



TEXAS POND HONKER

June 2026

Character, Charity, Fellowship



Blue Goose – Texas Pond

**HONK – HONK Ganders, Goslings
& Guests**

Monday, June 8, 2026; 5:30 PM

**DAVE &
BUSTER'S**

Dave & Busters

9450 North Central Expwy , Dallas, TX 75231

**No reservations are necessary. Cash Bar!
Food is at your own expense.**

The nominating Committee (Charla Brwon/Mary Bramley/Eddy Pokluda) has assembled the following slate of officers for 2026-2027. We will also be taking names from the floor from anyone who would like to be an officer or serve on a committee.

Most Loyal Gander – Randy Webb
Supervisor of the Flock – Doug Hubby
Custodian of the Goslings – Matt Arnold

Guardian of the Pond – Charlotte Armstrong
Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg – Ashley Hansen
Wielder of the Goose Quill – Daphney Elliott/Carol Novak/Jess Olson

The new officers will be installed at the June meeting. All new officers must have paid dues for the 2026-2027 Blue Goose year to be installed.

At our June meeting, we will also be awarding 10-year membership anniversary pins to: Mary Bramley, Dave Janek, Eddy Pokluda & Bryan Lin.

The Texas Pond is proud to announce that we have three scholarship recipients for 2026-2027 academic year. Each recipient will receive \$2000. The recipients are:

Connor Parham- son pf Charlotte Armstrong
Marsella Williams – daughter of Mitch Williams
Aubrey Meik – granddaughter of Linda Meik

Congratulations to these outstanding recipients.

Now it is time to hear from each of you about your summer plans.

**Blue Goose  Texas Pond
DUES COLLECTION TIME FOR 2026-2027
GANDERS ONLY**



Our new Blue Goose year begins on July 1st!

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 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 are \$70.00 for the year. Should you want to pay your dues via check or cash, the Texas Pond will accept your dues for \$70.00 at the meetings or one can mail them to Linda Meik.

GOLF TIME



A YEAR IN REVIEW

Membership Summary -

We ended the year with a total of 80 active/initiated/life/dual members for the Texas Pond. The DFW area had 61 active – dues paying Ganders, 15 Life and 4 Dual members. Under the Texas Pond is the “Retirement” Puddle with 11 Life Ganders from Oklahoma, North Carolina, Washington, Arizona & Colorado.

Over the past year the DFW area initiated 9 new Ganders.

Clinton	Cole	10/13/2025
Tomasik	Emily	10/13/2025
Higson	Sherri	10/13/2025
Hubby	Doug	10/13/2025
Olson	Jessica	10/13/2025
Bowers	Eric	4/13/2026
Harless	Hope	4/13/2026
Nottoli	Victoria	4/13/2026
Kunyavsky	Christina	4/13/2026

Reinstated one Gander.

Meeting Attendance Summary:

BG Year	MTG Attendance for The Year	GN Convention
2021-2022	179	Hartford
2022-2023	279	Southern
2023-2024	254	Canadian
2024-2025	216	Michigan
2025-2026	200+	Eastern

Following the pandemic, the Texas Pond meeting attendance for the year dropped by 100+. Prior to pandemic our yearly meeting attendance was 300+.

During the pandemic, the Texas Pond met each month via Zoom. Following the pandemic, we found locations in the Grapevine area to hold our meetings. The following year

BLUE GOOSE TEXAS POND
19th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY, JUNE 4th

CLC ROOFING INC.
TITLE SPONSOR

Scan QR code to register!

COYOTE RIDGE GOLF CLUB
1640 W HEBRON PKWY, CARROLLTON

Join the Texas Pond of the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose for their 19th Annual Golf Tournament!

Coyote Ridge Golf Club
1640 West Hebron Parkway
Carrollton, TX 75010

Event Schedule

6:45 am: Breakfast and Golfer registration begins
8:00 am: Shotgun Start

Luncheon and Awards will be held at the end of the tournament!!

Register by scanning the QR code below or clicking this link: <https://lnkd.in/g/hnfWzP4>

Thank you to our Title Sponsor [CLC Roofing Inc.!!](#)

we bounced from Dallas one month to Grapevine the next due to complaints from our membership on never meeting in Dallas and then with the Grapevine location closing. The following year we met at several locations trying to put some meeting versatility into our gatherings. In 2024-2025, we met only in Dallas, but again we had one of the locations close on us. As we started 2025-2026, we found a new Dallas are location, but again we encountered issues in securing a private room for the meeting, although we were able to utilize their semi-private space. As noted, finding a meeting location that does not require a deposit has been a challenge to the Texas Pond.

Meetings with a specific agenda, such as charity focused, were attended better than just fellowship type meetings. The three meetings with the greatest attendance were: The Ugly Sweater/Drunken Elephant Exchange – December; the New Year Kick Off meeting in January followed by the meeting where we assemble the Easter Baskets in March.

Marketing & Communication Summary

Through social media the Texas Pond undertakes promotion and enhances our footprint on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media notices for the Texas Pond. The focus has been to get at least one or two events/meetings added to each site each month.

Facebook. With our 116 active members, this is the premier platform for providing photos and summaries of our amazing events.

LinkedIn. With our 82 participating followers and 404 general followers.

Twitter, or “X.” We still have this page but have not been posting on it.

Instagram. With our 212 participating followers and 481 general followers, consisting of insurance professionals, companies, and non-profits.

In addition, the Texas Pond maintains a website which houses the monthly newsletters, notices of Pond meetings, and provides an avenue for individuals to register for upcoming events, pictures, membership information, etc.

A monthly newsletter is published each month, providing a summary of prior months activities, information on upcoming events or committees, information from Southern Region and any information from Grand Nest.

Charity Summary

Over the years the Texas Pond has supported multiple 501 c 3 charity organizations. In addition, the Texas Pond established a Scholarship Fund which part of the event proceeds are allocated to.

In 2010 we began tracking in detail the dollars designated to our charities. Then in 2019-2020 the Texas Pond set a goal to have our charitable activities equate to “X” dollars per active dues paying member. In 2025-2026 our average donation per active dues paying member was \$234.52

Since 2010 when we began tracking the dollar amount of our charity endeavors each year the Texas Pond has contributed \$202,826 to various charities.

Blue Goose Texas Pond
2025-2026 Charitable Impact – 12 Year Summary

\$72,972 in total donations to NTFB
North Texas Food Bank distributes donated, purchased and prepared foods through a network of nearly 1,000 feeding programs and 262 Partner Agencies in 13 North Texas counties.

\$41,710 in total donations to TSRHC
Regardless of a family's ability to pay for services, Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children has treated thousands of children since 1921 for a wide array of orthopedic

\$33,039 in total donations to CPDTC
Community Partners of Dallas ensures the safety, restores the dignity and inspires hope for more than 20,000 abused and neglected children served by Dallas County Child Protective Services.

\$10,375 in total donations to Family Place
Since 1978 The Family Place has been empowering victims of family violence by providing safe housing, counseling and skills that create independence while building community engagement and advocating for social change to stop family violence.

\$12,638 in total donations across multiple charities:
Christian Community Action Center, Salvation Army Angels, Cane Russo, Our Daily Bread, Back On Your Feet, The Evie Effect, Special Olympics, Unspoken Motherhood, StewPot.

\$55,500 in scholarships to local students
The Texas Pond began awarding scholarships to eligible students of Blue Goose members in 2015. You can find the scholarship guidelines online at www.BlueGooseTX.org.

The Texas Pond occasionally has offered a Community Service Volunteer opportunity for the membership, whereby the Ganders have volunteered a total **91.5 volunteer hours**.

Amounts recorded as of 4/30/26

Scholarship Summary

The Texas Pond awarded its first scholarship in 2015-2016; and since that first scholarship the Texas Pond has awarded a total of 16 scholarships over the years. The Texas Pond members who have attended at least 4 meetings can have their children or grandchildren apply for a scholarship by April 30th of each Blue Goose year. The

member must also have been a member for at least two years and dues must be current.

The Scholarship Committee has been comprised of 3 Ganders who do not reside in the immediate area of the Pond.

Funds for the scholarship program come from a percentage of New Year's Event, Football Squares, and the golf tournament. Additionally, several Ganders, especially Life Members, make contributions to the Scholarship Fund, or the Pond's Delegates to conventions have submitted their Delegate contribution to the Scholarship Fund.

The Texas Pond awarded two scholarships to applicants for the 2025-2026 academic year, and in April of 2026, our Scholarship Fund was \$12,338.62. For the Blue Goose year of 2025-2026 we had "3" applicants apply for the scholarships. Their scholarship awards, a total of \$6,000, will be given in August & December for the 2026-2027 academic year. The Pond divides up the awarded proceeds so that each applicant receives half of their award for the Fall semester and the other half for the Spring semester, provided they still maintain the program's GPA requirement and are still actively enrolled.

Texas Pond Operations Summary

Each year the Texas Pond Officers assemble for a half day retreat to review the past year and establish a plan/budget for the upcoming year. One of the goals for 2026-2027 is to further define the committees and get them functioning.

The Executive Officers meet via Zoom every month one-two weeks prior to the general meeting to review status or plan events/functions.

The Texas Pond Officers recruit members for committees with no members serving on more than one committee. The Officer is charged with developing their committee members to carry the load for which the committee is responsible for and take an active role in guiding & achieving successes for the Texas Pond, as well as for HOBGI.

Since the Southern Region Convention in 2022, the Texas Pond has made a yearly \$2,500 contribution to the Southern Region Convention Fund. The next Southern Region sponsored Convention will be held in July 2026 in Louisville, Kentucky.

We will have 3 Texas Pond members (Jim Devall, Bryan Pope & Ashley Hansen) who will be attending the Grand

Nest Convention in Louisville in July 2026. Jim Devall and Bryan Pope will function as the Texas Pond Delegates

DID YOU KNOW?

Many of you have heard me speak about Bill Henry, who was instrumental in getting the Texas Pond up and going. Bill now resides in Ecuador, South America. Over the years we have stayed in touch, and I asked Bill to write a blurb about the beginnings of the Texas Pond. See below!

Linda,

It was nice talking to you recently. I am glad to see you are keeping the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International alive in Dallas-Fort Worth. Every time I receive your monthly email it brings back good memories.

La Cima Club, this is where the current Texas Pond was born. In Dallas-Fort Worth, the insurance industry was churning through mergers and uncertain employment, and around August and September of 1994 a handful of professionals began meeting simply to network — on the sound theory that the more agents, brokers, risk managers, and adjusters you knew, the more doors stayed open. I organized this drink-a-thon.

Late in 1994, I invited thirty to forty friends to La Cima for drinks. As the group talked shop, someone floated the idea of making it more formal, and someone else said the words *Blue Goose*. A couple of the attendees present already knew the organization and were eager to move. Bill worked his employer's contacts and got a lead from a man in Minneapolis, who pointed him to Terry Maloney, the Grand Wielder of the Blue Goose. The trail to the Grand Nest was open again.

On February 27, 1995, a roomful of property and casualty professionals gathered to formally restart the Texas Pond, electing three interim officers:

- Bill Henry, Interim Most Loyal Gander
- Wayne Ottoway, Interim Supervisor of the Flock
- Bob Mueller, Interim Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg

The ceremony followed on May 15, 1995, when Grand Most Loyal Gander, Chris Reith came down from Westchester Pond in New York to preside over the Initiation Ritual. (Linda Meik, who was there, remembered the class of new Goslings as seventy-five strong.) The officers installed were:

- Fred Hartzke, Most Loyal Gander
- Wayne Ottoway, Supervisor of the Flock

**HOBGI – TEXAS POND YEAR COMES TO AN END!
ANOTHER BLUE GOOSE YEAR BEGINS!**



JULY MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

SECOND MONDAY JULY 13, 2026

MEETING: DAVE & BUSTERS

9450 N. CENTRAL EXPRESSWAY, DALLAS

**MORE HONORABLE ORDER OF BLUE GOOSE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS**



**July 12-16, 2026
The Galt House, Louisville, KY**



**The 2026-2027
Honorable Blue Goose
Convention will be held
July 17th-22nd at the**



MLGG & SOF



GOP & COP



WGQ & KGGE

Here are the 2025-2026 Texas Pond Officers

Most Loyal Gander – Mitch Williams (M) 214-213-5751
williams.mitch@yahoo.com

Supervisor of the Flock – Randy Webb (M) 214-801-9197
rw0007@yahoo.com

Custodian of the Goslings – Matt Arnold (M) 210-473-7443
Matthew.Arnold@Sedgwick.com

Guardian of the Pond – TBD

Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg - Ashley Hansen (M)
214-212-8547 ashansen@aol.com

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