



THE MINERAL VEIN

Official Newsletter of

THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA JUNE 2016

FIELD TRIPS SEASON IS UPON US

Since we had some miscommunication issues with our guest speaker for May (who apologized profusely and offered coming back in the fall), we decided to talk about the upcoming field trips for 2016 instead.

This year, our field trip chairman has diligently delegated the task of organising field trips to various members including Marjorie Turton, Jack Bauer and Jacques Bourgeois.

Five (5) field trips are planned for this year, including one that took place already. They are:

1. Gillis Quarry, (May 18)

For **Ordovician fossils** such as **sunflower corals**, **brachiopods**, **gastropods**, **cephalopods** and the elusive **trilobites**. Fossils of snails and nautiloids can sometimes reach giant proportions.

This field trip was originally scheduled for Saturday May 14 but had to be rescheduled to Wednesday May 18 due to the quarry being closed on weekend. 5 participants took part in this successful trip and early reports indicate that Lisa and Rob Grabowsky, found a large chain coral specimen that offered a unique 3 dimensional view of the internal structure. Some nice Cephalopod pieces were also found, but no trilobites were reported found on this trip. Hopefully the specimens collected will make an appearance during our Show and Tell event in October.

The second field trip of the season will take place this weekend. It is:



First field trip of the season at Gillis Quarry on May 18

2. Souris Gravel Pit for Agate (June 4)

Regarded as one of North America's largest deposits of semi-precious gems, this twelve acre glacial deposit is known for **agates**, but the site has also yielded **epidote**, **jasper**, **petrified wood** and other varieties of stones. The gravel pit is one of largest deposits of agates in North America. There are many other items to be found; petrified wood, jasper, fossils (a mammoth tooth was found here) and many other strange items.

The source of the agates comes from Hudson Bay, the Rockies and from South Dakota due to glacier movements and volcanic action.

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THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

c/o The Manitoba Museum
190 Rupert Avenue
Winnipeg, MB, R3B 0N2

mineralsocietyofmanitoba.weebly.com

The 2015-2016 Executive:

President

Jacques Bourgeois, *ph. 204-885-5618*

Vice President

Joshua Myers, *ph. 204-330-0076*

Secretary:

Marjorie Turton, *ph. 204-775-0625*

Membership / Treasurer:

Lisa Grabowski, *ph. 204-774-5097*

Field Trip:

Marion Foster, *ph. 204-775-0625*

Newsletter Editor:

Jacques Bourgeois, *ph. 204-467-3282*

Website:

Josh Myers, *ph. 204-330-0076*

Members at Large:

Marion Foster, *ph. 204-775-0625*

Mavis Bedford, *ph. 204-417-6627*

Jack Bauer, *ph. 204-632-6934*

Yvonne Searle *ph. 204-663 6637*

School Programs

Yvonne Searle, *ph. 204-663 6637*

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

June 12, 2016: MSM Annual BBQ at Ron and Wendy Anthony's place Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided by the club. Feel free to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share. RSVP by phone or via email: (204) 774-5613 or ranthony@mymts.net

September 7, 2016: MSM regular monthly meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Manitoba Museum. Our guest speaker will be Aura Diaz, a 4th Year Geology Student, who will talk about her research on "Thermodynamics of Sea Ice in the Arctic throughout the analysis of sea ice energy balance obtained from field data and controlled lab experiments". Hope to see you there!

October 5, 2016: MSM regular monthly meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Manitoba Museum. This is our **Annual General Meeting** and is followed by a **Show and Tell**. Please make sure to bring some of the great specimens collected this summer. Have you considered serving on the Board of the Executive? This is your chance! There will be some positions open this year and we need you to help us fill them. Hope to see you there!

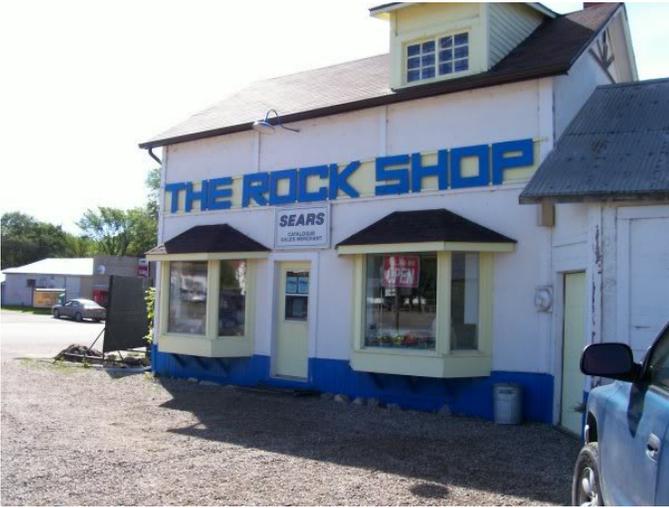


Founded in 1971, the Mineral Society of Manitoba is dedicated to promoting the study of minerals, rocks and fossils for their scientific and recreational value.

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, and hosts educational exhibits about minerals and fossils.

FIELD TRIPS ARE UPON US (CONT.)

In conversation with the shop owner, someone recently brought in some meteorites found on the nearby prairie.



Entrance to the gravel pit is via permit from the Rock Shop in Souris. **The permit costs \$22.60 per car.** The Rock shop not only sells permits but is a repository of many items found there. When we meet there, the owner of the Rock Shop will provide a tour of the wondrous items found in the gravel pit. Then he will guide us to the gravel pit and to the more desirable deposits.

Souris is located at the corner of Highways 2 and 250. The Rock Shop's address is #8 1st. South, virtually at the junction of the two highways. The shop opens at 10:00 am. **We should meet there no later than 10:30 am.**

Marjorie proposes that **participants meet at 9:00 am at the Tim Hortons on 3965 Portage Ave.** That is just outside the cloverleaf and on the road to Assiniboine downs. This way, participants can join together and reduce the number of cars.

Please bring:

- Drinking water
- Water to wash your stones
- A sturdy pair of shoes
- Safety glasses or sunglasses
- A hat and sunscreen
- Good pair of gloves
- A pail or bag for your collected items

Those wishing to go please contact Marjorie Turton at (204) 775-0625. Let her know if you have no vehicle but wish to go. Space is limited.

The third field trip for this summer is a trip organised by Jack Bauer and is several years in the making:

3. Bird Lake / Cat Lake area, (July 9 to 10)

The objective will be to collect **garnets** from outcrops, South and East of Bird Lake and West of Booster Lake. Pre-trips to the area will confirm accessibility. Campsites are subject to availability. Confirmation deadline for this trip is July 2. Jack has visited the site and plan on visiting some more to make sure participants have a great collecting experience. This trip may require some walk in the bush. Please make sure to contact Jack at least a week prior to the field trip, in case of any last minute/unexpected changes that may happen. Jack Bauer, 204-632-6934 or jebauer@mymts.net

The fourth trip for the summer has already been scouted and it looks quite promising as long as the sun shines the right way.

4. East Braintree (August 6)



Join us as we explore this locality to find **peristerite**, an iridescent variety of **albite**. Its color sheen is similar to Labradorite but not as pronounced.

Jack Bauer, Yvonne and Bill Searle, Marion Foster and Marjorie Turton went to East Braintree to look for peristerite on Thursday, April 14. They reported that the sun's rays had to be exactly at the right angle in order to see the blue colouring of the mineral compared to the granite and feldspar.

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FIELD TRIP SEASON IS UPON US (CONT.)

The blue of the peristerite isn't present in most of the pictures but one can see the different grain structure of the mineral. Let's hope for a sunny day on August 6!

Contact: Marjorie Turton, 204-775-0625



Peristerite mineral shining in the sun

The last field trip of the season will take place on August 25 to 28. This four-day trip will take us to Snow Lake to explore and collect minerals in the area and near the Lalor Mine.

5. Snow Lake, (August 25 to 28)

This 4 day trip will take us to some metallic mineral collecting sites for **galena**, **sphalerite**, **pyrite**, **chalcopyrite**, as well as some outcrops in and around town for some **staurolite**, **kyanite** and possibly **garnets** and **diopside**. A visit to the Snow Lake Mining Museum is also an option.

Participants will leave on Thursday the 25 in order to be in Snow Lake by 8 a.m on Friday the 26 to attend a mandatory orientation session to access the sites. Steel-toe boots or steel-toe shoes are required as well as hard hats, safety glasses and high-visibility vests. Collecting will take place on Friday at the mine site and Saturday in town and at select outcrops. We will drive back on Sunday.

Snow Lake is approximately 700 kilometres north of Winnipeg. Ride sharing is recommended.

Some local geologists (collectors) have also shown interest in trading minerals if you wish to bring some of your tradable specimens from your collection with you.

There are several options for accommodation in Snow Lake:

- **Bluenose Bed & Breakfast (204) 358-7305**
- **Sunset Bay Bed & Breakfast (204) 358-2145**
- **Wekusko Falls Lodge (204) 358-2341**
- **Diamond Willow Inn (204) 358-2842**
- **Snow Lake Motor Inn (204) 358-2331**

Confirmation deadline for this trip is August 20.

Contact: Jacques Bourgeois, 204-467-3282 or j_bourgeois@yahoo.com

All field trips are subject to the weather cooperating. Some field trips may require participants to sign a liability waiver as a condition to gaining access.

Field trips are also subject to sufficient participation (and may be cancelled), so keep in touch prior to an upcoming trip. Advise trip leader of any unexpected changes.

PROVINCIAL MINING WEEK CELEBRATION



Provincial Mining Week was celebrated this year in conjunction with the Archaeology, Rocks and Minerals event at Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

The attendance was a little lower than in previous years with 150 visitors on Saturday and 108 on Sunday. The rainy weather, competition with the Teddy Bear Picnic on Sunday, and the change of dates of the event from the fall to the spring may all have played a factor. This only gives us more room to grow in future years.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who participated. I'm looking forward to celebrate Provincial Mining Week with you again next year.