



# THE MINERAL VEIN

*Official Newsletter of*

## THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

### November 2010

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting and Show & Tell of the Mineral Society of Manitoba were held on October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Manitoba Museum. As is often the case, the turnout was on the low side; perhaps people are worried about being elected if they show up? (In my personal experience you might have a bigger chance of being elected if you are absent!). Not to worry, the slate of candidates is generally put together by a hard-working executive sub-committee well before this meeting. The results of the election are generally not a surprise and this year's vote was no exception. The following slate of candidates was elected for 2010-11:

**President:** John Biczok

**Vice-President:** Jasmin Dhaliwal

**Secretary:** Marion Foster

**Treasurer:** Jack Bauer

**Members at Large:**

Wendy Anthony

Scott Jonatanson

Jacques Bourgeois

There is still one opening for another member-at-large so please consider volunteering for this position. The following positions have since been appointed by the executive committee:

**Field Trip Chairperson:** Ken Fumerton

**Newsletter Editor:** John Biczok

A big welcome to the new members of the executive, Jasmin and Scott, and many thanks to those leaving the executive committee after serving last year, member-at-large John Frigo and Past-President Yvonne Searle. Thanks also go out to Marjorie Turton for chairing the meeting and guiding the group through the voting process.

Several proposed amendments to the MSM's constitution were presented at the meeting and voted upon and approved by the membership. These changes now allow members of the executive to serve in the same position for three years, up from the previous limit of two years, and allow the formation of committees to assist the Field Trip Chairperson and the Program Chairperson in their duties. See last month's issue of the Mineral Vein for a complete description of these amendments.

The October meeting is also a "Show and Tell" evening where members bring in their finds from the past summer's collecting and share them with their fellow enthusiasts. Unfortunately with the limited field trips this past summer and the absence of a number of the more experienced collectors from this meeting, there were no items brought in for discussion. Perhaps in future we could expand this evening into a Rock & Mineral identification session to encourage members to bring in more specimens, especially those interesting but unknown kind? If anyone else has ideas to make this annual meeting more successful please pass them on to any member of your executive.

## THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

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

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/geoscience/mineralsociety/index.htm>

### *The 2009-2010 Executive:*

#### **President**

John Biczok 889-7976

#### **Vice President**

Jasmin Dhaliwal

#### **Secretary:**

Marion Foster 775-0625

#### **Membership / Treasurer:**

Jack Bauer 632-6934

#### **Field Trip Chairman**

Ken Fumerton 222-3416

#### **Newsletter Editor**

John Biczok 889-7976

#### **Members at Large**

Wendy Anthony  
Scott Jonatanson

*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 plus neighbouring provinces and states.

**Membership:** A single membership is \$15 while a family membership is \$20. Memberships run from October to October and the annual dues are payable each October.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 3rd Monthly Meeting:** For those members who have not yet attended one of the world's great Mineral Shows, this meeting will be an opportunity to see what they're all about. Preeminent local collector Tony Smith will be giving a slide show on this year's **Denver Mineral Show**. The Denver show is said to be the second largest in the US (after the Tucson show). Tony's images will illustrate the latest exciting discoveries in the mineral world (and the stratospheric level of current prices for the top end specimens!).

**Christmas Party:** The Mineral Society's annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 12th at the Canad Inns hotel on McPhillips St. at Jefferson. There will be a buffet



style Christmas dinner at a cost of \$15.95 per person followed by our annual auction of minerals, fossils, related and even unrelated items (wine, gift baskets, etc.). Once again Tony Smith has agreed to serve as our auctioneer and we expect this will be another fun-filled and enjoyable event that will be a highlight of the year for the MSM. Funds raised from the auction go towards the scholarship we



provide to a deserving geology student at the University of Manitoba and towards the purchase of high quality mineral specimens for the Manitoba Museum. These specimens are expected to be on display at the new entrance to the Earth Science gallery and will provide a

lot of public exposure for the Society and mineral collecting in general. Please see Jack Bauer at the November meeting to reserve a spot at the party or give him a call at 632-6934. Don't forget to scour your home for any specimens or other items you'd care to donate to the auction.

**Tucson Field Trip.** The Tucson Gem and Mineral show is the largest such show in the world and is held each year in early February. MSM members and part-time Tucson residents Allan and Margarett Akins have suggested that the MSM organize a 1 week trip to Tucson for this show. The tentative plan would be for us to leave on Sunday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> and return on the last day of the Convention Center show, Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Flights to nearby Phoenix-Mesa area are available at ~\$500. Allan has provided two options for hotel accommodation at a cost of about \$100 per night for a double room. We would rent a van for to ferry the group back and forth to the various motel shows for the first few day and then to the convention center. The cost of a large van is about \$100 per day so if we can split it between 7-8 people this is quite affordable. There are many great attractions in the Tucson area including the Saguaro cactus preserve, the town of old Tucson which has long been used for western movies, and the Desert museum. We could spend a day touring all or



some of these to take a break from the Show if the group wishes to.

So if you would like to take a break from Winnipeg's winter to visit the world's biggest and best mineral show but have been leery of doing it on your own, why not come along with your fellow MSM members? If you are interested, please let Ken Fumerton (Ph. 222-3416) know as soon as possible as we'll need to start booking rooms shortly.

### **RARE FOSSIL CROCODILE FOUND NEAR DAUPHIN, MANITOBA**

The partial fossil remains of a 100 million year old Cretaceous crocodile *TERMINONARIS* have been unearthed near Dauphin in western Manitoba. This is the first discovery of this taxon in Manitoba and only the seventh in North America. The find was described in this month's prestigious Journal of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology by Joseph Hatcher and Anita-Maria Jancic of the Canadian Fossil Discover Centre in Morden, Manitoba.



*Illustration of what a live TERMINONARIS would look like.*

The fossil bones were found in 2009 within shales of the Favel Formation where it is exposed in the banks of the Wilson River west of Dauphin. The man who made this historic find is Chris Tait, a Manitoba lawyer and a part-time paleontologist who was searching for fossil fish along the banks of the river. The crocodile would have been close to 20 feet in length based on the size of the preserved left limb and sacral vertebrae, and almost fully marine. Mr. Tait also found parts of the hip, right upper limb, feet many ribs and osteoderms (scales from the skin). Regrettably the head was not present.

The actual specimen now belongs to the Fort Dauphin Museum (FDM) in Dauphin, MB. Mr Hatcher and Ms Janzic did the scientific work and lab preparation of the fossils at the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre (CFDC) in Morden, created molds and made replicas, measured and researched the specimen before returning it to the Fort Dauphin Museum. One can now see this unique fossil reptile on display at the Fort Dauphin Museum, or a replica exhibit of some of the material at the CFDC in Morden.

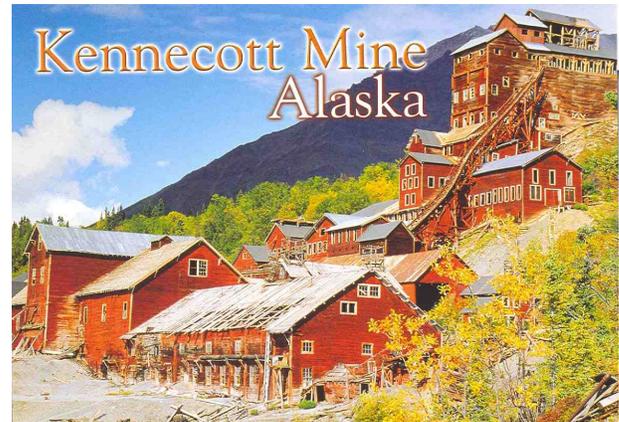
*We thank Joseph Hatcher for providing information for this article, some of which is copyrighted by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology.*



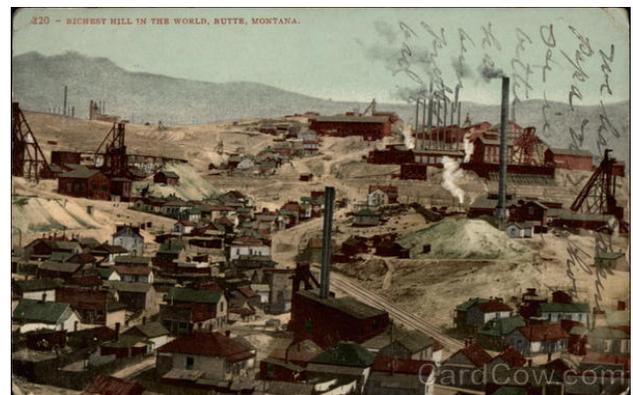
## ROCKHOUND COLLECTABLES PART 2: POSTCARDS

How do you remember your travels to interesting places at home and abroad? If you're a natural packrat like me, you like to bring back souvenirs that will remind you of some particular spot or activity. One inexpensive and effective way to do this is to collect postcards that can then be included in your photo album (for those of us who still have such things!) or stored in their own binder. My "photo albums" tend to look more like a scrapbook these days with fewer photos printed out from my digital images but more postcards, local money and other memorabilia. Postcards guarantee that you'll have a good image of that memorable spot when you get home and might be the only good image available. How many times have your photos of a fascinating spot turned out poorly due to poor weather or lighting that day, an inaccessible viewpoint, or a camera malfunction? If you're visiting a wonderful geological feature, old mining town or a mineral museum, why not pick up a postcard for your own scrapbook to preserve those memories?

The source of most great mineral specimens is of course mines, many of which have become the foundation of historic mining towns like Flin Flon, Butte, Cripple Creek, etc. Postcards from some of these localities have also been produced for many decades and can provide a glimpse of past glories or the beginnings of a great enterprise to go with your own photos or a modern postcard.

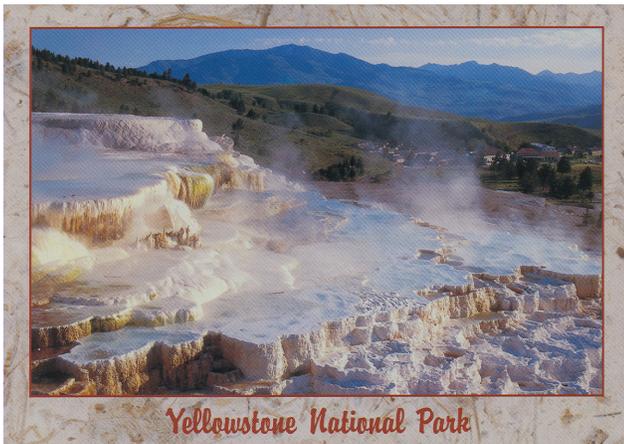


*Postcard of the historic Kennecott Mine in SE Alaska, now only accessible by a 6 km walk from the end of a washed out road (JB).*



*1908 Postcard of the Butte Mine, Montana (\$20).*

Several areas of great geological interest such as Yellowstone Park have been depicted on postcards for many decades. Acquiring a postcard during your visit and then finding a vintage card of the same spot can add an interesting bit of history to your album.



Postcard of Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone Park, 2008 (JB)

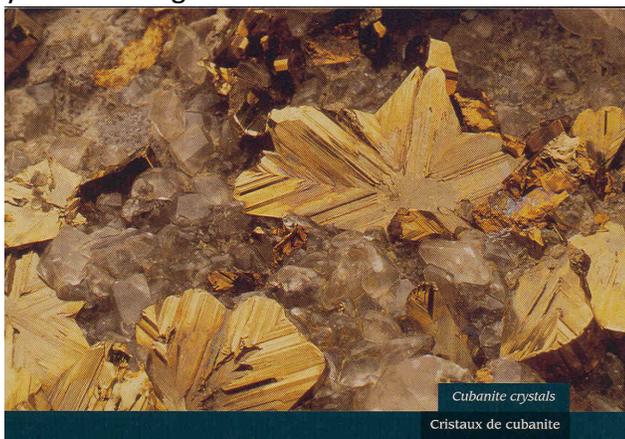


Postcard from the Pierre & Marie Curie University mineral museum in Paris depicting an incredible cerussite crystal (JB)



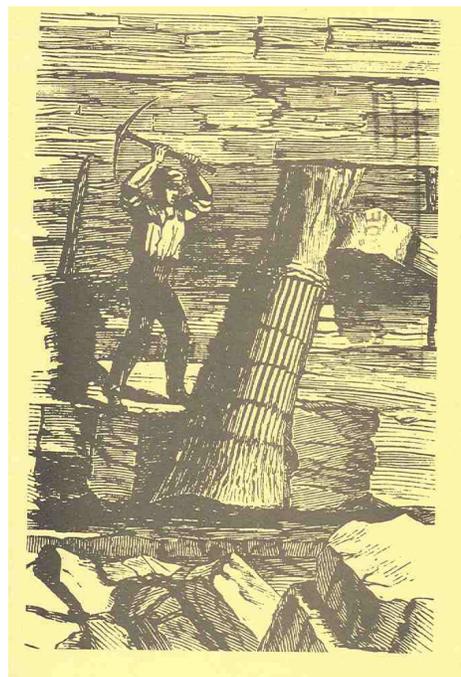
Vintage postcard of Mammoth Hot Springs, Yellowstone (JB)

Postcards with images of rocks and minerals may not be too common but there are several sets out there from mineral museums so check out the gift shops at any mineral museums you're visiting.



Cubanite crystals postcard produced by the Mineralogical Association of Canada (JB)

I haven't come across too many postcards depicting fossils so far but presumably the larger paleontological museums would produce and sell cards featuring some of their prize specimens. If anyone has some they would like to share with our readers please let me know. By chance I did come across a card in a dealer's inventory that used to belong to one of the founders of the Mineral Society, the late Dr. George Lammers. This card is from the early 1960's and depicts a fossil tree at the Joggins site in Nova Scotia.



1960's vintage postcard from the famous Joggins fossil site in Nova Scotia (JB)

As was the case with mineral and related stamps, the cost of modern and vintage postcards is generally minimal. Modern postcards are typically cost only 25 cents to a dollar. The 1960's Joggins card cost about one dollar and the most expensive cards I have come across on Internet sites are in the \$15-20 range.

Postcard collectors generally recommend keeping your cards in acid-free, non-PVC clear pages that are commercially available for storing postcards in binders. These pages typically hold four postcards per page. It is important that the cards not be exposed to excessive moisture or heat. A temperature of about 20° C is best for your cards and the relative humidity should be about 45. As is the case with any prints, they should not be exposed to direct sunlight for any appreciable length of time or they will fade. Smoking and excessive handling can also damage cards and other printed memorabilia.

### **DUES REMINDER**

If you haven't paid your 2010-11 dues yet, please do so either at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting or by cheque. Cheques can be mailed to our treasurer Jack Bauer at the MSM's mailing address on page 2.