

Menu

[Fredericksburg Rockhounds](#)

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS



— December 2018 —

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From the Top of the Rock Pile

By

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Lee Adams – President

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM OUR HOUSE TO YOURS

IT'S PARTY TIME AGAIN!!!

*****REMEMBER, WE BEGIN AT 6:00 PM*****

INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 7:00 PM

Here it is December already. Where has the year gone. Our club has had an eventful year, too many things to list.

We have made a few changes to meeting procedures and a few changes to this year's show. The largest being to celebrate our 50th Anniversary by having the one-time SCFMS convention at the same time as the show.

I have had a few personal atta boys and a few (we can do better next time) lessons learned this year.

I want to thank all of the members of the club for making this a great year. We have gained new members and our club is growing in numbers.

I look forward to next year and even more success for our group. Keep the good times rolling and may you find a trophy rock under the Christmas tree.

—*Lee Adams*

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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 [Jeff & Brenda Smith \(#articleb\)](#) and [Tom & Sam Rogers \(#snippetb\)](#).

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Jeff & Brenda Smith

– A Biography –

Jeff was born in 1941 in New York City. His family lived on the East Side of Manhattan in Tudor City, purported to be the world's first residential skyscraper community. A nearby granite cliff provided Jeff an excellent view of the United Nations during its construction and opening ceremonies. He remembers sitting on his father's shoulders in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral watching the VJ Day parade. (He noticed rubber blocks used in the tanks' treads to prevent them from tearing up the streets.) By the time he was a first-grader, he was riding the city bus to school. Despite his bus-riding competence, his teachers complained that he would not "color inside the lines".

In 1950 Jeff's father, a broadcast engineer for WOR, decided to move the family to San Antonio and start a sound recording studio. By now the family included a younger brother and sister. They made the trip in a De Soto station wagon. At the end of that journey Jeff found a place very different from New York City. Over the next few years he paid less attention to school work. He worked at his father's recording studio and at the Handy Andy grocery store. "Coloring outside the lines" morphed into some interesting antics, including one that turned his high school's water supply a yucky green color. The principal told his family he could not return for his sophomore year. Schreiner Institute (now Schreiner University) was the military school that shaped him up and got him ready for college.

Jeff went to U. of Texas in Austin in 1959. He decided to major in mathematics because it is the language of science, and science had always interested him. After earning his B.A. and M.A. there, he followed the supervising professor for his Ph.D. to Texas Tech. Although there were some interesting consulting projects there, he was disenchanted with teaching and Lubbock. Before completing his doctorate, he went to work for Sun Oil in Dallas as a research mathematician. His boss in Dallas described Jeff's problem-solving approach as "thinking outside the box". (Is that the same as "coloring outside the lines"?) Jeff developed an interest in geochemical prospecting and a curiosity about how all aspects of the oil business worked. He asked to go to the Calgary office, where all facets of the business were in one place. The exploration manager in Calgary agreed to take him on, and they have become lifelong friends. Both he and Jeff eventually started their own businesses.

After selling his business, Jeff pursued a Ph.D. at S.M.U. He wanted to study geological sciences to understand the theoretical underpinnings of the work he had done in the oil industry. It took a while, but he earned the doctorate in geophysics in 1991.

Brenda was born in 1949 in the northwest part of Alabama along the Tennessee River. Going to town on the bus with her mother and two sisters was a grand adventure. Her parents grew up on farms in Alabama and became pen pals when her father was in the Navy during World War II. Brenda has happy childhood memories of picking strawberries and vegetables in her grandparent's gardens. Her family moved to Savannah, Georgia, in the 1950's, and then back to Alabama after a few years. As daughters of a Methodist minister, Brenda and her sisters were very well behaved. Brenda was not one to "color outside the lines".

Brenda started college at U. of North Alabama in 1967 and graduated from U. of Texas at Arlington in 1971 with a major in history and a minor in English. Looking in the Fort Worth Star Telegram classifieds, she found an ad for aptitude test administrator under "Male Help Wanted". Human Engineering Laboratory agreed to interview her if she passed some aptitude tests and promised not to quit before Christmas. She got the job. It involved timing examinees to see how quickly and accurately they performed scores of very specific types of tasks involving things like three-dimensional thinking, manual dexterity, and analytical thinking. It also involved explaining the results to clients and suggesting careers that fit their strengths. Two thirds of the clients were from Dallas. After repeated suggestions that the office relocate from Fort Worth to Dallas were ignored, Brenda and two colleagues started their own aptitude testing nonprofit in Dallas. Brenda handled the business side of things; one colleague handled the research work; and the other handled the public relations. Brenda worked U. of Dallas evening courses and earned her MBA during this time.

Brenda and Jeff met in Dallas in November, 1977, and married in January, 1978. Jeff's interest in how geological structures came to be and his explanations so that Brenda can understand them have made their travels interesting. When they retired to Kerrville in 2002, John Dietrich and Bill Wildfong encouraged them to join the Fredericksburg Rockhounds. Jeff was Show Chairman for many years, and Brenda was President for a while. Jeff is interested in the electrostatic basis for dowsing and learned a lot from some of the old timers who are no longer with us. Brenda has likes field trips and collecting rocks for her garden. Both enjoy being with the Fredericksburg Rockhounds, a friendly and fun group of people.

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Sam (Buck) Rogers

— A Biography —

Sam Rodgers was born in 1949 in Guanajuato, Mexico and was raised in Mexico City.

He attended elementary school 1-6 grade in a public school in Mexico City and grades 7-9 in a Military Academy in Mexico City. Sam finished grades 9-12 college preparation and grades 13-16 college preparation in Mexico City.

In 1966 Sam's family evacuated from Mexico to El Paso, TX. Sam needed the necessary papers for school so he attended El Paso High School and joined the Navy in 1968.

While in the Navy, Sam served on the USS Essex, CV-9. The Essex was decommissioned in Boston in 1969. Sam was then transferred to Naples Italy for 3 years and served as a Naval Airman at that facility. When his enlistment was complete, Sam moved back to Mexico in 1972-1975 where he studied Anthropology at the University of the Americas.

Sam's mother stayed in the U.S. and worked at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. In 1975, she asked Sam to return to the U.S. to help her move to El Paso, TX. The two drove from Washington State to El Paso during a gas shortage. That same year, Sam's mother got a job at San Antonio Trinity University and asked Sam to drive her there. Sam liked San Antonio better than El Paso so he decided to stay.

Sam went to work as a chef in San Antonio at the Church House Dinner Theater for about a year while attending San Antonio College using his GI Bill. In 1979 Sam reenlisted in the Navy and was stationed in Pensacola, Florida. Sam met Mary Eileen (Pepper) in Pensacola and they were married. Sam and Mary have one son.

Mary Eileen (Pepper) is a graduate of the University of Texas San Antonio School of Nursing. Pepper has a master's degree from the University of California nursing Administration. She was born in the Naval Hospital in Key West, Florida.

The Navy transferred Sam from Florida to Norfolk, Virginia where he worked for 3 ½ years. When his enlistment was complete he got out of the Navy and went into business in the Tidewater area. His business was American Hygienic, a cleaning business and he also worked for a car wash firm as an engineer.

In 1989, Pepper got a job in Richmond, VA where they lived until 1994. In 1994 Sam and Mary moved back to San Antonio where Sam took over a bakery. He then became a night manager/baker for a popular San Antonio restaurant until in 2007. Pepper worked for Tricare Medical Healthcare system.

In 2007 Pepper learned to wire wrap and bead from Marie Banta. In 2008 Sam started making cabochons, Pepper would wire wrap those stones and they started selling her work at shows. They joined the Southwest Gem and Mineral Society and the San Antonio Geological Society and enjoyed participating in field trips. In 2009 Claude Townsend suggested Sam and Mary join the Fredericksburg Rockhounds.

Sam enjoys rock hounding very much. Many clubs saw his success and asked him to be their field trip coordinator. Sam currently finds himself as the field trip coordinator for Midland, Alpine, Victoria, Austin, Fredericksburg, San Antonio Geological Society, San Antonio Rock and Mineral Society, Tri Cities, Fort Worth Gem and Mineral, Abilene and Dallas Gem and Mineral. Sam primarily leads rock hunts to the Eagle Pass area with one group being 82 cars and 122 people.

Sam tells a story of how he was collecting at the “old pit” in Eagle Pass and saw a border patrol man going North. Sam chased him down and the border patrol man stopped because he was being chased. Sam asked him if there was any other place to find rock along the Rio Grande and as a result of the chase a new pit (where many of us rockhounds now collect) was found.

Sam’s other hobbies include stamp collecting, embroidery, wood carving, leather work, cake decorating and baking.

Sam has no intention of retiring, he is having too much fun!

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2019 Membership Dues

As we approach the new year, we will begin taking dues for 2019 at the next monthly meeting on November 5th, 2018. Despite the ever increasing prices of the world today, the cost of membership remains unchanged. Yearly dues are as follows: **\$3 for junior members** (under 19 years), **\$8 for adult members** (19 and over), and **\$15 for families**.

As you renew your club membership, please take a moment to ensure your information is up-to-date. As always, let us know if you need to make a change to anything.

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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/> (<http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/resources/>)

Once there, simply click the link for the 2018 Membership Form to download or print a PDF copy.

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Fredericksburg Rockhounds Meeting Minutes

– October 1st, 2018 –

Lee Adams opened the 7pm meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Membership Committee:

Introduced a new member, Steve Smith and a guest Mercedes. The committee also collected yearly club dues.

Program:

Jim Gedeon provided show flyer packets to club members living in various areas. The flyers are to be distributed in areas where they will be seen by people interested in coming to our show in January. Jim asked that these flyers not be distributed until after Christmas. We are also advertising the show on Facebook and our club website. Tom and Judy Carswell are in charge of the silent auction at the show. Tom advised they could use 80 items of gem and minerals (not jewelry—\$10 To \$15 value.) for the silent auction. Jim Gedeon asked who was interested in having their display cases judged by the federation. Several people said they would like to be judged. The application form is attached to the Fredericksburg Rockhounds web site. The rules for all categories to be judged are on the AFMS website. Jim will bring signup sheets at the January club meeting for volunteers to work the doors at the show. Susan Olsen will also have a signup sheet for what you would like to bring to the vendor dinner on Friday evening.

Historian Sara Verstuylt:

Sara brings the history book to every meeting, we hope you will stop by and look through it.

Old Business:

A motion was approved to accept October 2018 minutes as they appeared in the newsletter.

The club members voted and approved Steve Perez for 1st Vice President and Jim Gedeon as Treasurer.

Mr. Malcom Johnston, a past President of the Fredericksburg Rockhounds, donated a faceting machine and some display cases to the club. The faceting machine was purchased by Steve Smith.

New Business:

Virginia Adian asked for volunteers to provide four 9X13 inch iced cakes for the Federation Dinner. Lee and Judy Adams will donate one of the cakes.

Miscellaneous:

The club offers discount lessons in wire wrapping and cutting/polishing rocks. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the meeting.

Thanks to everyone that brought food to the meeting. We had quite a feast.

Please put your name on personal dishes and silverware.

Door Prizes:

(This information is taken from the slips of paper you fill out on the door prize table)

Donor	Door Prize
Lee Adams	Coral fossil
Ed Beauford	Rock magazines
Sue Burkhart/Gail Bowie	Petrified Wood
Frida Carron	Conglomerate from Red Creek
John Crone	Gem identification, Apache Tears from Colorado, Gem testing, Calcite bowl
Ken DeVos	Muscovite in granite Hilda Mason County Texas
Patricia Felts	Luna, New Mexico agate, Catron County, NM
Lynn & Lola Post	Smithsonite/Magdalenita, NM (Fluoresces)
John & Carolyn Roup	Rock & Mineral CD

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Adams, Secretary

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Future Meeting Programs

December 3, 2018 — OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

January 7, 2019 — Larry Tillick, President of the San Antonio Geological Society, will give a slide presentation and show and tell covering a field trip to New Mexico and Arizona. (This is a result of our program swap with other clubs)

February 4, 2019 — Don Reinke, a member of the Fredericksburg Rockhounds and former employee of NASA, will be our guest speaker. He will give a presentation about meteorites.

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This Month’s Events

– December 2018

December 3, 2018 – FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS: In lieu of our regular meetings, our annual Christmas meeting will take place at 6pm on Monday, December 3rd, at the Golden Hub Senior Center located at 1009 N Lincoln, Fredericksburg, Texas. See map on last page.

December 15, 2018 – FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS: The annual SCFMS convention will take place in conjunction with the Fredericksburg Rockhounds 50th Annual Gem & Mineral Show at the Pioneer Pavillion in the Ladybird Johnson Municipal Park in Fredericksburg, Texas on the weekend of January 19-20, 2019. Those wishing to attend either the Breakfast with Editors & Webmasters Event or the Awards Banquet Event may do so via the Advanced Registration Form on the SCFMS website located here:

<http://www.scfms.net/show.htm> (<http://www.scfms.net/show.htm>)

Once there, click on the link titled – Advance Registration Form (due December 15, 2018) and Schedule – to download a Word.docx file that you may then fill out and submit following the instructions within the file.

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

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December’s Birthstone & Flowers

The December birthstone is the **turquoise**; the flower are the **narcissus** and the **holly**.



Turquoise



Narcissus



Holly

Turquoise is found most often in very dry areas where volcanic activity has occurred. Unlike many other gems, turquoise is opaque rather than translucent. Its blue-green color can vary from sky blue or greenish blue to pale green or greenish gray. Bluer stones are considered more valuable and contain more copper.

The holly symbolizes your wish for domestic happiness. Although some animals and birds enjoy holly berries, they are toxic to humans.

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The narcissus conveys that you want your beloved to stay just the way they are. While there are many types of narcissus, the paperwhite is the winter-growing variety and the birth flower for December.

- o *Majoros, Martie. "December Birthstone: Color and Meaning." Almanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. October 17, 2018.*
- o *"December Birth Flower." Almanac.com. Yankee Publishing, Inc. n.d. October 17, 2018.*

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Happy Birthday!



- **Herve Courtois** – December 2
- **Lynn Harris** – December 3
- **John Crone, HLM** – December 6
- **Beth Brady** – December 7
- **Andrea Webb** – December 7
- **Judy Steele** – December 8
- **Betty Hall** – December 10
- **Alicia Martinez** – December 11
- **Devon MacDonald** – December 12
- **Bill Morgenstern** – December 12
- **Lola Post** – December 12
- **Greg Ahrendt** – December 15
- **Judy Adams** – December 18
- **Larry Gardner** – December 19
- **Kenneth Verstuyft** – December 26
- **Judy Lackey** – December 29
- **Robert Little** – December 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 (<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 email address will continue to receive notifications via email when the newsletter is published for viewing online.

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.

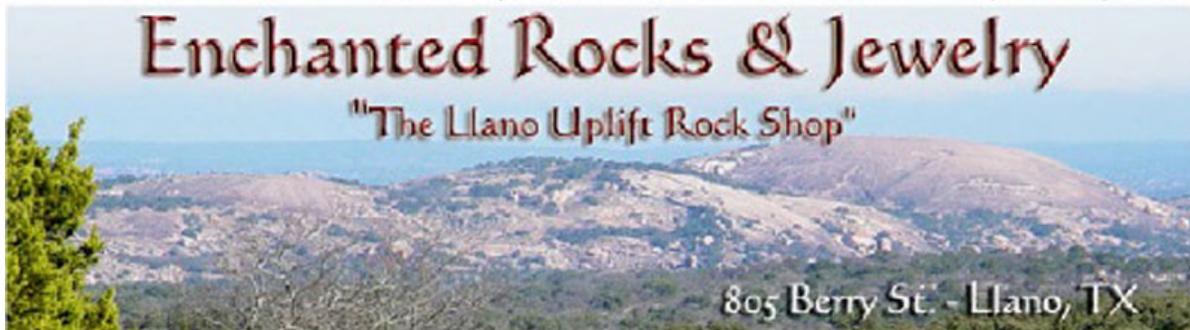
If you need a hard copy of the newsletter each month and cannot access the online newsletters — <http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/newsletter/> (<http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/newsletter/>) — to print your own, then please let the president, Lee Adams, know. He will provide printed copies for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

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

— Josh Hazer, fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com (<mailto:fbgrockhoundsnews@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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fbrockhoundsnews@gmail.com (<mailto:fbrockhoundsnews@gmail.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, resources, and previous newsletters.

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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) 247-6040
- **Field Trips:** Patti Felts – (325) 247-6040
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 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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To print or save this newsletter, click the following link for the PDF version.

[Newsletter PDF \(http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Fbg-Rockhounds-December-2018.pdf\)](http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Fbg-Rockhounds-December-2018.pdf)

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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