



TEXAS POND HONKER

June 2016

Character, Charity, Fellowship

DFW TEXAS POND

DATE: Monday, June 13, 2016

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PLACE: On the Border



She is singing our song MLG, Daphney Elliott

Cheers!

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.

We will be presenting to another one of our beneficiaries, some of the proceeds from our recent golf tournament.

Daphney will highlight some of the upcoming activities for the Texas Pond.

We will present our new Slate of Officers for 2016-2017 and accept any further nominations from the floor. The Slate will be voted on and the new Officers installed for our next Blue Goose year.

The Delegates for the Grand Nest Convention in St. Louis will be decided upon. We will review how the membership will want the Delegates to cast their vote on the Proposed Amendments that will be presented.

It is getting time for our annual dues for Blue Goose. Remember our Blue Goose year ends on June 30th and the new year awaits us. Payment via credit card is up and ready for everyone to pay their dues.

What a year it has been for our Pond!! We set out this year intending to shake things up a little with several new goals and some creative thinking. We are very proud of what our Pond has achieved and want to thank all of the individuals and companies who helped make this a great year.

One of our goals this year was to keep the meetings fresh and interesting. So we invited some non-insurance related guest speakers to present some interesting topics at a few of the meetings. We enjoyed topics like “Making a Positive First Impression”, “Business Etiquette”, and tips for utilizing LinkedIn with “Linked for Success”.

We also wanted to make sure to focus on our members and their needs at every meeting through our “Gander Focus” presentations, job opening and job search announcements, and facilitating more networking at the beginning and at the end of each meeting. The officers made it a priority to greet guests and introduce members to folks they had never met before.

Our membership wanted the meetings and events to be as upbeat and “FUN” as possible. Our efforts included shorter announcements, providing appetizers through

pond or corporate sponsorship, incorporating a slideshow into meetings, and having visual aids when possible.

Our pond experienced some challenges with our education seminars. In order to alleviate the cost and heavy work load of hosting one or two seminars a year we decided to offer education webinars once a month instead. We very much appreciate Scott Sterrantino who handled all of the technical aspects while John Sterrantino who provided the space and presentation platform. And of course we appreciate our amazing presenters. Unfortunately, the webinars did not prove to be as popular as we hoped. After six months we decided not to offer the webinars any longer and are looking at other ways to generate money for our scholarship fund.

As for the Texas Pond website, we wanted to provide a site that is helpful, interesting, and as meaningful as possible for our members. Linda Meik and Scott Sterrantino have worked countless hours posting and updating information regarding our meetings and events. Please thank them next time you see them.

This year we set the bar higher for our charitable contributions and are thrilled with the results as we achieved and surpassed our goals. We started out the year with a goal of \$7200 or \$100 worth of contributions per member. Instead we collected \$13,066 total with an average of \$140 per member and we couldn't be happier. Our Charity Committee included Kenna Johnson and Neil Ullrich. Our Golf Committee included Wayne Ottoway, Alicia Elliott, Nick Carlson, Shaun Keefer, Mitch Williams, and Lori Snelson. Our RUSH Committee included Harry Hoyt, Darrell Cole, and Ruben Castilla. We thank you all for your service to the organization and to our beneficiaries. We would also like to thank every member and our guests as you all made this happen. Hats off to every one of you!!

Without the support of our corporate sponsors we would not be able to host any events. We thank the men and women who made sure Blue Goose was added to their company's marketing budget for this year. We have thanked you before and we THANK YOU again!!

Our successes are many, our Pond is vibrant and energized, our officers past and present truly care about the success of our organization and our members really enjoy the relationships and activities available through our Pond. Thanks to everyone who made this year exceptional. Let's do it again next year!



TEXAS BLUE GOOSE POND'S 11th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

PROCEEDS BENEFITED THE FOLLOWING CHARITIES

North Texas Food Bank Scottish Rite Hospital
Wounded Warriors



Signature Sponsor



Our Outstanding Hole Sponsors



Linda Meik & Ashley Hansen at the registration table.



Our 2nd Annual Ball Drop activity kicked off our 11th Annual Golf Tournament. The DFW Fire Department assisted us. The winners of this event were:

- 1st Place – Jeremiah Horne - \$500
- 2nd Place – Jim Anderson - \$300
- 3rd Place – Jeff Perkins - \$150

Farthest from the Pin – Steven Keefer - \$50



All recipientss donated their winnings back to Blue Goose and it was allocated to the Southern Region convention Fund.

LOOK AT ALL OUR GREAT GOLF BAG AND PRIZE SPONSORS



The sun is shining and a soft breeze is blowing as the golfers head out.



Putting Contest. The winner of \$215 was Zack Walker. Sherry Montes was our outstanding coordinator for this event.



1st Place Team. Jon Paul Melton & Deke Owen of Hermes Law presented the prize furnished jointly by Matson, Driscoll & Damico and WilliamsRipa & Associates (\$400). The Winning Team comprised of Jimmy Ross, Doug McKeever, Galen Esslinger & Ronnie Pearson.



And they are off to a fantastic day of enjoyment!



2nd Place Team Jon Paul Melton and Deke Owen of Hermes Law presented the prize furnished by: WilliamsRipa & Associates (\$300) The Winning team was comprised of Jeff Perkins, Steve Perkins, Pete Mascucci & Chris Chism.



3rd Place Team Jon Paul Melton and Deke Owen of Hermes Law presented the prize furnished by: Nelson Forensics (\$200) The Winning team was comprised of: Jordan Ennis, Robert Canalas, Zach Walker & Jacob Sipko.



Last Place Winners! Jon Paul Melton and Deke Owen of Hermes Law presented the prize furnished by: Linda Meik. The Winning Team was comprised of Jacob Webster, Alicia Elliott, Daniel Prough & Cody Courtney.



Longest Drive & Closest to the Pin was won by Doug McKeever. Prizes donated by Linda Meik and Genex.

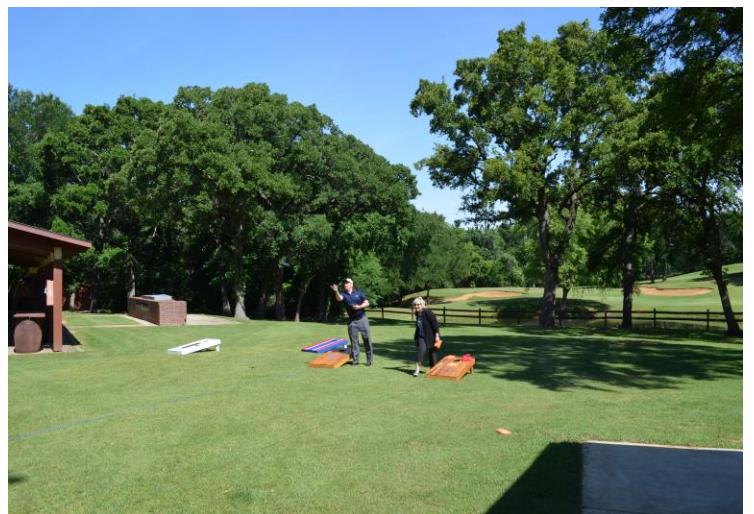
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT



We launched our first Corn Hole (Bean Bag Toss) after our golf lunch. These boards were specially made by Jim Devall and donated to our Pond. Daphney Elliott coordinated the Corn Hole Tournament.

The winners for the Corn Hole tournament were:

- | | | |
|-----------|------|--------------------------------|
| 1st place | \$90 | Nick Carlson and Chris Carlson |
| 2nd place | \$45 | Jim Devall and Mark Holub |
| 3rd place | \$15 | Randy Webb and Jane Nelson |



Mark Holub & Linda Meik warming up for the big tourney!

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.

2015 – 2016 ADVERTISERS



Shaun Keefer demonstrating his skill.



Heather Massey getting ready to show off her dynamic skills!

Quotable Quotes

"Wine and cheese are ageless companions, like aspirin and aches, or June and moon, or good people and noble ventures." **M. F. K. Fisher**

" We are all here on earth to help others; what on earth the others are here for I don't know." **W. H. Auden**

"Good, better, best. Never let it rest. 'Til your good is better and your better is best. **St. Jerome**

"Believe in yourself! Have faith in your abilities! Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers you cannot be successful or happy." **Norman Vincent Peale**

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Daphney.Elliott@HospitalBillReview.com / Mobile 972-342-8728
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Could This Be The Last Newsletter????



Your editor is quite sad!

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 Mandi Valdez, of Scottish Rite Hospital For Children, a check for \$2,750 from the proceeds of our recent golf tournament. Mandi took time to provide the group with an update on Scottish Rite Hospital for Children.



A room full of fellowship!



The Corn Hole Boards, that Jim Devall made for Blue Goose, were displayed at the meeting. Jim will custom make boards for any Blue Goose folks and from the proceeds of each set he will donate a portion towards the Blue Goose Scholarship Fund. Need to contact Jim, just let this editor know and she will put you in touch with him.

TIME TO START COLLECTING DUES



It is time to start collecting dues for 2016-2017 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, 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".



2016 Convention – St. Louis

JULY 18TH – 26TH 2016



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

Have you made your reservation? We would like to have several of our Texas Pond and Puddle members attend this convention.

One can register by going to the www.bluegoose.org



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.

Over the last several months we have apprised you of the Southern Region's convention pin. The pin was shared with folks at the 109th convention in Baltimore.

The Southern Region has kicked off a fund raiser for the Southern Region members utilizing these pins. Each member of the Southern Region that purchases a pin, can also be entered into a drawing by completing a registration ticket.



At the Southern Region Regional meeting in St. Louis two names will be drawn: 1st place will be a free registration (\$375 in value) to the 2017 Southern Region Convention in Savannah, GA.; and the 2nd place winner will receive \$50 cash. One does not have to be present to win. The pin cost is \$20.



Calendar of Events

2015- 2016 Blue Goose Year

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

2015-2016 BLUE GOOSE YEAR COMES TO AN END!

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

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 – 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 – 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



“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.”

Some More Humor

Just a little religion for you.....

AMEN:

The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

CHOIR:

A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN:

A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

INCENSE:

Holy Smoke!

JONAH:

The original 'Jaws' story.

JUSTICE:

When kids have kids of their own.

MAGI:

The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

RELICS:

People who have been going to church for so long, they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

TEN COMMANDMENTS:

The most important Top Ten list not given by David Letterman.

USHERS:

The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.

LESSONS OF LIFE

A carrot, an egg, and a cup of coffee...You will never look at a cup of coffee the same way again.

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give

up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil; without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does it mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her daughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, an egg or a coffee bean?"



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.