

Fredericksburg Rockhounds

Fredericksburg, Texas

FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS



Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2026

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PREZ SAYS

FEBRUARY 2026

Thank you so much for the confidence you've shown in me by voting for me as your club president. I'm truly honored and grateful for your trust and support. This club means a great deal to me—not just for the rocks and minerals we love, but for the camaraderie, shared knowledge, and friendships that make our community so special. I'm excited to serve and to work alongside all of you as we continue to learn, explore, and grow together. I have many new ideas and suggestions that I will discuss in the coming meetings that I'm very excited about!

I also want to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in and volunteered for our annual gem and mineral show. The show's success is entirely due to the incredible time, energy, and enthusiasm you contributed—whether you helped plan, set up, staff tables, welcome visitors, or clean up afterward. Your dedication showcases the very best of our club and helps us share our passion with the wider community. I'm deeply appreciative of all you do, and I look forward to another great year of collecting, learning, and working together to expanding our passion of being rockhounds.

Your dedicated president,
- Sara Verstuyft



Gem and Mineral Show 2026

Above are some photos from the Annual Show. There is one of the member from the Rolling Rock Club presenting our treasurer with a donation check for \$186 which we will give to an Earth Science teacher locally, to be used for supplies or projects.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Club Membership Fees - Due Now

This is a friendly reminder that if you have not paid already, club membership fees are due ASAP. Annual dues are \$8 for individual, and \$15 family, payable to Fredericksburg Rockhounds. Mail in to 412 S. Adams, Box 197, Fredericksburg TX 78624, or bring them to the February 2nd meeting. February is the cut off date.



PROGRAMS

UPCOMING

February 2026: Ed Gage will be providing the program regarding a mine he and his son recently visited in Arizona named "The New Red Cloud" and the mysterious new rocks they found there.

March 2026: Our previous program manager, Karen Anderson, had a great idea we can duplicate. It's called "Share your Hobby." Everyone brings a sample of your hobby, rock, or anything. We will pass the mike around for you to describe your hobby.

April 2026: To be scheduled.

May 2026: To be scheduled.

June 2026: No Program, the rockhounds have a picnic at Lady Bird Park.

July 2026: Joann Socash, President of the Southwest Gem and Mineral Society, San Antonio, will provide the presentation "How to identify rocks and minerals."

Note: *If you would like to give a presentation please contact Judy Adams to be added to the list.*



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.

Happy Birthday!

- Michael Hamilton — February 3
- Bert Luna — February 7
- Lynn Post — February 9
- Emory White — February 11
- Joe DeHoyos — February 12
- Dolores Uribe — February 12



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

This Month's Events - February

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

February 2026

6-8—JASPER, TEXAS: Annual show; My Booth Rocks /Jasper Chamber of Commerce; Jasper Auction House, 324 W Gibson; Fri. 12-7, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 11-5; Free; Rock and gem extravaganza show. Come be amazed. Friday is setup day; contact Brian Kupiec, (936) 306-5688; Email: Pipeler413@yahoo.com; Website: myboothrocks.com.

7-8—TYLER, TEXAS: Show and sale; Stone Crystals; Rose Garden Center, 402 Rose Park Dr; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; \$5 Adults \$1, students scouts in uniform free; Gemstones, minerals, fossils, jewelry vendors, geode cracking, family-oriented show; contact Keith Harmon, TX, (903) 316-2967; Email: keithharmon19@gmail.com.

14-15—GEORGETOWN, TEXAS: Annual show; Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society; Georgetown Community Center San Gabriel Park, 445 E Morrow St; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$5, Kids 6-12 \$3, Children Under 6 Free; Silent Auction (every half hour) Wheel of Fortune Hourly Door Prize Adult and Youth Grand Prize Drawing Mineral Identification Concessions Available; contact Kenneth Oliver, (281) 381-0781; Email: wcgmsgemboree@gmail.com; Website: wcfgms.org.

February Birthstone & Flowers

The February birthstone is the amethyst; the flowers are the violet and the primrose.



Amethyst



Violet



Primrose

The February birthstone, the amethyst, is said to strengthen relationships and give its wearer courage. Amethysts are a type of quartz often found in geodes amidst cooled lava. Their purple coloring runs the gamut from reddish purple to a bluish lilac. The finest quality is a strongly saturated reddish purple to dark purple as long as the stone does not become too dark to see its brightness.

The February birth month flowers are the violet and the primrose.

Violets signify watchfulness, loyalty, and faithfulness.

The other February birth flower is the primrose, which lets someone know you can't live without them.

- Majoros, Martie. "February Birthstone: Color and Meaning." Almanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. December 16, 2018.
- "February Birth Flower." Alamanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. December 16, 2018.





FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by President Joe Edstrom. There were no guests present.

Lee Adams presented a program on fluorescent Minerals. Lee explained the 3 different wave lengths that can be used to show how the different minerals react. They are short wave, mid wave and long wave. Some localities famous for fluorescent minerals are Franklin NJ, Sweden, Greenland, Russia, Arizona, and Terlingua Texas. Lee showed a slide presentation of examples of minerals under UV light. Then after the slide presentation Lee demonstrated how the lights illuminated actual rocks that he brought. Following the presentation, he invited members to bring up any rocks they brought to see if they were fluorescent.

Members were invited to help themselves to snacks while the drawing was held for door prizes.

NEW BUSINESS

In December we will have a Christmas party so there will be no program. Please be here at 5 PM for serving at 6 PM. Signup sheets were present for food: main course, sides, deserts.

SHOW: January. Signup sheets were available for people to volunteer to help. All help is needed, especially to help break down and put away the tables and chairs.

FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2025

Bring items for the silent auction. Specimens of rocks magazines etc. to help raise money for the club.

There are 11 show cases available for members to show off something from their collection or to demonstrate how to make something as an educational display.

Joe reported on new signage for the roadway and door and the banner will be put up. At the present time there needs to be a food vender. Bazzys will not be able to do it this time. The club does not pay a vender. The vender makes their money on their sales.

ROLLING ROCK CLUB: Sheri Lauda won the prize at a recent show and showed the contents of the chest. Meetings are held on Sunday morning at various rock shows.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Sara Verstuyft was elected PRESIDENT

Judy Adams was elected 2 nd Vice President

Attendance for this meeting was 41

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 2025

The door prize winners were as follows.

DONATED BY	WINNER	PRIIZE
Lee & Judy Adams	Dolores Uribe Mike Egger Sherri Lauda Charles Anderson	Glass Calcite Blue Rock Terlingua Calcite
Larry Spillers	Tom Mitchell Sue Burkhart	Quartz Palm Wood
Carole Gage	Steve Perez	Agates with Druzy Quartz
Patti Felts	Sara Verstuyft	Ilmenite in Quartz Mason Co TX
Judy Carswell	Jose Uribe	Brazilian Agate
John Crone	Frank Rowell	Garnet
Tom Mitchell	Karen Anderson	Acrylic Amulet
Member?	Kenneth Verstuyft	Ozona Meteorite
Member?	Hadley	Bloodstone
Jennifer Burkhart	??	Petrified Wood
Member?	Pepper Rogers	Chrysocolla



FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Sara Verstuyft. The pledge of allegiance was led by President Sara. There were four guests present, all of which joined the club. They were as follows: David Astwood (Boerne), Mark Toomey (Fredericksburg), Mark Bunde (New Braunfels), Nancy Natho (Fredericksburg).

Since the annual show is this month, there is no program. Final arrangements and plans are being made for the show. President Sara requested everyone please come to the show and to please volunteer to help. There are many ways for members to help during the show and especially after cleaning up. There should be a public service announcement on Ranch Radio.

Everyone needs to be sure and PAY YOUR DUES! If your dues are paid up for 2026 ...THANK YOU! This is the last month to get the dues all paid up. If your dues are not paid this month, YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP LIST. This is in the by-laws. If you are not a paid-up member you are not eligible to participate in field trip. The membership dues are also used to cover insurance while you are on a field trip through the federation (AFMS: AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERAL SOCIETY). If you are not a paid-up member of the club, you are not covered by insurance and cannot participate in any field trips conducted through the club. There are no field trips scheduled at this time. Once the weather warms up the club will organize some field trips.

Minutes by Ed Gage, Secretary

FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2026

There are several prizes donated but additional items are needed for the silent auction.

Jackie gave a treasures report.

Members were invited to help themselves with snacks while the drawing was held for door prizes.

NEW BUSINESS

There are 11 show cases available for members to show off something from their collection or to demonstrate how to make something as an educational display.

ROLLING ROCK CLUB: A meeting will be held on Sunday morning before the show starts.

The meeting was adjourned.

FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2026

The door prize winners were as follows.

DONATED BY	WINNER	PRIIZE
Lee & Judy Adams	Bert Luna Renee Luna Patti Felts	Agate Rhyolite Petrified Coral
Larry Spillers	Ed Keilman	Peru Minerals
Patti Felts/Frank Rowell	Mark Toomey	Moss Agate Eagle Pass
John Crone	Jackie Chude Alexandra Schlueter Ed Gage	Ammonite Fossil Soap Stone Bear Sculpture Fluoro Ricterite
Karen Anderson	Andy Anderson Sam Rogers	Clam Fossil Serpentine
Ken DeVos	Michael Hamilton	Fossils Murgoez Meteor Crator
Bruce & Diana Watts	Mark Bunde Kenneth Verstuyft	Agate Cab Antique Verde Marble Michigan

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.



Your ad here for \$25/year

For more information, please contact the newsletter editors by emailing us at: fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com



CLUB INFO

- **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 for more club info, field trip news, club photos, resources, and previous newsletters.



Club Officers and Committee Chairs

Club Officers:

- President: Sara Verstuyft - (830) 998-7350
- 1st Vice President: Blane Neffendorf - (830) 889-9141
- 2nd Vice President: Judy Adams - (830) 328-8386
- Past President: Joe Edstrom - (254) 258-7499
- Treasurer: Jackie Chude - (830) 998-9144
- Secretary: Ed Gage

Committee Chairs:

- Programs: Judy Adams - (830) 328-8386
- Field Trips: Patti Felts - (325) 247-6040
- and Sam Rodgers - (210) 240-7721
- Hospitality: Vacant
- Membership: Carole Gage - (210) 386-0550
- Historian: Sara Verstuyft - (830) 998-7350
- Media Equipment: John Crone - (830) 990-9823
- Annual Show: Vacant
- Newsletter: Daryan Graham - (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
- 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 Carole Gage at carolegage503@gmail.com or 210-386-0550
- The Club **CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS** are posted on our website:
fredericksburgrockhounds.org/constitution