



TEXAS POND HONKER

September 2024

Character, Charity, Fellowship



Blue Goose – Texas Pond

Monday, September 9, 2024 @ 5:30 PM

On The Border

4855 Belt Line Road

Addison, TX 75254

At our September meeting we have invited three different nonprofit organizations to come speak. Our meeting will start promptly at 6:15 with each entity speaking for 10-15 minutes. When all three have spoken we will be presenting each entity with \$1000 check to assist them with their programs.

Before the meeting closes out and after all three entities have departed, those Blue Goose members present can cast a vote as to which entity they would like the Texas Pond to give another \$2500 to on North Texas Giving Day.

Charity

The three nonprofits that will be speaking are from these entities. Plan to be in attendance to hear their stories.

Back on My Feet empowers people to overcome their struggles with homelessness and/or addiction through the power of fitness, community, and essential employment & housing resources. Changing old habits, discovering fresh perceptions of self, and transforming their futures.

Since 2007, Back on My Feet has served more than 15,000 individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness and engaged more than 150,000 volunteers and supporters. Their members have run a collective 500,000+ miles and obtained more than 10,000 jobs and homes.

With support, the communities they build around the U.S. serve as lifelong support systems, removing shame and isolation. It's about the drive, grit, and courage to take that first step toward a new life. And while it may not be an easy road, they're there every step of the way.

At **Our Daily Bread (ODB)**, takes pride in being the only 24/7 low-barrier homelessness care center in Denton County. Their commitment to providing comprehensive wraparound services ensures that individuals experiencing homelessness receive the essential support they need to rebuild their lives.

Each day, they serve over 700 meals, deliver more than 500 supportive services, and have successfully housed over 50 guests in 2024. Their wide range of services includes basic necessities such as food, shelter, hygiene, and laundry, as well as advanced support like case management, mental health services, legal advocacy, veteran case management, job training programs, wellness support, and housing assistance.

Recent data reveals a 20% increase in homelessness in Denton County compared to 2023, underscoring the critical need for our services.

The Evie Effect was founded in memory of Evie Grace Domingos, who died by suicide at the age of twelve. Her tragic loss inspired her parents, Michael, and Jessica Domingos, to create an organization dedicated to promoting mental wellness and suicide prevention. Their mission is to change the public's perception of mental wellness and suicide by fostering a community of advocacy, awareness, and education.



Fellowship, What is it?

One of the precepts (objectives) of the Blue Goose Organization is Fellowship.

Fellowship is a handshake, a smile, and a wave across the meeting room to say, "Good to see you again."

Fellowship is extending a warm welcome to all Ganders.

Fellowship is welcoming guests and making new Ganders comfortable with the group.

Fellowship is taking a moment to call or drop a note to a Gander who is hurting.

Fellowship is a call just to say how proud you are of a club member when they are promoted or receive special recognition.

Fellowship is remembering to thank officers, directors, and committee chairpersons from time to time.

Fellowship is helping on committees to further the pond's interest.

Fellowship is inviting your business associates and friends to a meeting.

Fellowship is attending meetings.

Fellowship is keeping in mind the business skills of members and how you might help them.

Fellowship is being a dependable Gander.

Fellowship is providing a service to your community through our charity object.

Fellowship is being an honest, ethical insurance person, being proud of our industry.

Fellowship is being a good listener.

Fellowship is attending a Grand Nest Convention to become acquainted with the national officers and to meet Ganders from other Ponds and Regions.

Fellowship is taking advantage of opportunities to serve and to come to know and appreciate the fine Ganders belonging to other groups.

Fellowship is speaking positively about the Honorable Order of Blue Goose, International and our industry.

LAST MONTH



At our August meeting the Pond collected school items for the children of Community Partners of Dallas. A total of \$554.29 was collected. Mitch Williams, GOP/Charity Chair delivered the items to Community Partners.

Eddy Pokluda from ElectroStar graciously purchased appetizers for everyone present.

Blue Goose Texas Pond DUES COLLECTION TIME FOR 2024-2025



Our new Blue Goose year began 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 a check or cash the Texas Pond will accept your dues for \$70.00 at the meetings or one can mail them to Linda Meik.



“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.”

Grand Nest Convention Plymouth, Michigan

Three Texas Pond ganders attended the 118th Grand Nest Convention, July 29th – August 2nd, 2024, which was held at St. John’s Resort. Motown Migration was the theme.

The resort, which previously served as a Provincial Seminary, but in 2021 the Pulte Family Management purchased it. All profits from the resort go to The Pulte Family Charitable Foundation and serve those most in need in the Detroit area and the world.

74 ganders were in attendance, with 34 spouses and children.

The convention attendees help assemble 600+ lunch bags for Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti, Mi.

At each convention, several Ponds or individuals are presented with award recognition. At this convention some of the those recognized were:

Neil Miller, Edmonton Pond for Heritage (Historian) Award. He has been the convention photographer for several years and just recently hung up his camera.

Gordon Crother Award (Charity) was presented to the Virginia Pond.

The Hartford Pond was recognized for their contributions to the charity fund. British Columbia for their Community Service activities and the Texas Pond was recognized for the Scholarship Award for 2023-2024.

The following ganders were recognized as Gander of the Year for their service to the Order:

- Canadian Region – Kim Bales, Manitoba Pond
- Easter Region – Tiffany Barrett, National Capital Pond
- Southern Region – Sarah Miller, Kentucky Pond
- Central Region – Joe Lothschutz, Michigan Pond

Here are a few pictures of the convention site and the convention.

WELCOME

St. John’s Resort, Plymouth



The party can begin – Jim Devall is here!



Terry/Linda & Wendy K.



Tom Elder behaving himself!



The 3 Linda’s



KY all decked out in BG Spirit



Volunteer Giveback – 600+ lunches for Hope Clinic



TX Pond rec'ing Scholarship award



Virginia rec'ing Gordon Crother Award



Paul Rivere marched in to highlight the 119th Convention, which will be held in Boston in 2025. Mark your calendar now for this event.



MLGG & SOF



GOP & COP



WGQ & KGGE

SEPTEMBER MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024
MEETING: FIRESIDE PIES, GRAPEVINE

OCTOBER MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024
MEETING: ON THE BORDER, ADDISON

NOVEMBER MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024
MEETING: ON THE BORDER, ADDISON

DECEMBER MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS
SECOND MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024
MEETING: ON THE BORDER, ADDISON



Here are the 2024-2025 Texas Pond Officers

Most Loyal Gander – Stephanie Kirby (M) 214-907-0073
stephaniecamille.kirby@gmail.com

Supervisor of the Flock – Allsion Sharp (M) 430-910-1234
allie.sharp@theartguys.net

Custodian of the Goslings – Valerie Wilson (M) 713-835-5181
valerie.wilson@northamericanconsultants.com

Guardian of the Pond – Mitch Williams (M) 214-213-5751
williams.mitch@yahoo.com

Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg Jeff Thompson (M) 214-499-5691
jthompson1902@att.net

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

Pond Delegates return to the banks of the Texas Pond.

Do you want to be a sponsor of the Southern Region Convention in 2026? Contact Tom Elder or Linda Meik. See sponsorship levels below.



2025 BLUE GOOSE GRAND NEST CONVENTION





HILTON BOSTON PARK PLAZA
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

JULY | 27-31 | 2025

ROOM RATE \$279
 REGISTRATION | MEMBER/SPOUSE/GUEST
 \$450 EARLY/ \$475 REGULAR/ \$500 LATE/ YOUTH \$200

Contact Wendy: Wendy.Hubbard@IveraGroup.com

**GATEWAY TO THE SOUTH
 RUN FOR THE ROSES**



2026 Southern Region Blue Goose Corporate Sponsorship Levels		
 WINNERS CIRCLE	\$10,000	Includes signage at convention events, and where possible includes promotion through Southern Region communications and thorough various social media platforms sites.
 DERBY RACE	\$5,000	Includes signage at convention events, and where possible includes promotion through Southern Region communications and thorough various social media platforms sites.
 TRIFECTA	\$3,000	Includes signage at convention events, and where possible includes promotion through Southern Region communications and thorough various social media platforms sites.
 EXACTA	\$2,000	Includes signage at convention events, and where possible includes promotion through Southern Region communications and thorough various social media platforms sites.
 OAKS/LILY	\$1,000	Includes signage at convention events, and where possible includes promotion through Southern Region communications and thorough various social media platforms sites.

Plan Ahead for the 2026 HOBGI Convention:



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

The 2026 Convention is launching a new fundraiser activity during the 2024 Grand Nest Convention - get ready to hear all the details upon the Texas

 WIN, PLACE, SHOW	\$500	Includes signage at convention events, and where possible includes promotion through Southern Region communications and thorough various social media platforms sites.
 STARTING GATE	\$250	Includes signage at convention events, and where possible includes promotion through Southern Region communications and thorough various social media platforms sites.