
FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS



Newsletter



OCTOBER 2026

Table of Contents

- [Prez Says](#)
- [Programs](#)
- [Announcement](#)
- [This Month's Events](#)
- [Birthstone & Flowers](#)
- [Birthdays](#)
- [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

OCTOBER 2026

October has arrived, and there's a little magic in the air! The leaves are changing, the nights are getting longer, and Halloween is just around the corner. For rockhounds, I think there's something especially appropriate about this time of year—after all, we spend plenty of our time searching for mysterious things hidden beneath the surface! Whether your favorite specimens are sparkly crystals, colorful minerals, fascinating fossils, or just an unusual rock that caught your eye, every specimen has a story to tell. I hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy the fall weather and maybe do a little collecting while you're at it. And, of course, have a safe and fun Halloween!

I also want to remind everyone about our club calendar project. We're looking for some of your favorite rock, mineral, and fossil specimens to photograph for the calendar. If you have a specimen that you think would make a great photograph, please bring it to an upcoming meeting so we can include it among the wonderful treasures represented by our members. It doesn't have to be the biggest, rarest, or most valuable specimen in your collection—sometimes the most interesting pieces are the ones with the best story or the ones that simply catch your eye. Let's show off the incredible variety of specimens our Rockhounds have collected and make a calendar that represents our whole club!

So, bring your specimens, bring your stories, and bring your Halloween spirit! I'm looking forward to seeing what treasures everyone has to share. Until then, happy collecting—and may your October be filled with more beautiful crystals than tricks!

- Sara Verstuyft, President



PROGRAMS

UPCOMING

October 5, 2026: Presenter will be W. C. Jameson--Author, Treasure Hunter and Musician.

Mr. Jameson will be speaking about his treasure hunting adventures. He is a professional treasure hunter with a reputation for solving real-world treasure cases. His work has led to appearances on Unsolved Mysteries, The Travel Channel, Discovery Channel, Nightline, NPR, PBS documentaries and feature films.

November 2, 2026: Master Geologist Mr. Rowen. Mr. Rowen has 35 years in the oil industry and will speak on the topic of "The Geologic History of the Hill Country".

December 7, 2026: Fredericksburg Rockhounds Christmas Party starts at 6PM. Bring a dish, no gift exchange.

January 4, 2027: No Program. Rockhounds will coordinate the January Rock and Gem Annual Show.

Note: If you would like to give a presentation please contact 2nd Vice President, Judy Adams.

Announcement

Our Rockhounds family is deeply saddened to share that our fellow club member, Dan Moreno, has passed away. Dan was a kind presence in our meetings and a true friend to many. Please keep his family in your thoughts as we remember him with gratitude and love.

This Month's Events - October

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

October 2026

23-25—AUSTIN, TEXAS: Annual show; Austin Gem & Mineral Society (AGMS); Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd; Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$10, Seniors & Military \$8, Age 13-19 \$2, 12 & under free; Local annual gem & mineral show with over 30 vendors of jewelry, beads, gemstones, minerals, crystals, fossils & spheres. Free demos and exhibits, \$1 each activities for the kids. Hourly door prizes. Grand prize Sat & Sun. Our 75th Show! Facebook page: [Austingemandmineral](https://www.facebook.com/Austingemandmineral/); contact Laird Fowler, (512) 458-9546; Website: agms-tx.org

31-1—AMARILLO, TEXAS: Annual show; Golden Spread Gem Mineral & Treasure Society; Amarillo Civic Center, 401 S Buchanan Street; Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; \$5; Hands on learning activities, flint knapping lessons, vendors offering gem and mineral products, rough gems, raw mineral specimens, crystals, fossils, fine jewelry, lapidary, educational demos, silver, exhibits, kids area, raffles, door prizes and rock walk, and more; contact Kassidy Barlow; Email: Kassidy.gsgmts@outlook.com

October Birthstone & Flowers

The October birthstone is the **opal**; the flowers are the **marigold** and the **cosmos**.



Opal



Marigold



Cosmos

The word opal is rooted in both Latin (opalus — "precious jewel") and Greek (opallios — "to see a change in color"). The term opallios is an apt description as opals tend to reflect a vast array of colors depending on the source of light.

Marigolds are symbols of contentment and warmth. They can grow anywhere from six inches in height to over five feet depending on the variety.

Cosmos, the other October flower, stands for order, peace, and serenity. They are annuals that are a good choice for your garden if you want to attract birds, bees, and butterflies.

- Majoros, Martie. "October Birthstone: Color and Meaning." Almanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. September 18, 2018.
- "October Birth Flowers." Alamanc.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. September 18, 2018.



Happy Birthday!

- Barbara Fowler — October 1
- Brian Luginbill — October 4
- Kennedy Gallander — October 10
- Jeff Smith — October 11
- Carl Ashline — October 13
- Glenn Thompson — October 16
- Alexandria Schlueter — October 19



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.



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: Melissa Keilman
- 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