



TEXAS POND HONKER

December 2015

Character, Charity, Fellowship

DFW TEXAS POND

DATE: Monday, December 14, 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. Appetizers will be sponsored by Roger Foltz. Please sure to express your thanks to him.



Thanks to the generosity of Sammons Enterprises, Inc., and the Beaumont Foundation of America, every gift made to the North Texas Food Bank between November 20 and December 31 will be matched dollar-for-dollar until the \$200,000 challenge is met. This is an opportunity for your gift to have TWICE the impact in the fight against hunger here in North Texas! -

When making a donation to NTFB for this campaign, in the comments section enter the following: "Texas Pond-Blue Goose Organization". This will allow NTFB to compile all our donations from everyone for our organization. Donations must be at least \$5.00. Print your receipt and bring to the December or January meeting or email the receipt to kjohnson@mdd.com.

Goslings it is time to take your first swim in the Texas Pond. At our December meeting we will hold our 2nd initiation ceremony for 2015-2016. The Goslings that we have applications for are:

Mary Bramley
Jordan Griffith
Heather Massey
Sherry Montes
Terry Turnon

Gina Dolezal
Dave Janek
Richie Mattoni
Stephen Trim

Now we know that there are some other additional folks out there that have been to a meeting and expressed interest in becoming a member.....come to the meeting with cash or a check and let's get your application under way, so that you can end 2015 by being a Gander in the Texas Pond. If you have any questions, please give Linda Meik a call at 817-269-6516 or send her an email at lsmelik@aol.com.



She is singing our song MLG, Daphney Elliott

BLUE GOOSE HOLIDAYS A Time of Giving, Sharing & Celebrating!

Happy Holidays to the entire Blue Goose Texas Pond Family! I hope your holidays have started off on a happy and healthy note. This is the time of year when our tummies are full, our hearts are warm, our schedules are busy, and the excitement of this joyful season is in the air.

A Time of Giving... As for our Texas Pond, we are well on our way to meet our charitable giving goal for this fiscal year!! Our goal is to average \$100 in charitable contributions per member for our beneficiaries. This makes our goal \$7200. At this time our contributions are just over \$4000!! And there are many more opportunities to give in various ways this month and in 2016. So please consider participating in our endeavors and helping those in need. I am certain we will surpass our goal this year...we have a very generous Pond. And our beneficiaries are so grateful for our support!

A Time of Sharing... This Blue Goose Texas Pond is part of your business family. It is yet another important connection to your colleagues, customers and friends. Attending meetings and events within the organization helps cultivate relationships and friendships. Now is a great time to consider sharing the positive experiences of Blue Goose with people who may have an interest. Feel free to invite someone you know to attend a meeting and meet some new contacts within the insurance industry. We can help them get connected!

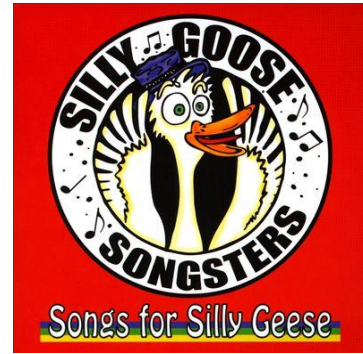
A Time of Celebrating... Come to our next meeting on December 14th and celebrate this holiday season with your friends in the insurance industry. And make sure our New Year Kick-Off Party on January 11th at Love & War in Texas in Grapevine is also on your calendar. It is sure to be a great time! There is always something fun to celebrate with your friends at the Blue Goose Texas Pond. So don't miss out...check out the calendar at www.BlueGooseTX.com for all upcoming events and help us celebrate the holidays as well as all of our Texas Pond events!!



THE TEXAS POND WEB SITE

Check out our website, we have made several exciting updates to our website.

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



Speaking of singing a song

One of the Texas Pond's fine Ganders, I know belongs to this club, as he was out snooping on the internet and sent the Wielder the following information:

"The Song of Blue Goose."

It is understood that when the members enter the annual Pond the Grand Gander will go first and the others will follow in two diverging lines, each man walking with a waddle, for perfection in which much practice is required. They will then raise their arms above horizontal and shake them up and down and open the Pond with the following song to the tune of Tit Willow:

With a lusty "honk, honk," we turn ourselves loose.
Atwater, Atwater, Atwater.

If any field man's not an Ancient Blue Goose. He oughter, he oughter, he oughter be one of our happy, benevolent throng, and join with us goslings in singing our song. To the gander we hope will rule over us long.
Atwater, Atwater, Atwater.

Do any of you have an idea who it is that belongs to this club? It is our very own Neil Ullrich. Thanks Neil....and no, I am not going to sing this song....I am not up for scaring everyone away.

Quotable Quotes

Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough. **Oprah Winfrey**

"Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties."—**Helen Keller**

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."—**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

BLUE GOOSE-TEXAS POND
2016 KICK-OFF PARTY
&
RUSH FOR NEW GOSLINGS EVENT!

LOVE & WAR IN TEXAS, GRAPEVINE



2505 E GRAPEVINE MILLS CIR,
 GRAPEVINE, TX 76051

Monday, January 11th 6:00 PM
 Purchase Tickets Online \$10.00 Through Jan 6th

\$25 cash at the door
 Bring your Partner/Invite Future Ganders

APPETIZERS ~ DRINKS ~ FOOTBALL POOL
 ~ RAFFLE ITEMS

PLAY IN OUR
 FOOTBALL SQUARES GAME



\$500 SCHOLARSHIP FUND
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Sponsorships Available \$300
 Details at www.BlueGooseTX.com

Or Contact

Darrell Cole dcole@supremeroofing.com
 214.762.9046

Harry Hoyt harry.hoyt@us.qbe.com 469.400.0110



**Rolling Towards the
 Southern Region
 Convention in 2017**

At 211 degrees, water is hot.
 At 212 degrees, it boils.
 And with boiling water comes steam....
 And with steam, you can power a train.

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.



Watch for more details on powering this train as we head towards Savannah in 2017.

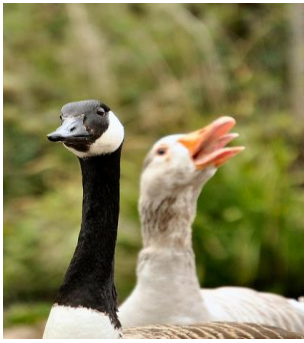
MEMBERSHIP

Extending the hand of friendship..... No matter where you are.....remember membership recruitment is key to our organization, and each of us must do their part!



Did You Know?

The Blue Goose Organization has 39 Ponds & several Puddles across the USA & Canada in its organization and as of to-date we have 3843 members.



Gander Focus

At the October and November meetings, two outstanding Texas Pond Ganders were highlighted. These two Ganders were Verlin Taylor and Kenna Johnson.

Verlin joined the Texas Pond of Blue Goose on April 16, 2012. He is a Certified Valuation Analyst (CVA) and he owns his own business called VKT Associates, LLC. As a CVA he works on business interruption type claims.

Verlin has a son who is a senior in high school. Verlin loves racquetball and golf.

Kenna Johnson originally joined Blue Goose in 2013 by being a dual member of the Columbus & Dayton Ohio Ponds. She moved to Dallas in 2014 and transferred her membership to the Texas Pond.

Kenna is a supervisor for MDD Forensic Accountants. She is married with three children (2 sons & 1 daughter).

As for hobbies, Kenna enjoys restoring houses, watching Ohio State University football and bowling.



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.



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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SAVE THE DATE
GOLF TIME IS AROUND THE CORNER!



TEXAS BLUE GOOSE POND'S
11th ANNUAL GOLF
TOURNAMENT

PROCEEDS BENEFITING THE
FOLLOWING CHARITIES

North Texas Food Bank Scottish Rite Hospital
Wounded Warriors

Friday, May 6, 2016

Bear Creek Golf Club
3500 Bear Creek Court, Dallas, Texas 75261

For further details contact Wayne Ottoway at 214-220-5683 or via email at Wayne.ottoway@cna.com.

LAST MONTH



Ray Wicker sharing an update on the 2017 Southern Region Convention.

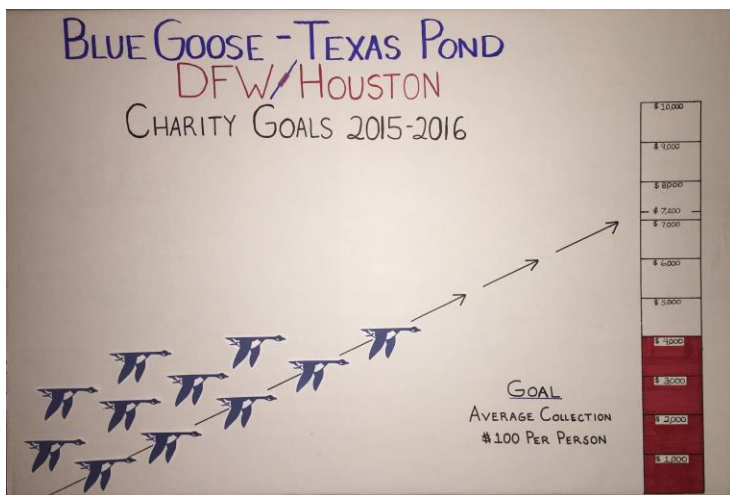


Community Partners of Dallas is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring safety and restoring dignity and hope to abused and neglected children by providing resources and support to the caseworkers of Dallas County Child Protective Services.



The Texas Pond collected 33 toys and had 4 cash donations. Total value = \$530

The Texas Pond is soaring high in its Charity endeavors. At the close of our November meeting, the Texas Pond has made donations to our various beneficiaries totaling \$4,041.



Thank you to Tom Tucker for sponsoring the appetizers for the November meeting. Tom, you are awesome to do this for the group.



"During any of the Texas Pond events, photos and videos may be taken for the benefit of HOBGI – Texas Pond. By attending, you consent to the taking of these images and to the use of your likeness within the images for HOBGI's use, including but not limited to promotional, charitable and commercial, among other uses."



Calendar of Events

2015- 2016 Blue Goose Year

DECEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

GOSLING INITIATION

SECOND MONDAY DECEMBER 14, 2015

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

JANUARY MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

NEW YEAR KICK-OFF/RUSH FOR GOSLINGS

SECOND MONDAY JANUARY 11, 2016

LOVE & WAR IN TEXAS, GRAPEVINE, TX

FEBRUARY MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

MARCH MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY MARCH 14, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

APRIL MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

GOSLING INITIATION

SECOND MONDAY APRIL 11, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

BLUE GOOSE 11TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOLD THIS DATE: MAY 6, 2016

MAY MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

BEGIN DUES COLLECTION FOR 2016-2017

PRESENTATION OF 2016-2017 SLATE OF OFFICERS

SECOND MONDAY MAY 9, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

JUNE MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

DUES COLLECTION FOR 2016-2017

INSTALLATION OF 2016-2017 SLATE OF OFFICERS

SECOND MONDAY JUNE 13, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, 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



Texas Pond Officers 2015 - 2016

Most Loyal Gander – Daphney Elliott (W) 972-342-8728
Daphney.Elliott@HospitalBillReview.com

Supervisor of the Flock – Vacant – TBD

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



Our Grand Nest Officers 2015-2016

Most Loyal Grand Gander
Randy Wilson, St. Louis 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



SENSE OF THE GOOSE

In the fall when you see Geese heading south for the winter flying along in the “V” formation, you might be interested in knowing what science has discovered about why they fly that way.

It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates uplift for the bird immediately following it.

By flying in a “V” formation the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. People who are part of a team and share a common direction get where they are going quicker and easier, because they are traveling on the trust of one another. Whenever a Goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go through it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the power of the flock.

If we have as much sense as a Goose, we will share information with those who are headed the same way that we are going.

When the lead Goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another Goose takes over. It pays to share leadership and take turns during hard jobs.

The Geese HONK from behind to encourage those up front to keep their speed.

Words of support and inspiration help energize those on the front line, helping them to keep pace in spite of the day-to-day pressures and fatigue.

Finally, when a Goose gets sick or is wounded by a gunshot and falls out, two Geese fall out of the formation and follow the injured one down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead, and then they launch out with another formation to catch up with their group.

If we have the sense of a Goose, we will stand by each other when things get tough.

The next time you see a formation of Geese, remember...

IT'S A REWARD, A CHALLENGE, & A PRIVILEGE TO BE A CONTRIBUTING MEMBER OF A TEAM!!!!!!!

Some More Humor

Yes, Old Man Winter has blown in>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>



Wherever you live there always seems to be someone who is immune to the temperatures

