

# Fredericksburg Rockhounds

Fredericksburg, Texas

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## FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS

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### MARCH 2025

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### UPDATES

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#### MARCH 2025

#### The Fredericksburg Rockhounds Club Mascot

This 7lb Boulder Opal was presented to the Fredericksburg Rockhounds Club by Jerry Fay of Walkabout Opals LJD. of New South Wales, Australia. Boulder Opal consists of rounded boulders of brown ironstone with cracks and crevices filled with silicified (firey) opal.



## AFMS Badge Program

At the February meeting, a badge program was outlined for youth in the form of a packet of literature from the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



- Ed Gage, Secretary

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## This Month's Events - March 2025

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

**1-2—ROBSTOWN, TEXAS:** Annual show; Gulf Coast Gem and Mineral Society; Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds, 1213 Terry Shamsie Blvd; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Free parking, Kids under 12 free admission, Tickets \$6; The 62nd Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. Shopping, door prizes, auctions; Website: [www.gcgms.org/gem-mineral-shows.html](http://www.gcgms.org/gem-mineral-shows.html) | [www.facebook.com/events/902551108424457/](https://www.facebook.com/events/902551108424457/)

**15-16—ABILENE, TEXAS:** Annual show; Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society; Taylor County Expo Center, 1700 State Highway 36; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; Adult Tickets - \$7 Kids 6-12 -\$3 Kids under 6 - FREE! Military with ID - \$5 Seniors 65 & up - \$5 Postcard Discount - \$5 per adult Kids in Boy Scout/Girl Scout Uniforms - FREE!; It's time again for our annual Gem & Mineral Show in the Display Building at the Taylor County Expo Center! Gems, minerals, specimens, jewelry, beads, crystals, fossils, and geodes will be available for purchase. It's fun for all ages! All vendor spots are taken; contact Linda Walker; Website: [rockclub.txol.net](http://rockclub.txol.net) | [www.facebook.com/events/496588033108475/](https://www.facebook.com/events/496588033108475/)

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

# March Birthstone & Flower

The March birthstone is the **aquamarine**; the flower is the **daffodil**, also known as the jonquil.



*Aquamarine*



*Daffodil*

The March birthstone, aquamarine, was thought to cure heart, liver, and stomach diseases—all one had to do was drink the water in which the gem had been soaking. Early sailors believed that aquamarine talismans, etched with the likeness of the sea god Neptune, protected them against ocean dangers.

The March birth month flower is the daffodil, one of the first flowers of spring brings us new beginnings and, as the poet Keats said, daffodils bring “joy for ever”. With their bright yellow petals, daffodils seem the perfect way to say that the sun is always shining whenever your loved one is around.

- Majoros, Martie. “March Birthstone: Color and Meaning.” Almanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. October 17, 2018.
- “March Birth Flower.” Alamanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. October 17, 2018.

# Happy Birthday!

- Shay DeVos — March 2
- Tycho Tobis — March 3
- Chris Cooley — March 5
- Brenda Perez — March 6
- Dawn Egger — March 9
- Shelley Verstuyft — March 12
- Tamera Neffendorf — March 14
- Jackie Chude — March 16
- Michael Cordano — March 21
- Diane Thompson — March 21
- Kevin Van Renterghem — March 22



Please note: If we missed your birthday or have listed it incorrectly, please let us know so we can correct it! **fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com**

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## Club Membership Forms

Membership application forms for the Fredericksburg Rockhounds are now available to download and print from our website. Please navigate to the new Resources Page located at this address:

<http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/resources/>

Once there, simply click the link for the Membership Form to download or print a PDF copy.

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# Fredericksburg Rockhounds

## Meeting Minutes - Feb. 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Vice President Blane Neffendorf in the absence of President Joe Edstrom. The new members present were Preston Schmidt, Emery Schmidt and Chasity Price, all from Fredericksburg, Texas.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Field trip chairman was not present so in lieu of a formal program, Steve Perez suggested we call for members to report on their favorite events of the past that were noteworthy for them as a Rockhound.

The reports from members were as follows:

Jim Chute on the million-dollar highway in Colorado. In the 1960's a motorist was driving on the highway and had a flat tire. The driver found a nearby rock to block a tire while he changed the flat tire. After finishing he noticed he rock looked interesting so he put it in the car. A few months later he wondered what the interesting rock was, so he took it to someone to look at it probably at a university. It turned out to be the largest gold nugget ever found in Colorado (about 40 lbs.). He went back to look for others but had forgotten where he was when he had the flat tire.

John Crone being new to Texas at the time saw a sign for Rock Shop while driving into Fredericksburg and stopped to check it out. Here he met Jim Chute who owned the Rock Shop.

Jim had been searching for specimens in the Terlingua area and discovered a new mineral at the Little 38 mine. It was later named Comancheite. Jim donated samples of the new mineral to various museums around the country.

Bruce Watts was driving in the Colorado area west of Colorado Springs and noticed a vein of color in a road cut. He noted it would be a chance to look for interesting rocks.

The members were invited to get refreshments while door prizes were drawn.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sherri reported she had found the club mascot and had it for viewing at the meeting. It's a piece of "Boulder Opal" from Australia.

# Fredericksburg Rockhounds

## Meeting Minutes - Feb. 3, 2025

### Field Trips:

In Mid-March. We hope to look for rocks on a ranch where we were going to go but the trip was cancelled due to hunting season.

### January show:

Business was good despite the cold weather. Nine new members signed up at the show.

TREASURE REPORT: Jackie reported the income from the show in January was good. The preliminary report was given pending final numbers.

### Raffle Prizes:

- Necklace: Won by Millie Horton, 470 Marsh Lane Uvalde TX 78801 (830-275-2036/ 830-275-2035);
- Ammonite: Won by Lindsay Miles, 940-577-9339;
- Manganese: Won by Bonnie Dietrich 830-285-1890;
- Amethyst: Won by Christine Cragg 415-302-5069
- Citrine: Won by Suzanne Wallin 432-425-7244

### NEW BUSINESS

A badge program was outlined for youth in the form of a packet of literature from AFMS.

The next show in the area is March 1-2 in Robstown, Texas.

The SW Gem and Mineral will be April 5-6 in San Antonio, Texas.

In May there is a Masters Jewelry show held at the YO Hilton in Kerrville, Texas.

Treasure Jackie called for the dues to be paid if you have not yet paid. One third of the dues go to the American Federation who pays for insurance for all members who participate in field trips sponsored by the club. There was interest in members who are current with dues to have a membership card they can carry with them.

Shirts are still available in all sizes for \$20.00 each.

Motion to adjourn by Lee Adams.

# Fredericksburg Rockhounds

## Meeting Minutes - Feb. 3, 2025

The door prizes were drawn.

DONATED BY	WINNER	PRIZE
John Crone	Diana Watts	Calcite Crystals
	Jim Chute	Calcite
Lee & Judy Adams	Judy Carswell	Vanadinite
	Eli Wunderlich	Limb Casts
	Renee Luna	Ammonite Fossil
Frank and Patty	Steve Perez	Horn Coral
Kenneth DeVos	Sara Verstuyft	Chalcedony and opalized wood
Rockhounds	Emery Schmidt	Dickens Co. Dickens Springs TX
		Azurite
Larry Spillers	Wade Miller	Sow Belly (?)
Unknown	Hadley Simonson	Mineral Collection
Eli Wunderlich	Hadley Simington	Amethyst Jar
?	Shelly Legault	Arrowhead
	Shari Lau...?	Petrified wood
?????	Karen Anderson	Lace Agate
Bruce Watts	Bert Luna	Jasper Cab
	Hayley Hawks	Jade Cab
	Cathy Wellirer	Tiger Eye
	Ron G???????	Green Slab
Judy Carswell	Andy Anderson	Book OK
	Patti Felts	Book fee mining in the west
	Frank Rowell	Books
Judy Carswell	Natha Mckinley	Books Colo
	Preston Schmidt	Books AZ
	Ken Verstuyft	Pin and tie clasp
	Don Legault	Book TX
	Blane Neffendorf	Belt Buckle

# Newsletter Hard Copies & Mail Outs

*The club will no longer mail out hard copies of the newsletter to members. Those who have provided the club with an email address will continue to receive notifications via email when the newsletter is published for viewing online.*

If you need a hard copy of the newsletter each month  
and cannot access the online newsletters

— <http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/newsletter/> —

to print your own, then please let an officer of the club know and arrangements  
can be made to assist you.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us at  
**fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com.**

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***Your ad here for \$25/year***



For more information, please contact the newsletter editors by  
emailing us at:

**fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com**





## CLUB INFO

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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:  
fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com

- **All other correspondence:** Fredericksburg Rockhounds, 412 S. Adams St, Fredericksburg TX 78624

- Visit our website at [fredericksburgrockhounds.org](http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org) for more club info, field trip news, club photos, resources, and previous newsletters.

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# Club Officers and Committee Chairs

## Club Officers:

- President: Joe Edstrom - (254) 258-7499
- 1st Vice President: Blane Neffendorf - (830) 889-9141
- 2nd Vice President: Greg Zimmerman
- Past President: Frank Rowell - (325) 248-1067
- Treasurer: Jackie Chude - (830) 998-9144
- Secretary: Ed Gage

## Committee Chairs:

- Programs: Greg Zimmerman
- Field Trips: Patti Felts - (325) 247-6040
- and Sam Rodgers - (210) 240-7721
- Hospitality: Vacant
- Membership: Steve Perez - (817) 404-9789
- Historian: Sara Verstuyft - (830) 998-7350
- Media Equipment: John Crone - (830) 990-9823
- Annual Show: Vacant
- Newsletter: Daryan Jones - (443) 926-1063

## Monthly Meeting Map



## Newsletter Articles and Club Info

- **Articles for each month's newsletter** must be received by the **15th of the month**.
- Send them to your newsletter editor via email: [fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com](mailto:fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com)
- You may also use the form on our Contact Page to submit your articles:  
<http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/contact-us>
- A copy of the Club **MEMBERSHIP LIST** is available TO MEMBERS ONLY, via email (or paper mail if necessary). Contact Steve Perez at [stevesapito60@gmail.com](mailto:stevesapito60@gmail.com) or 817-404-9789
- The **Club CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS** are posted on our website:  
[fredericksburgrockhounds.org/constitution](http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/constitution)