



TEXAS POND HONKER

November 2024

Character, Charity, Fellowship



Blue Goose – Texas Pond

Monday, November 11, 2024 @ 5:30 PM

On The Border

4855 Belt Line Road

Addison, TX 75254

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.

Gosling Initiation Time

At our November meeting we hopefully will initiate all our Goslings that are sitting on the banks of the Pond. We currently have 3 Goslings and are hoping that a couple other stray birds will appear.



Community Partners of Dallas Toy Drive 2024

The Texas Pond has been a proud supporter of Community Partners of Dallas (CPD) since the 2016-2017 Blue Goose year.



Can you imagine a child who didn't bother wishing for anything special for the holidays because they'd never received a gift before?

When children stop wishing, they stop hoping.

Blue Goose of Texas will once again be participating in the Community Partners of Dallas' Christmas Toy Drive for. Please join us at our November 11th meeting at On The Border where you pick up your wish cards. The wish cards this year are in the \$25-\$30 range and we will have 50 cards. While the priority is to fill all of the cards, it would be awesome if all members could fill at least one card this year.

Will talk more about this at our meeting but here are a few instructions for filling and returning the cards/toys:

- (1) Please keep your gifts in the \$25-\$30 range.
- (2) Please do not wrap your gifts. Leave them in a bag along with the wish list that you picked up at the meeting.
- (3) Save your receipt and tape it to the wish list. This really helps us with the Blue Goose accounting.
- (4) We have two options for returning the gifts:

(a) You can bring them to our December meeting on December 9th.

(b) If you prefer to order from Amazon, you can have the gifts delivered to **Mitch Williams at: 2510 Grandview Drive, Richardson, TX 75080**. If you choose this option, please take a screenshot of your order confirmation, including the purchase price. Email this to Mitch along with a note providing the wish list number shown on the upper lefthand corner of the top sheet that you picked up. This will allow us to match the gifts up.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Mitch at (214) 213-5751 or williams.mitch@yahoo.com



BLUE GOOSE THOUGHTS & MEMORIES

Here are some rambling thoughts from a couple Blue Goose Life members about The Honorable Order of Blue Goose International.

First are the ramblings of a 53-year member. Randy Neal originally joined Blue Goose in the Arizona Pond and when it closed flew to the banks of the Texas Pond.

MEMORIES OF THE BLUE GOOSE

So many years have passed across Life's Pond since I completed my one-year training program at the old General Adjustment Bureau and was "asked" (I believe it was actually "told") that I was to become a member of a secret society called the Blue Goose.

As I finally learned, the Blue Goose was organized in Wisconsin in 1906 by a small group of Property Adjusters that went on a duck hunt and did as most Property Adjusters did back then and that was to have a bit too much to drink. When that happens, either a new secret society is organized, or the hunters bring home the live ducks and put them in the fountain in the middle of the lobby of a fancy hotel as a group did nearly 90 years ago at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, TN. Ironically, the company that eventually absorbed the General Adjustment Bureau, Sedgwick, has their Home Office in Memphis!

Anyway, after being initiated into the Blue Goose I learned the secret key Honk word and the secret salutation (I think I'm still under the secret obligation of death not to reveal these strange and sacred secrets).

The initial meeting and the meetings through the 1970s were held at the Westward Ho Hotel in downtown Phoenix, which at the time was the tallest building in Arizona. It eventually ceased being a hotel and the Blue Goose meetings moved to local restaurants, seemingly a different one for each meeting as the group was generally

not welcomed back.

Shortly after joining I was presented with Jim Beam's new 1971 Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International Commemorative Liquor Bottle. It had the flying Blue Goose on the front and the Goose Pond on the back. Even though the bottle has long ago been emptied (I believe it evaporated), I still look at it with great fondness on my library shelf with a tear in my eye and think about all the memories of long-gone friends that it manifests, even though I can't remember the actual liquor itself.

The membership at the time was limited to male only Property Adjusters (there were no female Property Adjusters in the insurance business then), although we did have one non-Property Adjuster member, the Manager of Underwriters Salvage Company. Underwriter's, like General Adjustment Bureau, was owned by all the major stock insurance companies until an anti-trust action caused their dissolution in the mid- 1970s. The reason for his membership was that he was able to furnish us with the liquor stock for our meetings from the fires we handled which we collectively termed "Ole Smoky."

The agenda of the meetings followed after the spirit of the founding of the Blue Goose, fun, drinking and camaraderie. To be a member of this prestigious fellowship of Property Adjusters was an honor in the early days. Even the Arizona State Insurance Commissioner attended most meetings just to be associated with this group of the finest adjusters in the industry, both staff and independent. His attendance ceased following a raid at one rather rowdy meeting one Spring evening.

I eventually became Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg, but the inevitable job transfer that came from being at GAB forced me to surrender my climb up through the chairs. Because of the new job demands, I was never able to get back into the close-knit circle other than to periodically attend a lunch meeting if I happened to be back in Phoenix during one.

I noticed that the fraternity continued to grow smaller over the years even though the membership was opened to both females and non-Property Adjusters, in fact, to anyone that was engaged in any way to the insurance industry, including agents, brokers, attorneys, contractors, body shops, glass companies, rental agencies, etc. Sadly, the culture I grew up in the business was disappearing, and people just didn't socialize as they once had, especially after hours when they had rather be doing anything that didn't involve work.

The Phoenix Pond continued to shrink since no new

members, especially younger ones, were sought, and maybe a dozen old insurance professionals and their wives became the Blue Goose with a monthly lunch meeting reminiscing about the “Good Old Days” that few could remember. As these died off, so did the Phoenix Pond and so many famous names that represented the Arizona insurance industry for so many years were gone.

I finally hung up my spurs from the old Southwest in 2000 on my 50th Anniversary, but will always fondly remember the Blue Goose, and the many fiends that long ago took their last flight. As the Blue Goose logo of the soaring Blue Goose that always meant so much to my wife and me though many friends and associates, we had in the industry is now engraved on our tombstone waiting for us, as hopefully are many of our old Blue Goose Friends.

Tote Fair, Old Friends. “

Our 2nd ramblings come from Wayne Ottaway, a 34-year member, who originally joined the Wisconsin Home Nest Pond. After relocating to Dallas area he then flew to the banks of the Texas Pond.

Wayne states that The Honorable Order of Blue Goose International is a great organization, which allows for fellowship outside the business aspects of one’s work-life. It feels good to participate in fundraising and supporting Pond’s various nonprofit organizations.

Over the years he has seen more structure in Blue Goose and there used to be more senior members of the insurance industry as members of the organization. Today, he sees where the Texas Pond has evolved to mostly claims people – not bad – just different. In addition, there are more female members who bring great new energy to the Pond.

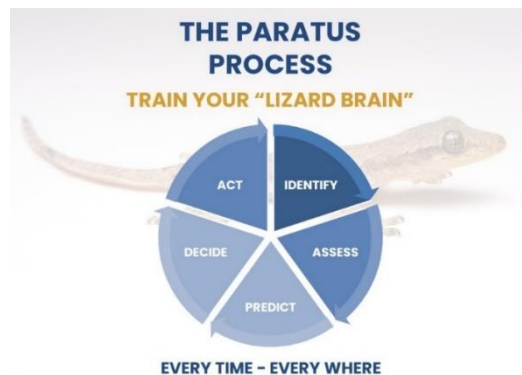
Changes have been noted in the organization, which is good. If we do not keep changing with the environment we will fade away. It is noted that younger folks do not seem to spend time outside of the basic job and this has impacted the membership growth. One gets out of membership what they put into it.

The best advice he can give a member is for them to get to know as many members as possible. Network, participate in volunteer opportunities; get to know the history of the Blue Goose – it is fascinating.



LAST MONTH

At the October meeting the Texas Pond proudly had retired USAF Colonel Brian Searcy from the Paratus Group speak on SITUATIONAL AWARENESS. Situational awareness is the necessity to be prepared for something that could go totally wrong when you least expect it.



The Paratus Principle:
3P's - prepare - PREVENT – Protect

The lizard brain is the **most primitive part of the brain**. It is also known as the brain stem and is responsible for basic survival functions such as breathing and fight or flight response. The lizard brain is in charge of fight, flight, feeding, fear, freezing up, and fornication.



“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.”



WORDS OF WISDOM

'Good friends are like stars.....You don't always see them, but you know they are always there.'

'Remember yesterday, dream about tomorrow, but live for today.'

Charity

VOLUNTEER TIME



On Saturday, October 19th Matt Arnold & Mitch Williams were at Cane Rosso Dog Rescue helping them with their various needs, afterwards these two hombres headed for some Mexican food and cool refreshments.

OTHER DONATION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES

Linda Meik donated some cat litter bins and a small dog cage to Our Daily Bread for the residents, who bring their animals to the shelter. Also, she provided them with 25 used, but good condition 1" binders.

The Texas Pond in past years had a "Ball Drop" activity at their annual golf tournament. Due to the coordination and issues that arose from this event, we discontinued this Ball Drop, which left us with over 750 golf balls. We have stored them for the last couple of years, but after reaching out to Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, they were excited to accept them for the children's golf program.



TEXAS POND CALENDAR



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

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 - Ashley Hansen (M)
214-212-8547 ashansen@aol.com

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