



*Honorable Order of the Blue Goose, International*

**Texas Pond**

*Charity*

*Fellowship*

*Education*



# TEXAS POND HONKER

**December 2024**

**Character, Charity, Fellowship**

## HELLO GROUP



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

**Blue Goose – Texas Pond**

**Monday, December 9, 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).

It is time to dig out that ugly – and I mean UGLY Christmas sweater and come join the Holiday cheering with all the ganders, goslings, and guests of the Texas Pond. Prizes will be awarded for various Ugly Sweater categories.

We ask everyone to also bring a \$20-\$25 item of alcohol so that we can play the Drunken Elephant Game our Most Loyal Gander will lead the fun & frolic. Put your alcoholic or drinking item in a brown paper bag or wrap in Holiday wrap, so no one can see what you brought!



**Blue Goose-Texas Pond's  
Annual New Year Kick-Off Event**

**January 13, 2025**

**5:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

**Mexican Sugar  
7501 Lone Star Drive  
Plano, TX 75024**

**Registration is open!**

**[www.bluegoosetx.org](http://www.bluegoosetx.org)**



## 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.



All ganders that took Wish Cards will bring their gift items to the meeting unless they have sent them to our Guardian of the Pond/Charity Guru – Mitch Williams already.

Remember all gifts need to have a Wish Card attached to the gift. Gifts are to be new and unwrapped. Please let Mitch know the amount that was spent on the gift for our records.

## BLUE GOOSE MEMORIES & THOUGHTS



## BLUE GOOSE THOUGHTS & MEMORIES

Here are some rambling thoughts from a few Blue Goose 20+ year members about The Honorable Order of Blue Goose International.

First are the ramblings of a 52-year member. **Rich Mancuso** is a gander that really has flown around. He was initiated in New York City Pond, then he flew to the Bay State Pond, and onto the Hartford Pond. Upon retirement he moved to North Carolina and flew to the banks there until they closed and then he flew to the Texas Pond. What a fine bird! Here are his thoughts about Blue Goose:

“Blue Goose for me has just been a wonderful experience. Meeting fellow Ganders from different areas of the country and Canada has been great. Meeting people from different aspects of the insurance industry helps in understanding what others face in their career.

BLUE GOOSE TEXAS POND

*New Year*  
2025

*Kick off Charity Event*

Monday January 13th  
5:30 - 8:30 PM

**ADMISSION**

\$40 Early Bird - Dec. 19  
\$55 Dec. 20 - Jan. 9  
\$65 At Door after Jan. 9

**SPONSORS**

Event Sponsor  
Bar Sponsor  
Photo Sponsor  
Balloon Pop Sponsor

Mexican Sugar  
7501 Lone Star Drive  
Plano, TX 75024



## SPONSORSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

Reach out to Allie Sharp at 430-910-1234 or [allie.sharp@theartguys.net](mailto:allie.sharp@theartguys.net)

(each Sponsor gets 1 free attendee registration)

Event Sponsors	10	\$500
Bar Sponsor	2	\$750
Photo Sponsor	1	\$600
Balloon Pop	2	\$600



Most importantly are the relationships we have built with so many people, some almost 50 years; these are treasured friendships.

Tote Fair has not changed since the inception of the Blue Goose but like everything we must be up to date with the current times. Yes, there have been changes but I believe they were to the benefit of the order. A prime example is communication amongst members via the Internet and travel is much simpler.

The downside is the cost incurred for the yearly meetings. As we age, cost does become an issue. Family obligations (4 married children and 10 grandchildren) make attending every convention difficult.

Finally, the best advice I can give to a new member or prospective member is to join in and get involved. Once you commit you will find yourself meeting some fine people and creating some long-lasting friendships. In your travels you might find yourself going to a meeting in some other locations and enjoy their hospitality.”

**Tom Tucker** is a 35-year-old member of Blue Goose. Tom is retired and lives in the southern part of Texas and loving life! Here are his Blue Goose thoughts.....

“As you know, I became a member in the San Antonio Pond about 35 years ago, before assimilation with the D/FW Pond.

Since retiring after 42 years as a licensed adjuster in all lines & multiple states, I've maintained many friendships I can only attribute to my membership. I often refer to my mentorship of 4H youngsters, ages 8 to 14, with my fellowship with Blue Goose Insurance professionals. I taught the 4H boys & girls safe handling & shooting .22 rifles. It was my observation that they were the most polite, respectful, attentive, & goal oriented young people I had ever been around. For the most part, you just don't find those character traits in the majority of students in the public school system.

Similarly, most of the folks I've met in the Blue Goose organization can only be described as professionals who strive to reach the pinnacle of their particular specialty & "tote fare" in their relationships with others.

In conclusion, I would tell new members & prospective members that their membership in the International Order of The Blue Goose means they are among the best of the best, serving the insurance industry, & at the same time, making lifelong friendships they will always cherish.”

**Ted Green** originally joined Blue Goose in California in 1999. Unfortunately, all the Ponds in California have closed. Ted arrived on the banks of the Texas Pond and stayed with Texas even when he moved to Atlanta. Today he is retired and living life as a Gander Rancher. He is a 22-year member of Blue Goose. Here are the Gander Rancher's Blue Goose thoughts....

“What has being a member of Blue Goose meant to me: “Great fellowship and philanthropy with fellow insurance claims professionals. Many of my mentors and people of wise counsel I met through my involvement in Blue Goose. It helped keep grounded in the fact that we as insurance claims professionals are there when clients need us most. We deliver on the promises of an insurance policy.

Over the years how has Blue Goose changed; Blue Goose has always been willing to adapt to changes in society and business, i.e., use of social media, and email.

Are the changes good or bad? Good

Best advice you can give to a potential or a new member about Blue Goose: You cannot truly appreciate Blue Goose unless you go “all in.” Attend as many meetings as you can, take on leadership positions, recruit members. It is a great professional society with high amount of fellowship and philanthropy.”



“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.”



## *HOLIDAY WORDS OF WISDOM*

“I like to compare the holiday season with the way a child listens to a favorite story. The pleasure is in the familiar way the story begins, the anticipation of familiar turns it

takes, the familiar moments of suspense, and the familiar climax and ending.”—Fred Rogers.!

“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.”—Norman Vincent Peale

“Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing, but of reflection.”—Winston Churchill

“Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.”—Helen Steiner Rice

“For centuries men have kept an appointment with Christmas. Christmas means fellowship, feasting, giving, and receiving, a time of good cheer, home.”—William Jewett Tucker

“Remember, if Christmas isn’t found in your heart, you won’t find it under a tree.”—Charlotte Carpenter

## LAST MONTH

### Gosling Initiation Time

At our November meeting we initiated one outstanding Gosling, who flew onto the banks of our Pond. Boy she proudly flapped those wings long and hard to get here.



Jennifer Chaplin serves as the Marketing Manager at Forensic Engineering Company, where they provide forensic investigation services for both commercial and residential structures. Outside of her professional life, Jennifer enjoys staying physically active, spending time outdoors, competing in precision rifle shooting, traveling, and cheering on my 12-year-old son as he plays football for his school. As everyone knows, football is HUGE in TX, and she is a proud football parent.

## THE HONORABLE ORDER OF BLUE GOOSE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION NEWS

The 2025 HOBGI Convention will be in Boston, Massachusetts at the historic [Hilton Boston Park Plaza](#)!

The convention will be held at the Hilton Boston Park Plaza from Sunday July 27 to Thursday July 31, 2025. It will be packed with exciting activities: golfing, live entertainment each night with bands and a comedian, a visit to Fenway Park, a historical trolley tour, charity presentations, an interactive volunteer Give Back Experience for charity, and much more. If you haven't yet attended a convention, this is the one to participate in, offering a unique opportunity to network, learn, and have a fantastic time.

A promotional poster for the 2025 Blue Goose Grand Nest Convention. The poster features a large blue goose logo in the center, holding a lantern and a banner that says "FLOCK TO BOSTON". The background shows a cityscape with a harbor and sailboats. The text "2025 BLUE GOOSE GRAND NEST CONVENTION" is prominently displayed in large, bold letters. Below the logo, it says "HILTON BOSTON PARK PLAZA BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS" and "JULY | 27-31 | 2025". At the bottom, it lists the room rate as \$279 and provides registration information: "REGISTRATION | MEMBER/SPOUSE/GUEST \$450 EARLY/ \$475 REGULAR/ \$500 LATE/ YOUTH \$200". Contact information for Wendy Hubbard is provided at the bottom: "Contact Wendy: [Wendy.Hubbard@IveraGroup.com](mailto:Wendy.Hubbard@IveraGroup.com)".

HONORABLE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE INTERNATIONAL

# 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](mailto:Wendy.Hubbard@IveraGroup.com)

## Plan Ahead for the 2026 HOBGI Convention:



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

The Galt House Hotel is Louisville's Only Waterfront Hotel. The Galt House Hotel is quite simply the best place to find a unique and authentic experience in the city. Sip some bourbon while taking in the spectacular views of the Ohio River.

At this location one is just a shot away from Whiskey Row, where you can immerse yourself in the history of Kentucky's native spirit. Explore world-renowned cultural encounters at nearby Museum Row, featuring icons such as the Muhammad Ali Center, the Louisville Slugger Museum & Factory, and the KFC Yum! Center, which is connected to the Galt House Hotel via Skywalk.



**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)

## TEXAS POND CALENDAR



### 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: MEXICAN SUGAR; 7501 LONE STAR DRIVE; PLANO, TX**

### FEBRUARY MEETING – TEXAS POND

5:30 PM GANDERS & GOSLINGS & GUESTS

**SECOND MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2025**

**MEETING: ON THE BORDER, ADDISON**