

Fredericksburg Rockhounds



WHAT COULD BE IN THIS ROCK???

Our July 4 program will be presented by our very own **Lee Adams!** It should be a very exciting program indeed as he will be presenting a short video about the Kemmerer, Wyoming fish fossils. Not only will we be watching a video, but Lee will be bringing three rocks that he will crack open to hopefully disclose it's secrets—maybe a fish or two!!



The fossil shale dates between 53.5 to 48.5 million years old, so we will be the first humans to see them, providing there's a fish inside!!!

I don't know if this is the place where

Lee visited, but the site I obtained this information from is the Warfield quarry, which is a 30-minute drive on dirt roads from Kemmerer, that charges \$30 for one hour, or \$75.00 for a 4-hour stint. It is advised that you take food, water, sunscreen [and collection containers], as the quarry is just that, a quarry, and doesn't provide anything [except an outhouse and tools] From the photos, it looks like you're on the moon!!

For more information, visit this web-site:

www.fossilsafari.com

See you there,
Karen Anderson



Happy



Independence Day!

ANNOUNCEMENT:

There will be an executive meeting at 6:00... one hour before the regular meeting. All officers please plan to be there.

The Prez Says

Time flies when we are having fun. Seems like only yesterday I was at the picnic... but that was weeks ago. I still remember the delicious Bar-B-Q. Thanks to our VP **Tom Carswell and Judy**, for bringing it and all the other necessary stuff to eat it with. The slight breeze we had this year seemed to blow many of the flies away... hope that is always the case.

I have been told that Lee Adams will be giving a program at the July meeting. It will be about fossil fish... should be interesting, but I wonder if Lee will provide any recipes for cooking them. 😊 You know me, I'm not a rockhound, but I do know food.

Speaking of food, Tom and Judy Carswell will bringing leftover picnic meat to the July meeting. Members are encouraged to bring other snacks to share.

Andy

The road to a friend's house is never long.



Fredericksburg Rockhounds Minutes, June, 2016

We had our annual picnic with no business meeting in June, so there are no minutes.

Safety Matters – Terribly Toxic Treasures

by Ellery Borow, Safety Chair

Tightly tucked toward the top of our trinket trunks are treasures too toxic to touch, tempting us though as they tease our thoughts.

Yes, it's true! Tossed throughout our treasure trunks are things that are toxic to the touch and taste, even in this totally tantalizing, yet tranquil, task of teaching there are terrors taxing my task.

Well, enough of these terrible, Thesaurus taxing "t's". The message this month is a mention that there are dangers lurking among our mineral treasures and what to do about that. Think for a moment, if you will, about the chemical compositions of some of the minerals we collect—autunite, arsenopyrite, cinnabar, betafite, thorite, cuprosklo-dowskite, malachite, even beach shells for the jewelry we make have within them chemistries that, under certain conditions of working, handling, or storage, can present concerns about their part in maintaining our health. Think of the conditions in which we find our mineral treasures—conditions that hide biting, stinging insects, or rash-causing plants, or offer precarious physical conditions which may impact ones health.

Our hobby is associated with great joys but also has within it certain dangers with which we should exercise substantial care and caution. There are minerals that should not be touched with bare hands and fingers. There are minerals that should not be worked dry. There are minerals that produce slivers that, oh so easily, penetrate the skin. There are minerals of a radioactive nature as well. Each of those situations requires certain protective measures.

We encounter many specimens of fauna and flora along the way as we walk to our favorite collecting localities. Many of those same fauna and ora are ones which bite, sting or scratch us. Some things just lay in wait to dig into our delicate hides, or scratch and tear us. We don't usually encounter hiding tigers or crouching dragons on our trips but those pesky little eight and six legged things sure can mess with our enjoyments.

—Continues on next page



What is a body to do to protect oneself? you asked! We have a hobby based on sharing, giving, and teaching! Most of the hobby's enthusiasts out there, ones I've met over the years, follow those practices in all ways. There are folks in our clubs who have all manner of experiences with our hobby's related dangers and hazards. What I would like to offer here is a thought for your consideration. I would like to offer a suggestion that we encourage our members with the most experience to share, give, and teach not just about their knowledge with rocks, minerals, and fossils, but, also share, give, and teach what they have learned about being safe—safe mineral handling, safe storage, safe caring and feeding of our treasures, safe traipsing on quarry roads, safe avoidance of biting insects and so on.

I'd like to broaden the sharing approach of our hobby to all things safety. Indeed, if your club does not have a safety coordinator, I would recommend your investigation of the benefits to your club with having a dedicated safety person. And, if you already have such a dedicated person in your club, I applaud your forethought! If you have a safety coordinator making safety a fun, interesting, and a learning experience, you are well ahead of the safety curve!

Please be safe, and think safety. Also, please mind those legless critters as well, after all, we all have a place on this Earth and we need to be mindful about sharing it with them.

From AFMS Newsletter – May 2016



Wadene Lyle's injuries

Wadene Lyle suffered serious injuries on June 1st as the result of a fall at home. These included a broken hip, a broken leg, and 3rd degree burns. Wadene is now recuperating at the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Institute of San Antonio (RIOSAs), which is located at 9119 Cinnamon Hill, San Antonio, TX 78240 (210-691-0737). Our prayers and hopes for a speedy recovery are extended to her during this difficult time.

—*Glenn Thompson*

OUR SOCIAL COMMITTEE

We like to keep up to date on members who have had significant events in their lives, such as earning a degree or promotion, receiving an award, getting married, etc.; or needing some kind of assistance, or having a serious illness, injury or death in the family.

If you know of an event for yourself or one of the other members which you feel ought to be recognized in our newsletter and at the next meeting, (and/or via special email if it's urgent), **please contact Glenn Thompson**. He can be reached at 830-990-4521 (landline), 830-992-7443 (cellphone), uffda@beecreek.net, or U.S. mail at 7542 North State Highway 16, Fredericksburg, TX 78624.



JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS PAGE



Introducing a Young Mineral Collector, Hannah P.



Hannah P. is 14 years old and is from New York State. She starts 8th grade this year.* She has a lot of interests including writing and drawing, swimming, riding her bike and collecting minerals.

Hannah's dad is a mineral collector, too. Hannah has two older brothers, but they are not interested in minerals at all. Hannah, however, does collect minerals and likes to display them in her room. She has a lot of specimens that her dad gave to her. She also has one very special specimen of pyrite that was given to her by Mr. Bob Jones. Mr. Jones is a well-known mineralogist and writer. He writes articles every month for *Rock & Gem* magazine. One August a couple years ago, Hannah visited the East Coast Gem & Mineral Show in Springfield, Massachusetts. While there she met Mr. Jones who surprised her by giving her this beautiful cluster of pyrite crystals. It turns out that pyrite is Hannah's

favorite mineral! She has over 35 mineral specimens in her collection and hopes to collect more as she gets older.

Here are pictures of Hannah with part of her collection, and holding her special pyrite specimen. She also likes to collect seashells.



I asked her, "Hannah, what do you like best about minerals?" She told me, "It's fun to learn about them." "Have you ever gone to a rock shop to learn and maybe buy some minerals?" Hannah said, "I went to rock shops in South Dakota this summer when I visited my Uncle Dana." Thank you, Hannah, for sharing your collection and your thoughts with us.

* Update: Hannah is now 19 years old and attends the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York.

From Mini Miners Monthly 9/15, with permission.

Minerals Around the House

Have you ever wondered what minerals you might find in your kitchen at home? Probably not. I found an article about light bulbs a few days ago when I was on the computer. I had not realized that the glass for an incandescent light bulb is melted powdered **Quartz** sand. The part that screws into the socket is mostly **Copper** and the little filament that gets hot and glows so bright is made out of **Tungsten**. I did more studying and found out that there are a lot of minerals that can be found in your kitchen. The same Quartz that is used to make a light bulb is also used to make drinking glasses.

Iron is used in cast iron pans, but iron is also one of the minerals used to make steel. Iron is even mixed with **Chromium** to make stainless steel. That means that most of the pots and pans in your kitchen probably have a lot of Iron in them. Most of your silverware is probably stainless steel. Is there an **Aluminum** can of soda in your refrigerator? Aluminum comes from the mineral **Bauxite**. The cans of soup and vegetables in the pantry are called tin cans but they are really steel cans with a thin layer of **Tin** on the inside. Tin comes from **Cassiterite**. Not only is Copper found in light bulbs, it is also used as wire to let the electricity go to the lights, the stove and refrigerator, and the coffee pot. Some pans even have Copper bottoms. **Teflon** is the coating on non-stick pans. Teflon has a lot of **Fluorine** in it. Fluorine comes from **Fluorite**. Fluorite glows when ultraviolet light shines on it but my non-stick pans don't glow.

Halite is the mineral that we get **salt** from. Not all salt comes from Halite, but it is safe to say that most of the salt we eat comes from Halite. And we can't forget the **clay** used to make ceramic plates, cups, and bowls. Almost all clay has **kaolin** as its base mineral group. The kaolin group includes **Kaolinite** and **Nacrite**. There are lots of minerals that you might have in your kitchen. You might want to look around the kitchen and make a list of the other minerals that you find. Or try another room in your house.

From Gritty Greetings 6/16, including the following Word Search

Here is a little Word Search puzzle that has some of the minerals you might find in your kitchen.

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| L | A | P | O | H | A | L | I | T | E | A | C |
| A | N | O | R | I | C | L | A | T | M | C | R |
| B | M | U | S | P | Y | G | I | B | A | H | Y |
| R | Q | R | A | R | E | R | E | S | N | R | S |
| A | U | U | E | M | O | R | S | Y | E | O | O |
| D | A | B | A | U | X | I | T | E | T | M | B |
| O | R | Y | L | Q | T | R | O | T | S | I | E |
| R | T | F | U | E | O | E | P | I | G | U | R |
| I | Z | I | R | H | O | P | A | M | N | M | Y |
| T | U | I | T | I | N | P | Z | A | U | O | L |
| E | T | A | G | A | G | O | L | D | T | L | H |
| E | N | I | R | T | I | C | L | A | Y | D | C |

- Bauxite
- Cassiterite
- Chromium
- Copper
- Fluorite
- Halite
- Iron
- Quartz
- Tin
- Tungsten

Mark Your Calendars...

Jul 29-Aug 1—ALBANY, OREGON: 2015 AFMS/NFMS meeting and WAMSI show— Treasurers of the Northwest; Willamette Agate and Mineralogical Society; Linn County Fair and Expo Building; 3700 Knox Butte Road; Fri. 10 am-6 pm, Sat. 10 am-6 pm, Sun. 10 am-4 pm; Admission is \$4/day or \$10 for a 3 day pass, 12 and under free; **AFMS meeting is July 28, 2016**; contact Janice Van Cura, (541) 753-2401; email: jvancura@peak.org; Web sites: www.wamsi.org and www.amfed.org/

Jul 30-31—FARMERS BRANCH, TX: Annual show; Cowtown Gem, Mineral, Glass, Jewelry & Art Show, Brookhaven College Geotechnology Institute, Building H; 3939 Valley View Lane; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; contact Steve Shearin, 860 Stafford Station Dr. , Saginaw, TX 76131, (817)-777-1997; e-mail: steve.l.shearin@lmco.com; Web site: cera-fw.org/gem-mineral-glass/

Aug 27-28—JASPER, TX: Annual show; Pine Country Gem & Mineral Society, The Event Center; 6258 Highway 190 West; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10 -5; Adults/Seniors \$3.00, Students/Children free; contact Jonetta Nash, 737 FM 254 South, Jasper, TX 75951, (409)-384 3974; e-mail: jonetta.nash@yahoo.com; Web site: www.pinecountry-gms.org

Oct 8-9—TEMPLE, TX: Annual show; Tri-City Gem and Mineral Society, Mayborn Convention Center; 3303 North 3rd Street; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$5, Children \$2; contact Leslie Russell, 5 Fir Court, Belton, TX 76513, (254)-493-7244; email: trinity4112@me.com website: www.tricitygemmineral.org [*As we go to press, their website is under re-construction*].

Oct 21-23—AUSTIN, TX: Annual show; Austin Gem and Mineral Society, Palmer Events Center; 900 Barton Springs Rd; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$8, Seniors \$7, Children ages 13-18 \$2 / 12 and under free; Friday is Youth Education Day w/field trips. contact Chip Burnette, 6719 Burnet Ln, Austin, TX 78757, (512)-458-9546; e-mail: showchairman@austingemandmineral.org; Web site: www.gemcapers.com

For more shows at later dates, or outside Texas, visit www.rockngem.com/



Origin of Mineral Names

The familiar ending 'ite', used with most mineral names, goes back to ancient times. The 'ites' and 'itis' was added by the Greeks, and later by the Romans, to ordinary words that denoted qualities, uses, constituents, or localities of minerals and rocks. Thus, siderite was made from the Greek work for iron, and hematite was made from the word for blood, because of the red color of the powdered mineral. All the present kinds of mineral names, except names of persons, were used in classical days.

The first mineral to be named after an individual was prehnite, which in 1783 was named by Abraham G. Werner after its discoverer, Colonel von Prehn, who had brought the first specimens to Europe from the Cape of Good Hope. This method of naming a mineral has now become the most widely favored.

From Northeast LA G&M Soc. 02/10, via SCFMS Newsletter 06/10



Joe Mechler, June 6
 Chardonnay Switzer, June 7
 Shelly Verstuyft, June 8
 Sandra Switzer, June 10
 Karen Anderson, June 11
 Sam Rodgers, June 12
 Larry Spillers, June 13

Bill Fair, June 15
 Xia Sly, June 20
 Dan Moreno, June 23
 Linn Brady, June 24
 Claudette Hollis, June 29
 Frank Rowell, June 29

The July birthstone is Alexandrite, Pearl or Moonstone; the flower is Rose or Honeysuckle

NOT GETTING OUR EMAILS??

If you're among the 20± members who have been receiving paper copies of our newsletters, but no emails providing a link to the online version, then we don't know your email address—and **you're missing a lot!** The online version is in **color**, and has **live links** to the websites and email addresses it mentions: just click on the links and go directly to them.

Also, you're missing **important announcements**, such as field trip updates, event date changes, new training classes, and other late-arriving news which can't wait until the next newsletter.

If you have good internet access, **PLEASE give us your email address.** Our newsletter emails won't clutter or slow down your email software: they don't have the newsletter attached, just a link to the online copy. If you still need paper copies mailed to you, let us know when you send us your email address.

Bill & Cheryl Wildfong, wildfong@windstream.net



Frank Rowell & Pat Felts frank@EnchantedRocksAndJewelry.com

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Your hobby-related ad here:
\$25 for 12 months

Mail a business card, with a check made out to
 Fredericksburg Rockhounds, to the editors:

Bill & Cheryl Wildfong
 342 W Water St
 Kerrville TX 78028-4281



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Purpose of the Fredericksburg Rockhounds:

To share knowledge and appreciation of gems, minerals, fossils, and other natural wonders, and the art of jewelry making. We do this through educational monthly meetings, field trips, an annual gem, mineral, & fossil show, and donations to schools. We're affiliated with the American Federation of Mineral Societies, and the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.



Membership and Meetings:

We meet at 7:00 P.M. on the first Monday of each month at the Golden Hub Senior Center, 1009 N Lincoln, Fredericksburg, Texas (except in June, when we have our annual picnic). See map, below.

Annual dues are \$3 for juniors (under 19 years), \$8 for individuals, and \$15 for families; due in January.

Newsletter correspondence and newsletter advertising: Bill & Cheryl Wildfong, 342 West Water St, Kerrville, TX 78028; phone: 830-896-8940, email: wildfong@windstream.net

All other correspondence: Fredericksburg Rockhounds, 110 N. Milam PMB 197, Fredericksburg TX 78624

Visit our website at fredericksburgrockhounds.org for more club info, field trip news, club photos, and lots of interesting hobby-related website links.

CLUB OFFICERS for 2016:

President: Andy Anderson, 830-792-3560
1st Vice President: Tom Carswell, 830-792-2160
2nd Vice President: Karen Anderson, 830-792-3560
Past President: Frank Rowell, 325-247-1987
Treasurer: John Roup, 830-896-4955
Secretary: Shelly Verstuyft, 830-998-7350

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Programs: Karen Anderson, 830-792-3560
Field Trips: Patti Felts, 325-247-1987
and Sam Rodgers, 210-240-7721
Hospitality: Susan Olson, 830-997-8516
Social: Glenn Thompson, 830-990-4521
Membership: Brenda Smith, 830-895-9630
Historian: Sara Verstuyft, 830-998-7350
Media Equipment: John Crone, 830-669-2639
Annual Show: Jim Gedeon, 830-685-3342
Newsletter: Bill & Cheryl Wildfong (see above)



Newsletter Articles and Club Info

Articles for next month's newsletter must be received by the **20th** of this month.

Send them to Bill & Cheryl Wildfong at wildfong@windstream.net

A copy of the Club **MEMBERSHIP LIST** is available, **TO MEMBERS ONLY**, via email (or paper mail if necessary). Contact Virginia Adian at v.adian@gvtc.com or 830-755-6105

The Club **CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS** are posted on our website: fredericksburgrockhounds.org

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