



# THE MINERAL VEIN

Official Newsletter of

## THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA SEPTEMBER 2019



*Amber Lenticular Rosettes; type L which is found in the upper unit of Agassiz unit one and two in the Red River Floodway, similar to the many collected at this year's Selenite dig. The three Selenite's published in this newsletter were similar to the types of crystals that were collected in this years dig.*

### SEPTEMBER PRESENTATION

By: Marty Lewadney

He will be speaking about the other benefits of Mineral collecting. Besides finding that rare one of a kind specimen, that makes you feel good, there are other factors that make this hobby interesting, exciting and educational. Mineral collecting can take you to places that you may not normally go to, or you may meet other interesting people with similar interests as you. Most mineral collectors are also world travelers and always have interesting and exciting stories to tell.

**OCTOBER** is our elections for our new executive. This club is a membership driven group, so come out and show your support. We are always looking for extra help organizing field trips and events.

### RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, REMINDER

Memberships are due in October for the 2019-2020 field trip season. Those members that have just signed up for the 2018-2019 summer collecting season are signed up for the 2019-2020 season and dues are due in October 2020.

### OAK HAMMOCK MARSH, ARCHAEOLOGY, ROCKS AND MINERALS WEEK END

We have been invited again this year, as displayers, at their public relations event. We will be given our usual spot in the Hammock study room, with 2 tables and a place for our Black light display.

For members who are interested, this an excellent volunteer opportunity to work with an experienced member and potentially meet and attract new members. Contact; Jack Bauer

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Remember that the MSM is a non profit group, which is managed by members/volunteers just like you. This group has many important connections and a huge potential for networking and meeting like minded people.

Support your club and support your community.

## THE MINERAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

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### The 2018-2019 Executive:

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#### Vice President

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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

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:** September 04, 2019 starting at 7pm at the Manitoba Museum. Marty Lewadney will present on the Philosophy, psychology and pragmatics of Mineral Collecting. Do you have a favourite mineral in your collection that you would like to talk about or would like more information about?

**OCTOBER MEETING:** October 02, 2019 starting at 7pm at the Manitoba Museum. Annual general meeting (AGM). Show and tell and Rock Doctor.

**NOVEMBER MEETING:** Will be held on November 6th starting at 7pm at the Manitoba Museum. Our guest speaker, back by popular demand will be Dr. Eva Pip and she will be speaking about "fake minerals".

**DECEMBER MEETING:** In lieu of our meeting we are having a holiday celebration on Sunday December 01, 2019 at Canad Inns Polo Park from 4-8pm in Ambassador K. Dinner will be buffet from Alto's, buffet cost is \$19.99.



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.

**LUCY PEGMATITE TRIP SUMMARY** July 20, 2019; guided by Bill Hood

This trip gathered 9 enthusiastic members at the Petro Can on Deacon's corner. We then drove about 40 minutes where we picked up Bill Hood who was waiting for us on Hwy # 1 and #12. After driving for another 15 (approximately) minutes, where we parked on the west side of Hwy #1. The day looked promising with partly sunny/cloudy skies and a forecast of temperatures in the mid 20's. The first portion of the trip was easy on the Quad trails and shade from the tall trees.



*The brave members that survived the cedar bog they had to hike through, on the way to the Lucy claim. Thanks to Bill Hood (second from the left) for showing us the path less traveled*

The middle portion, which was the half kilometer of Cedar Bog, proved to be more challenging. A few of the members ended up with boots full of water, but they endured and made it to the Lucy claim. The advice I can offer from traversing many bogs/swamps in my younger days, is stay on the clumps of grass/moss. Plan your route, which side of the trail has the most grass/swamp cover? Yes the swamp grass/moss will give /sink a few inches and it will slow you down, but it is the only way to keep your feet dry, or invest in hip waders. The reason we shouldn't step into the water holes, is because we don't know how deep the hole is, or bring a walking stick, to check. After the Cedar Bog, everybody was ready for a breather in the shade. Some members added extra bug repellent. The biting bugs were out, but not as bad as I had anticipated

*Lucy Pegmatite field trip summary cont.*



*Bill Hood, Iris and Peter are looking at a Spodumene pile*

This complex pegmatite outcrop, was difficult to see, as it was covered with years of growth. Bill hood showed us a pile of white Spodumene that had some nice crystal faces. However, there were also many Pegmatite boulders, strewn about the area that contained many muscovite mica books in the 2' range. Other noted collectable minerals were apatite, Schroll (black tourmaline) and Indicolite (blue tourmaline). Fluorite was not seen on this trip. Much of our time was spent uncovering and scouring the Pegmatite boulders for collectable specimens. It was decided by the group to visit the Artdon Pegmatite on another trip. It was also agreed upon that this type of trip would be best suited in the Fall, with the cooler temperatures and less biting bugs

**SOURIS, MANITOBA; MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>;** Was a well attended trip this year, with 17 eager members coming out to enjoy the day collecting agates and petrified wood.



*Members at the Souris pit which is in the back ground of the photo*

*Souris field trip summary cont.*

It was a sunny day with temperatures in the mid 20ies and the biting bugs were minimal. A large piece of petrified wood (about 90/100lbs) was found and was available to whoever had the strength to pick it up and haul it to their vehicle.



*TJ was the lucky winner of the large Petrified wood*

**RED RIVER SELENITE DIG SUMMARY, Aug 7-Aug 20, 2019**

The Red River Selenite dig was a big hit this year. More than 130 members attended the site over a period of two weeks, which averaged out to more than 9 members attending per day, which was the maximum that the pit could comfortably hold.

I also mentioned to those members who were listening, that crystals in the top layer are an indication of what can be found underneath. That is why it is important to skewer the clay before you dig with the shovel. Only after, you have skewered an area and located all of the crystals in that area and marked them, will it be safe to dig with a shovel. Many crystals were destroyed because some members felt it took too much time to be bothered with that aspect of the dig. But this is part of the learning experience.



*Type T2 Rosette*

*Selenite dig summary cont.*

We also got lucky with the weather, considering we were experiencing a bit of a heat wave, prior to the site opening up on August the 7th. Fortunately the temperatures during the dig were in the low to mid 20ties during the two week period. Some members brought out beach umbrellas to provide some shade, when the sun was shining.



*Selenite Dig 2019, members in the pit collecting this picture was taken about half way through the dig*

The center of the pit was covered up with tarps and large plastic sheets, to keep the clay from drying out too much. We did get some rain on a couple of days/nights, but it was not enough to shut down the site. The brown clay was exposed throughout the pit and the top 4 inches yielded many crystals. However most of these crystals were discarded, either because they were too small, less the 1.5 inches, or because they were unaware the crystals in the silty zone were even collectable. Fortunately, one of the dealers/members noticed this and spent most of the day going through the discarded material. He ended up with about two large boxes full of tradeable specimens.



*Solitary B2, ball with fine lenticular protruding blades*

**RED RIVER FLOODWAY SELENITE DIG**— *By Jack Bauer*

An interesting feature of the pit this year was a shear zone that virtually divided the pit in two. In the back of the pit the brown clays were divided by many silty layers. Here the selenites were distributed in layers, within or just beneath the silty layers and near the top of the clay layers. The producing layers, were about a foot apart. After going through the last silty layer the clay changed from brown to a dark gray/blue.



*(fig.1) This picture shows the brown clay with skewer marks locating three crystals. The one in the foreground shows the blades.*

The brown silty clays produced mainly amber lenticular rosettes and as we progressed into the blue/gray clays, the Selenite's became lighter in color, to the point of becoming water clear. As well, the crystals were no longer found in layers, but in clusters and in somewhat vertical zones, trending almost parallel to the shear zone. Once we became aware of these growth trends, collecting became much easier. Many crystals were collected by the enthusiastic members. Most of them were Amber bladed Selenite's and what I refer to as golden bladed Selenite's.

It was brought to my attention, that there seemed to be some confusion about how these crystals were described and where the Selenite bearing clays originated from. Research will be ongoing with existing information, to clarify these misunderstandings and publish finds in a later newsletter. **A BIG THANK YOU** to Jack Bauer for organizing the Selenite Dig and to those members who helped open/close the pit it every day.

*Part of the information referenced in this publication is from the Department of Geological Sciences*

*Selenite dig summary cont.*

The crystal in the foreground, just beneath the keys in **(Fig.1)**, for scale, shows the outline of a crystal and the tips of some blades, protruding through the clay and marking the center of the crystal. This outline closely relates to the size of the crystal. This picture also demonstrates how the Selenite's are clustered together, with one above and one in the lower right, that is circled. This means that the crystal in the foreground will have to be removed first, then the one above and then the crystal in the lower right, in that order.



In the front portion of the pit located near the Canadian flag in the picture above, the silty layers were not as evident throughout, except for the top layer that trended through the apparent shear zone to the back of the pit. The brown layer was thicker and it was difficult to distinguish where the gray/blue zone started? A change in the crystalline growth was a good indication of the change in color and chemistry of the clay.



*Second last day of the dig and the members are still smiling and showing the back of the Selenite pit*