



# THE MINERAL VEIN

Official Newsletter of

## THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

November 2015

### FOSSIL OF RODENT-LIKE SPECIES DISCOVERED

By Victoria Gill Science reporter, BBC News

The fossil of a large rodent-like creature that lived along with dinosaurs and was found in the San Juan Basin in northwest New Mexico.



This new species of rodent-like mammal that survived the event which wiped out the dinosaurs looked like a squirrel with a straight tail, according to a picture provided by the researchers. It belonged to a family of mammals believed to have grown to be about the size of a large beaver or bigger.



Kimbetopsalis simmonsae, as the newly-discovered species has been named, was a plant-eating creature that resembled a beaver.

Carissa Raymond, a student in the team of Dr Stephen Brusatte from the University of Edinburgh found the fossil while prospecting at a site in New Mexico, US.

“We realised pretty quickly that this was a totally new type of mammal that no-one has seen before,” Brusatte, lead researcher on the study, told BBC News. Researchers noticed in particular the animal’s teeth, which were specialised for plant-chewing, with complicated rows of cusps at the back and incisors at the front for gnawing.



They named the species after Kimbeto Wash, the area in the New Mexico badlands where it was found. “The other part of the name – psalis – means ‘cutting shears’ and is in reference to the blade-like teeth,” Brusatte said.

This group of now-extinct mammals, collectively known as multituberculates, originated alongside the dinosaurs, during the Jurassic and thrived for more than 100 million years until they were apparently superseded by rodents.

“During the Jurassic these animals were all pretty small. Then the asteroid hit, wiped out the dinosaurs and suddenly – in geological terms – this [group of animals] started to proliferate and get bigger,” said Brusatte.

## THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

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

[mineralsocietyofmanitoba.weebly.com](http://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.

## Table of Contents

NEW SPECIES OF FOSSIL DISCOVERED.....	1
UPCOMING EVENTS.....	2
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING / SHOW & TELL..	3

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 4, 2015: Regular Meeting of the Mineral Society of Manitoba** room P47 (Lower/Planetarium level) in the Manitoba Museum 7:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Gordon Hill from the Manitoba Archaeological Society. He will talk about the importance of stones to the early cultures of Manitoba

**November 18 to 20, 2015: Manitoba Mining and Mineral Convention** at the RBC Convention Centre. Three days of professional networking, information sharing and diverse showcase of ground-breaking geoscience activities, exploration highlights, development projects, product and service innovation and much more. The MSM will have a booth on site. Hours for the show are Wednesday 12 to 8 pm, Thursday, 8:30 am to 5 pm, Friday & 8:30 am to 4 pm.

**December 6, 2015: Annual Christmas Party.** Save the date and mark your calendar for our annual Christmas Party to be held at the Garden City Canad Inn. We will be in the Ambassador Rom at the Aaltos restaurant from 4:00 till 9:00 p.m. Prime rib buffet supper begins at 5:30 and is \$20 per person (\$17 for seniors 55+ )



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.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SHOW & TELL

By Marjorie Turton

Our Annual General Meeting was held on October 2nd and was attended by 23 members.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 pm.

Jacques Bourgeois read the minutes of the previous meeting. Marjorie Turton made motion to accept minutes as read. Iris Moehring seconded the motion. Carried.

Lisa Grabowski distributed copies of the treasure's report. Lisa made the motion to accept the treasure's report. Seconded by Mavis Bedford. Carried.

We then proceeded with the election of Officers. The following names were put forwards for nomination:

**President:** Jacques Bourgeois

**Vice President:** Joshua Myers

**Treasurer and Membership:** Lisa Grabowski

**Secretary:** Marjorie Turton

**Members at Large:** Marion Foster, Mavis Bedford and Yvonne Searle

A motion was made by Marjorie Turton to accept the slate of candidates. Seconded by Mavis. Carried. The slate of Officers was accepted by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40 pm.



TJ, Leanne and Justyn with their minerals collected in Souris, Thunder Bay, BC and Montana



Don posing proudly with his huge amethyst from Thunder Bay



Fossilized leaf, agates and fossilized wood collected in Souris by Drew, Meghan and Charles

(Continued on page 4)

## AGM AND SHOW & TELL (CONTINUED)

The show and tell portion of the evening revealed some great minerals collected this summer during the field trips organised by the Mineral Society as well as during personal trips.



Ordovician fossils collected by Lisa and Robert at the Narrows

## FIELD TRIP REPORT

By Marjorie Turton and Jack Bauer

Here are some pictures taken at the Gillis Quarries field trip. Everyone was able to gather some fossils from the rubble pile. It was a beautiful day, the sun was bright and hot. Some people managed to get quite a bit of sun which became noticeable the next day. George Green and Eva Pip were quite good at finding fossils and they were very generously giving fossils to the newbies.



Rubble pile at the Gillis Quarries



Some of the participants. Big smiles and great finds!

Two weeks ago, Jack was able to make it to Holland to check the accessibility. It was found that the river and the environment of the area had changed considerably. I will have to revisit the area, as I was unable to find the Pyrite collecting sites. I still hope to revisit Holland for another look, weather permitting .