

Menu

[Fredericksburg Rockhounds](#)

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS



– April 2018 –

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From the Top of the Rock Pile

By

Lee Adams – President

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Here we are back to field trip weather again. I was reading an article about moistening rocks or slabs to check how well they would shine with polishing a couple of days ago. The prime thing I got out of the article was to *never, never* lick them with your *tongue*. Aside from the obvious sanitary problems this could cause many rocks around the Midwest have arsenic in or on them.

A word to the wise for the upcoming field trips. When working with hammers and chisels, use gloves. When working with heavy picks and digging equipment, drink lots of water or Gatorade-type drinks. Old long-sleeved shirts, broad brimmed straw hats, and sunscreen lotion are always in style in the field at all times. We have chiggers here, so a really good quality bug spray is nearly essential. I never go out without a fairly good first aid kit. Cuts and abrasions happen, so be prepared; nearly everything we pick up can cause pain in one way or another. Lastly, bring along a trash bag to haul your trash out.

Overheard at a rock show: (1) About Laguna Agate—*Did you use colored ink on this stone to show how it was made?* (2) About a group of quartz crystals—*Now, what kind of tool and polish did you use to carve all those points?* (3) About a group of polished slabs—*Would you please tell me what kind of soap you used to get those stones so shiny?*

Optimist: “April showers brings...” Rock hound: “Erosion, which washes away sand and dirt, unearthing rocks which have been covered for millennia.” Optimist: “They also bring May flowers.” Rock hound: “Which hide the beautiful rocks.”

Finally, which are you? A geologist picks up a specimen by its crystals and raves about the *matrix*. A mineralogist picks up a specimen by its matrix and raves about its *crystals*. A rock hound picks up a specimen any way he can and tries to figure out how to extract the crystals from the matrix *without* breaking any of them.

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Fredericksburg Rockhounds 50th Anniversary

The hobby of rock hounding is so multi-faceted it has the interest of a wide span of people. As part of the Fredericksburg Rockhounds Club’s 50th Anniversary, we are writing a series of biographies for some long time (not old) members. It is our hope you will see the diversity of people that are interested in rock hounding.

This month we feature [Glenn Thompson \(#articleb\)](#) and [Chester Hohmann \(#articlec\)](#).

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Glenn Thompson

— A Biography —

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Glenn Thompson was born and raised on a farm in South Dakota. He was the only student in his class during his eight years in a small, rural elementary school near Crooks, South Dakota. At Lyons High School, he was a member of the largest class ever enrolled up to that time— seventeen students. Dr. Thompson has degrees from Augustana College, the University of South Dakota and the University of Minnesota, with postgraduate work at the University of North Dakota and the McPhail Institute of Music. During a 39-year career as an educator, Glenn served as a public school band and orchestra director, a K-12 librarian and audiovisual director, a university reference and periodicals librarian, and a university professor and department chairman. During the final decade of his career, he taught coursework via interactive television. Glenn holds the rank of Professor Emeritus in the Wisconsin University System.

Glenn and his wife Agnes (Aggie) have been married for 59 years; they have two children. Aggie has Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Home Economics Education from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, with postgraduate work in Special Education. She worked for 21 years as an instructor in a private residential academy serving incarcerated and emotionally-disturbed youth. Glenn and Aggie retired to an acreage north of Fredericksburg in 1997 to escape brutal northern winters. They raised Barbados sheep, chickens, cats, dogs and a donkey named Hermano. Their property is presently registered as a wildlife management site.

Glenn and Aggie joined the Fredericksburg Rockhounds in 1998. Glenn has served as Historian, Secretary and President (twice) and on various ad hoc committees. He especially enjoys collecting and working with fluorescent minerals. He also enjoys reading (he has a collection of several thousand books), working on the computer (he maintains the website www.tractorfriends.org) and collecting and restoring old lawnmowers and tractors. He delights in a collection of some three-dozen dead or dying lawnmowers, garden tractors and compact tractors, much to the chagrin of his wife, who would prefer that he devote his time to something that doesn't clutter up the place so much— like stamp collecting. In recent years, Glenn has had several articles on antique engines and tractors published in national journals. Both Glenn and Aggie enjoy music; Aggie has had a lengthy career as a church organist and at present enjoys playing the piano for residents in local nursing homes and retirement centers.

Although an octogenarian, Glenn enjoys excellent health and is likely to plague Rockhounds officers for some time to come. His mother lived to be 101+, in spite of (or possibly because of) a regular diet of foods fried in lard or bacon fat.

- o *The above immodest epistle was prepared by the subject himself on 03/06/18*

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Chester Hohmann

— A Biography —

Chester Hohmann's grandfather was a rancher, as was Chester's father, so it didn't surprise anyone when Chester also became a rancher. Except for brief periods when he attended college and served in the military, Chester spent his entire life in the Fredericksburg area.

Chester was born in 1930 and attended St. Mary's Elementary School and High School in Fredericksburg. Upon graduation from high school he enrolled in St. Mary's University in San Antonio and graduated four years later with a major in Business Administration and a minor in Economics. Chester didn't really have a chance to take a deep breath before he found hi in the Army—first in Tokyo and then in his final deployment in Korea. The Korean War was over, so there wasn't muc for artillerymen. Chester chuckles when he recalls that one by one the men in his unit either completed their tours o

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and were sent home or were deployed elsewhere until finally there were basically only officers, cooks and sentries left. The officers continued to officiate, the cooks continued to cook, and the guards continued to man their posts; however, it was all without purpose.

After finishing his two-year stint in the military, Chester returned to Fredericksburg and resumed working as a rancher; however, like many ranchers then and now, he also had a “day job” to help make ends meet. For a while he had part-time work as a sports writer for the Fredericksburg Standard Radio Post; later he worked at St. Mary’s Credit Union. During his final two years at the Credit Union, he and another employee served as managers.

Chester met and married Ruby Alderman in 1956. Ruby’s older brothers had nicknamed her “Midget,” which became “Midge” as she grew older. Over the years, Midge worked in the Fredericksburg Public Schools and St. Mary’s Parochial Schools in a variety of positions— Speech Diagnostician, Speech Therapist, Special Education Teacher and Classroom Teacher. Midge was known to have said that she taught so that Chester could be a rancher, and he readily admits that the income she brought home was important to the well-being of their family. Chester and Midge had four children, three of whom are still living. Sadly, Midge passed away in 2009.

Chester enjoyed playing baseball. He played while he was in school, he played during the time he was in the Army and he played after he returned to civilian life. He was First-Base man for the Fredericksburg Giants and Pat’s Cubs. More recently, Chester has enjoyed deer hunting and he is an amateur photographer, with a large collection of 35mm slides—mostly of wildlife subjects. Of particular interest are the photos he took while in Japan and Korea.

Chester doesn’t remember exactly when he and Midge joined the Fredericksburg Rockhounds, but it would have been during the early 1960’s—not long after the formation of the Fredericksburg Club in 1958. He thinks that they were invited to join the Club by friends. Once members, they were active. Midge served as Secretary and Chester was Show Chairman. The Club was quite small, with only about twenty members. Meetings were held in the Ag Building which was located in the then Market Square on the east side of Highway 16, across from the present Court House. Chester doesn’t remember when the Club moved to the American Legion Hall. The Annual Gem and Mineral Show was the Club’s big event then, as now, and every member had to pitch in and help. There were few vendors—only about four—but many of the members had exhibits and some demonstrated cutting, polishing, faceting and other lapidary arts. The annual shows were well attended, beginning with the first show in 1959.

The Fredericksburg Rockhounds did not sponsor many field trips during the Club’s early years and they were usually day trips to nearby sites, with occasional trips extending as far as West Texas or the Rio Grande Valley. Club members tended to go rock hounding as individuals or couples—sometimes to remote sites such as Alaska, Russia and South America. Chester has accumulated rocks and minerals that interest him personally, but he hasn’t actively attempted to develop a large or organized collection. Of particular interest to him are his Native American artifacts—many of which he found on his own ranch.

Ranching (as well as rock hounding) is not for the faint-of-heart and Chester has vivid memories of past injuries. He has had three broken wrists, two broken ribs, two broken hips, a knee replacement, and life-threatening blows to his face and abdomen.

Chester has enjoyed meeting with friends at the Germany Bakery in Fredericksburg, but naturally that is not possible while he is confined with a broken hip to Knopp Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center No. 2 (in Fredericksburg on Billie Drive over by the High School). He would welcome Rockhound members that would care to visit him there.

o *The above information is based on an interview conducted by Glenn Thompson on 03/07/18.*

Fredericksburg Rockhounds Meeting Minutes

— March 5th, 2018 —

Lee Adams opened the 7:00 PM meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lee read the 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.

The Membership Committee introduced the new members, Mr. and Mrs. Martinez and guest Lisa Nelson.

The program was presented by Patti Felts. A DVD with speaker John J. Renton, PhD titled "Volcano Activity-Nature of Earth."

John Roup gave a short presentation about Amazonite: "What Makes It Green?"

New Business

South Central Federation of Mineral Societies (SCFMS) has a yearly contest for the Rockhound of the Year. Fredericksburg Rockhounds nominated Jim Gedeon.

The Fredericksburg Rockhounds will be hosting the SCFMS Meeting at our annual show. This will be a onetime event to help celebrate the clubs 50th Anniversary. Virginia Adian will be doing the Federation part of the work and needs two volunteers to assist her.

Show Chairman Jim Gedeon needs two volunteers.

Lee Adams announced for Claude Townsend that he will be sponsoring an annual cactus, fossil, and petrified wood hunt at the 4m Ranch in Sonora, April 20, 21, 22. He is asking \$120.00 per person that includes room and board or \$20.00 for Saturday only and bring your own food. Contact Claude at 210-655-8959 or ctownsend99@twc.com (<mailto:ctownsend99@twc.com>).

Lee is looking into a field trip to the Brownsville area.

The Alpine Show is Easter weekend.

Old Business

Lynn Post and Tom Carswell conducted a successful audit of the Fredericksburg Rockhounds treasurer. The taxes have been filed and accepted.

Committees:

Hospitality Committee: Kim Roth volunteered to help in the kitchen area during the club meetings. It would be great if Susan Olsen had at least one other volunteer.

Membership Committee: needs at least one more Volunteer.

Social Committee: Glenn Thompson turned the Social Committee over to Brenda Smith. Brenda announced that Charles White had recently had back surgery and Chester Hohmann broke his hip and is in a Fredericksburg Nursing Home (see [Biography \(#articlec\)](#) above).

Door Prizes:

Donor	Door Prizes
Virginia Adian	Blue Lace Agate
Mr. Mitchell	Rock shaped like a hard pie slice
John Crone	2, Quartz XT1
Lynn Post	Petrified wood
Lee Adams	Petrified wood
John Crone	Soapstone cup
Steve Perez	Rock hound magazines
Steve Perez	Mini 8 rock collection
Frank Rowell & Patti Felts	3 volcanic rocks: Basalt, Audesite, and Pumice
Lee Adams	Small Colorado rock collection
Kevin A. Van Renterghem	Obsidian from Jemez, NM

— *Judy Adams, secretary*

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Mark Your Calendars...

– March/April 2018

March 30-April 1, 2018 – ALPINE, TEXAS: Show and sale; Chihuahuan Desert Gem & Mineral Club, Alpine Civiv Center; 801 W. Holland Ave., (W. Hwy 90); Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 10-5; Free Admission; Inside and outside vendors. Exhibits (non-competitive). Contact Judith Brueske, PO Box 195, Alpine, TX 79831, (432)-244-9503; e-mail: ocoent895@gmail.com (<mailto:ocoent895@gmail.com>)

– April 2018

Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society Annual Show

April 14-15, 2018 – ABILENE, TEXAS: Annual show; Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society, Abilene Convention Center; N 6th & Pine; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-4; Admission \$3, Children 6-12, \$1.50; under under 6 & Scouts and Military in uniform free; Central Texas Gem & Mineral Society. Exhibits, Wheel of Fortune, dealers, fossils, rare minerals, cut and uncut gems, fluorescent display, lapidary supplies and rough, jewelry making equipment, beads, Crack your own Geode, Silent Auction, door prizes, grand prize drawing; proceeds benefit scholarship program. Contact Kay McDaniel, 3118 Woodglenn Cove, Abilene, TX 79606, (325)-668-8558; e-mail: kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net (<mailto:kmcdaniel23@suddenlink.net>); Web site: www.new.calichetimes.com (<http://www.new.calichetimes.com>)

o For more shows at later dates, or outside Texas, visit www.rockngem.com ([http://www.rockngem.com/ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL](http://www.rockngem.com>ShowDatesFiles/ShowDatesDisplayAll.php?ShowState=ALL))

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April's Birthstone & Flowers

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 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.

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

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Happy Birthday!



- **Jose Uribe** – April 5
- **Charlotte Gardner** – April 8
- **Kelly Miller** – April 14
- **Logan Otka** – April 18
- **Randall Benson** – April 21
- **Christine Dietrich Cragg** – April 22
- **Don Reinke** – April 26

– 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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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 address will continue to receive notifications via email when the newsletter is published for viewing online.

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Every online newsletter will now feature a link to a PDF version of itself in the section titled “**Print or Save This Newsletter (#printthisnewsletter)**” where you can save or print your own copy.

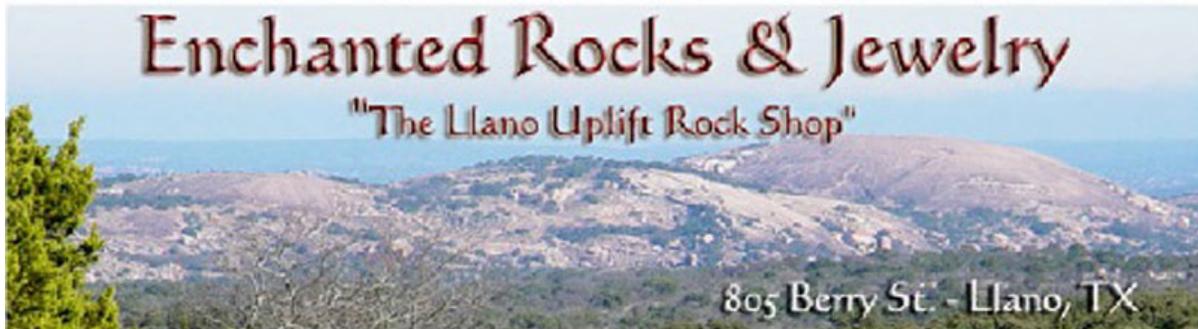
If you need a hard copy of the newsletter each month and cannot access the online newsletters — <http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/newsletter/> (<http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/newsletter/>) — to print your own, then please let the president, Lee Adams, know. He will provide printed copies for those who need them at each monthly meeting.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask us.

— Josh and Melissa Hazer, fbrockhoundsnews@gmail.com (<mailto:fbrockhoundsnews@gmail.com>)

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Frank Rowell & Pat Felts frank@EnchantedRocksAndJewelry.com



Enchanted Rocks & Jewelry
805 Berry St.
Llano, Tx 78643
{325}247-4137

Store Hours
Tuesday - Saturday
10am - 6pm
Or by Appointment
EnchantedRocksAndJewelry.com

<http://enchantedrocksandjewelry.com>

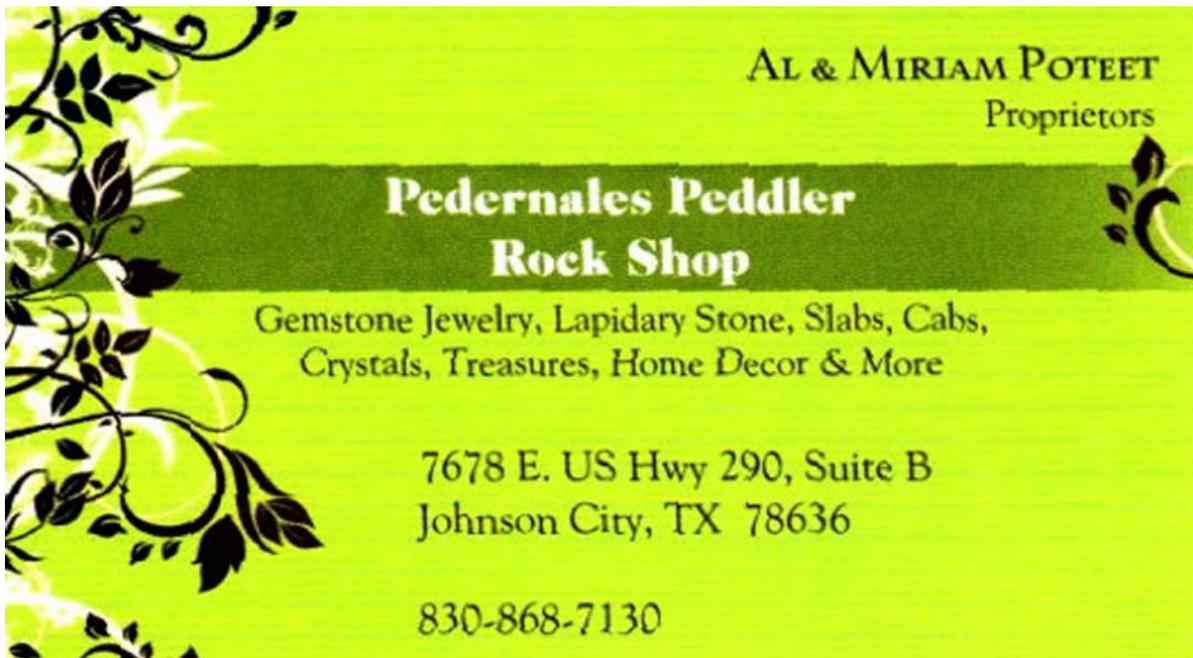


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- **Purpose of the Fredericksburg Rockhounds:**

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: fbgrckhoundsnews@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, and lots of interesting hobby-related website links.

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Club Officers and Committee Chairs

Club Officers for 2018:

- **President:** Lee Adams – (830) 796-8890
- **1st Vice President:** Tom Carswell – (830) 792-2160
- **2nd Vice President:** Patti Felts – (325) 248-6040
- **Past President:** Andy Anderson – (830) 370-2177
- **Treasurer:** John Roup – (830) 896-4955
- **Secretary:** Judy Adams – (830) 796-8890

Committee Chairs:

- **Programs:** Patti Felts – (325) 248-6040
- **Field Trips:** Patti Felts – (325) 248-6040
and Sam Rodgers – (210) 240-7721
- **Hospitality:** Susan Olson – (830) 997-8516
- **Membership:** Brenda Smith – (830) 895-9630
- **Historian:** Sara Verstuyft – (830) 998-7350
- **Media Equipment:** John Crone – (830) 990-9823
- **Annual Show:** Jim Gedeon – (830) 456-5419
- **Newsletter:** Josh and Melissa Hazer

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Monthly Meeting Map



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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> (<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 Virginia Adian at v.adian@gvtc.com (<mailto:v.adian@gvtc.com>) or 830-755-6105

The **Club CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS** are posted on our website: fredericksburgrockhounds.org/constitution (<http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/constitution/>)

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The PDF has the same information as what you see here online, but it is in a printer friendly format. If you have any questions, just drop us a line and we'll be happy to help you.

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