



THE MINERAL VEIN

THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA NEWSLETTER

March 2006

The Mineral Society of
Manitoba
c/o The Manitoba Museum
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Home page:

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

Wednesday, April 5, Anita Janzic, paleontologist and curator of Morden's Museum, will be our speaker. The museum at Morden is interesting. Its placement is unique, in the basement of Morden's Civic Centre. It has the biggest collection of ancient marine creatures in Canada. In the space originally slated for a swimming pool is an articulated 13-meter mosasour nicknamed Bruce. He is 2 inches short of the largest mosasour unearth in North America. In 2003, the breastplate of a plesiosaur, a sea creature that swam about 65 million years ago in a sea that covered most of Manitoba, was uncovered. Anita may be speaking on the fossils unearthed and the geology around Morden. There may even be fossils to see and touch!

The March 1 Meeting

It was cold, windy, and snowing. In fact it was near blizzard conditions. A small group managed to navigate to the Manitoba Museum for our meeting. The security guard did not leave one of the doors open. It was fortunate that a security guard came around when Bill Searle was pounding on the door. We took turns monitoring the door to let in stragglers. Additional to the weather and the locked doors, our speaker did not make an appearance. The weather was that bad in places. Still we managed to hold our meeting.



Those of us who made the meeting

Margarette Akins won our raffle this meeting, 2 clear quartz crystals. These she gave to our youngest attendant, Cassandra.



Also, Sherri & Cassandra Goddard brought in a rock for identification. This rock, if I overheard correctly, was found in the White Shell area or was that the flood way.



Could this be a Pryophyllite?

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THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

2005 – 06 EXECUTIVE

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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

April 5

The speaker will be **Anita Janzic**, who is curator at the Morden Museum. Her topic will be the ancient animals found in the slate and bentonite around the Morden area. It will be a power point presentation with the possible accompaniment of examples

May 3

John Biczok offered to speak. His topic will be announced later. You remember him. He gave us that in depth article on "The Nizam's Jewellery". He also donated several minerals to our Christmas supper auction.

This is the last presentation until September. However, there are the field trips, which promise to be very exciting.

CLUB NOTES

We have started to send "The Mineral Vein" by e-mail. The images of pictures and maps are sharper and sometimes in colour. The newspaper is via Microsoft Word program.

Those who would like to also receive it by e-mail, send your e-mail address to us at:

2mandm@mts.ne

There will be a geology show at the Forks. We will have our glue cards and displays. Setup is May 24 after 6 PM, show is May 26 & 27 Fri. & Sat. Volunteers required.

The March 1 Meeting

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In this picture the rock does look like a roasted chicken. That is solely the fault of my photography.

Searching through my copy of "Rocks and Minerals" by Chris Pellent., the closest I can come is a Pyrophyllite or an Astrophyllite.



Pyrophyllite form Rocks and Minerals

Both appear to have foliated, fibrous radiating and lamellar masses on its surface. Someone with expertise in minerals should take a look at this interesting rock.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Norseman Supply Ltd
Equipment for prospectors
and collectors
78 Diamond NKld MB
668 3700

Greg Hasier Mineral & Fossil
Worldwide Specimens
Showroom by Appointment
130 Bluewater Crescent
Winnipeg 254-2122,

COMMON ROCK-MINERAL ASSOCIATIONS

Submitted by Marion Foster

Centuries of mining and mineral collecting experience shows that some minerals are so often associated with certain rocks that knowledge of such associations is of great help during field trips. Such knowledge also helps to identify a rock, or a mineral, when either one is unknown to the collector. For example, a collector finds a very heavy black mineral in a stream bed. Upon crushing it, the collector notes that the powder becomes brown. This indicates that the black mineral is *not* magnetite, which crushes to a black powder. Instead it is chromite. If one has a magnet handy, chromite is not attracted but magnetite is. Having demonstrated that the mineral is chromite she can therefore expect that a chromite-bearing peridotite rock, possibly serpentine, is somewhere in the neighbourhood. On the other hand, if she knows she is working in an area of serpentine rocks, and finds a heavy black rock, she can almost certainly assume such to be chromite instead of magnetite.

It would be of even greater help to prospectors and collectors if associations were more numerous and more certain, but, unfortunately, so many minerals are found scattered so widely in many kinds of rock that only relatively few associations are truly reliable. A prospector may find well-formed quartz crystals in the soil of a hillside, yet this would tell her very little about the rock from which they came because fine quartz crystals come from cavities in many kinds of rock. However, if at the same time she found tourmaline, she can be sure that all of them came from a granite pegmatite.

Associations between minerals and rocks are therefore more than just one specific minerals for one specific rock, but also between groups of minerals and specific rocks, and the more that we know about them, the more likely we are to draw correct conclusions as to the kind of deposits sourcing the minerals. Typical associates for some broad classes of rocks are given here:

	<u>Rock</u>	<u>Igneous Group</u>
Felsite:	Frequently host for sulphide ore bodies	
Rhyolite:	Tin ores: cassiterite with topaz and tourmaline, opal in cavities	
Trachyte:	Turquoise in altered trachyte; opal	
Basalt:	Amygdaloidal types: native copper, quartz gemstones, massive datolite, etc. Pillow basalts: angular and spherical cavities contain crystals of quartz, zeolites, and datolite, prehnite, pectolite, etc.	
Diabase:	Silver, cobalt, nickel ores in Ontario, zeolite minerals, apophyllite, prehnite, datolite, in east U.S.A.	
Granite:	Tin, tungsten ores, cassiterite, scheelite, wolframite, black tourmaline, and quartz; uranium and radium ores in Great Bear Lake region, Canada; molybdenum (molybdenite); small pegmatite bodies contain crystals of feldspar, quartz, topaz, beryl, phenakites, fluorite, siderite, etc.; zircon	
Granite Pegmatites:	Commercial feldspar, electrical grade muscovite mica; beryllium ores (beryl); tantalum ores (columbite-tantalite); lithium ores (lepidolite, amblygonite, etc.); cesium ores (pollucite); gemstones; coloured tourmaline, spodumene, beryl, spessartite garnet, topaz amazonite, moonstone, rose quartz (and other varieties of quartz)	
Syenite:	Gold in quartz veins in Canada, iron ore (magnetite)	
Nepheline Syenite:	Corundum; zircon, often in large crystals, sodalite and concrinite	

Information taken from "Field Collecting Gemstones And Minerals" John Sinkankas, 1988, Geoscience Press

Continued next news letter

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 Inuceranus 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, call 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

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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

Spare Rock Collecting Tools

Sheri & Cassandra are asking if anyone is looking to sell any extra tools such as rock hammers. Contact Marjorie or Marion at 775 0625, if you have some.