



TEXAS POND HONKER

August 2019

Character, Charity, Fellowship

DFW TEXAS POND

DATE: Monday, August 12, 2019

TIME: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 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.

At our August meeting our charity focus will be Back To School program for Community Partners of Dallas. See the list of supplies the kiddos need for school.



BACKtoSCHOOL2019

Remember the joy of getting a new set of school supplies?

At Community Partners of Dallas, our kids are not approaching the start of school with the same excitement and support. Many will go back to school wishing for a new backpack or new uniforms. **They just want to fit in.**

This year we will provide backpacks filled with age appropriate school supplies and new uniforms to more than 3,800 abused and neglected children.

You can make a difference.

Donate. School supply donations can be delivered to Community Partners of Dallas’ new location 7950 Elmbrook Drive, Dallas, TX anytime between now and **August 30th.**

SUPPLIES WE NEED THE MOST:

Backpacks	Safety scissors
Composition books	Highlighters
Glue bottles	Construction paper
Pencil pouches	Calculators
Index cards	Blue & black pens
Colored pencils (12 ct)	1”-2” Binders
Markers (10 ct)	Rulers
Notebook paper	8 Tab dividers



Last year our total collections equated to \$1,148.40 of items collected. Let’s match or exceed this amount here in 2019-2020 Blue Goose year.



Appetizers will be sponsored by WRA Risk, Inc. Please take time to thank Scott Sterrantino,

We are seeking anyone who would like to be a sponsor of appetizers in the future months, let Linda Meik know.



Mr. Creator/Builder - Jim Devall, MLG

July 2019 Mr. Devall was one of two Delegate representatives for the Texas Pond to attend the Grand Nest Convention in Indianapolis.

The following are my thoughts for the national convention:

The Blue Goose National Convention was an amazing experience. The Blue Goose precepts of Charity, Character and Fellowship were on full display. The first thing that comes to mind is how friendly and welcoming everyone was. We were immediately welcomed in as "family" with multiple people reaching out to be sure we had everything we needed. Typical travel delays had us miss most of the First Timer's reception, but when we arrived, everyone immediately went into action to be sure we got our First Timer Shirts, food and the ever-important drink tickets.

The host group did a wonderful job of setting the Indy experience with their Indy 500 Race Track theme to include race cars, track and an actual race! Clearly, they put in a lot of time and effort to make the event one that we will all remember for a long time. The initiation of the Goslings was by far the most impressive I've ever seen. Seven Goslings were welcomed into the pond and the presenters memorized every word of the initiation and delivered them flawlessly. I was truly moved when I realized that most of the ganders in the audience could recite the words to the initiations by heart and spoke them aloud along with the new goslings. It was an affirmation of their commitment to Blue Goose and certainly something to consider for our local pond.

The Texas Pond was well represented and shined during the convention, winning multiple awards. We are truly blessed to have Linda Meik in our pond as it was clear that everyone at the convention recognized Linda as THE Mother Goose, all having the utmost respect for

everything she does for the Blue Goose. I think our entire contingent was impressed with what we saw and have a lot of takeaways that no doubt will help our local pond.

The convention wrapped up with a dinner and dance and man can the Blue Goose family party! We were amazed by the band that played for three hours without a break. There were a lot of Ganders that never left the dance floor. It was truly a wonderful time and we hated to see it come to an end. Even though it was our first time, it did feel like we were part of a family. We are looking forward to Harford and would recommend to anyone that they try to attend, if they want to get the true-Blue Goose experience.



**Who
Me?**

Jason Znoy, COG – Second Texas Pond Delegate - Indy convention thoughts & observations – Honk- Honk!

Though my first convention, I could tell this was going to be one of the best conventions considering the large contingency from the Texas Pond: including myself was MLG Jim Devall (and wife, Carol), KGGE Daphney Elliott, PMLG Ashley Hansen, PMLG Ray Wicker, PMLG John Sterrantino (and wife, Cyndy), PMLG Randy Webb, and PMLGG Linda Meik.

The first thing that struck me was the long-term relationships found at the convention. There were plenty of two (turning three) generations of ganders; family members attending since before they were born; long time ganders – over 60 – that have either attended for decades or simply attended for the first time. For our contingency the first timers were Jim, Ashley and myself.

MLGG Kim Bilbrey chose an amazing location. Both Indianapolis (Indy) and The Alexander Hotel where we stayed were amazing locations. The hotel was breathtaking with its modern meets Craftsman architecture, galleries of modern art throughout and a bar with the best spicy margaritas ever! The area was full of local restaurants and bars that became a mainstay to the younger after-hours crowd. The weather was unseasonably warm but cheery and bright.

To be fair, one would argue that spouses and their families had more fun than the contingency. They had:

bourbon tasting, axe throwing, Indy car racing and cuisine training with a famous, local chef.

For us first timers, the event started with (goose blue) Jell-O shots, bright-red shirts and a warmup session led by Kim. Afterwards was the Welcome Party with open bar. The highlight was the pin swap with members of the other ponds. One may not think Blue Goose looks “big” but the weight from the number of pins on my lanyard would tell another story.

Day two began with banner hanging and breakfast after which was the opening ceremony. Though we are the second oldest pond, we have the luxury of having the oldest banner. After much laughter and ceremony, the room became serious for the memorial service led by a retired troop of servicemen and honored ganders lost this past year. Luckily our Pond had none.

Next was the model initiation with a riveting reenactment of the Indy 500. It was amazing to see longtime members recite the initiation from memory; making the words and the meaning powerful and emotional. After that light note was a luncheon, happy hour and the regional meetings led by their corresponding grand nest officer (ours was Linda).

The Texas contingency invited members of the Southern region out to a local staple the St. Elmo to mingle over drinks. Afterwards we met back up with the convention at another local venue for bowling, drinks and a rousing set of karaoke. Who knew, Jim is quite the singer! To finish off the evening was hospitality through midnight in the top floor conference space with sweeping views of the city. As Daphney will attest, never before had we a tastier Ruebens sandwich.

Friday started with brunch and the awards ceremony. The Texas pond won four awards: Most New and Reinstated, Scholarship Award, and Southern Regional Challenge plus we honoured Daphney for her service as Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander (DMLGG). Similar to what our pond does, grand nest listed it's 5-year totals. Collectively we made an impressive haul: Over \$1.2 Million in in cash donations, near 10,200 volunteer hours, over \$326,000 in collection donated product and over \$46,000 in scholarship funds.

After the luncheon was banner retrieval and grand nest officer election where we voted in Dan Rich (of Eastern Region) as MLGG and Linda as Grand Supervisor of the Flock.

The highlight of the night was the Grand Banquet with live 80s cover band. It opened with pond photos,

announcement of grand nest officers and guests, and dancing til the wee hours. And yes, open bar. It was so much fun to dance with other ponds and officers of the grand nest.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end. By day four, the red eyed and weary contingency made its way to the airport waving goodbye to their new friends. And yet, we were also exited for the Hartford convention next year.

I would like to thank Laura Kraus and Sarah Iacovene for help organizing the amazing convention. Also, a shoutout for their generous donations to the convention sponsors: (Mother) Sedgwick, BluSky, Donan, ReEmployAbility, Nederveld Engineering, Housing Headquarters, Syndicate, CRDN, and Rainbow Restoration.

Dues Time



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.org. Click the tab for Membership, 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 30th. Dues online via a credit card will be \$55.00 for the year. Should you want to pay your dues via a check or cash the Texas Pond will accept dues for \$50.00 at the meetings or one can mail them to Linda Meik.



Something to Think About

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” Norman MacEwan

“Friends are the sunshine of life.” John Hay

“If you want an accounting of your worth, count your friends.” Merry Browne

"I think, what has this day brought me, and what have I given it?" Henry Moore

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



"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."



See what's cooking for the Texas Pond Blue Goose 2019-2020 Year!

AUGUST MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY AUGUST 12, 2019
ON THE BORDER, ADDISON, TX

SEPTEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2019
ON THE BORDER, ADDISON, TX

OCTOBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY OCTOBER 14, 2019
ON THE BORDER, ADDISON, TX

NOVEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2019
ON THE BORDER, ADDISON, TX

DECEMBER MEETING - DALLAS

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY DECEMBER 9, 2019
ON THE BORDER, ADDISON, TX



Texas Pond Officers 2019 – 2020

Most Loyal Gander – Jim Devall (C) 940- 703-1423
jimdevall60@gmail.com

Supervisor of the Flock – Sharon Wilkins (W) 469-
213-4316 Sharon.Wilkins@sedgwickcms.com

Custodian of the Goslings – Jason Znoy (H) 214-563-
8875 jarthrnet@gmail.com

Guardian of the Pond – Sheri Deaton (C) 214-282-
5246 sheri.deatn@genexservices.com

Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Daphney Elliott (W)
972-342-8728 Daphney.Elliott@gmail.com
And
Ashley Hansen (w) 817-788-3008 ashansen@aol.com

Wielder of the Goose Quill - Linda Meik
(M) 682-715-5341 lindameik9@gmail.com



2019 Indy Grand Nest Convention

Our new Grand Nest Officers for 2019-2020



Most Loyal Grand Gander – Dan Rich; Hartford Pond
Grand Supervisor of the Flock – PMLGG Linda Meik; Texas Pond

Grand Custodian of the Nest – Wendy Knizek; BC Pond
Grand Guardian of the Nest – Steve Carson, II; Michigan Pond

Other Grand Nest Officers not pictured are:

Grand Wielder – Terry Maloney; Wisconsin Home Nest
Grand Historian – PMLGG John Bishop; Nova Scotia Pond
Judge Advocate – PMLGG Lorena Kohlruss, BC Pond
Grand Keeper Golden Goose Egg – Joe Lothshutz; Michigan Pond



Texas Pond convention attendees – missing Randy Webb.
left to right: Ray Wicker, Linda Meik, Jason Znoy, Daphney Elliott, Ashley Hansen, Jim Devall & John Sterrantino.



Southern Region attendees at Indy Convention. The Southern Region received the Regional Challenge Award along with the Canadian Region. This award originated by PMLGG Doug Snyder, Wisconsin Home Nest. There are four criteria the Ponds in the Region compete for, but on a Regional basis, along with the largest increase of membership.



The Texas Pond also was recognized for having the most first-time attendees at the Indy convention. All First Timers wore red t-shirts at the Welcome Party.



Three Texas 1st Timers: Randy Webb, Ashley Hansen & Jason Znoy.



Start Your Engines! The Michigan Pond preformed the Model Initiation for the Race To Indy convention.



The Texas Pond was proud to be one of the sponsors of the events at the Indy Convention. Those attending this event had one great time and some of their spouses are worried over the skills these folks developed.



The Texas Pond was awarded recognition for our scholarship program.



Southern Region winner for most new & reinstated members in 2018-2019.



Entrance to the Grand Ball – The ending to one incredible convention.