

# Fredericksburg Rockhounds

Fredericksburg, Texas

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## FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS

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# Newsletter



## MARCH 2026

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## MARCH 2026

### Feb. 2nd, 2026 Treasurer's Report:

Checking balance = \$16,354.12

CD balance = \$9,186.47

Anyone not having paid their dues at this point will be dropped from the email list.

If you still want to join, please send your dues to 412 S. Adams, Box 197, Fbg 78624.

\$8 for individual, \$15 for families (includes access to field trips)

### 2026 G&M Show Report:

#### INCOME:

Vendors \$5,490.00

Club Sales \$242.00

Silent Auction \$855.00

Raffle \$391.00

Donation from Rolling Rock Club for Education Project \$186.00

**Total Income \$7,164.00**

#### EXPENSES:

Rent on Pavilion \$312.50

LLK Security \$910.00

Pizza for clean up crew \$70.00

Show supplies (L.Adams) \$43.26

Mail 2 prizes - USPS \$43.25

Banner Fee (none per City of Fbg mistake)

**Total Expenses \$1,379.01**

**TOTAL PROFIT \$5,784.99**

***For comparison, the 2024 Show made \$2,943. and the 2025 Show made \$6,045.***

## Event Notice

The Llano River Railroad presents the Gold and Treasure Fest on May 2nd 2026 from 9am till 4pm.

Rock and mineral display, mining exhibit, gold panning demonstration, panning instruction video every hour in the passenger car. Raffle prizes food and fun for the whole family. This is a free event.

Contact Frank Rowell at [frank@llanoriverrailroad.org](mailto:frank@llanoriverrailroad.org) or 325-248-1067.

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## Happy Birthday!

- Shay DeVos — March 2
- Brenda Perez — March 6
- Bruce Watts — March 6
- Dawn Egger — March 9
- Shelley Verstuyft — March 12
- Tamera Neffendorf — March 14
- Jackie Chude — March 16
- 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](mailto: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.



# PROGRAMS

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## UPCOMING

**February 2026:** Thank you, Ed Gage, for sharing you and your son's once in a lifetime adventure at the "The New Red Cloud" mine.

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

**April 2026:** 1st Vice President, Blane Neffendorf will be presenting. Subject will be provided before the presentation.

**May 2026:** JoAnn DeLuna, worked for many years at the Edwards Aquifer, will be speaking about her hobby "Caving 101".

**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."

**August 2026:** Lee Adams will share he and Judy's past vacation to Australia. While in Australia they stayed for 3 days in Coober Pedy exploring the opal mines. They will share some photos of them in the mines and a DVD they purchased there that better explains Coober Pedy. Opal is found in many places in the world. The Adams will bring some samples of opal and invite those attended the meeting to share opal samples.

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

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## This Month's Events - March

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

### March 2026

**7-8—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 \$8; The 63rd 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](http://www.facebook.com)

**14-15—ABILENE, TEXAS:** Annual show; Central Texas Gem and Mineral Society; Taylor County Expo Center, 1700 State Highway 36; Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Adult Tickets - \$7 Kids 6-12 -\$3 Kids under 6 - FREE! Military with ID - \$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; [www.facebook.com/events/570895179418845](http://www.facebook.com/events/570895179418845)

- 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.” Almanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. October 17, 2018.





# FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS MEETING MINUTES

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*February 2, 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 3 new members present. They were as follows: Machel Fleeman, Kerrville, Lydia Goldthorn, Kerrville, and Valerie Cadden, Fredericksburg. Guests present was Chris Harper.

## OLD BUSINESS

TREASURERS REPORT was given by Jackie Chude.

Vender fees collected from the show were 5300. Also, the club received a donation of \$186 from the Rolling Rock club for the education fund. Also, the rental fee for the 2027 show has been paid.

## COMMENTS FROM THE SHOW:

Sara and Blane were the last members still present after cleaning up on Sunday night. It is important for members to stay and help after the closing of the show.

We need to allow more room for people to enter the restrooms. Show signage needs to be better to advertise the show for more attendance.

Kerrville has a 4000 to 5000 square foot facility but the rent for a weekend is \$500.

## NEW BUSINESS

All those with a birthday this month had their choice of a free rock.

# FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS

## MEETING MINUTES

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*February 2, 2026*

### FIELD TRIPS

A field trip will be announced next month to look for hematite concretions near San Antonio.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Frank Rowell talked about the mining exhibit being established at the Llano Railroad yard. A GOLD and TREASURE meeting will be on May 2 at the rail yard from 9 am to 4 pm.

President Sara requested members to refrain from side conversations and during the meeting so everyone can hear better.

An executive officers meeting will be held at 6 PM before the March meeting.

Members were invited to have refreshments as door prizes were drawn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

### ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The secretary Ed Gage had some health issues during the last 2 weeks. A cancer issue developed into having an open-heart double bypass surgery and Ed is starting his recovery at home. Improvement is slow as each day is a tiny bit better than the last. Hopefully he will be back with you in a couple months.

# FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS

## MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2026

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.

The door prize winners were as follows.

DONATED BY	WINNER	PRIZE
Lee & Judy Adams	Regina Anderson	Mex Lace Agate
	Jen Burkhart	Petoskey Stone
	Michelle Fleeman	Palm
	Ron Gant	Turritella
Virginia Adian	Blane	Thunder Egg
	Sam Rodgers	Obsidian
Larry Spillers	Amanda Hamilton	Palm
	Steve Perez	Palm

# FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS

## MEETING MINUTES

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February 2, 2026

DONATED BY	WINNER	PRIZE
Patti Felts/Frank Rowell	Gus Stotz Bruce Watts	Amethyst E Camp Mine NM Obsidian
John Crone	Chris Harper Diana Watts	Iceland Spar Calcite Tiger Eye
Jim and Jackie Chude	Lidia Goldthorn	Turritella
Lynn and Lola Post	Jackie Chude	Crinoid Stems
Tom Mitchell	Bert Luna	Jasper
Ken DeVoss	Larry Spillers	Book
Karen Anderson	Andy Anderson Sam Rogers	Clam Fossil Serpentine
Bruce & Diana Watts	Melissa Kalman Frank Rowell Ed Kellman	Zebra Palm Palm
Unknown	Jeff Anderson	Rock Hound Patch
Judy Carswell	Sue Burkart	Tumbled Stones

# 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](mailto:fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com).



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

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

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## 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 Carole Gage at [carolegage503@gmail.com](mailto:carolegage503@gmail.com) or 210-386-0550
- The **Club CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS** are posted on our website: [fredericksburgrockhounds.org/constitution](http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/constitution)