
FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS



Newsletter



AUGUST 2026

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PREZ SAYS

AUGUST 2026

August is here, and with it comes that familiar “back to school” feeling as students, teachers, and families prepare for another year of learning and discovery. While many of us may no longer be heading back to classrooms ourselves, the spirit of learning is something that never leaves a Rockhound. Our club is, in many ways, a place of continuing education—where every meeting, field trip, program, and conversation gives us the opportunity to discover something new about the world beneath our feet.

This time of year is also a wonderful reminder of the importance of sharing our knowledge with the next generation. Rocks, minerals, fossils, and geology can spark curiosity and inspire a lifelong love of science and exploration. Whether we are sharing specimens with young collectors, helping someone identify a mystery rock, or simply telling the story behind a favorite find, we are helping keep the wonder of the natural world alive.

As we move into the fall season, I encourage everyone to stay involved and invite others to join us. New members bring fresh enthusiasm, new ideas, and new friendships that help our club continue to grow. Thank you all for the time, energy, and passion you bring to our Rockhounds family. I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming meetings, programs, and adventures as we continue learning together.

- Sara Verstuyft, President



PROGRAMS

UPCOMING

July 2026: Joann Socash, President of the Southwest Gem and Mineral Society, San Antonio, presented "How to identify rocks and minerals."
Thanks Joann for a great program!

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.

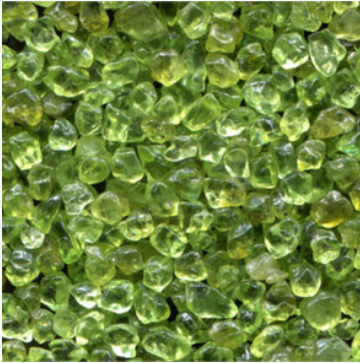
November 2026: Master Geologist Mr. Rowen, 35 years in the oil industry, will speak on the topic of "The Geologic History of the Hill Country."

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.

August Birthstone & Flowers

The August birthstone is the **peridot**; the flowers are the **gladiolus** and the **poppy**.



Peridot



Gladiolus



Poppy

The peridot is a symbol of strength. It is light green in color and as such is sometimes called the evening emerald. It can be found in the volcanic lava of Hawaii as well as in meteorites.

The largest peridot found to date weighs in at 319 carats and is on display in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

The gladiolus, also known as the sword lily, stands for remembrance and calm.

Poppies come in different colors and have various meanings. Red poppies are for pleasure; white for consolation; and yellow for wishes of wealth and success.

- Majoros, Martie. "August Birthstone: Color and Meaning." Almanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. July 17, 2018.
- "August Birth Flowers." Alamanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. July 17, 2018.



This Month's Events - August

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

August 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

Happy Birthday!

- Judy Carswell — August 1
- Lidia Goldthorn — August 3
- Kevin DeVoss — August 4
- Carole Gage — August 19
- Shari Lauda — August 31
- Mark Bunde — August 31



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.

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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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.
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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: 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