save gas expenses. This trip is weather sensitive; high water levels will be bad; low water levels will be good for collecting.

This small river starts in the Duck Mountains, and flows East, North of Dauphin and then draining into Dauphin Lake. In its travels Eastward, it exposes the northern edge, of the Ashville and Favel Formations. Here we will explore for Cretaceous fossils, similar but not identical to Morden area fossils. We will look for Inucranus shells, fish fragments (teeth or scales), Plesiosaur and Mosasaur (teeth or vertebra). Down stream, we will look for very clear pencil shaped selenite crystals.

For more information, **contact Jack Bauer at 632-6934**

Stony Mountain, Manitoba - September 16th, 2006

Departure is from the Forks Travel Centre at 8:00 a.m. or meet at the Stony Mountain quarry for 9:00 a.m.

Explore the quarries of Stony Mountain, consisting of limestone and dolostone formed during the late Ordovician period. Many fossils abound, including brachiopods, corals (horn and honeycomb), cephalopods, and molluscs. Those with a keen eye, although not as common, can also find trilobites. This field trip coincides with the Oak Hammock Marsh annual Archaeology, Rocks and Mineral Show

and is a morning trip only, in order to allow participants to take in the mineral displays and rock auctions at the show in the afternoon.

For more information, contact **Jacques Bourgeois at 467-3282.**

Stony Mountain, Manitoba - September 17th, 2004

Departure is from the Forks Travel Centre at 8:00 a.m. or meet at the Stony Mountain quarry for 9:00 a.m.

Explore the quarries of Stony Mountain, consisting of limestone and dolostone formed during the late Ordovician period. Many fossils abound, including brachiopods, corals (horn and honeycomb), cephalopods, and molluscs. Those with a keen eye, although not as common, may also find trilobites. This field trip coincides with the Oak Hammock Marsh annual Archaeology, Rocks and Mineral Show and is a morning trip only, in order to allow participants to take in the fossil/mineral displays and rock auctions at the show, in the afternoon.

For more information, contact **Jacques Bourgeois at 467-3282.**

General Information about Field Trips

If weather conditions are unfavourable, contact Fieldtrip coordinator
Daylong field trips are scheduled for Saturdays. This allows Sunday to be used as a rain date if necessary
Register in advance, for the multiple-day field trips. Contact the field trip coordinator for more information.

When attending a field trip:

- Protect yourself; wear safety glasses and safety boots
- In Hard Rock country, pieces of rock can fly and hit you in the eye, when struck with a heavy hammer.

Things to bring with you:

Lunch and drinking water
Bug repellent and sunscreen
Hammers and chisels
Safety glasses, safety boots
Field lens or magnifying glass
Collecting bags and news paper/towels to protect your find
Notebook (to record locations and geological notes)
Camera, film, and your sense of adventure

The Mineral Vein

This is last publication until September. When the new publication session begins in September, the editors would like to have some of mineral and fossil knowledgeable members submit articles. Remember Marion and Marjorie are novices in this field and are trying their best in publishing The Mineral Vein each month.

Executives

New Officers are required to replace Yvonne and Chris.

Yvonne and Chris want to step down from the executive. Both have given many years of service to the club. We need people to step forward at the October elections