

TEXAS POND HONKER

July 2016

Character, Charity, Fellowship

DFW TEXAS POND

DATE: Monday, July 11, 2016

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.



It is time to start collecting dues for 2016-2017 Blue Goose Year. The Blue Goose year ended on June 30th and July 1st we started the new 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, choose the appropriate Pond/Puddle for which you are a member of and complete the information. Once completed this will take you to the PayPal screen to pay. 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 until September 1st. 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”. With the check or cash option, please update your work and personal information via the BG File Information form, which you can request from Linda.

All dues from current Ganders & Goslings is due by September 1st to maintain your active status with the Texas Pond.

Thanks to those who have paid their dues.



She is singing our song MLG, Daphney Elliott

It's HOT out there!
 Your Texas Pond is burning HOT too!



If you are reading this message you are likely trying to stay cool as we are now officially experiencing some real summer heat. And with the humidity levels so high it seems so much hotter than the gauge on your thermometer.

if you have been attending your Texas Pond monthly meetings you have likely noticed that we are burning HOT too! The officers, the membership and our guests have all enjoyed an exciting calendar of events this fiscal year which ran from July 2015 – June 2016.

Of course membership growth is always a goal. I am proud to say that our membership numbers continued to climb this year and so did the overall attendance to our meetings and events. We are so excited and plan to do all we can do to continue this trend next year.

Charity is a major focus of all Blue Goose Ponds and Puddles. The Texas Pond certainly outdid ourselves this year! We offered a wide variety of ways for our membership to participate in multitude of charitable efforts. From the Toy Drive and Book Drive to the assembly of Easter Baskets, collection of gift cards, and donation matching programs we not only surpassed our initial goal but collected more for our beneficiaries than we ever have in the history of our Texas Pond. We are so excited and proud of everyone's dedication and efforts. Let's do this again!

We sponsored a couple of fun events this year including our New Year Kick-Off Party and our 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Both were very well attended and successful. We look forward to this year's events and are making plans to make sure they are every bit as successful as this past years' events.

We are so thrilled to award our first scholarship this year to MacKenzie Wicker. What a well deserving student she is. And her father, Ray Wicker, has worked tirelessly for years for the Texas Pond. We are very happy for both MacKenzie and her family. We hope to award more scholarships next year.

Isn't it easy to see how our Texas Pond is burning HOT? We are working on exciting plans for this next fiscal year and we want to make sure you are included in our successes yet again. Check out our website regularly to make sure you have the most recent meetings and events added to your calendar. You won't want to miss an opportunity to see your friends and make new ones. Plus, you will want to be prepared to participate in the exciting things we are doing for our beneficiaries.

Stay cool this summer and plan to join us for another fun year! We are working to keep this Pond HOT!

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.

<hT>
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With the possible ceasing of the newsletter publication we will no longer be promoting advertiser opportunities, until a decision is made on the continuation of the newsletter.

Current advertisers are covered through the September newsletter publication.

Quotable Quotes

"Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose." **Lyndon B. Johnson**

"Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results." **Willie Nelson**

"I hated every minute of training, but I said, 'Don't quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.'" **Muhammad Ali**

"It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them." **Ralph Waldo Emerson**

THOUGHTS TO PONDER



The Blue Goose organization is an insurance fraternity that has its origins in Wisconsin that dates back to 1906 when a group of fire underwriters thought it important for insurance professionals to have an organization that is neutral as to the company everyone worked for in order to focus on the principles of the Order. These are character, charity and fellowship, which we see as 'giving back,' to our communities in charity, to each other in fellowship and to ourselves in the development of character and integrity in the insurance business.

DID YOU KNOW? THE BEGINNINGS OF THE TEXAS POND WAS ON JANUARY 30, 1907!

Today the benefits of joining the Texas Pond can still be summed up by the three "cardinal precepts" of Blue Goose. They are **Character, Charity and Fellowship**.

Character is strengthened through educational seminars, professional development, chairing or volunteering on committees, and the opportunity to network with leaders in the property and casualty field.

Charity is an integral component of Blue Goose's mission. By encouraging everyone to get involved at our monthly meetings whereby we have a charity focus or with our special charity focused events.

The Texas Pond has chosen five beneficiaries to support for charity endeavors and has developed a Scholarship Program, which we honored our first recipient(s) this past Blue Goose year of 2015-2016.

Fellowship can be found in every Texas Pond and Blue Goose event. Whether it is a monthly meeting, the Holiday Party, charity endeavors, golf, special events or Grand Nest Conventions, you will quickly find out that we love to enjoy ourselves and have a good time.

Let's all work to stay active in our Pond and encourage others to join us in following our three "cardinal precepts" of **Character, Charity and Fellowship**.

Could This Be The Last Newsletter???



Over the last several months we have been watching the readership levels by the Texas Pond members, and much to our sadness, the readership is down. We note that folks are opening up the message flyer, but we do not see folks opening up and reading the newsletter.

Each month there is a lot of time that gets utilized in comprising the newsletter, and for such a low readership, it makes us question why we continue producing the newsletter. We will continue producing a monthly newsletter for the next 3-4 months, but if readership does not climb, then we will quit producing a monthly newsletter.

Note: the bulk of the information contained in our newsletters will be placed on our website.



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

Last Month



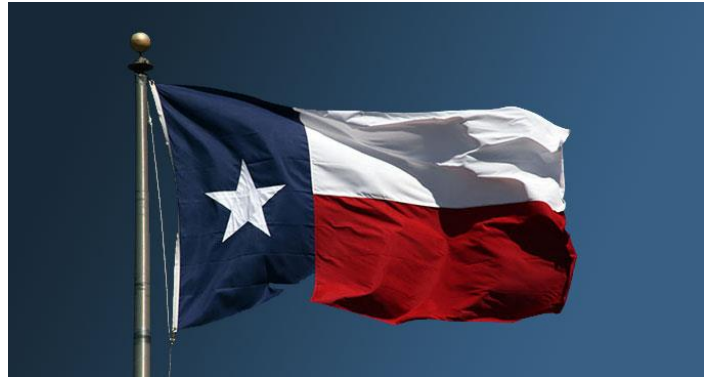
The Texas Pond presented to Meredith Jones, from North Texas Food, a check for \$2,750 from the proceeds of our recent golf tournament. Meredith took time to provide the group with an update on NTFB.



Ten great years as members of the Texas Pond Blue Goose Organization. Ten year pins presented to John Sterrantino and Stephen Pitney by Linda Meik, Wielder of the Goose Quill for the Texas Pond.



The 2016-2017 Texas Pond Officers: (Left to right) John Sterrantino, KGGE; Daphney Elliott, MLG; Jim Mathew, SOF; Roger Foltz, COG; Ruben Castilla, GOP; and Linda Meik, Wielder.



The Texas Pond membership voted to have Daphney Elliott & Ray Wicker be the confirmed Delegates for the Texas Pond at the St. Louis Convention.



2016 Convention – St. Louis

JULY 18TH – 26TH 2016



The Convention will be held at the Hilton Ballpark in beautiful downtown St. Louis.



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.



111th Grand Nest Convention
Southern Region Convention
Savannah, Georgia
July 9-15, 2017

This is just one of the sights in Savannah, Georgia the city for the 2017 Grand Nest Convention.

At the St. Louis Grand Nest Convention, we will be rolling out a preview of our convention and the events we have planned.

To help fund this convention, each Southern Region Pond & Puddle has made yearly contributions to this endeavor. In addition, we have had 50:50 raffles, sold pins, and obtained several gifts in kind donations. We now are on a campaign to solicit corporate sponsors and we need everyone to assist in this campaign.

To date, the following corporate sponsors have been obtained: Sedgwick, Vericlam, Haag Engineering, Chapman Consulting, U.S. Financial Group, Midkiff Munice & Ross, and Robinson, P.C.

For the various sponsorship levels please see either Ray Wicker or Linda Meik for information.

Our convention website will be launched here in the next three weeks. Stay tuned for further updates.



If you were at the golf tournament and to the Texas Pond Blue Goose meeting following that tournament, you got to see these beautiful Corn Hole Boards that Jim Devall custom made for our Pond.

Jim, will make a set of custom boards for you also. This is a great gift for a husband, father or friend. Jim will donate part of the proceeds from every set sold to the scholarship fund. Anyone who is interested does not need to be a member of Blue Goose.

To contact Jim, please either email him at jimdevall60@gmail.com or 940-703-1423.



“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

2016- 2017 Blue Goose Year

2016-2017 BLUE GOOSE YEAR BEGINS

JULY MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

DUES COLLECTION FOR 2016-2017

SECOND MONDAY JULY 11, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

AUGUST MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

DUES COLLECTION FOR 2016-2017

SECOND MONDAY AUGUST 8, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

SEPTEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

OCTOBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY OCTOBER 10, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

NOVEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX

DECEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2016

ON THE BORDER, DALLAS, TX



Texas Pond Officers

2016 – 2017

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

Supervisor of the Flock – Jim Mathews – (C) 469-569-2246 jim.mathew83@gmail.com

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

Guardian of the Pond – Ruben Castilla (C) 214-432-4414 castilla.rmc@gmail.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



We are a fraternal organization of individuals who work in the insurance related industry.

We are home office executives, field claims reps, auditors, underwriters, general adjusters, agents, brokers, investigators, contractors, regulators, appraisers, salvors, attorneys, engineers, and a host of others.

We meet socially, and not as a part of any insurance or industry group. Our mutual link is the career experience we have in our chosen field

Blue Goose offers the opportunity to meet and know individuals from the U.S. and Canada, and to be involved with worthwhile charitable endeavors resulting in lasting, long-term friendships and a sense of generous accomplishment.



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



Summer Job

For her summer job, my 18-year-old daughter arranged interviews at several day-care centers. At one meeting, she sat down on one of the kiddie seats, no simple task for most people. The interview went well, and at the end, the day-care center director asked the standard question, "Can you give me one good reason we should hire you?"

"Because I fit in the chairs." She got the job.



"... \$36 for movie tickets, \$12 for comics, \$36.42 for pizza, \$19.74 for ice cream, \$22 for bike repairs, \$8 for a fake tattoo and \$14.95 for new flip-flops."



Have a great summer and stay cool!