



From President Bob Thornton



Happy spring 2022 on Lake Mitchell. I hope each of you and your families are doing well.

It looks now as though we should have a more normal year than the last couple in spite of inflation and rising gasoline prices.

Our Spring Cleanup is planned for Saturday May 7. We will meet at the Higgins Ferry pavilion at 8:00 a.m. If you can bring a boat, please do so. If not, just come and join a group and have a good time. We will finish around 11:30 and have our traditional hotdog lunch. As of now, Alabama Power will participate.

Into next quarter, we will have our annual picnic on June 4, the poker run on June 18 and the fireworks show on July 3.

I urge each of you to meet your new neighbors and encourage them to join the HOBEO (along with existing neighbors who are not members). Our membership has been holding up well, but we can always use additional members. As noted elsewhere here and on our webpage, there are several ways to sign up and pay.

Some of us were discussing membership last week. It was brought up that our HOBEO has accomplished a number of things over the years that we have not sought credit for. These include the paving of a number of roads around the lake. The power of our numbers in contacting government entities has brought this about. Membership is important for more than social connections.

Let's all be safe and watch out for each other. - Bob

Special note from Jim McCormick regarding Fireworks--

Members; most of y'all know that I have been your Fireworks Director for many years. Well, thirty-four years to be exact. And for all that time we have always strived to have the best show possible for the lowest cost. In fact when we began in 1988 I spent \$411. Not long after that we decided to expand past the fireworks stands and play with the big boys. Well this necessitated getting State approval, ATF licensing, and everything up to Mom's approval. Well now all of that is routine.

Now, all of this fun comes with a cost. As you would expect the cost has risen, but mostly from us expanding it to a much larger show. We have had much the same size show for many years and since 2018 we have not seen an increase. Now this year (y'all best sit down for this) we have been hit with a whopping 22% increase. Which brings me to the purpose of this article. For those who have not donated, please consider doing so, and for those who have donated, thank you and possibly see if you could do more. Come on, check your couch cushions, pants pockets, car, underneath places where only the brave would stick their hand. Let's keep the show at least the same level as years past. Donations may be made to Lake Mitchell HOBEO with fireworks on the "for" line and mailed to PO Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046, or you may send in with your membership renewal. For the hundreds of viewers who gather in and around the mouth of Cargile Creek on the night of July 3, Thank You Very Much!

The Robbins Nest – (history)

My name is Rebecca Robbins Derrick, and my family used to own the cabin on 271 Blue Bird Lane at the point of Finger Slough across the main channel from Cargile Creek. We sold it last November, but there is a history behind the cabin that I want to share.

My grandfather, John David Robbins, Sr., built the cabin in 1967. "Poppy" (as we called my grandfather) worked for Alabama Power and was the superintendent over the Lay Dam system for many years. The Company Village near Lay Dam had an infirmary, a school and recreational facilities. Eventually, the buildings were destined to be demolished, so my grandfather decided to salvage material from the buildings and use it to construct a family cabin on Lake Mitchell.

Inside one of those buildings was a basketball court. (My father said it was the hospital rehab court). My father, John David Robbins, Jr., helped my grandfather take up the gym floor to use as the flooring for the new cabin. When you enter the cabin today, you will notice small white squares, and some not-so-square, that dot the floor in a random pattern. On closer inspection, you can see they are the old foul lines from the basketball court.



Poppy at Lay Dam



My grandfather also gathered huge old beams from the Company Village buildings to build his Little Cabin on the lake. The beams that hold that cabin are massive and, with a belt-and-suspenders construction, they are the reason the cabin has held together for so long.



My grandfather was an engineer (Auburn grad). Both his obituary and my dad's obit read, they could "fix anything but a broken heart."

My grandmother never wanted to move to the cabin. I think she liked wide-open spaces where she could garden. My grandparents lived on a farm off Hwy 22 and never enjoyed the cabin very much. My father helped my grandparents keep the roof in good condition and look after it from time to time, but it was only home to squirrels, raccoons, and a lot of old furniture.

My father finally inherited the cabin some years ago, but since my family lives in S.C. it was hard to drive to Lake Mitchell on a regular basis to work on it, so it sat for a few more years.

My sister and I dreamed of getting the cabin back to where we could bring our father over for a visit. So, we set out to clean it and clear the clutter for the next five years with weeklong stretches.

My family made 8-hour drives from S.C. and N.C. to work on the Cabin, which we named *The Robbins Nest*, several times a year. We finally finished the work and Dad came over and visited the Cabin about three years ago. Sadly, he died in December 2020, but we were glad he got the chance to spend a little time on the porch at *The Robbins Nest* that he helped build.



The Robbins Nest in 2019

Our Lake Mitchell Area Reps periodically submit updates for the newsletter, letting everyone know of any “news” or items of interest. Here are the ones for this quarter:

Area 4 – Cargile North

Vickie Griffith

One year ago this month—March 25--- Thursday night shortly after 9:00 p.m.---sensing calm for an hour after a full day of severe weather---a tornado dropped from the sky and headed straight for Cargile Creek. The rest is history on our beautiful creek. It’s been quite a year! People are constantly asking about **last year’s tornado damage** and how repairs and rebuilding are going. I thought it would be interesting to post some of the rebuilding progress in the lake newsletter. Below are some personal accounts, updates & pictures on repairs & rebuilding from some of our Cargile Creek lake neighbors. Many thanks from all of us for your thoughts and prayers!



Rick and I had major damage to our house with several 33” trees crushing both ends and the middle. The 40’ porch as well as the detached garage were also crushed. We lost 4 retaining walls, and dozens of large trees were uprooted. We were able to salvage much of the house contents by getting movers there quickly before more rain that weekend. Much of the house is being repaired and renovated while part had to be torn down and is being totally rebuilt. We’re probably still a few months out from completion. Progress has been slower than normal with many labor and supply issue frustrations along the way. Hopefully soon we will ALL be able to once again enjoy our beautiful lake! – **the Griffiths**

We are almost finished with our complete rebuild! We had to redraw our walls to accommodate windows that were available. Fortunately, my husband is a builder, so things have been moving along quicker than most but slower than normal. We had the old green fishing cabin toward the end of the creek. A giant oak tree flattened it! - **Laura & Randy Malchus**

The Esdale's A-frame had to be torn down due to structural damage. "Our rebuild has begun!"



Unfortunately, windows are 26 weeks out." - **Jim & Stella Esdale**

We live toward the end of Cargile where six homes were hit by the 3/25/21 tornado. Our home, the little yellow house, lost the screened in porch and half of our roof. There was some water damage but we were able to put a cover on the house on 3/26 which helped some. The boathouse roof was heavily damaged and was finally repaired before Labor Day. We are finally in the process of repairing and remodeling the house and hope to have all repairs completed in the next few months. -- **Danna & Charles Waldrop**

Oh, how we miss our lake home and our lake friends! We have been staying in a trailer for several months while we prepare building plans for a contractor. We had to get a survey of our lot to establish property lines for the limited space we have. Rebuilding has been delayed because of the price and unavailability of materials. Placement of a septic tank is also a major issue, but we will rebuild as soon as possible with our Heavenly Father's help. - **Mike and Renee McCormick**



As to the tornado damage, it has been a slow go at our place getting the trees and debris up and things rebuilt or repaired. My biggest damage was to the land. Danny Hammock said I had more trees down than most anyone he had worked for. The septic tank and field lines were crushed and had to be replaced. A boathouse has been repaired, the steps to the boathouse and all the electrical leading to it were uprooted by the huge oak trees, and they have been completely rebuilt. All of the underground electrical leading to that boathouse has been repaired as well as the fence in the backyard. The concrete parking area that was somewhat cracked was finished off by the large oak and pine trees that fell on it. Work on that should begin in the next two weeks, and then I have plans to do some landscaping, although I'm very concerned about the deer eating anything since they have ruined most of what's there now.

Our repairs might have moved faster once the trees were removed, but I had committed to an outdoor pavilion back in February of 2021, and it was delivered from Utah on May 1, right in the middle of the repairs. Work had to stop on everything else to erect it before the materials warped from the weather. I had a bathroom, storage room, fireplace, log storage house and outdoor shower added. It was all finally completed in the middle of December.

The outside may never look the same again, but we all survived and that's what really matters in the scheme of things. It has been quite a year of rebuilding, but God is still good and on His throne, and I give thanks for all His many blessings. – **Beverly Brooks**

We were fortunate that our damage was not as bad as our neighbors on either side. On the lake side we had a large tree fall on the roof damaging an upstairs bedroom, the screen porch was damaged and the furniture swept out. Another large tree damaged the soffit on the side of the house. Our lakeside yard and sidewalk were torn up by multiple fallen pine trees, and a large tree uprooted our water line. The shingles had to be replaced on the house and boathouse. Due to tree damage we had to replace all of the grass in front of the house. We are thankful we were not there and the losses were fixable. We feel fortunate we were able to have good help putting the house back together and removing trees and debris.

--**Trish & Jimmy McCormick**



Area 9- Walnut Creek Peninsula

The cold weather has passed and hopefully, we are in store for a great summer. I would like for each of you to mark your calendar for our Meet and Greet this year at our house on Saturday, May 28 from 9:30 to 11:30a.m. We will be discussing several topics but mainly Co Rd 264 road condition. It will be a great time to renew old friendships and make new ones. Hope everyone will mark your calendar and we look forward to seeing everyone from Area 9 participate.

Joel and Betty Elam

THE POKER RUN IS BACK! Mark your calendars for June 18th to take part in this year's Poker Run! After two years we are back and are looking forward to having a day of fun for all ages! Travel from pier to pier to win the jackpot or one of the many other prizes! Look for more information coming up through email, our website, and social media. Proceeds will benefit the Lake Mitchell Scholarship Fund. We have already received seven scholarship applications.



Carolyn Hardy, a HOBO founding member, passed away February 19, 2022. Carolyn and her husband Wayne (previously deceased) attended the initial meetings at Dan and Judy Murchison's Lake home and it was very evident from the first that Wayne and Carolyn were on a mission to put a fire and rescue boat on Lake Mitchell. To say the least, the Hardys were very active members of the early Lake Mitchell HOBO Organization. Wayne served as chairman of the Fire Boat Committee, and Carolyn served as the first HOBO Treasurer/Secretary. They were both very active in HOBO fund raisers to raise money to buy the Fire/Rescue Boat. As I recall, we raffled two pickups, a four wheeler, and had turkey shoots. In addition, many HOBO members contributed directly to the purchase. Wayne and Carolyn managed all of this effort and as a result today we have the big yellow boat, Marine 9, operated by East Chilton Volunteer Fire and Rescue.

Wayne and Carolyn were instrumental in arranging for the partnership with East Chilton Volunteer Fire and Rescue to operate the boat. They were also instrumental in making the Boat House a reality with the help of Paul Minor. Lake Mitchell HOBO and the Chilton County Commission recognized the efforts of Wayne and Carolyn by naming the Fire and Rescue Boat's House after Wayne Hardy.

The Hardys also took on the task to have twelve miles of dirt road paved to the Walnut Creek area on Lake Mitchell. They organized their neighbors along the route, held numerous meetings on how to proceed, and attended Chilton County Commission Meetings in order to get the County to pave the road. The group, under their leadership, collected funds and made the paved road a reality. Due to this successful initiative, many more dirt roads leading into Lake Mitchell were paved.

The people of Lake Mitchell owe a great debt of gratitude to Wayne and Carolyn Hardy for their efforts to make Lake Mitchell a better place for all.

(this information was provided by the Piccolo and Woodrow families)

Lake Mitchell HOB
P.O. Box 1324
Clanton, AL 35046
Change Service Requested

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

Annual Dues Required \$25	Fireworks Donation \$	Fireboat Donation \$	Scholarship Donation \$	General Donation \$	Optional Purchase HOB 25th Anniversary Collector's Edition Calendar 2022 \$25 each
Check One:	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member			Optional Purchase Additional Phonebook \$10 each
Last Name			First Names (Both spouses, if applicable)		
Home Mailing Address:					
Lake 911 Address:					Lake Area
Email 1			Email 2		
Home Land Line or N/A	Lake Land Line or N/A		Cell #1	Cell # 2	

Detach and mail form along with your check to Lake Mitchell HOB, P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046
Or join and pay online at www.lakemitchelhobo.org