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www.lakemitchellhobo.org

Second Quarter 2016



Be On the Lookout for Water Lettuce!

Courtesy of Alabama Power Company

Water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) is a non-native, floating plant found throughout the Southeastern United States. Reports vary on the native range of water lettuce but experts agree that it is tropical. The first documentation in Florida was in 1765 and it is thought to have been introduced by shipping commerce between Florida and South America.

Identification

Water lettuce is a floating plant and, as its name suggests, it has the appearance of a head of lettuce. Leaves are pale green. Submersed roots are long and feathery. These plants are often seen in clusters, but free-floating single plants may be found.

Reproduction/Growth Rates

Water lettuce has two modes of reproduction: seeds and stolons. The seeds can remain dormant in the soil for years before germination. Stolon reproduction is where one plant sends out a stalk, or "stolon," and at the end of the stalk grows another plant. This type of reproduction allows water lettuce to increase exponentially throughout

the year as one plant becomes two, two become four, four become eight, etc. One study suggests that under optimal conditions water lettuce can double its biomass in three weeks.

Environmental Impacts

Large mats of water lettuce can cause major issues with navigation, recreation, water intakes and increased mosquito reproduction. These mats block sunlight from reaching the water column, which degrades water quality by reducing oxygen that fish and other aquatic organisms breathe. Water lettuce can lower biodiversity by crowding out native plant species.

Control

Water lettuce can be controlled most efficiently with herbicides approved for use in water. As a tropical plant, it cannot withstand a typical winter at Alabama's latitude. The growth achieved within one season typically does not carry over to the next season and the next year's growth usually comes from seeds.

What Can We Do?

Be on the lookout for water lettuce on Alabama Power reservoirs. Visit our website <https://apcshorelines.com/aquatic/> to report finding water lettuce or call us at 205-257-2393. If possible, take a picture and get a GPS coordinate so we can expedite control measures. After traveling on lakes, boats and boat trailers should be cleaned to prevent carrying "hitchhiker" plants and animals to the next lake.

Did you know?

Some snippets, plus some longer tales

By Chip Gates, H.O.B.O. Historian

According to Wikipedia, a riffle is a short, relatively shallow and coarse-bedded length of stream over which the stream flows at slower velocity but a higher turbulence than it normally does in comparison to a pool. Riffles are usually caused by an increase in a stream bed's slope or an obstruction in the water. Our own Mitchell Dam was built at **Duncan's Riffle**.

Did you know that **Smith's Ferry** used to cross the river just below where Cargile Creek entered? Note: On U.S. Geological Survey maps, Cargile Creek back in 1891 was spelled *Cargal*, and then in 1903 it was spelled *Gargyl*. Whatever the spelling, the road leaving the ferry on the Coosa County side used to go due south and ran along the east side of a creek that is now the west branch of Big Y Slough. The road then turned eastward, running on the north side of the creek that is now the right branch of Big Y Slough. On the 1903 USGS map there was one house (cabin?) near where the back of the right branch is. The road continued eastward, crossing Pennymottley (sic) Creek and on to Traveler's Rest, near present-day Kelly's Crossroads. With regard to this same map, on the west side of the river you'll see the **Blue Creek Lumber Railroad**, and still on the west side of the river overlooking **Duncan's Riffle** was **Carroll Bluffs**.

Speaking of ferries, the **Higgins Ferry** did go into what is now called Ferry Branch on the Coosa County side. Driving your wagon, riding your horse or just plain walking off the ferry and heading due east, you would eventually cross over a relatively narrow Weogufka Creek and find yourself in beautiful downtown **Dollar**. Today there is one house where this community used to be. According to an unnamed but reputable source (Ray Petty, area 12), water for this house used to come from a spring on the opposite side of Weogufka Creek! This most excellent water was piped under the creek and to the house. An old bathtub in the yard was utilized in which to keep freshly caught fish.

The last ferry operating on our lake was **Mims Ferry**. A 1948 U.S. Dept. of Commerce map referred to it as the **Mims Free Ferry**. This ferry shut down after the Alabama Hwy. 55 bridge, just below Lay Dam, was completed. For some aerial pictures of this ferry in use, go to the following site: <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/aerials/index.html>. From the list of counties select Chilton. From that list scroll down to Lay Dam. In the 1958 photo you'll see the ferry mid-river, the 1964 photo shows the ferry docked on the Chilton County side, and in the 1972 picture the ferry is just off the Coosa County shore. The 1978 photo shows the Hwy. 55 bridge under construction.

In the mid-1850s Weogufka was known for large families. Evan Calfee had 16 children, Benjamin Callaway with 21, Robert Taylor with 25, and W. A. Wilson with 12. Some years later George Cram, a

well-known cartographer of the day, published a map in 1884 showing a community near Weogufka named **Callaway**. This was probably made up largely of ol' Ben's children and grandchildren! Callaway town was southwest of Weogufka and north of Dollar. If the name Callaway seems familiar to you, it may be because of gardens or golf balls, or because that is what Cargile/Cargle Creek used to be called in the mid-19th century. Callaway/Cargile Creek back then was, of course, in Autauga County. Yes, in the 1850's the Autauga County line extended all the way up to Shelby County. Later the northern part of Autauga County was lopped off and became, wait for it,, Baker County! The name Baker apparently fell out of favor because in 1874 **Chilton County** started to appear. Baker County persisted on a couple of maps by out-of-state cartographers who apparently just copied their previous year's issue, but in a couple of years the name Chilton was here to stay.

On the west side of Weogufka Creek where it flows into Hatchet Creek, there used to be a village named **Pumpkin Town**. A white man named **Greenberry Clark**, who lived among and adopted the ways of the Native Americans in that village, was called "Chief" by traders and other whites that visited there. Clark's first name is also sometimes spelled Greenbury. According to **The Alabama Historical Quarterly, Vol. 4, No. 01, Spring Issue of 1942**, Clark later became a constable among the whites.

Did you know that on an 1891 map, just below Ware Island (very northern part of the Lake, has an airstrip on it) there was a place in the river called **Butting Ram Shoals**? This spot, now well concealed beneath the water, is located between the northwest side of Gilchrist Island and where Chilton County Road 834 dead-ends at the lake. Not much is known about Butting Ram Shoals, unless you consider its mention in a story about arguably the most famous river boat journey ever on the Coosa River. The story is recounted in Harvey H. Jackson's *Rivers of History*. It was in May 1864 that General Sherman's army approached Rome, Georgia. Rome is where you'll find the confluence of the Etowah and Oostanaula Rivers. From this point southward, the combined waters are called the Coosa River. Back to our story, the Confederate steamers *Laura Moore* and *Alphretta*, two very valuable boats that would be a considerable loss to the Southern cause, were docked in Rome. The commanding officer for the Confederates asked the captain of the *Laura Moore*, Cummins Lay, to try to keep the boats out of the hands of the soon-to-arrive Federal troops. Late on the night of the 17th Lay and his crew boarded the steamers, placed thick bales of cotton around critical areas of the ships, such as the pilothouse and boiler rooms, and then loosed their moorings. Drifting for a while to avoid unwanted Federal attention, the engines eventually had to be started. Sparks from the smokestacks, as well as thick smoke from the same, alerted Federal troops on a nearby ridge, who then began a furious barrage of gun and cannon fire against the ships. The cotton bales performed as intended and absorbed the shot, and neither ship suffered serious damage. Both vessels eventually made it to Gadsden, and then, riding high water on the rain-swollen river, travelled on to Wilsonville. There the *Alphretta* was tied up. Captain Lay, making use of the still high water level, navigated the *Laura Moore* over the highly treacherous shoals and rapids of the lower Coosa. Hell's Gap, The Narrows and **Butting Ram Shoals** were some of these, and the last was The Devil's Staircase, now under Lake Jordan. Captain Lay then took the *Laura Moore* on to Mobile, and in so doing, became the only person to ever take a steam boat the full length of the Coosa-Alabama river system. The Lay name is no coincidence: Cummins' son William Patrick went on to start the Coosa-Alabama River Impoundment Association (CARIA) in 1890, as well as the not-so-insignificant founding of the Alabama Power Company. The Lock 12 Dam was renamed in his honor in 1929. In much more recent history, June 6, 2014 to be exact, the **Coosa Riverkeeper** organization's new boat was christened the *Laura Moore II*, in honor of the earlier steamer.

Follow this link for more! <http://discoverstclair.com/traveling-the-backroads/locks-of-the-coosa/>

Annual Lake Mitchell Fireworks Show Schedule for Sunday July 3 Starts at 9:00 PM on Cargile Creek

By Jim McCormick

We continue the tradition as we prepare for our annual Independence Day celebration. This year things will be a little different. The company we have had in the past which imports our fireworks and supplies the equipment and crews has been sold to a much larger company. We have a verbal agreement with them to continue to provide our show and the written agreement will be signed soon. With a larger company comes a wider variety of shells. There have been many improvements in the manufacturing of fireworks over the years and I expect us to be able to tap into this. So hopefully you will see new wonders this year 600 feet over Cargile Creek! But remember, and spread the word, **show time is 9PM - the night is Sunday - the date is July 3rd - and the place is Cargile Creek!** Also please remember (as well as to spread this word also) that your contributions are what makes the show go on! So as they say in election years contribute soon and often!

***From the President:
Steve Miles***



Hey everybody, hope all is well with all of you. As I sit here and write this I was thinking I wasn't wearing anything green on St. Patrick's Day. Then I looked outside and saw all the pollen and I new I would be wearing GREEN. I know there is a lot of concern about the Rough Horn snail. So here is the latest, Alabama Power Company (APC) is in frequent negotiations with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) regarding what activities will be allowed without a Rough Horn snail survey and relocation as well as what project activities would trigger a survey and relocation. APC will meet with the USFWS in early April to finalize the specifics regarding the Biological Opinion (BO). At that point the negotiations are expected to cease. That said, APC states that there is a possibility that the USFWS could make a small change to the final BO when it is finally released APC will inform me when the USFWS states that the 135 day final review period has begun. It appears that the time frame for final approval will not occur until September or October. I have talked to the USFW and they understand the importance of this issue for the people that live or have places on our lake and will work as quickly as possible on this issue. I will continue to monitor this ongoing process. Remember this problem affects the following Areas of Lake Mitchell: Walnut, Hatchet, Pennamotley and Weogufka creeks. I will continue to stay very close to this issue and send out updates. I hope everyone enjoys your time on our beautiful Lake Mitchell.

Be Safe,
Steve

HOBO?? What's That All About????

Thoughts shared by Patsy Wideman-HOBO Secretary

At lunch with a friend recently, I mentioned something about driving to Clanton at the end of the week to take the minutes of our HOBO meeting. He asked if our group was just to plan social events. I happily began rattling off a long list of HOBO's involvements including monitoring the water quality and reporting that to Alabama Water Watch; two lake cleanups each year; helping to maintain and improve Higgins Ferry, the fire boat and the campgrounds; staying informed of situations like the graphite mine to monitor environmental impact for the lake and surrounding area; staying on top of safety issues regarding things like the recent break-ins, fire related concerns and health issues; interacting with Alabama Power, ADEM, the forestry service and other agencies who are involved in protecting our lake; creating and maintaining strong ties with local mayors and law enforcement; the annual picnic and wonderful firework display... When my friend realized that I was just warming up, not winding down, he announced that he had no idea our organization was involved in so many pursuits. Before allowing a change of topic, however, I added well-earned praise for all the wonderful people who give so generously of their time, attention and efforts to protect and improve the lake we all love and to foster a shared sense of community. I was proud to have that opportunity to talk about Lake Mitchell HOBO. As secretary, I knew what I was talking about.

There's always room for more in HOBO! Join in the fun! Join HOBO today!

AREA REPRESENTATIVES			
Area	Area Name	Representative	Phone
1	Blue Creek/ The Ridge	Bobby Lewis docx2@mindspring.com	205-212-1020 205-901-8307
2	Blue to Cargile	Jim & Johnye Woodrow ajwking@aol.com	205-425-9431 205-755-0055
3	Cargile South	Dan Murchison DanMurchison@gmail.com	205-408-7445
4	Cargile North	Connie Hampton connie28fan@yahoo.com Susan Orr soriii@bellsouth.net	205-755-6344 334-312-6131
5	Cargile to Bird	Sonny & Peggy Bullard pnsbullard@gmail.com	205 -755-9514
6	Bird Creek	Leslie Miles lesliemiles0@gmail.com	205-755-6432 205-612-2172
7	Bird to Walnut	Becki & Mau McCallum beckmau@gmail.com	205 -755-5334
8	Walnut SW	Beau Battaglia beauredsox@yahoo.com	504-909-6990
9	Walnut Creek Peninsula	Betty & Joel Elam Betty687@aol.com	205-807-9056 205 -755-2775
10	Cove and Mountain	Roxanne Martin roxypmartin@gmail.com	205 -755-0863
11	Mountain to Lay Dam	Stan Holt Stan-holt@att.net	205-980-1428
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	VACANT	
13A	East Pennamotley	Jim & Wathan Hand jmhand@centurylink.net	256-377-1153
13B	West Pennamotley	Richard & Wendy Cruse wendycruse@gmail.com	205-253-8298
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Eric & Rose Green rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com	205-492-7151
15	Airplane/Finger to Big Y Slough	Tommy Carpenter rtcarmen@southernco.com	256-377-1046 205-586-1749
16	Big Y to Mitchell Dam	Nan & David Spivey davidaspivey@gmail.com nanspivey@gmail.com	256-377-1178 205-492-0375

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, April 17, 2016: Area Representative Meeting Lake Mitchell Marina 1:00 PM Eat 2:00 PM Meet
 Saturday, June 4, 2016: Annual Poker Run On the Lake 10 AM-2 PM
 Saturday, June 4, 2016: Annual Picnic Higgins Ferry 4:00 PM

HOBO Scholarship Report

Rebecca Beaty

Spring is here and applications are again in this year for the HOBO Scholarship. Each student must complete the Lake Mitchell HOBO Scholarship application form; attach an official transcript of grades (9-12), and include their GPA, and ACT or SAT scores. They are required to provide two letters of personal recommendation with names, addresses, and telephone numbers. Students must submit an essay on what they consider to be the most important environmental issue and stating what they can do to make a difference regarding that issue. Applicants must also take part in one of the lake clean ups.

Interviews will be held in May at which time the winner will be chosen.

With help and support through donations Lake Mitchell calendar sales, and the Poker Run we have given seven students a scholarship in the amount of \$2,500.00 each. Thanks to all of you who have helped support this worthy cause.

Water Quality Values

Sam Piccolo

Data shown represents average of test results from December, January, and February	
Dissolved Oxygen	8.39
PH	7.24
Alkalinity	55.26
Hardness	43.68

Area Representative Reports:

Area 2-Blue to Cargile Jim and Johnnye Woodrow

This article is being written in March, in time for the printing in the Spring Newsletter; however, I think it is appropriate for all times of the year for Area 2 Residents and Areas as well. In the last month we have had some unusually warm weather, which brings on thoughts of spring and flowers and new growth in many areas. I have noticed around and behind my boathouse a large concentration of an invasive aquatic vegetation - Water Lettuce. Normally killed by the cold of winter, this crop seems to be in fairly good shape with only some brown edges and wrinkled leaves. This plant poses a threat to our Lake. To control this plant either remove it from the water or call Alabama Power to have it sprayed (1-800-Lakes11). Along with Water Lettuce, we should be alert for others types of invasive plants, some of which have been observed in Lake Mitchell in the past. Some examples of others invasive plants are Waterhyacinth, Waterwillow, Watermilfoil, and Hydrilla. These plants can be potentially dangerous to boating and water quality and are fast growing. If you have concerns take action.

Area 4- Cargile North Connie Hampton

Lake life is beautiful as the first signs of spring pop out. We certainly look forward to the azaleas, daffodils and other spring flowers. Life has been fairly quiet since the first of the year. Area 4 would like to welcome our new neighbors Joan and Dominic Monte. Please send them a warm welcome. Your area reps, Connie Hampton and Susan Orr are planning a "Spring Fling" for May 14th. Save the date!!! We would love to be able to meet everyone in our area. We will be sending invitations with the exact time and location so be on the lookout. If there are any

address changes or email updates please send them to connie28fan@yahoo.com so that we can make sure you are notified of any events. Also, if you have a number to receive texts and would like to share that number send it also. It will only be used for emergencies or urgent info. Please remember to send in your membership fee if you haven't already done that. Hope to see everyone out enjoying our beautiful lake!

Area 9- Walnut Creek Peninsula Joel and Betty Elam

Spring is here and all the flowers, trees, and grass are coming alive. It is time to get everything ready for summer. A special thanks goes out to Hugh and Marie Greene as well as Kevin and Pam Sims for the help in the placement of Neighborhood watch signs. We would like to remind our folks in area 9 to keep Saturday, May 28th of Memorial Day weekend available for our neighborhood get together. We want everyone to come to our lake house and renew old friendships and meet new neighbors.



Area 16-Big Y to Mitchell Dam Nan and David Spivey

Happy Easter! We are so excited about Spring! There have been changes at the gate entrance to The Cove. A code is now required for entry. Donna and Morgan Davis are building a beautiful home in The Cove. We are pleased to add them to our Lake Mitchell family! Others joining the Lake Mitchell family are twin boys, Luke and Jack Calametti, who happen to be Nan and David Spivey's first grandchildren!

Beautiful boys and PROUD GRANDPARENTS!

It's not too late to pay your HOB dues!

Alabama Power Shoreline Management

The Alabama Power Shoreline Management Team strives to protect and enhance the scenic, recreational and environmental values of the reservoirs it manages. As part of its mission, Alabama Power Shoreline Management is dedicated to ensuring all of the structures along Lake Mitchell's shoreline comply with the shoreline management program developed by Alabama Power with the input of its local, state and federal regulatory partners.

Permits for shoreline construction are good for one year, and the program's general policies are:

1. Alabama Power encourages shoreline structure owners to maintain the upkeep of existing boathouses, docks and seawalls. Prior to beginning any maintenance, contact Alabama Power to obtain a no-fee permit for repairs.
2. Alabama Power also encourages shoreline structure owners to remove noncompliant structures and replace them with compliant structures, and upon doing so will be issued a no-fee permit (e.g. replace an enclosed boathouse with an open boathouse).
3. A permit to build any new shoreline structure will incur a one-time \$250 fee (e.g. new boathouse, new dock or new seawall). More than one activity may be authorized with a single permit.

Please call Alabama Power Shoreline Management Team Member Candy Hayes at 205-280-4476 to discuss your project/work and to obtain a permit prior to beginning any maintenance or construction.

P.O. Box 1324
 Clanton, Alabama 35046
Change Service Requested

PAID Permit 12
 Birmingham, AL

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Membership Application

Annual Dues Homeowner \$25.00	Marine 9 - Donation Maintenance & Operation \$	Fireworks - Donation Purchase of Fireworks \$	Utility Boat - Donation Maintenance & Operation \$
Other Donation Boathouse Sign \$15____ Memorial ____ Education Fund ____ Scholarship ____ Other (specify) _____			
Amount \$			
Name:		Check One: Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/>	
Home Mailing Address:			
Lake 911 Address:			Lake Area:
Email:			
Home Phone:	Lake Phone:	Cell Phone	

Detach and mail completed form along with your check to: Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., PO Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046