

Menu

[Fredericksburg Rockhounds](#)

FREDERICKSBURG, TEXAS

FREDERICKSBURG ROCKHOUNDS



— February 2020 —

Table of Contents

- [Our Sympathies \(#articlea\)](#)
- [Bill Wildfong — A Biography \(#snippeta\)](#)
- [Club Membership Forms \(#snippetf\)](#)
- [Fredericksburg Rockhounds Minutes \(#articleg\)](#)
- [This Month's Events \(#events\)](#)
- [February Birthstone & Flowers \(#birthstoneandflowers\)](#)
- [Birthdays \(#birthdays\)](#)
- [Newsletter Hard Copies & Mail-Outs \(#newspsa\)](#)
- [Ads \(#ads\)](#)
- [Club Info \(#clubinfo\)](#)
- [Club Officers and Committee Chairs \(#clubofficers\)](#)
- [Monthly Meeting Map \(#meetingmap\)](#)
- [Newsletter Articles and Club Info \(#newslettermembershipinfo\)](#)
- [Print or Save This Newsletter \(#printthisnewsletter\)](#)

Our Sympathies

It is with heavy heart that we report the passing of Honorary Lifetime Member Bill Wildfong. Bill was born July 12, 1936 and passed away on December 22, 2019. In his honor, we are reprinting his biography that was originally published in our July 2018 newsletter.

[Table of Contents \(#toc\)](#)

Bill Wildfong

– A Biography –

Bill was born in St. Louis in 1936. He lived there until he was in his teens. His father, William, was a pharmaceutical salesman and a registered pharmacist. His mother, Vivian Niederloh, was a stay-at-home mom. Bill has a sister, Sharon, who now lives in Peoria. The Wildfong family moved from St. Louis to Hannibal, Missouri, Burlington, Iowa and then to Peoria, Illinois. Bill moved to Fort Myer, Florida, Orlando, Florida and to Kerrville in 1999.

Bill attended Malinkrodt Grade School and Southwest High School in St. Louis. He then attended High School in Hannibal, Missouri and graduated from High School at Burlington High School in Iowa. Wildfong studied Electrical Engineering at Bradley University in Peoria and the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana, with no diploma.

Bill's first real job was as an Electronics Technician for Illinois Bell Telephone in Peoria. He then took a job as equipment engineer for Florida Telephone (now Embarq) in Ft Myers, Florida. Bill joined the Naval Reserve and taught electronics at the monthly Navy Reserve meetings.

Bill and Cheryl met at a skin-diving club meeting in Florida, and it was love at first sight. They married in 1972. Cheryl has a nursing degree (LPN); she worked in an ear-nose-throat clinic under Dr. Robin Brown, the author of "Florida's Fossils" and "Florida's First People." Bill took early retirement with a "golden parachute" in 1997. Cheryl also retired. They were already avid fossil hunters and after retirement they traveled to the Southwest, where they discovered gems and minerals. Bill and Cheryl visited Jim and Jackie Chude's rock shop and fell in love with Fredericksburg. They decided to move from Orlando to Kerrville in 1999. Cheryl loves gardening and Bill is a computer addict, with no interest in computer games.

Bill published a newsletter for the Succulents Club in Kerrville and he and Cheryl were active members of that club. Bill and Cheryl have a greenhouse and have raised succulents for years. Cheryl has a loom and is an avid weaver.

Bill and Cheryl joined the Fredericksburg Rockhounds in 2001 and volunteered to publish the newsletter. Bill published the award-winning newsletter and also maintained the Rockhounds membership lists until December 2017. Cheryl is an excellent graphics person and has also put a lot of work into the Rockhounds newsletters. In their early years with the Rockhounds, Bill and Cheryl were vendors at the annual Rock and Mineral show. Bill and Cheryl have been granted lifetime memberships with the Fredericksburg Rockhounds.

- o *Written by Judy Adams based on an e-mail interview with additional input for Glenn Thompson.*

[Table of Contents \(#toc\)](#)

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.

[Table of Contents \(#toc\)](#)

Fredericksburg Rockhounds Meeting Minutes

– January 6th, 2020 –

President Frank Roswell opened the meeting at 7 pm. Andy Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Then Frank told some jokes.

Membership Chairwoman Virginia Adian introduced member Chris Cooley, who was attending his first monthly meeting.

Instead of a typical program, time was devoted to discussion and organization of our upcoming Hill Country Gem and Mineral Show. Members were encouraged to contact Steve Perez for flyers about the show, and Brenda Smith volunteered to contact Josh Hazer about sending an email to members with Steve’s contact information. Frank Rowell indicated there will be a couple of new dealers at the show and that the Gold Panners from Round Rock will be there. Susan Olson instructed members to bring food for Friday evening’s dinner by 5 p.m. We will eat at 5:30 p.m. Sue Burkhart will put the show information on Facebook. Lee Adams said that the exhibit he put in the Fredericksburg library will be there for 30 days.

Dinosaur George’s traveling museum that we sponsored in December was a great success. Karen Anderson thanked all the volunteers who helped. Andy Anderson gave a detailed report revealing that 266 school children attended on Friday, December 13. On Saturday 127 adults and 104 children came. The dinosaur donation box created for the event did a good job. Sara Verstuyft donned her dinosaur costume, and one child who saw her face through the dinosaur’s mouth thought it had devoured Sara.

Frank Roswell announced that Honorary Life Member Bill Wildfong passed away shortly before Christmas. He and his wife, Cheryl, did the newsletter, sent emails to the membership and maintained the list of members for many years. The Fredericksburg Rockhounds will make donations to the Kerrville library in his memory and in memory of Sandra White, a long-time member who also passed away recently.

Lee Adams volunteered to be door prize coordinator at the monthly meetings. If you want to donate a door prize, go to his table and fill out the slip asking for your name and the name of the item donated and where it came from. If we do not get this information, it will not be published in the newsletter. Below is door prize information from January’s meeting.

Donor	Door Prize	Winner
Steve Perez	Brazil agate	D. Magee
Steve Perez	Cholla cactus	Jessie Petty
Anonymous	Flourite	Randall Benson

Tom Mitchel	Stone fossil	Joe De Hoyos
Virginia Adian	Goethite	Brenda Smith
Frank Rowell & Patti Felts	Rudist claw	Lynn Harris
John Roup	Magazine	Jim Chude
John Crone	Jasper & agate slabs	Sam Rodgers
Lynn & Lola Post	Rock & Gem magazine	Jennifer Burkhart

After a motion was made and seconded, members at the meeting voted to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

—Brenda Smith, Secretary, and Judy Adams, “Secretary Emerita”

[Table of Contents \(#toc\)](#)

This Month’s Events

February 2020

15-16—GEORGETOWN, TEXAS: Annual show; Williamson County Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.; Georgetown Community Center at San Gabriel Park, 445 East Morrow Street; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$3, Youth (ages 6-12) \$2, free admission for children under 6; 50th annual show, featuring dealers offering gemstones, crystals, jewelry, mineral specimens, geodes, fossils, beads; contact WCGMS Show Chairperson, P.O. Box 422, Georgetown, TX 78627, (512) 516-5575; Email: wcmstx1@outlook.com (<mailto:wcmstx1@outlook.com>); Website: www.wcgms.org (<http://www.wcgms.org>)

22-23—PASADENA, TEXAS: Annual show; Clear Lake Gem & Mineral Club; Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$7, children (6-12) \$3, free admission for children and scouts in uniform; contact Sandra Christiansen; Email: clgmsvendors@gmail.com (<mailto:clgmsvendors@gmail.com>); Website: <http://www.clgms.org/page2.html> (<http://www.clgms.org/page2.html>)

22-23—PLAINVIEW, TEXAS: Annual show; Hi-Plains Gem & Mineral Society; Ollie Liner Center, 2000 S Columbia; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; Adults \$3, students \$1; 58th annual show, vendors offering gems, minerals, beads, demonstrations, jewelry, displays, and activities for children; contact Bobby and Kitty Shipman, 1616 Ennis St., Plainview, TX 79072, (806) 685-3748; Email: bobcat22@suddenlink.net (<mailto:bobcat22@suddenlink.net>)

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

[Table of Contents \(#toc\)](#)

February Birthstone & Flowers

The February birthstone is the **amethyst**; the flowers are the **violet** and the **primrose**.

			
<i>Amethyst</i>	<i>Violet</i>	<i>Primrose</i>	

The February birthstone, the amethyst, is said to strengthen relationships and give its wearer courage. Amethysts are a type of quartz often found in geodes amidst cooled lava. Their purple coloring runs the gamut from reddish purple to a bluish lilac. The finest quality is a strongly saturated reddish purple to dark purple as long as the stone does not become too dark to see its brightness.

The February birth month flowers are the violet and the primrose.

Violets signify watchfulness, loyalty, and faithfulness.

The other February birth flower is the primrose, which lets someone know you can't live without them.

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

[Table of Contents \(#toc\)](#)

Happy Birthday!



- **Charles White** – February 5
- **Elijah** – February 8
- **Lynn Post** – February 9
- **Kiernan Tays** – February 9
- **Wade Miller** – February 10
- **Joe De Hoyos** – February 12
- **Dolores Uribe** – February 12
- **Jesse Martinez** – February 14
- **Sara Roach** – February 15
- **Judith Little** – February 19
- **Glen Wayne** – February 24
- **Marie Westermeier** – February 24
- **Rita Moyes** – February 27

***Sue Burkhart's birthdays was incorrectly listed in the last newsletter. Her birthday is January 15th.**

– 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>)

[Table of Contents \(#toc\)](#)

Newsletter Hard Copies & Mail-Outs

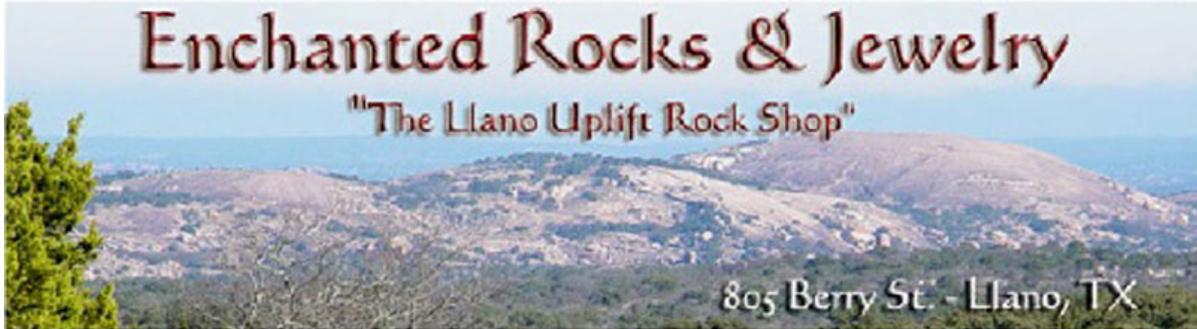
The club will no longer mail out hard copies of the newsletter to members. Those who have provided the club with an email address will continue to receive notifications via email when the newsletter is published for viewing online.

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.

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>



<mailto:leeapeman93@yahoo.com>



Pedernales Peddler Rock Shop
505 E. Main Street, Johnson City, TX

Facebook: @RockShopTX
830-868-7130

Your ad here for \$25/year

For more information, please contact the newsletter editors by emailing us at:

fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com (<mailto:fbgrockhoundsnews@gmail.com>)

[Table of Contents \(#toc\)](#)

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 (<http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org>) for more club info, field trip news, club photos, resources, and previous newsletters.



Club Officers and Committee Chairs

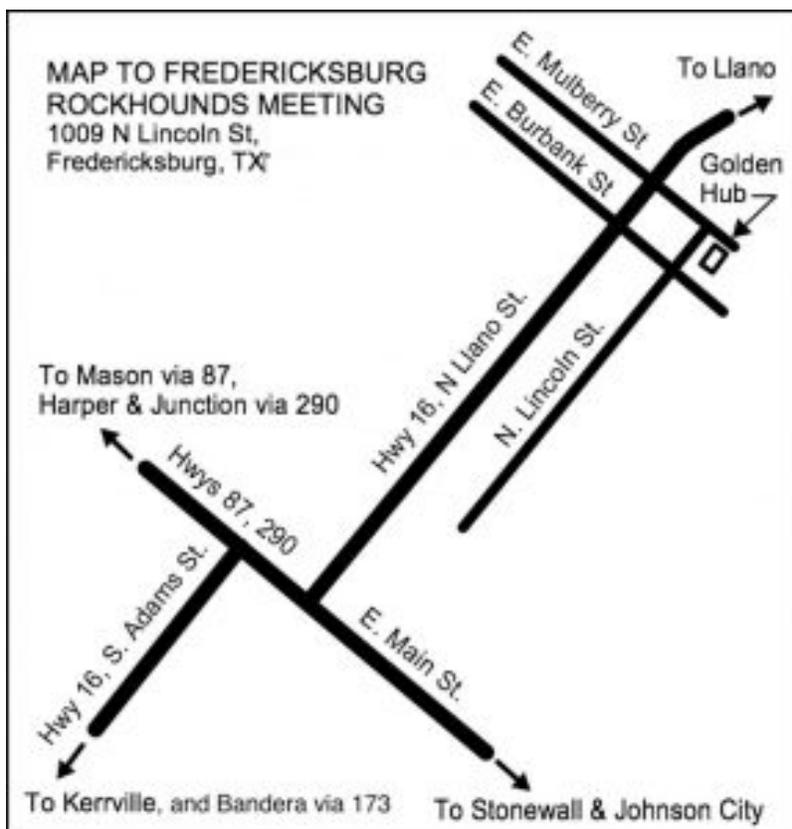
Club Officers for 2020:

- **President:** Frank Rowell
- **1st Vice President:** Steve Perez – (817) 404-9789
- **2nd Vice President:** Patti Felts – (325) 248-6040
- **Past President:** Lee Adams – (830) 796-8890
- **Treasurer:** Jim Gedeon – (830) 456-5419
- **Secretary:** Brenda Smith – (830) 895-9630

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:** Vacant
- **Newsletter:** Josh Hazer

Monthly Meeting Map



[Table of Contents \(#toc\)](#)

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: fbrockhoundsnews@gmail.com (<mailto:fbrockhoundsnews@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/>)

[Table of Contents \(#toc\)](#)

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To print or save this newsletter, click the following link for the PDF version.

[Newsletter PDF \(http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/January-2020-Fredericksburg-Rockhounds.pdf\)](http://fredericksburgrockhounds.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/January-2020-Fredericksburg-Rockhounds.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.

[*Table of Contents \(#toc\)*](#)

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