



At our March 6 meeting...

WHAT U.S. STONE WAS MADE NATIONALLY FAMOUS
IN JEWELRY DESIGNS BY TIFFANY & CO.?

The answer: ELLENSBURG BLUE AGATE from the
state of Washington!



Nick Zantner, above in photo, of the Central Washington
University, will be explaining how the Ellensburg Blue
Agates were formed and how the river, that no longer ex-

ists, deposited them for lucky rockhounds to
find! Curious? What caused this river to no
longer exist? You'll find the answer if you
attend the meeting.

The DVD was provided to me by John Crone
and is definitely worth watching. I've never
heard of this stone, and perhaps you haven't
either.

So, please join us as we listen to Nick Zent-
ner provide information about the Ellensburg
Blue Agate. Unfortunately, most collecting
locations today are on pri-
vate land and inaccessible to
the public.

Thanks, John, once again!

See you there,
Karen Anderson



The Prez says...

Greetings Club Members,



As this is being written I am suffer-
ing from my yearly bout with cedar
fever... or whatever it is in the air
that makes me feel like staying in
bed all day long. Many of us in this
area fall victim to this malady this
time of year. I have several pills to
take that offer some help... but I

have yet to find a cure. Judging by the amount of
tissues I go through each day, this annual attack
might be a sinister plot hatched by the tissue manu-
facturing people.

The February meeting was noteworthy for Jim
Gedeon's report on the Gem and Mineral Show.
Once again as I look back, the show was a big suc-
cess. Thanks to all of the club members who helped
out again this year. Of particular interest

Prez, continued—

to me this year was the news that the City of Fredericksburg gives us a break on the amount they charge us. I have thought and said for many years that the City should let us use the building for free because of all the folks we attract to the City. Think about the economic impact that an additional 2000 people would have on the City over a weekend. I take no credit for the lower fees that Jim told us about... but I am glad that we are getting the lower rate.

I'm going to have to end this now. Something has come up and I have to attend to it right away. Now where is my tissue box?

Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Andy Anderson
President

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

Rockhounds Minutes, January 2017

(There are no February minutes: our secretary and family had the flu)

Door Prizes:

Donor	Winner	Prize
Pedernales Peddler	Sue Burkhart	Petrified Wood
Lee Adams	Elijah Mitchell	Polished Agate
Lynn Post	Judy Adams	Brazilian Agate
Lynn Post	Steve Fleming	Chrysocola Slice
Lynn Post	Kevin Van Rhentergen	Rock & Gem Magazines
Steve Perez	Lee Adams	Chrysocola

We did not have a program this month but rather let Jim Gedeon have the floor to discuss the Annual Gem and Mineral show. In place of the games Sandra Switzer has helped with in the past Lee Adams will be doing demonstrations on cutting and faceting. The show hours on Sunday have been changed to 10-4, instead of 10-5. A collection of mineral specimens (15) donated by the Roups will be a raffle item. The Posts have donated a smaller collection of Texas specimens as well. There is a 15 pc jewelry collection donated by Patrice Gregory and Kathy Holloway. There will be an amethyst cathedral as well.

A proposal was made to increase the raffle ticket prices but it was voted on and left at the current price of 7 for \$5.00.

The Schulers retired and Eddie Harmon and David Davis will share the spot that was the Schulers.

The Vendors dinner starts at 5:00 pm and Susan Olson is in charge of running it.

There is also a proposed increase of pricing for the vendor spaces. Currently its roughly \$1.30 a sq ft and would likely be increased to \$1.50.

New members are Margaret Myers, Steven Fleming and Paula Mulford. Guests were Rachel Carruthers.

Tom Carswell motioned to adjourn and Judy Carswell 2nd.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Verstuyft, secretary



A word from the AFMS president, Ron Carman

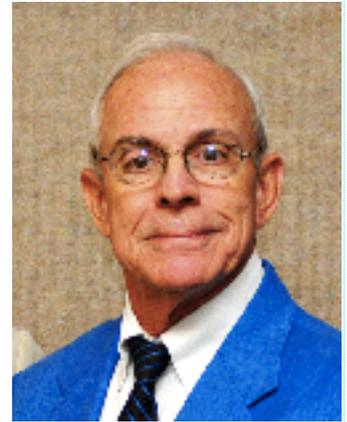
Be on the Lookout!

First, I want to thank all those who send me newsletters from various clubs and federations every month. I only regret that I can't reply to all of them, but I can show that I read at least some of them.

Last month's AFMS Newsletter contained an article written by Mark Nelson, Bulletin Editors' Advisory chair, about how thieves attempt to steal club funds by sending bogus e-mails pretending to be from the club president. The phony e-mail is sent to the treasurer, asking him or her to make an expenditure or funds transfer that wasn't expected or in the budget. Of course the real president doesn't know about this e-mail, and if any money is sent out, it disappears. I saw this same article reprinted in the California Federation newsletter, and all clubs and federations would do well to reprint it, since this trick has been attempted on our own AFMS treasurer, Pat LaRue. A few weeks ago she forwarded such an e-mail to me asking if I had really sent it, and of course I hadn't. Pat was alert, as usual, and recognized the signs of a bogus communication. A couple of weeks later she forwarded me another e-mail she had received asking if she could initiate a bank transfer for me. This particular scammer wasn't too careful, since he used my name, but it showed a return e-mail address as one very different from mine, which Pat again recognized as being phony. Thanks for being vigilant, Pat!

Everyone in all clubs and all federations should watch for this kind of fraud and report it should it occur. Be especially wary if someone asks for a direct transfer of funds. Usually the treasurer writes checks, which can leave a paper trail where the money goes, but a bank transfer just sends funds to an account number the scammer gives, and when it comes through the recipient can take it and transfer it somewhere else, and no one else knows where it was sent – it's gone! Most treasurers know the president (and other officers as well) and should

always question an unexpected request, especially if it's not in the budget. Our gem & mineral clubs are probably not the only targets of these fraudsters, but as Mark said in his article, if we watch out for them we can foil them and keep our money safe.



Another phony e-mail I recently received addressed to "president@amfed.org" said it was from the USPS and the subject line was "unable to delivery package" spelled just like that. The message was addressed "Dear Customer" and told me that my package had been sent and I should check the attached delivery label. Since I hadn't ordered anything, I knew this was also phony and deleted it, as I suspected the attachment contained either a virus or spyware. [*We received a similar e-mail and also deleted it—B&C*] This is another method that hackers use to get into other people's computers. If you receive messages like this, I recommend deleting them without opening any attachments. If you delete them, they go away harmlessly, but if you open the attachment and it contains a virus, you could lose valuable data or even give outsiders access to your computer. Hackers also steal e-mail lists and then send a message to all the addressees with nothing more than just a link to some website. I wouldn't click on any unknown link, since the link could also contain a virus or spying software. If you just delete the messages they can't do any harm.

You may already know about some of these sneaky tricks hackers use to invade other people's computers; these are some of the things I always look for, since I know that the crooks are out there looking

[continues on next page]

to steal our personal information and our websites are not immune to them.

On a more pleasant note, the [AFMS](#) and CFMS websites now contain information on the AFMS convention and show to be held in Ventura, California in June. Registration forms are available;

you can use your computer to print them. I better send mine in too, since I hope to see many of you there!

Ron

From AFMS Newsletter 3/17



Shay DeVos Mar 2
Brenda Perez, Mar 6
Gail Bowie, Mar 13
Jackie Chude, Mar 16
Keven VanRenterghem, Mar 22

The March birthstone is Bloodstone or Aquamarine; the flower is Jonquil or Daffodil

ILLNESS REPORT

I received the message below from Brenda Smith and have sent a card to express best wishes from the Rockhounds. Sam's son isn't a member, but it's appropriate to acknowledge this illness in the newsletter.

Glenn

Sam and Pepper Rodgers' son had his appendix "explode" during surgery. He has been extremely ill and is still recovering. They have been very busy taking care of him. We might want to send them a card and let them know we are thinking about them. I think Sam is still planning on doing the San Antonio show.

Brenda

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

“Lithified Lentils” by Jim Brace-Thompson

Protozoans are single-celled organisms that are normally microscopic. Being composed largely of protoplasm (a jellylike substance), they don't often fossilize. One group, however, grows relatively large and has left a fossil record in marine sediments as old as 500 million years! These are the foraminifers, or “forams” for short.

Forams secrete a “test” as an internal skeleton, around and within which the living protoplasm grows. The test often grows out in a spiral pattern from a central chamber, and each new chamber is connected to previous ones by openings called foramina, which gives the group its name.

The tests can be abundant in sedimentary rocks, usually limestone, and have served as index fossils and biostratigraphic indicators, used by geologists to match up rocks of the same age found in different parts of the world and by paleontologists to decipher environmental conditions.

While most forams are smaller than rice grains, the genus *Nummulites* grew relatively large. The ones pictured here are 3/4 inch to 1 inch in diameter. The coin-shaped fossils took their name from the Latin word *nummus* (“little coin”). When they are



so abundant that they form the bulk of the limestone, it is called nummulitic limestone. In Egypt, such limestone was used to construct the pyramids.

Ancient people didn't realize what fossils were. Greek historian Strabo (64 BCE—24 CE) thought that they were the petrified remains of lentils, which were served as meals for those who constructed the pyramids. The idea of “lithified lentils” persisted into the Middle Ages, when they were believed to have magical and medical uses

—*From Rock & Gem 7/16, with permission*



Foraminifera from the beach of Ngapali (Myanmar)

[cropped photo from Microphotographie personnelle, via Wikipedia]

Mark Your Calendars...

Mar 4-5—BIG SPRING, TX: Show and sale; Big Spring Prospectors Club, Howard County fair Barn; Rodeo Grounds; Sat. 9-5; Free Admission; featuring rough rock, finished jewelry, findings, beads, fossils and minerals.; contact Lola Lamb, 2200 Cecilia St, Big Spring, TX 79720, (432)-528-7323; e-mail: lolabellelamb@yahoo.com

Mar 4-5—ROBSTOWN , TX: Annual show; Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society, Richard M Borchard Regional Fairgrounds; 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd, Exhibit Hall A; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10:00-5:00; Admission \$5 - good for both days, Children free 12 and under. This event funds our summer Kids Rock Camp and our scholarship fund.; contact Linda Simpson, 1302 Annapolis DR, Corpus Christi, TX 78415, (361)-877-5820; e-mail: rockcamp_speaker@outlook.com; Web site: www.gcgms.org

Mar 11-12—SAN ANTONIO, TX: Annual show; Southwest Gem and Mineral Society, San Antonio Event Center; 8111 Meadow Leaf Dr. ; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$5, Seniors \$3, Students \$2, Children \$1; contact Robert Bowie, (830)-387-1766; e-mail: krbotx@gvtc.com; Web site: swgemandmineral.org

Apr 8-9—ABILENE, TX: Annual show; Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society, Abilene Civic Center; 1100 N. 6th St.; Sat. 10-6; Adults/Seniors \$3, Children \$1.50, under 6 and Scouts & Military Free; contact Kay H McDaniel, P. O. Box 7343, Abilene, TX 79608, (325)-668-8558; e-mail: kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net; Web site: www.new-calichetimes.com

Apr 14-16—ALPINE, TX: Annual show; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club, Alpine Civic Center; 803 W. Holland Ave. (W. Hwy. 90); Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission; contact Paul Graybeal, Marfa, TX, (432)-739-4526; e-mail: paulgraybeal@moonlightgemstones.com; Web site: moonlightgemstones.com

Apr 21-23—SONORA, TX: Spring field trip to 4M Ranch; \$120 per person, \$60 deposit required; includes lodging and 5 meals; hunt cacti, collect rocks, hike, photograph nature; hosted by Claude Townsend, 210-655-8959; for detailed brochure, click [HERE](#). **Sold out**, except for Saturday 1-day trip.

Apr 29-30—WACO, TX Annual show; Waco Gem and Mineral Club, Extraco Events Center Creative Arts Bldg; 4601 Bosque Blvd; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Admission \$5, Children 6-12 \$1; Scout and Leaders in Uniform will get in free. contact Jennifer Bennett, TX; e-mail: bennettje70@gmail.com; Web site: www.wacogemandmineral.org

May 6—ARLINGTON, TX: Swap Meet; Arlington Gem and Mineral Club, Arlington Gem and Mineral Club; 1408 Gibbins Road; Sat. 7-3; free; Free swap meet for all rock, gem, and mineral related items. No electrical hookups. Come sell, swap. and buy rough, slabs, finished stones, mineral specimens, tools and equipment, etc.; contact J K Peel, 1408 Gibbins Road, Arlington, TX 76012; e-mail: president@agemclub.org; Web site: agemclub.org

May 6-7—LUBBOCK, TX: Annual show; Lubbock Gem & Mineral Society, Lubbock Memorial Civic Center; 1501 Mac Davis Lane; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$4, Seniors \$3, Students \$2, Children free; 59th Annual show; Lubbock Memorial Civic Center; contact Walter Beneze, PO Box 6371, Lubbock, TX 79493; e-mail: walt@lubbockgemandmineral.org; Web site: www.lubbockgemandmineral.org

May 27-28—FORT WORTH, TEXAS: Annual show; Fort Worth Gem and Mineral Club, Fort Worth, TX; Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3401 West Lancaster; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$5, Seniors/Students \$4, Children under 16 are free; contact Steve Hilliard, (817)-925-5760; e-mail: fwgmc@embarqmail.com; Web site: www.fortworthgemandmineralclub.org

Jun 9-11—VENTURA, CA: 2017 CFMS-AFMS Gem Show and Convention; Ventura County Fairgrounds; for details and pre-registration go to 2017cfms-afmsshow.com

Jul 1-2—GRAPEVINE, TX: 60th Jubilee Show; Arlington GMC; Grapevine Convention Center; General Admission \$6, Seniors (60+) and Children Under 12 \$4, Scouts in Uniform and Military ID- FREE. For QUESTIONS AND VENDING OPPORTUNITIES please contact Nadira Charaniya or Andre Meyer at (469)751-2944 and/or email SHOW@AGEMCLUB.ORG; for more information visit www.agemclub.org

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

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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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

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 2017:

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

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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