

Fredericksburg Rockhounds

Fredericksburg, Texas

FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS



Newsletter



APRIL 2026

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PREZ SAYS

APRIL 2026

When I think about our club, I don't just see fellow rock and mineral enthusiasts—I see an extended family. This group has been a place of connection, support, and shared passion, where everyone's curiosity is welcomed and celebrated. Whether we're hunting for specimens in the field, swapping stories about our finds, or marveling at a gem on display, there's a sense of camaraderie here that makes this more than just a hobby—it's a community that feels like home.

Being part of this club reminds me how important it is to have people around who share your interests, encourage your learning, and celebrate your successes. The friendships we build here go beyond club meetings and shows—they carry into our daily lives, offering encouragement, inspiration, and laughter. I'm grateful not only for the knowledge we exchange about rocks and minerals, but also for the support, generosity, and spirit of family that defines our club. It's this sense of belonging that makes every meeting, every field trip, and every show an experience I cherish deeply.

- Sara Verstuyft, President



PROGRAMS

UPCOMING

April 2026: 1 st Vice President, Blane Neffendorf will be presenting-- Petrified Palm Wood the Texas State Rock.

May 2026: JoAnn DeLuna, worked for many years at the Edwards Aquafer, 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.

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 or 325-248-1067.

This Month's Events - April

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

April 2026

3-4—AMARILLO, TEXAS: Show; Golden Spread Gem, Mineral & Treasure Society; Arts in the Sunset, 3701 Plains Blvd; Fri. 5-9, Sat. 9-4; Free Admission; contact Kassidy Barlow; Email:

Kassidy.gsgmts@outlook.com; Website: <https://amarillotreasureclub.org/>

11-12—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS: Annual show; Southwest Gem & Mineral Society - 64th Annual Fiesta of Gems; Morris Center @ Joe Freeman Coliseum, 475 AT&T Center Parkway Gate E; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Adults \$5, senior/military \$3, kids over 7 \$1; Parking \$10 [Provide receipt for one free adult admission] Mineral dealers, crystals, fossils, lapidary, exhibits, fine jewelry, demonstrations, make your own cabochon; contact: Email: info@swgms.org; Website: www.swgms.org

17-19—ALPINE, TEXAS: Annual show; Alpine Gem & Mineral Show; Alpine Civic Center, 801 W Holland Ave; Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission & Parking; Over 40 Indoor & Outdoor Dealers; contact Lisa Nix, (303) 818-5500; Email: Rocksofalpine@gmail.com.

24-26—CONROE, TEXAS: Annual show; Texas Mineral & Fossil Conroe Show; Lone Star Convention & Expo Center, 9055 Airport Rd; Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Free Admission & Parking; Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry, Gems, & More, Free Rocks for Kids, \$100 dealer voucher giveaways on Friday, Wholesale & Retail, Geodes, Family-Friendly; contact Sandra Gonzales; Website: www.rmjpgmpromotions.com

Happy Birthday!

- Ashley Schlueter — April 1
- Jose Uribe — April 5
- Ron Gant — April 24

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



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.

April Birthstone & Flower

The April birthstone is the **diamond**; the flowers are the **daisy** and the **sweet pea**.



Diamond



Daisy



Sweet Pea

Although once thought to bring courage, the diamonds are now viewed as a symbols of love. They are the center piece of many jewelry sets, most notably engagement rings. It is the hardest mineral on the planet and because of this has many industrial uses.

Generally, diamonds are colorless with a high sparkle, but they can be found in varying tints and hues. Perhaps the most famous diamond of all, the blue Hope Diamond, is one such example.

Daisies connote innocence and purity while paradoxically “holding secrets” among friends.

Sweet peas signify blissful pleasure though they can also be used to bid farewell.

- Majoros, Martie. “April Birthstone: Color and Meaning.” Almanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. March 13, 2018.
- “April Birth Flowers.” Alamanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. March 13, 2018.

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