



Honorable Order of the Blue Goose International • Editor: Traci Barbier

MICHIGANDER

Quarterly Publication of the Michigan Pond - Chartered 1906

VOLUME 18 ISSUE 3 • CONVENTION ISSUE

“I Will Attend Future Grand Nest Conventions”



Submitted By: Steve Carson II

As part of my term as Most Loyal Gander I am invited to attend the Grand Nest Convention as a delegate for the Michigan Pond. This would be my first convention in my 16 years of membership in the Blue Goose. This year’s convention was held in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada by the Edmonton Pond of the Canadian region.

As never attending a Grand Nest convention I had many questions as to what to expect. The convention opened with a golf outing at The Ranch followed by the welcome party. It is a tradition at the welcome party to trade pins from the other ponds. The first full day of the convention begins with an opening ceremony including a color guard, bagpipes and the American and Canadian national anthems followed by a memorial service for Ganders that

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Upcoming Events



Hope to see you soon!

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Past Most Loyal Gander • Shanna Bryant 517-699-4551
Past Most Loyal Grand Gander • Joe Coccia 734-604-4883
Past Most Loyal Grand Gander • John Zeldam 256-638-1105

Detroit Puddle

Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m.
Meeting locations vary each month.

Loyal Gander • Shondell Granger 734-545-3432
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Custodian of the Goslings • Tonya Edmunds 734-656-0090
Wielder of the Goose Quill • Steve Carson II 313-304-5665

Lansing Puddle

Meets every third Wednesday at Leo's Lodge
on Jolly Road in Lansing.

Loyal Gander • Sharon Young 517-769-6193
Supervisor of the Flock • Joe Fitzgerald 616-540-5006
Custodian of the Goslings • OPEN
Wielder of the Goose Quill • Denie Perkola 248-416-4192
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Grand Rapids Puddle

Meets at different locations on different dates.
Contact PWGQ Dick Chenard for meeting details.

Loyal Gander • Karla Libolt 888-248-3148
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Northern Puddle

Meets the first Wednesday of each month, meetings alternate
between BJ's Restaurant in Gaylord and different restaurants
in Traverse City. Contact an officer to confirm the meeting
location.

Loyal Gander • Mike Jenkinson 989-426-3483
Supervisor of the Flock • OPEN
Wielder of the Goose Quill • OPEN
PKGGE • Jennifer Boughner 989-705-1732

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Send an e-mail or correspondence for articles, to: Traci Barbier: tracib8795@comcast.net
Send e-mail for address or employment changes to: Dick Chenard: biggoose@earthlink.net
Get the MICHIGANDER on the web: www.bluegoosemichiganpond.com**

Future Conventions, cont'd

have taken their final fight over the past year. The memorial service included a reading of the Ponds along with the names of the departed Ganders.

The convention continued with the "Model Initiation" performed by the British Columbia Pond. As the talk of the town in Edmonton was how "they were getting pot" in October, the initiation theme was a group of Canadian Millennial Stoners. Canada is legalizing marijuana in October, all of the Canadians seemed very proud of their new legislation. In place of Ganders, they were "dudes" and in place of the goose honk was the sound of a water bong bubbling. The initiation was funny and well received.

The Regional meeting were held following the traditional All Industry Luncheon. The Michigan Pond being a member of the Central Region participated in the discussions related to dues with some Ponds paying their dues to the Central Region and the Grand Nest followed by reports of the Ponds in attendance. Dave Beger gave the "Rush for Goslings" report, this is our efforted to increase membership. The meeting continued with discussing increasing the amount of dues the Ponds pay to the Central Region to assist in convention fundraising.

The evening's "family dinner" was a Ukrainian themed event at the Ukrainian Youth Centre. It is my understanding that the family night is always themed by a culture present in the city of the conference. The entertainment was traditional dance performed by some of the younger members of the Centre. There was a hospitality room open back at the hotel following the dinner.

The final day started with presentation on the 2019 Convention in Indianapolis sponsored by the Dayton Pond. The Grand Nest meeting followed starting with a roll call of the attending delegates. Dick Chenard, our Ponds Permanent Wielder of the Goose Quill, and myself attended the meeting as delegates. Since there were no constitutional matters on the agenda, the meeting continued with plenty of "back and forth" French-Canadian barbs directed to the Ganders from the Quebec Pond. It was all in good fun and extremely entertaining!

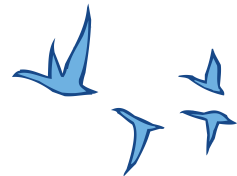
The awards presentation followed lunch. Our aforementioned Permanent Wielder of the Goose Quill, Dick Chenard was presented the Gander of The Year award for the Central Region. The Michigan Pond was honored with the prestigious Gordon F. Crowther Charity Award



for our donations and time volunteered by our Ganders. The meeting then turned to nominating the current and new Grand Nest officers. Once the vote was finished Kim Bilbrey was given the Most Loyal Grand Gander charge by our own Past Most Loyal Grand Gander, Joe Coccia. The convention concluded with the Grand Banquet. This is a black-tie, dinner, entertainment and dancing event. The entertainment, which included music and comedy, was very entertaining.

In conclusion, I found the convention a very good time meeting several of the Members from the various Ponds across Canada and the US who are all part of the Insurance Industry. I plan on attending the next convention in July of 2019. Networking with people in the same line of business and interest in the Blue Goose was enjoyable and informative. The convention held events for spouses and children as well. I would like to ask every Gander to consider joining me and your fellow Members and attend the 2019 convention in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Tote Fare,
Steve Carson II
2018-2019 Most Loyal Gander
Michigan Pond





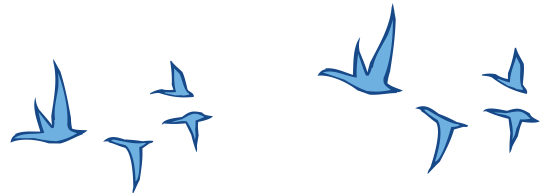




The Grand Nest Officers for 2018-2019. Seated L to R Lorena Kohlruess, Judge Advocate; Wendy Knizet, Grand Guardian; Kim Bilbrey, Most Loyal Grand Gander; Linda Meik, Grand Keeper. Standing L to R Michael Smith, Grand Custodian; John Bishop, Grand Historian; Dan Rich, Grand Supervisor and Terry Maloney Grand Wielder,



Members of the Michigan Pond accepting the 2018 "Gordon Crowther Charity" Award from Dan Rich, incoming Grand Supervisor from the Hartford Pond.



Michigan Delegation to the Grand Nest Convention in Edmonton.
L to R Michael Topa, Vicki Topa, Fred Fernandez, Steve Carson, Courtney Coccia, Joe Coccia, Joe Lothschutz, Lois Lothschutz, Dick Chenard and Dave Beger.



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Gander Takes Final Flight

Submitted By: Traci Barbier-Editor

Michael Austin Murphy Apr 2, 1956- Jun 10, 2018

Michael Austin Murphy of Wolverine Lake was born April 2, 1956 in Wyondotte, Michigan to Thomas A. and Eleanor Bernice (nee: Lydon) Murphy. He died June 10, 2018 at the age of 62. Mr. Murphy is the beloved husband of 41 years to Stephenie (nee: Hojnacki) Murphy. Loving father of Mary (Booker) (Kevin) Sutton, Jenny Murphy (Rhines) and Michael (Rebecca) Murphy. Grandfather of Cody, Casey, Brandon, Michael, Jack and Nolan. Dear brother of Thomas (Eva) Murphy, Daniel (Jane Coe) Murphy, Mary Murphy and the late Patrick



Murphy. Also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends. Mr. Murphy was a Lincoln Park High School Graduate and was self employed as a fire and weather restoration contractor. He was a noted dog hater / lover and was known for his quote, "Dogs, who needs 'em."

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Thought for the Day . . .

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- Author Unknown

Michigander named “Gander of the Year”

Submitted By: Joe Coccia

Our very own Dick Chenard has won the prestigious Central Region Gander of the Year Award presented at the recent Grand Nest Convention in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Presenting the award was Terry Maloney, Grand Wielder and Mark Robertson, Most Loyal Grand Gander from the Edmonton Pond. The application contained the below narrative for consideration of the Gander of the Year Award application that convinced the committee that Dick earned the right to be considered. Of course, every Member of the Michigan Pond already knew that Dick was most deserving.

“Should you want to look up The Michigan Pond in a dictionary you will see a smiling photo of Dick Chenard! He is our current Permanent Wielder and has had this job for 20 years. He is the glue that keeps our Pond and our Puddles together. Michigan is unique in that it is made up of four Puddles; Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids and Northern Michigan. Dick is the answer man for our Members. He is the person we go to when we have any questions about our history or the inner workings of Our Order. Dick is a member of the Grand Rapids Puddle. Dick also held the job as the editor of our award winning “Michigander” publication for over 15 years until he handed it over to the current editor. He

single handedly turned the publication into a profit center for our Michigan Pond by selling ads that not only underwrote the cost of the publication but made a nice profit that continues today. Dick joined the Blue Goose on October 27, 1987. He is a Life member and will have 31 years in our Blue Goose organization on October 27, 2018. He has attended 23 Grand Nest Conventions. Dick tirelessly volunteers his time for the local chapter of the Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation and was recognized by the Michigan chapter as their Volunteer of the Year for his contributions. Dick is a member of the White Cloud, Michigan Sewer Authority and Zoning Board where he and his wife Betty have a summer home. Dick also supports the various charities designated as recipients of our Pond and Puddle events. Dick along with Doug Osborn started Chenard and Osborn in 1984, a very successful Independent Adjusting Company based in Grand Rapids, MI. He retired in 2000 and will periodically accept an assignment or two when asked as long as it does not conflict with all his other activities. He has been married to Betty for 53 years and has two sons, Scott and Todd. Dick and Betty have six grandchildren. Dick is very deserving of the recognition of Central Region Gander of the Year.”



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	YEAR HELD	
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A MEMBER OF ANOTHER POND? Yes or No	IF YES, WHERE	
FLIGHT TO MICHIGAN POND FROM	POND AND HAS PAID DUES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING	
NEW MEMBER VOUCHER FOR BY THREE GANDERS		
1) _____ PRINT SPONSOR'S NAME	1) _____ SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE	
2) _____ PRINT SPONSOR'S NAME	2) _____ SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE	
3) _____ PRINT SPONSOR'S NAME	3) _____ SPONSOR'S SIGNATURE	

DATED _____

APPROVED _____

X

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE



Michigan Pond

HONORABLE ORDER OF THE
BLUE GOOSE INTERNATIONAL
Dick Chenard PLMG
Office of the Permanent Wielder
1135 Paradise Lake SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546-3862
(616) 676-0402

Change Service Requested

Deliver to: