



# TEXAS POND HONKER

October 2024

Character, Charity, Fellowship



## Blue Goose – Texas Pond

Monday, October 14, 2024 @ 5:30 PM

**On The Border**

**4855 Belt Line Road**

**Addison, TX 75254**

At the October meeting the Texas Pond will be proud to have retired USAF Colonel Brian Searcy from the Paratus Group speak to us on SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Brian Searcy attended the founding meetings of the Operation Innocence Task Force following the 2018 Parkland shooting in Florida.

Retired USAF Colonel Brian "Patton" Searcy recognized a gap in learning and development, leaving families and communities vulnerable to the threats we face today. As the renowned authority on Situational Awareness, Colonel Searcy created the 3P Program to deliver the same skill development to civilians.

***The Paratus Principle:***

***3P's - prepare - PREVENT - Protect***

General meeting announcements and introductions will promptly start at 6:00 with Ms. Charla Brown doing the honors of introducing our speaker at 6:15.

(It was via Ms. Charla that we are introduced to this dynamic speaker.)

## BLUE GOOSE HISTORICAL TIDBITS

- The first documentation of Blue Goose's existence was found in the Western Underwriter, June 21, 1906. It was one paragraph, which contained 33 words...." The ancient and Honorable Order of the Blue Goose will hold its meeting on the lake shore at 10 o'clock tonight. George Wright, W. J. Cecil, and Jim Heaney are candidates for initiation."
- The issue of the Insurance Co., June 20, 1907, had an article with the following heading, "Back to the Parent Nest – Ganders Flock To Green Lake To Celebrate Anniversary of Organization." The article reads in part: "Green Lake, Wisconsin, June 20 – The Blue Goose was organized a year ago last night on the festive shores of Green Lake and the Ganders have come back to the Mother Nest for celebration of the event."
- August 29, 1928, is when the words "Grand Nest of the Ancient" were dropped from the official title of the organization. The name was officially changed to "Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International."
- The first official Grand Nest Bulletin was written in April 1905.
- The first Pond Banner made its appearance at a contest of the Ponds in 1910 at the Grand Nest Convention held in Chicago.
- The first Most Loyal Gander, Walter E. Atwater, first voiced "Once a Blue Goose, so long as a member remains in an honorable business and pays his dues."



# Quotable Quotes

"I am in shape. Round is a shape." -- Anonymous

"The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us." -- Anonymous

"A lie sprints, but truth has endurance." -- Anonymous

"When you do not listen to your conscience it's because you do not want advice from a stranger." -- Anonymous

## LAST MONTH

At the September meeting the Texas Pond invited three different nonprofit organizations to come speak.



Charlotte Armstrong, UBSE provided appetizers for all in attendance. Thank You Ms. Charlotte.

Below is a summary of each charity.

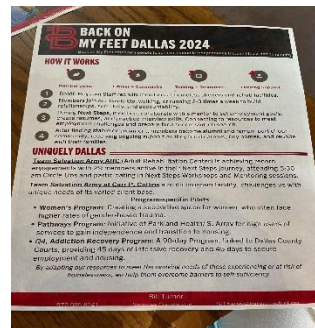
## Charity

**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.



Mitch Williams, Guardian of the Pond has been involved with this group for several years and brought this charity to us. The speaker for Back On My feet was Bill Turner.

**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.





Jim Devall had attended a presentation by this group previously. Unfortunately, Jim could not attend the meeting, so Linda Meik introduced the charity to the membership in attendance.

Jenna Edwards, Development Coordinator provided the presentation on Our Daily Bread.

**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.



Allie Sharp, Supervisor of the Flock, introduced The Evie Effect, a charity that is very dear and close to her.

Jessica Dominos, President and creator of The Evie Effect enlightened us on suicide rate here in Texas.



The gander who made introductions of each one stood proudly beside each of them.

When all three have spoken we will be presenting each entity with \$1000 check to assist them with their programs. Rather than vote on just one of the charities to receive extra funds in honor of the upcoming Texas Giving Day, the membership voted to divide the amount between each of them, which meant that an additional amount of \$825 was sent to each one for their program development.



## VOLUNTEER TIME

On Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup> Matt Arnold & Nick Gannon were at White Rock Lake to do some cleanup.



*“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.”*

# TEXAS POND CALENDAR



## 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**

## JANUARY MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS  
**NEW YEAR KICKOFF EVENT – RESERVATION'S REQUIRED**  
**SECOND MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025**  
**MEETING: TBD**



**MLGG & SOF**



**GOP & COP**



**WGQ & KGGE**

## Here are the 2024-2025 Texas Pond Officers

**Most Loyal Gander** – Stephanie Kirby (M) 214-907-0073  
[stephaniecamille.kirby@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniecamille.kirby@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

**Wielder of the Goose Quill** - Linda Meik

(M) 682-715-5341 [lindameik9@gmail.com](mailto:lindameik9@gmail.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.



Plan Ahead for the 2026 HOBGI Convention:



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

The 2026 Convention has launched a new fundraiser activity - a commemorative pin. This pin is in 4 pieces, which one can buy individually or all 4 pcs simultaneously. See attached order form that has been sent out to all Blue Goose members. NOTE: There is a limited inventory of these pins, so do not wait to order.

Need further information on the convention contact Tom Elder, Grand Supervisor of the Flock at 502-931-6431 or [elder@twc.com](mailto:elder@twc.com)



Commemorative 2026 Convention Pin

# Southern Region Convention

Limited Supply

July 2026

Buy 1 part each year or all at once



**Charity**  
\$120



**Fellowship**  
\$120



**Character**  
\$120



Horseshoe - free after the purchase of the 1<sup>st</sup> three pieces



Buy the pieces individually and put the pieces together to have the complete commemorative pin or buy the total pin for \$300

## The Southern Region Commemorative Pin Order Form

Name:	
Address:	
City:	
State:	
Zip/Postal code:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	

Postage will be paid by the 2026 Convention Fund.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Charity - \$120
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fellowship - \$120
<input type="checkbox"/>	Character - \$120
<input type="checkbox"/>	I have the above 3 pieces – send me the horseshoe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete Pin \$300

Mark what pieces you want and how many.

### Pay by options:

- Check in US funds, or Money Order payable to: Southern Region Convention Fund.
  - Mail request to Kristi Brown at: Davies; 320 Whittington Pkwy, Ste. 108, Louisville, KY 40222
- PayPal
- Venmo – use #4015



Kristi Brown  
@Blue-Goose-123



venmo