

Fredericksburg Rockhounds

Fredericksburg, Texas

FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS



Newsletter



JULY 2026

Table of Contents

- [Prez Says](#)
- [Programs](#)
- [Executive Officer Meeting](#)
- [Birthdays](#)
- [Birthstone & Flowers](#)
- [This Month's Events](#)
- [Club Membership Forms](#)
- [Newsletter Hard Copies & Mail-Outs](#)
- [Ads](#)
- [Club Info](#)
- [Club Officers and Committee Chairs](#)
- [Monthly Meeting Map](#)
- [Newsletter Articles and Club Info](#)



PREZ SAYS

JULY 2026

I want to begin by saying a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for our annual June picnic. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces gathered together, enjoying great conversation, laughter, and fellowship. A special thank you goes to everyone who brought such delicious food to share. As always, the variety and generosity of our members made the meal something to remember. It's gatherings like these that remind me our club is much more than a shared interest in rocks and minerals—it's a community of friends who truly enjoy spending time together.

This month also gives us an opportunity to reflect on an important milestone in our nation's history. As America begins celebrating its 250th birthday, we can appreciate the spirit of exploration, discovery, and perseverance that has shaped our country from its earliest days. Those same qualities are familiar to rockhounds, who are always eager to explore new places, learn from the past, and uncover the treasures that lie beneath our feet. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Independence Day as we celebrate this remarkable anniversary and look forward to the future together.

Finally, a reminder that we will be holding an Executive Board meeting one hour before our regular club meeting at The Golden Hub. Executive Board members, please plan to arrive early so we can take care of club business before the general meeting begins. We look forward to seeing everyone there for another enjoyable evening of learning, friendship, and sharing our passion for geology.

Until then, happy collecting, stay cool, and may your next adventure uncover something extraordinary!

- Sara Verstuyft, President



PROGRAMS

UPCOMING

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.

September 2026: Dinosaur George.

October 2026: Archaeologist/Geologist Roger Smith.

November 2026: Master Geologist Mr. Rowen, 35 years in the oil industry, will speak on the topic of "The Geologic History of the Hill Country."

December 2026: Fredericksburg Rockhounds Christmas Party starts at 6PM.

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



ANNOUNCEMENT

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS MEETING

Sara, our club president, would like to hold a brief executive meeting one hour before July's regular meeting. She has a few important items to go over with the club officers and appreciates everyone making time to arrive early so we can take care of business before the main meeting begins.

Happy Birthday!

- Virginia Adian — July 3
- Agnes Thompson — July 13
- Micah Schlueter — July 18
- Harrison Mendez— July 19
- Brenda Smith — July 20
- Eli Wunderlich — July 22
- Keara Conklin — July 23
- Duane Neffendorf — July 25
- Toni Farmer — July 27
- Andy Anderson — July 29
- Valerie Cadden — July 29



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

fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com

July Birthstone & Flowers

The July birthstone is the **ruby**; the flowers are the **larkspur** and the **water lily**.



Ruby



Larkspur



Water Lily

In ancient times, the ruby was regarded as the “king of gems” by the Hindus. All rubies are red and come in various shades of the hue. Ruby comes from the Latin word *rubeus*, which means “red.”

The ruby is among the hardest natural gemstones, second only to the diamond.

The larkspur can grow up to eight feet tall and comes in a variety of colors such as pink, white, or purple.

Water lilies float on the surface of natural waters such as ponds. They help deter algae growth and provide shade for wildlife below.

- Majoros, Martie. “July Birthstone: Color and Meaning.” Almanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. June 19, 2018.
- “July Birth Flowers.” Alamanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. June 19, 2018.



This Month's Events - July

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

July 2026

To the best of our knowledge, there are no rock related events happening around our area for the month of July.

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

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: Primary: Blane Neffendorf, Secondary: Sue Burkhart
- Annual Show: Frank Rowell
- 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