



THE MINERAL VEIN

Official Newsletter of

THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

APRIL 2019

APRIL PRESENTATION

by Dr. Graham Young

The Manitoba Legislative Building is an iconic Winnipeg edifice, and a famous example of early twentieth century neoclassical architecture. It is also a structure that possesses a remarkable and unusual geological story, both for its construction and for its diversity of unusual stones and other materials.

The Legislature's construction was complicated by a number of factors, not least of which was a somewhat problematic local geological setting. The building itself includes at least ten different geological materials, from local bricks and the well-known Manitoba Tyndall Stone, to Butler granite from northern Ontario, black marble from the Vermont-New York region, and Italian Botticino Marble. This presentation will describe the building's construction, and it will illustrate the materials, describe how and where each is used, and explain what each can tell us about the geological history of Manitoba and the world.



Thank you, to Cornell Rock for sending us these pictures of the many amazing minerals seen abroad



Dr Eva Pip, presenting on Amber

MARCH PRESENTATION SUMMARY

By Jack Bauer

Amber is fossilized tree resin (not sap), which has long been appreciated for its color and beauty since the stone age times 13,000 years ago. Amber is used as an ingredient in perfumes, as a healing agent in folklore medicine and of course as jewelry. This material needs to be quite old, in order to be called Amber. In fact, one German source claims that the specimen must be at least 20 million years old, to be properly called Amber. The oldest Amber found so far, dates back 320 million years to the upper Carboniferous period. Historically Amber has been ground up and burned as incense, made into a varnish or cut shaped and polished, to form jewelry. Heated above 200 C, Amber suffers decomposition yielding "oil of Amber" and leaving a residue, that when dissolved with turpentine, forms "Amber varnish".

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THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

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The Mineral Vein is published monthly from September to June.

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 raffle. 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 or neighbouring provinces and states.

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL MEETING: April 3, 2019 Dr. Graham Young, *curator at the Manitoba Museum*. He will be speaking about the geology of the Legislature building.

APRIL 6TH; 11.00 AM, U OF M, WALLACE BUILDING, where we will get to explore the "Robert Ferguson collection".

SILVER COVE, APRIL 12 to 14th; Volunteers needed. Please contact, Jack Bauer @ 204-632-6934

MAY MEETING: May 01, 2019 ; Our guest speaker will be Cornell Rock sharing his story about his Mineral adventure, from around the world.

JUNE BBQ AND TRADE EVENT, AT STONEWALL QUARRY: SUNDAY JUNE 02, 2019. BBQ lunch and refreshments, for members to kick off the summer and collecting season. Bring some minerals for a show and tell, or trade.



Founded in 1971, the Mineral Society of Manitoba is dedicated to promoting the study of 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 and fossils and local trade events.

ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENCE WEEK AT KILDONAN MALL



AMBER PRESENTATION SUMMARY

(cont. from page 1)

By Jack Bauer

Because it originates as a soft sticky tree resin, Amber sometimes traps small animal and plant material as inclusions and it does a remarkable job at preserving these remains. Typically, the remains are not dehydrated or decomposed in any way. Anaerobic bacteria within the animal or insect specimen's intestines, produces a gas bubble, which remains trapped in the Amber. The presence of this gas bubble, is an indication that the insect specimen was not inserted into the Amber by fakers.

Many remarkable insects and spiders have been discovered in Amber and it has shown us insects, plants and small animals, that have existed, as far back as 130 million years ago. Numerous extinct genera and species of plants and animals have been discovered and scientifically described from inclusions in Baltic Amber, which includes the most species rich fossil insect fauna discovered to date.

Quality specimens of Amber are now scarce and therefore expensive. Much of the Amber sold today is fake or highly modified. Large pieces are usually "pressed Amber. Many small bits of Baltic Amber are pressed under high temperature and pressure, to create one large piece. Some fake items are constructed of small pieces of Amber, encased with plastic, so that when tested with a hot needle, the smell of Amber is still evident.

Unfortunately, it is almost impossible to distinguish fakes from real Amber. Even experts can be fooled. Amber should be properly stored and wrapped, in order to protect from abrasion and sunlight.

Thank you Eva, for your informative and entertaining presentation.

Thank you, to our volunteers; Josh Myers, Peter Harms, Carrie Carino and Jack Bauer for volunteering their time for this event.

MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA FIELD TRIP ITINERARY, 2019

APRIL 6TH; 11.00 AM, U OF M, WALLACE BUILDING, where we will get to explore the “Robert Ferguson collection”. Anton Chakhmouradian, Ph.D.; will give us a brief presentation of interesting facts and features of the different mineral groupings on display. West side of Wallace building there is metered parking in lot Q, South side of the lot.

MAY 25TH; SOURIS, MANITOBA; Meet at the Petro Can on McGillivray Blvd and the Perimeter @ 9AM. This trip involves a 2-hour drive, down Hwy #2, South and West of Winnipeg. Our first stop will be the Souris Rock Shop. In their front show room, will be items for purchase. Then we will get a brief tour of their back room, after we purchase our pit pass. We will see all the possible specimens that can be found in the pit, for easy recognition. Bring lunch and water to drink, or you can purchase lunch, across from the rock shop. We will be looking for petrified wood, Jasper and Agates etc. Also, bring a bucket or source of water, to help locate the agates.

MAY 28TH; GILLIS QUARRY, is an active quarry, 45 minutes north/East of Winnipeg, near the town of Tyndall. We can meet in the Gillis parking lot, at 11.00 AM, or if you wish to car pool part of the way, meet at my place at 10 AM. Here we will have to sign in and there is a fee to collect on the rubble pile. Cars (trunk full) are, \$15.00 and ½ ton trucks are \$25.00 (as of 2018). If we double up, we can share the cost of a load. You may want to bring a quick lunch but bring water. Bring protective footwear, gloves and glasses. A geology pic or a 2-pound crack hammer and chisel will work. Here we will be exploring the rubble pile for Ordovician fossils.

JUNE 8TH; NOTRE DAME DE LOURDES, Danial McKay will be leading this field trip. Here we will be looking for Septarian nodules. Subject to confirmation. Contact Danial McKay @ 204-510-2443 or 204-963-2142.

AUGUST 1, 2, 3, & 4TH, 2019; BANCROFT, ONTARIO, ROCK HOUND GYMBOREE, 56th Annual. Canada’s largest Gem and Mineral Show. I will not be able to participate in this field trip this year, as it is conflicting with a previously planned trip. However, I will provide some basic information that will be needed in order to have a successful field trip. Hotels will probably be booked solid by now and it would be recommended to think of booking for next year. On the other hand, a camp site may be the way to go in the Bancroft area, as they do not fill up as fast as hotel rooms. For more info; 888-443-9999 or www.rockhoundgemboree.ca If you are interested in going on this trip, I can now provide you with some potential collecting sites, on route or in the area.

AUGUST 2019; RED RIVER FLOOD WAY; Selenite dig. This dig will start in the beginning of August, for a period of 2 to 3 weeks, DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER. Any threat of heavy rain or lightning will shut down this dig. Opening date is yet to be determined.

LAST WEEK END IN AUGUST 2019; WINNIPEGOSIS TRIP, the go ahead, is yet to be determined. Kathryn Lapenski, will be leading this trip, subject to funding availability. This information may not be available until April. This will be a 3 or 4 day trip because of the driving distance.

PLEASE NOTE; that the first four, one day trips of the season, will average approximately 4 hours, depending on how the events of the day unfold. (Not including traveling time)

CONTACT Jack Bauer for field trips@ 204-632-6934