

# THE HONKER

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### • OFFICERS •

**Most Loyal Gander:**  
Jimmy Lanham  
[lanham1@verizon.net](mailto:lanham1@verizon.net)  
301-904-9944

**Supervisor of the Flock:**  
Patrick Bergin - Vericlaim, Inc.  
[pbergin@vericlaiminc.com](mailto:pbergin@vericlaiminc.com)  
410-925-4850

**Custodian of the Goslings:**  
Jason R. Smith - PuroClean  
[smithj@puroclean.com](mailto:smithj@puroclean.com)  
410-972-9733

**Guardian of the Pond:**  
Wendy Fletcher – Key Kleaning  
[wfletcher@KeyKleaning.com](mailto:wfletcher@KeyKleaning.com)  
443-962-0115

**Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg:**  
Barb Markuski - Capezio Contractors  
[barb@capeziocontractor.com](mailto:barb@capeziocontractor.com)  
(301) 404-5758

**Wielder of the Goose Quill:**  
Michelle Fitzwater  
CRDN of Baltimore & Southern MD.  
[michelle@schroedcleaners.com](mailto:michelle@schroedcleaners.com)  
443-717-4143

•Next Gathering•

•Location•

## October Rush Party

**October 16, 2014**      **Dave and Buster's**  
**5:30 pm**      **Arundel Mills**  
**Cost: \$35 per person**

**(Prospective members, fill out a membership application to get in free)**

**COME OUT FOR A NIGHT OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD, BOWLING; ALONG WITH PRIZES & RAFFLES**  
**Make checks payable to the National Capital Pond**



Go to <http://nationalcapitalpond.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Application-for-National-Capital-Pond.pdf> For an application

### IN THIS EDITION

### 2014 / 2015 UP COMING EVENTS • SAVE THE DATE

Meeting information  
Rush Information  
Crab Feast  
Historian's Corner  
Community Board  
Officers Board  
Breaking News

Birthdays & Closing Note  
Help Wanted

10/16/14 Rush Party  
12/9/14 Annual Holiday Party



## *Rush for the Goslings 2014!*

**Re: Rush Party  
October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 5:30 PM  
Dave and Buster's Arundel Mills**

**Dear Ganders of the National Capital Pond,**

**The Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International is promoting membership growth throughout the United States and Canada and our theme is "Rush for Goslings in 2014."**

**As you know, the precepts of our Order, which include giving back to our community (Charity), dedication to our personal development and integrity (Character) and the fostering of relationships with each other (Fellowship) make us truly unique in the world of insurance. We are therefore looking to expand our membership through others in the industry who share these values.**

**Please invite all those in the insurance business in our community whom you believe would benefit from membership in our Pond to a Rush Party to be held on October 16, 2014 at Dave and Buster's Arundel Mills beginning at 5:30pm.**

**The cost of the event is \$35 and includes food, drinks, and prizes. Prospective members that fill out a membership application that evening get in for free.**

**There will be special prize drawings for the following:**

- All Ganders that bring a prospective member to the event.**
- All Ganders that bring a prospective member who is an insurance company employee, agent, underwriter or independent adjuster.**
- All prospective members who complete an application during the night of the event.**

**Let's make this a fun and successful event by asking prospective members to attend and join. Please remember that anyone who has been a member of our Order in the past and would like to be reinstated qualifies as a prospective member for the Rush Party.**

**Thank you for continuing the growth and success of the National Capital Pond.**

**Jason R. Smith, Custodian of the Goslings  
Rush Chairman  
National Capital Pond**

# **What is the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose? What is the purpose of the organization? Why should I join?**

The Honorable Order of Blue Goose International was founded in 1906 in Green Lakes, Wisconsin. From somewhat inauspicious beginnings sprang an international fraternal organization of men and women who work in the property and casualty insurance 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.

Our formal name is the Honorable Order of The Blue Goose, International. We have local groups, called Ponds, throughout the United States and Canada.

Members are called Ganders. Our officers have titles such as Wielder of the Goose Quill, Guardian of the Pond, and Keeper of the Golden Goose Egg. We have a secret initiation ceremony.

Every Pond has its own unique blend of members and of activities. Some Ponds meet in the evenings, some meet at lunch time, and some mix it up. There are fund raisers to generate money for charity. There are dinner-dances, golf outings, and Christmas parties. There are educational seminars, speakers from many backgrounds, and get-togethers with insurance commissioners and industry leaders. There are events involving multiple Ponds.

We hold an annual convention each Summer in a different city, each convention hosted by a Pond which competed for the privilege.

Our convention is a family affair. Ganders bring their spouses and children. Activities are planned for Ganders, for non-Gander Spouses, and for the children.

You will find a welcoming group of friends.  
You will find that a place has been saved for you.  
Please join us.

**Thank you for making our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Crab Feast a Success!**

We had a great turnout for the National Capital Pond's first annual crab feast on September 24, 2014 at Nick's Fish House. A good time was had by all. A big thank you goes out to all of our bar sponsors: Catanzaro Engineering, Environmental Solutions Inc., Harford Cleaners, Restronic, and Smith and Sons. Everyone enjoyed the libations. Also, thank you to our dessert sponsors Gross Mendelsohn and SEA Limited and especially for Harford Cleaners who contributed delicious homemade cupcakes! And a special shout out to the crab feast committee for all your hard work planning and putting this event together. ~ Ellen Martin

**A special Thank you goes out to our committee!**

Ellen Martin Allstate Insurance

Brittany Button Harford Cleaners

Wendy Fletcher Key Kleaning

Nancy Clayton Allstate Insurance



# *Caught in the Spot Light 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Crab Feast!*



The National Capital Pond would like to say Thank you to all who attended! Your support helps make our pond strong!









# Historian Corner by James Dorsey

## National Capital Pond

### Interview with Bill Olson - MLGG

I had a chance to sit down and speak with National Capitol Pond legend and current Most Loyal Grand Gander, Bill Olson. Here are excerpts from that conversation.

Vital Statistics:

1. Married with 4 daughters
2. Favorite Band: The Beatles
3. Favorite Color: Blue
4. Favorite Food: Dessert

**Jim:** So Bill, how did you find out about the Blue Goose and when?

**Bill:** Gerry Kaplan was manager at Leisure Associates when I came to work for Leisure Associates in 1983. The National Capital Pond held their meetings at The Anchor Inn in Wheaton, MD, which was right across the street from our office. Gerry took me over to my first meeting in 1985. It was free dinner and drinks so what the hell.

**Jim:** What was it like back then?

**Bill:** Back then it was a small group of people, about 20- 30 people in all. We got together at The Anchor Inn for dinner and a guest speaker. We had a golf outing and the Holiday Luncheon for Children's Hospital at Indian Spring Country Club

**Jim:** When did you become a member of the National Capitol Pond? Did you join in 1985?

**Bill:** No. I joined in November 1987. 27 years ago.

**Jim:** Were you on a 2-year waiting plan or something?

**Bill:** No (laughter)

**Jim:** When did you decide to become an officer of the National Capital Pond?

**Bill:** PMLGG Barry Snyder asked me to become an officer and run the chairs in 1988

**Jim:** What year did you become the Most Loyal Gander?

**Bill:** 1992.

**Jim:** When did you attend your first Grand Nest Convention and where was it held?

**Bill:** Edmonton, Alberta, Canada in 1993 as the MLG of the National Capital Pond. It was my first visit to Canada.

**Jim:** How many conventions have you attended?

**Bill:** I think at the last count it was 17 conventions.

**Jim:** Have you missed any conventions?

**Bill:** Yes. 10 conventions in the last 27 years. 4 conventions missed in the last 21 years

**Jim:** So how many conventions have you attend in a row?

**Bill:** I have not missed one since 2003 when it was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. PMLG Patrick Bergmann and I took our families and got a great big suite in the hotel overlooking the harbor in Halifax.

**Jim:** For the record...that is 12 years in a row. Why did you decide to go to these conventions?

**Bill:** I was appointed Deputy Most Loyal Grand Gander in 2002 by PMLGG Gerry Hale of the Hartford Pond. The thing I really like about attending our conventions is that they move every year to a different region. I have been able to visit many different cities and meet many of our fellow members that otherwise I would never been able to. The fellowship at our conventions is something that is hard to explain and brings you back year after year. It is something every gander should do at least once.

**Jim:** Which was your favorite convention....besides Baltimore 2000?

**Bill:** Baltimore 2000 was the most memorable convention because I was in charge of the children's program. We had a record 60 kids from the US and Canada travel to Baltimore that year. We put together a program for the week that attracted many families to the convention. We will do that again in 2015 too!

My favorite convention was 2006 in Milwaukee and the 3 day 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Green Lake, WI where the Blue Goose was started. That is when I really learned to appreciate the history and traditions of our Order.

**Jim:** What do you like most about the conventions?

**Bill:** I like the fraternity traditions we have. I like the fact that we encourage our families to attend and the fellowship involved. I enjoy seeing friends I have made over the years at the convention

**Jim:** What does the Honorable Order of the Blue Goose mean to you?

**Bill:** I would say that The National Capitol Pond and the Blue Goose is a serious part of my legacy in my career as an insurance adjuster and being active in this community. Working to raise money for Children's Hospital and various other charities over the years has been very rewarding. The friendships I have made are priceless.

**Jim:** Since you have been a member of the Blue Goose, do you have any idea how much money the National Capital Pond has raised for charities?

**Bill:** You know...it has gone up over the years with the success of the John Brenner Holiday Luncheon. It used to be \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year. Last year it was over \$ 20,000. So over the 27 years I have been a member, approximately \$400,000.

**Jim:** When did you decide to become an officer of The Grand Nest?

**Bill:** That discussion started around 2003. PMLGG Jerry Hale had appointed me to become a DMLGG along with Dan Rich of the Hartford Pond and Mike Nardulli of the New York City Pond. They wanted me or Mike to become the next Grand Nest Officer...but I refused. Bill Wasakanes of the Penn Pond had been a member of the Blue Goose for 50 years and he wanted to be a Grand Nest Officer. He had a small pond and did not have a lot of support. The Eastern Region decided to support him and hold the 2010 Grand Nest Convention in Philadelphia. After that it was going to be me, Dan Rich, or Mike Nardulli. Since the National Capitol Pond hosted the convention in 2000, I was pushing for Mike Nardulli and the NYC Pond. Mike said that the New York Pond would not support it

**Jim:** How do you feel about becoming the Most Loyal Grand Gander?

**Bill:** I am very honored and excited. There is a lot going on with The Blue Goose right now with positive growth and changes. When I first joined The Blue Goose there were about 6,000 members. Now we have about 3,000 members. We have a lot of work to do to promote ourselves

**Jim:** Wow

**Bill:** Yes...it has gone down a lot.

**Jim:** What is your vision for the future of The Blue Goose?

**Bill:** I want to get more young adjusters and contractors involved with the Order. I want to get those adjusters that work out of their houses to come out and join us once a month for some socializing. I want to continue to be a social organization that raises a lot of money for charity. I want everyone to realize that this is a very special organization and to carry on the traditions of Character, Charity and Fellowship that the Blue Goose is known for.



AS OF JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> DUES WERE DUE!

PLEASE CONTACT MICHELLE FITZWATER TO PAY YOUR DUES!

# Community Board



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f (410) 451-5784

MHC # 87630

*The Blue Goose Directory will be available to members via E-Directory this year and will no longer be in print form. Another change is with advertising, we will not be offering advertising in connection with the Directory. Instead, it will be offered in the monthly Honker and will be available in a variety of sizes ranging from business card to full page to suit your marketing budget. This is a much better 'Bang for your Buck' because the honker is sent out each month to all of our Members with your ad in it each and every time!!*

**WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS**

3x10" #3108102

# Community Board



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Did you know advertising in the  
Honker supports our Pond?

## Now Soliciting Blue Goose Advertisers

“Are you looking for an affordable way to advertise to the Insurance Restoration Industry? The National Capital Pond publishes their newsletter monthly, 12 times per year. The newsletter is distributed to all of our members, over 140 people, each month. This is a great way to support our Pond and to make this marketing opportunity enticing we are offering several levels to fit each marketing budget.”

Advertising can be as small as a business card up to a full page.

Advertising Fees are as follows per year:

- **Business Card** \$240.00  
(For only \$20.00 a month you can get your information to how many people?)
- **Quarter Page** \$ 600.00
- **Half Page** \$ 900.00
- **Full Page** \$1,200.00

If you would like to advertise your company in The Honker; please contact Barb Markuski at Capezio Contractors, Inc.

301-404-5758

[Barb@CapezioContractor.com](mailto:Barb@CapezioContractor.com)

Send your business card via jpeg to Donna Digman @ [donna@servproofhuntvalley.com](mailto:donna@servproofhuntvalley.com) along with a hard copy to Donna Digman 1203 63<sup>rd</sup> Street Rosedale, MD 21237



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# Officer's Board



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Cell: 301.904.9944

Hot Off the Press!



Breaking News



Hot Off the Press!



Breaking News



New Members! The Pond is growing! Please take the time to welcome our new members!

# Help Wanted!

Capezio is hiring a Project Manager with 3 yrs experience in construction. Must have reliable transportation and be able to pass a background and drug test.

Please send resume(s) by email to: [info@capeziocontractor.com](mailto:info@capeziocontractor.com)

Send your postings to [donna@servproofhuntvalley.com](mailto:donna@servproofhuntvalley.com). Our only request is when the job has been filled please contact us to take the posting down.

Also, if your company is holding an event such as a blood drive, ce class etc. WE CAN SPREAD THE WORD in our newsletter. Send your details to [donna@servproofhuntvalley.com](mailto:donna@servproofhuntvalley.com)



2014-2015 dues are due Please contact Michelle Fitzwater to pay your dues!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

PLEASE BRING YOUR DUES PAYMENT TO SEPTEMBER'S MEETING

## Important Reminders!

- ☺ Please pay your 2014 - 2015 dues.
- ☺ Read your Honker and send us feedback.
- ☺ Have you contacted Barb to become an advertiser for the National Capital Pond?



## ALL OFFICER'S

Is your current business card on file with The National Capital Pond for the officer's board on our web page and in the Honker? If you would like to update your card please email a copy of your business card to Donna Digman.





## Happy Birthday to YOU!

- 10/3- George Nardone, Charles Coutu
- 10/4-Bill Cornelius, Anne Marie Jenkins
- 10/6-Everette Wroten
- 10/10-Doug Mascari, Timothy Duffy
- 10/15-Darryl Hopkins
- 10/16-Robin Womack
- 10/19-Dave Bennett
- 10/21-Pat Snyder, Jack Thompson
- 10/24-Jeff Lake
- 10/28- Marvin Ward
- 10/30-Wade Baugan
- 10/31- Barbara Soubott

**RUSH TIME IS HERE!**  
**STC Support the Convention 2015**

### NEW MEMBERS



Do you have someone in mind to become a member of the NATIONAL CAPITAL POND?

Go to:  
[www.nationalcapitalpond.com](http://www.nationalcapitalpond.com) for the membership application.

## National Capital Pond Gives to Charity

### The recipient must be:

A not-for-profit organization: and endorsed by a National Capital Pond member in good standing

### Donations do not exceed one \$500 award per quarter. Donations are to be made in:

- February (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter)
- May (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter)
- September (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter)
- November (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)

### For an application go to

<http://nationalcapitalpond.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/National-Capital-Pond-Charity-Committee.pdf>

## Pictures are needed!

Do you have any pictures of past events for the National Capital Pond?

We would love for you to share these pictures with us for future use in the Honker and on our web page.

Please send your pictures to Donna Digman  
[donna@servproofhuntvalley.com](mailto:donna@servproofhuntvalley.com)

Did you know there are several ways you can support our Pond?

### Pay your dues ASAP!

- Advertise in the Honker
- Sponsor a Hole at the Golf Outing
- Sign up new members
- Bring guests to meetings
- Join a committee
- Volunteer your time

We hope you have enjoyed this copy of The Honker.

Please remember to visit our new web site and like us on Facebook. If you should have any questions, concerns or comments you may contact any board member and committee members with a simple click on the contact us link. We work hard to make the National Capital Pond what it is today and we cannot do it without you!



[www.facebook.com/nationalcapitalpond?ref=hl](http://www.facebook.com/nationalcapitalpond?ref=hl)

