

**NEWS**

# Fredericksburg Rockhounds



## SEASONS GREETINGS EVERYONE!!!



As **December 5** is our Christmas party, we will be enjoying a night of fun, great food and just having a wonderful time! We meet **one hour earlier at 6:00 pm**, and we eat as soon as the food is set up!

President Andy presented our club with a **gift exchange** idea, and, several of us raised our hands who wanted to take part in this. So, those of us who chose to put our names in the can drew a name and will be exchanging Christmas gifts. Those who chose not to participate will have to watch the rest of us have fun opening ours!! I, for one, am looking forward to this!! To the rest: BAH HUMBUG!!!!

Please bring your favorite dish to share, and as President Andy said, maybe bring a copy of your recipe as someone may want it. You need to come hungry, because in the past, the food was unbelievably tasty!!

**DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR GIFT**, if you drew a name

We'll see you there!

*Karen Anderson*

## The Prez Says

Merry Christmas fellow rock hound club members.

Last month's program was one of the best we have ever had. **Thanks to Sara** for all the hard work she put into the presentation. It is refreshing to see a young person who has the enthusiasm that she has. If only more of our young people were more like Sara. I know her folks are proud of her... and I believe all of us are proud of her too. *Note to self: Keep Sara in mind for programs in the future.*

On another note... With only a little difficulty, all of the names in the metal can have been drawn by those members who wanted to be a part of the **gift exchange**. I plan to go out today and buy my gift for the person I picked. I'm still not sure if I will put my name on the gift tag as the giver of the gift... or

just let the person wonder. That is a choice each of us has to make. Another choice we must make is what to do if we get a 10-pound box of candy... do we share... or do we try to make it out to our car without giving up even one piece of candy? That is a tough one. Hope everyone enjoys the gift exchange so much that they want to do it again next year.

Don't forget to bring plenty of your food to the meeting. I know I plan to bring my big appetite. Until then, all the best, and in the words of Tiny Tim: God bless us every one.

*Andy Anderson*

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

## Fredericksburg Rockhounds Meeting Minutes, November 2016



President Andy Anderson started the meeting at 7:00. Karen Anderson introduced Sara Verstuyft and her presentation on dinosaurs in the Cretaceous America.

We then broke for snacks and door prizes. We had new members and guests. (I misplaced my notes and I'm sorry I can't remember names)

Jim Gedeon talked about the show and told us all the inside tables were taken. I think a few outside were still available.

Andy Anderson took names for a Christmas exchange to take place at the December party. That party will be the usual 1st Monday but starts at 6:00pm. Bring food to share!!

Treasury report: October 2016

Expenses	\$8.42
Income	\$3379.60
Checking	\$7469.82
CDs	\$8063.42
Cash on hand	\$2.00
Total	\$15535.24

Door prizes were numerous and will be listed next month.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Shelly Verstuyft, secretary*

# Amazing Rock Trivia

- Tourmalines and Quartz will develop an electrical charge when heated, and tourmaline jewelry will attract dust when displayed under hot lights.
- There is no such thing as “Jade” – green “jade” is one of two different minerals, Jadeite or nephrite. Jadeite is the more valuable of the two.
- The second most valuable color of jadeite is lavender.
- You can dig and pan for colored gemstones such as emerald, aquamarine, moonstones, garnet, citrine, amethyst, ruby, and sapphire at Gem Mountain in Spruce Pine, NC.
- There is a man made brilliant white stone called moissanite, which can fool a jewelry store diamond tester. (Depending on what type tester they have).
- The big “ruby” in the royal crown of England is actually a red spinel.
- Ivory imitations are carved from corozo nuts, tagua nuts, and duom palm nuts.
- If allowed to sit in moist or humid conditions too long, hematite jewelry has such a high iron content it will rust.
- Jet, made popular for use in jewelry by Queen Victoria in the 19th century, is actually a type of fossilized coal formed 180 million years ago from trees.
- It takes one to three years to grow a cultured pearl (or more).
- Goldstone is not a stone – it is a glass containing copper powder that gives it aventurescence (quick bright flashes of light).
- “Black Onyx” is actually orange and brown sardonyx that has been dyed black, and should be cleaned carefully to avoid removing the dye and dulling this porous quartz.
- Cultured pearls are made by inserting a small shell bead into an oyster or clam as an irritant, and waiting years for the shellfish to cover the bead with its luscious nacre.
- Amethysts can fade if exposed to too much sun.
- Historically, before science could tell minerals apart, all yellow stones were called “topaz”.
- Rubies were synthesized in the late 1800’s and sellers actually charged more for the synthetics than the natural rubies.
- Pearls, by law, must be called “cultured pearls” unless they are completely natural, and most pearls sold today are cultured.
- “Herkemer Diamonds” are actually double terminated quartz.
- “Smokey Topaz” is not topaz – it is actually brown quartz.
- Radiation causes diamonds to turn green.
- Some diamonds are artificially (and safely) irradiated to achieve a green color – but early on, before the process was refined, some greed diamonds were actually made radioactive, and are confiscated by the U.S. Government if found today.
- A new process has recently been developed to achieve a green color in diamonds using just pressure and heat.
- In ancient times, the term “sapphire” meant all blue stones, but usually lapis lazuli – which was considered the most expensive stone in the world.

*Author unknown. From The Rock Prattle 9/16*



## JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS PAGE

### Fourth Edition of our AFMS/FRA Badge Manual Now Posted!

by Jim Brace-Thompson, Future Rockhounds of America chair

I was appointed CFMS Juniors Activities Chair in 1998 and then AFMS Juniors Program Chair in 2003. I immediately set to work developing a nation-wide Badge Program modeled after the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Month-by-month in the AFMS Newsletter, I outlined ideas for badges, and—with approval from AFMS officers and generous support of the AFMS Endowment Fund, which I cannot thank enough—we began offering our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Program entirely free to affiliated clubs and societies nationwide in 2004.

At the time I indicated if the program proved successful, my goal was to update and expand it every 4 years. With well over 11,000 badges now awarded to kids nationwide, I'm happy to report we have proven successful! 558 kids have been awarded the Rockhound badge by earning at least 6 of the activity badges, and 26 kids have earned coveted Rock Star status by having earned each and every badge in the program. Their names are recorded on our AFMS Kids Corner website in Honor Rolls recognizing their achievements. (My sincere thanks to Marty Hart for his always helpful, cheerful, unflinching and consistent assistance with the AFMS website these many years.)

The first edition of my Badge Manual offered 9 badges and 53 activities. Staying true to plan, I've updated and expanded it in 2008 and 2012 (with a minor update in 2010), and I'm now pleased to report I have sent the 2016 edition to Marty to post on the [AFMS website](#). This 4th Edition offers 20 badges and 130 activities. As with past editions, many new activities were suggested by the junior leaders of local clubs. In fact, one of the badges introduced in our 3rd Edition was designed by a junior member, Rock Star Erica Nathan of Florida. Similarly, in our 4th Edition another junior member—Rock Star Jem Burch of California—suggested an “Elements” activity you'll now find as part of our Rocks & Minerals badge.

For the 4th Edition, I issued requests for new badge ideas via the AFMS and CFMS newsletters, and I thank the 22 people who responded with suggestions. There

were no overwhelming calls to add whole new badges. Some suggested adding Elements, Prospecting, and Beading badges, but because of manufacturing expenses a whole new badge incurs, I've opted instead to include these ideas as new activities within the existing badges for Rocks & Minerals, Gold Panning & Prospecting, and Lapidary Arts.



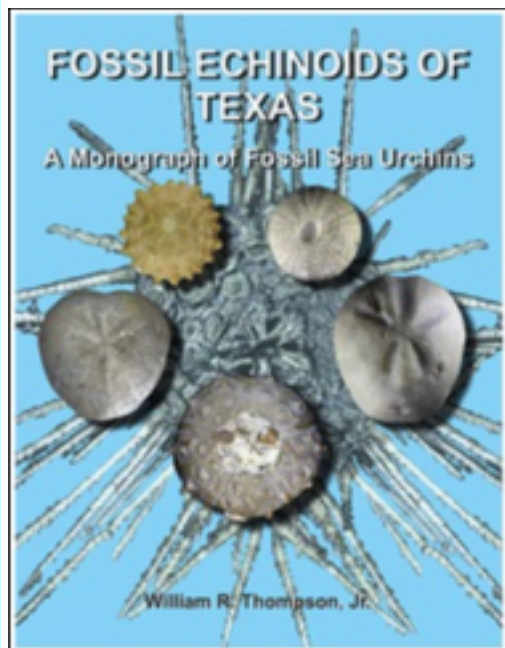
To enroll your kids in in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America, contact me (call 805-659-3577 or email [jbraceth@roadrunner.com](mailto:jbraceth@roadrunner.com)). All you need is a group of kids (up to age 18), a sponsoring club, a key contact person, and an application to FRA. (An application form is available on the [AFMS website](#).) Your club must be affiliated with the AFMS. The number of youths is not important: you can have as few as just 1 or 2—or as many as you can handle!

—Summarized from SCFMS Newsletter Nov-Dec 2016, and the [AFMS website](#). <—This link takes you to the badges page; the other two links take you to the Manual and the application form.



## Impressive New Fossil Book

Fossil Echinoids of Texas:  
A Monograph of Fossil Sea Urchins  
by William R Thompson



This book is a catalogue of all the currently known fossil echinoids from Texas, which numbers 237 species. It aspires to be as thorough and detailed as possible with descriptions and photos included for all species. All were photographed in high resolution color, with several views of each one.

The book has 414 pages and 1288 color photos. The price is \$39.95 plus shipping (plus tax for Texas addresses).

For details and ordering info, visit [www.echinoids.com](http://www.echinoids.com)

*We bought a copy and love it! —B&C*

## 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](mailto:uffda@beecreek.net), or U.S. mail at 7542 North State Highway 16, Fredericksburg, TX 78624.

# DO YOUR DUES



It's that time again! Please pay your 2017 dues at the next meeting. In spite of ever-increasing inflation, they're still only \$3 for juniors (under 19 years), \$8 for individuals, and \$15 for families.

Let us know if you have a new address, phone number, or email.

**Folks who have not paid their dues by the February meeting will be dropped from the membership list.**

If you can't come to a meeting, mail a check (made out to Fredericksburg Rockhounds) to John Roup, 1909 Summit Top Dr, Kerrville, TX 78028-8915. Thanks!

# Mark Your Calendars...

**Dec 2-4—EL PASO , TX:** Annual show; El Paso Mineral and Gem Society, Inc., El Maida Shriners Hall; 6331 Alabama; contact Louie Provencio, (915)-54-2717; email: [l1155@yahoo.com](mailto:l1155@yahoo.com); Web site: [www.epmgs.com](http://www.epmgs.com)

**Jan 21-22, 2017—FREDERICKSBURG, TX: 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Hill Country Gem and Mineral Show; Fredericksburg Rockhounds;** Lady Bird Johnson Park in the Pioneer Pavilion, 3 miles south of town on hwy 16; Free Admission. Hourly silent auction, hourly free door prizes, outstanding raffle prizes; minerals, fossils, geodes, stone carvings and jewelry from over 35 vendors; food service will be provided by award-winning Buzzie's Barbecue. For more info contact Jim Gedeon at [gedeonjim1@gmail.com](mailto:gedeonjim1@gmail.com) or 830-456-5419. website: [fredericksburgrockhounds.org](http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org).

**Jan 27-29—TYLER, TX:** Annual show; East Texas Gem and Mineral Society, Rose Garden Center; 420 Rose Park Dr; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$3, Students \$1. The nationally recognized Rock Food Table will be on display the entire show.; contact Keith Harmon, TX, (903)-316-2967; e-mail: [keithharmon19@yahoo.com](mailto:keithharmon19@yahoo.com); Web site: [etgms.com](http://etgms.com)

**Jan 27–Feb 12, 2017—TUCSON, AZ:** The famous annual “Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Showcase.”. Earth's gem and mineral riches are on display at over 40 venues unfurled all over town, for sale in huge circus tents, expo halls, hotels, warehouses, and in the city's fine Convention Center. For more information, including show guides, visit the [Tucson Gem & Mineral Showcase website](http://Tucson Gem & Mineral Showcase website).

**Feb 18, 2017—LLANO, TX: The second annual Texas Prospectors Get-to-Gather and Swap Meet Event;** 8:00 am – 5:00 pm at the Llano County Community Center, two miles west of Llano on CR 152. This fun, educational and free event is for prospectors, rock collectors, treasure hunters and metal detecting enthusiasts to get together and share ideas and experiences. There will be a limited number of vendors, and a swap meet outside (or inside if weather conditions are bad) for NON-COMMERCIAL individuals selling items related to the theme of the event. A silent auction will be held to benefit the historic Llano Red Top Jail. For more information, email Earl Theiss at [etheiss@verizon.net](mailto:etheiss@verizon.net) or Frank Rowell at [frank@enchantedrocksandjewelry.com](mailto:frank@enchantedrocksandjewelry.com). Web site: [www.prospectingtexas.com](http://www.prospectingtexas.com). Events page.

**Feb 25-26—PASADENA, TX:** Annual show; Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Society, Pasadena Convention Center; 7902 Fairmont Parkway; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults/Seniors \$7, Students \$3, Children: free; contact Sara Chelette, Houston, TX; e-mail: [temp3@mflan.com](mailto:temp3@mflan.com); Web site: [www.-clgms.org](http://www.-clgms.org)

**Feb 25-26—PLAINVIEW, TX:** Annual show; Hi-Plains Gem and Mineral Society, Ollie Liner Center; 2000 S Columbia; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$3; contact Bobby Shipman, 1616 Ennis St., Plainview, TX 79072, (806)-685-3748; e-mail: [bobcat22@suddenlink.net](mailto:bobcat22@suddenlink.net)

For more shows at later dates, or outside Texas, visit [www.rockngem.com/](http://www.rockngem.com/)



Lynn Harris, Dec 3  
 John Crone, Dec 6  
 Beth Brady, Dec 7  
 Don Pelikan, Dec 8  
 Judy Steele, Dec 8  
 Betty Hall, Dec 10  
 Jimmy Rutledge, Dec 10  
 Brian Greenstone, Dec 11  
 Devon MacDonald, Dec 12

Bill Morgenstern, Dec 12  
 Lola Post, Dec 12  
 Judy Adams, Dec 18  
 Kristi Gedeon, Dec 24  
 Kenneth Verstuyft, Dec 26  
 Glenda Montgomery, Dec 27  
 Darryl Dempsey, Dec 29  
 Judy Lackey, Dec 29  
 Robert Little, Dec 29

The December birthstone is Zircon, Turquoise or Tanzanite; the flower is Narcissus or Holly

## 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](mailto:wildfong@windstream.net)

Frank Rowell & Pat Felts [frank@EnchantedRocksAndJewelry.com](mailto:frank@EnchantedRocksAndJewelry.com)

### Enchanted Rocks & Jewelry

"The Llano Uplift Rock Shop"

85 Berry St., Llano, TX

Enchanted Rocks & Jewelry  
 805 Berry St.  
 Llano, Tx 78643  
 (325) 247-4137

Store Hours  
 Tuesday - Saturday  
 10am - 6pm  
 Or by Appointment  
[EnchantedRocksAndJewelry.com](http://EnchantedRocksAndJewelry.com)

[CLICK](#)

### Adams' Lapidary Hobby Shop

Lee & Judy Adams

Cut & polish all types & sizes of rock  
 Raw & finished rock  
 Used lapidary equipment  
 Cast Silver

736 Oak Ridge Drive  
 Bandera, TX 78003  
 830-796-8890  
[leeapeman93@yahoo.com](mailto:leeapeman93@yahoo.com)

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



## **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](mailto:wildfong@windstream.net)

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

Visit our website at [fredericksburgrockhounds.org](http://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, 830-456-5419  
**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](mailto: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](mailto:v.adian@gvtc.com) or 830-755-6105

The **Club CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS** are posted on our website: [fredericksburgrockhounds.org](http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org)

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