



TEXAS POND HONKER

August 2015

Character, Charity, Fellowship



DFW TEXAS POND

DATE: Monday, August 10, 2015

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: On the Border



Come join us at “On The Border” 4855 Beltline Road, Addison, Texas 75254 (West side of the Tollway on Beltline). We are meeting in the private room on the west side of the restaurant.

Our guest speaker will be Julie Wakefield, President & Founder of JW Etiquette. She will share with us her thoughts on the “Top 3 Etiquette Myths Busted.”

John Sterrantino & Daphney Elliott, the Texas Pond Delegates will share with you the highlights of the Grand Nest Convention in Baltimore.

The Southern Region’s convention pin has arrived. The pin was shared with folks at the 109th convention in Baltimore. This pin is available for the Pond members to purchase. The funds raised from the sale of these pins goes toward the Southern Region convention in 2017. The pin cost is \$20.



HOUSTON PUDDLE



DATE: Tuesday, August 18, 2015

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: Molina’s

Calling all Ganders, Goslings and Friends to come join the fellowship of the **Houston Puddle** at **Molina’s; 7901 Westheimer; Houston, Texas.**



She is signing our song MLG, Daphney Elliott
Let’s Have Some Fun!



Grand Nest Convention Highlights 2015

WOW! What a great group of people!! You should have been there!!

Linda Meik, John Sterrantino and I had a FABULOUS time attending the Blue Goose Grand Nest Convention hosted this year by the National Capitol Pond in Baltimore,

Maryland. We enjoyed meeting with Blue Goose Ganders from all over the U.S. and Canada. It was exciting, informative, entertaining, and educational. It was obvious that everyone enjoyed themselves. This family event had 250 registered attendees!

What did we do?? The Welcome Party, held at the World Trade Center, kicked off the convention in style with great food, drinks, party pics, dancing, and Karaoke. The Opening Ceremonies included an excellent guest speaker from Fort McHenry, a touching Memorial Service, and an absolutely hilarious presentation by the New York City Pond showing us an example of a new Gander Initiation...think Transylvania and Frankenstein!! We were all in stitches. We were treated to a fun dinner cruise in the Harbor, lunch at the famous Phillip's Seafood Restaurant, and we attended an amazing Gala featuring a live band and an excellent dinner! Family members attended trips to the National Aquarium, Maryland Science Center, Baltimore Museum of Art, Urban Pirates, golfing, Seadog Boat tour, a tour of DC, and a Fort McHenry Tour. Whew! There was so much fun to be had!! And it was impressive watching the Grand Nest Officers move up in rank and the newest officer installed. These are coveted positions within the Order.

My takeaway....We are limited in our view of Blue Goose from the perspective of our involvement in our Texas Pond. However, attending a convention provides a fresh look at Blue Goose from all over the US and Canada. Attendees' excitement about Blue Goose, long term relationships with Ganders from all over, and repeated trips to Grand Nest conventions shows their infectious dedication to our Order, its' members and families. Remember...this Order is 109 years old!! I appreciated the level of respect given to the Blue Goose heritage while at the same time making every event fun and entertaining.

I had such a great time in Baltimore and look forward to attending next year's convention in hopes of seeing some of my new Blue Goose friends. Please consider attending a Grand Nest Convention in the future. It will give you a chance to connect with more great people in the insurance industry and gain a fresh perspective of being part of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose...an order with neat, century old traditions.

The 110th Annual Convention will be held in St Louis and the 111th will be held in Savannah, Georgia. Please look to our website for more details!

Tote Fair!!



DUES

It is time to start collecting dues for 2015-2016 Blue Goose Year.

Ganders and/or current Goslings (someone who has completed an application) you can pay your dues on-line via a credit card at our Blue Goose website: www.bluegoosetx.com. Click the tab for Dues and complete the Blue Goose Datasheet. If you have not completed an application, come to a meeting to obtain an application.

The option to pay by credit card will be available May 1st through August 30th. Dues on line via a credit card will be \$55.00 for the year. Should you want to pay your dues via a check or cash then the Texas Pond will accept dues for \$50.00 at the meetings during this time span, which we are referring to as our "Early Bird in Person Rate".



EDUCATION

On Wednesday, July 15, 2015; The Ethics of Appraising the Property Loss was presented by Leo Jordon of the Tollefson Bradley Mitchell & Melendi, LLP law firm.

Our next presentation is going to be on Wednesday, August 12, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. Our presenter will be Jennifer Gibbs from Zelle Hoffman law firm. This webinar is for ONE (1) hour of Ethics. The topic is "Myths & Realities of Bad Faith Law."

"This course educates the adjuster/claim handler/agent of recent developments in courts in TX and the U.S. regarding bad faith claims. Included in this course: definition of bad faith in various states, the differences between statutory and common law bad faith, specific issues within bad faith claims, such as liability without coverage, suits against individual agents and adjusters, and the various types of damages available."

Following this webinar, we will have three (3) more webinars until November. To register please go on line at www.bluegoosetx.com and follow the instructions provided.

Wednesday Wing Webinars are schedule for the Wednesday following our Monthly DFW Texas Pond meetings.

Cost: \$10

Register Online at www.bluegoosetx.org

DATES	COURSE
April 15 th Completed	TDI 92536 Jury Trials for Adjusters Amy Pollock - Willis Law Firm
May 13 th Completed	TDI 29541 Adjusters Role in the Personal Injury Lawsuit John Malanga – Malanga Law Firm
June 10 th Completed	TDI 100382 Texas Hail Damage Claims – 2015 Update from the Trenches Steve Badger – Zelle Hofmann
July 15 th	TDI (TBD) The Ethics of Appraising the Property Loss Leo Jordan - Tollefson Bradley Mitchell & Melendi, LLP 1 hour ETHICS
August 12 th	TDI 96686 Myths & Realities of Bad Faith Law Jennifer Gibbs - Zelle Hofmann 1 hour ETHICS
September 16 th	Course TBD Bryan Pope - Vincent Lopez Serafino Jenevein, P.C.
October 14 th	TDI (TBD) Erosion of Traditional Claim File Privileges: Are You Protected? Clint Cox - Fee, Smith, Sharp & Vitullo
November 11 th	TDI 92536 Jury Trials for Adjusters Amy Pollock - Willis Law Firm
No December course-----	



Blue Goose Advertisers for 2015- 2016

The Texas Pond "Honker" (Blue Goose) newsletter is published 12 times a year, so each month your ad will appear in the newsletter.

This Space is For You!



A Business Card size ad for a year is \$240 for the year, just a mere \$20/month. A quarter page size ad is \$600/year; Half Page ad is \$900 for the year; and a Full Page size ad is \$1,200 for the year.

Anyone, wanting to advertise in our Blue Goose newsletter contact Linda Meik at 817-269-6516 or via email at lsmeik@aol.com.



2015 – 2016 ADVERTISERS

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Quotable Quotes



Laughter is an instant vacation. [Milton Berle](#)

A vacation is having nothing to do and all day to do it in. [Robert Orben](#)

The idea of a perfect vacation is not working or not having to work and having no appointments. [Tom Welling](#)

If your work requires you to travel, you will understand that there's no vacation destination like home. [Park Chan-wook](#)

Isn't it amazing how much stuff we get done the day before vacation? [Zig Ziglar](#)

LAST MONTH



A room full of great fellowship!

More on the Grand Nest Convention in Baltimore!



Linda



John



Daphney

July 19th the National Capital Pond in Baltimore welcomed Blue Geese from all over the USA and Canada to the banks of the Inner Harbor for the Grand Nest Convention. Daphney Elliott and John Sterrantino, from Texas, were the Delegates for this convention.

In addition, Jamie, Aubrey & Ashlyn Meik accompanied Linda to the convention. Below are pictures and a summary of activities that Ashlyn, age 11, is sharing with you.

Ashlyn's comments – "On Saturday, July 18th we left Dallas and flew via Southwest airlines to Baltimore for the Blue Goose Convention. After we got to the hotel, my G-G had to hurry and get dressed to go to a meeting, so Mom, Aubrey & I went on an adventure. We continued our exploring the next day also and got to go to Ripley's Believe It Or Not and the Dragon Paddle boats.

Sunday night we got to go to the top of World Trade Center for the Welcome Party. You could see all of Baltimore from there.

On Monday we were off to the aquarium, which was really fun. They had many types of fish that were brightly colored or just plain looked weird but interesting. One of the many cool things there was the jellyfish exhibit, seeing all the little & big ones float around. We got to touch some of the jellyfish. Another thing I enjoyed about the aquarium was the dolphin tank. It was really fun seeing them swim, jump & play with their toys.

On Tuesday we went to the Children's Science Museum. The science museum was really fun and interesting because of all the different things they had there. I liked how they had interactive activities you could do, such as lying down on a bed of nails and then be lifted up by them or you could do different science experiments. Additionally, I liked all the things you could learn about,

like dinosaurs or neutrons or even the weather. One thing that surprised me was that WARM + COLD = HOT!

The Washington D.C. tour was really interesting in many ways. I really enjoyed going to and seeing the White House, and all that was around it. We got to see the Lincoln Memorial and it was much bigger than I thought it would be. I was surprised to learn how long it had been there and how good it looks. I also liked the Jefferson Memorial. It was super cool too. We got to drive by the Pentagon and to see how big it was.

The Urban Pirates adventure on Wednesday was really fun. We got to act like one of the pirates while we were on the boat, getting black eyes, mustaches, beards or stitches drawn on our faces. We got to play games like "pass the head" and limbo, which both were really fun. Also, we got to squirt water from the water cannons at Mad Dog Mike, a bad pirate.

Wednesday night, we got all dressed up and went to a banquet. Aubrey & I got to walk G-G into the banquet. We danced until we were tired."

Here are a few pictures from the convention.....see all the fun you missed!



Aubrey, Jamie, Linda & Ashlyn at the Welcome Party.



Mr. USA & Mr. Canada with Linda.



MLGG Bill Olson providing opening remarks at Opening Ceremony of the 109th convention in Baltimore. Every day was a USA history lesson or two.



New York City Pond or should I say the Transylvania Pond – Model Initiation.



John & Linda



Daphney & Linda

They are headed to the boat for the dinner cruise.



The Spirit Cruise (dinner) around Inner Harbor – Baltimore 2015.



Our Grand Nest Officers 2015-2016

Most Loyal Grand Gander

Randy Wilson, National Capital Pond

Grand Supervisor of the Flock

Linda Meik, Texas Pond

Grand Custodian of the Ganders

Mark Robertson, Edmonton Pond

Grand Guardian of the Nest

Kim Bilbrey, Dayton Pond

Grand Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg

Dan Rich, Hartford Pond

Grand Wielder of the Goose Quill

Terry Maloney, Wisconsin Home Nest

Judge Advocate

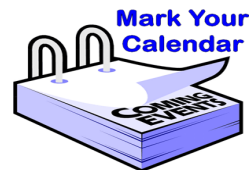
Robert Cockerham, St. Louis Pond

Grand Nest Historian

Jerry Hale, Hartford Pond



Enjoy these summer days!



Calendar of Events

2015- 2016 Blue Goose Year

2015 – 2016 BLUE GOOSE YEAR BEGINS

AUGUST MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY AUGUST 10, 2015

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

WEDNESDAY WINGS WEBINAR



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2015

12:00 P.M. CST

AUGUST MEETING – HOUSTON

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

THIRD TUESDAY AUGUST 18, 2015

MOLINA'S, HOUSTON, TX

SEPTEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2015

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

WEDNESDAY WINGS WEBINAR



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

12:00 P.M. CST

SEPTEMBER MEETING – HOUSTON

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

THIRD TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

MOLINA'S, HOUSTON, TX



Upcoming Grand Nest Events

July 2016

110th Grand Nest Convention

St Louis Pond

<http://www.bluegoosestl.org>

July 20-23, 2016

July 2017

111th Grand Nest Convention

Southern Region Convention

Savannah, Georgia

<http://bluegoosetx.com>

July 9-15, 2017



THE TEXAS POND WEB SITE

Our web site address is: www.bluegoosetx.com or
you can also go to the Blue Goose Grand Nest:
www.bluegoose.org



Texas Pond Officers 2015 - 2016

Most Loyal Gander – Daphney Elliott (W) 972-342-8728
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Supervisor of the Flock – Jennifer Hatch (C) 248-890-1339
Hatchjenn@yahoo.com

Custodian of the Goslings – Roger Foltz (C) 214-914-3733
Rbfoltz@aol.com

Guardian of the Pond – Wayne Ottoway (W) 214-220-5683
wayne.ottoway@cna.com

Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg – John Sterrantino (w)
972-931-8307 johns@williamsripa.com

And
Ashley Hansen (w) 817-788-3008 ashansen@aol.com

Wielder of the Goose Quill - Linda Meik
(M) 817-269-6516 lsmeik@aol.com

Some More Humor

Two Year Old

My two-year-old cousin scared us one summer by disappearing during our lakeside vacation. More than a dozen relatives searched the forest and shoreline, and everyone was relieved when we found Alex playing calmly in the woods.

"Listen to me, Alex," his mother said sharply. "From now on when you want to go someplace, you tell Mommy first, okay?"

Alex thought about that for a moment and said, "Okay. Disney World."

Forecast

Vacationing in Vermont, I picked up the local paper to check out the forecast.

It read:

Today: Sunny, 76.

Tonight: Not so sunny, 55.

Canadian Summer

I asked my Canadian friend "Did you have a good Summer?"

He replied "Yes indeed, we had a great picnic that afternoon!"

Minature Golf

It was at a miniature golf course on a brutally hot day when I saw a father with 3 kids.

"Who's winning?" I asked cheerfully.

"I am" said one "no, I am" said another.

"No," the father said "their mother is!"

