



From President Rick Griffith --



Greetings to my lake neighbors:

Rick Griffith here, your new HOBBO President for 2023-24. First let me thank Bob Thornton, our immediate past president, for his leadership the past two years. Over the last 25 plus years HOBBO has been in existence, we have been blessed with so many people who have stepped up to volunteer their time and talents to make the organization successful. And we need more.

Please consider volunteering your time to be active in our organization. How can you help?

Number 1: Join HOBBO. It's only \$25 per year.

Number 2: Volunteer. We have many opportunities during the year where your help is needed such as our spring and fall lake clean-ups and our poker run.

Number 3: Be good neighbors. We have been given a beautiful resource to enjoy. We all can be better stewards by not throwing trash in the lake and by picking trash out of the lake when we see it.

Lake Mitchell HOBBO's mission has been to Protect, Preserve, and Improve. During my tenure as President, I hope to focus on the "Improve" to make all of our lake experiences better. I welcome any ideas you may have going forward.

My wife Vickie is an area representative for our neighborhood on the north side of Cargile Creek. We have been on the lake since 2002. Please come by and see us. We love meeting our lake neighbors. We are still recovering from last year's tornado damage but hope to be finished rebuilding soon.

See you on the lake! - Rick

**Note from Editor: our Lake Mitchell Area Reps periodically submit articles for the newsletter, letting everyone know of any news or items of interest or concern. Here are the ones for this quarter:**

## **Area 4 – Cargile North**

**Vickie Griffith**

A large crowd attended the **Annual HOBOb meeting** at the Clanton Alabama Power Building November 18. We all enjoyed listening to our **Coosa River Keeper Executive Director**, Justinn Overton, share many interesting & informative topics along with a slide show. The organization's mission is to protect, restore and promote the Coosa River and its tributaries in Alabama. They monitor polluters and their pollution permits; patrol the waterways by boat, on foot and in the air; educate the public; and advocate on behalf of the river and the folks who use it.

**Did you know in 2022 the Coosa River became the Fifth Most Endangered River in the U.S.???** Too many nutrients within a body of water can lead to an excess of growth weeds, and especially algae. A **harmful Algae Bloom (HAB)** can fill the water with algae specific toxins. These toxins are dangerous and can negatively impact the health of plants, fish, animals, and even humans!

In addition, **millions of tons of chicken feces** from billions of chickens is a major threat to the Coosa River's drinking water supply and overall ecosystem health. The waste is spread on fields, and massive industrial poultry farms discharge their wastewater in municipal sewer systems that are crumbling and where permits to protect water quality are inadequate or never enforced.

Justinn also addressed concerns of the **Coosa Graphite Project**. The mining of the Coosa Graphite Deposit is slated to begin in 2028, and construction began at the processing plant **this year**. This brings MANY CONCERNS about water pollution, air pollution, noise, and threatened & endangered species. **It is critical for all of us to participate in the public comment period of the permitting process to reduce and mitigate impacts to the land, air and water in Coosa & Chilton Counties and in our river!**

**Please urge the Environmental Protection Agency to hold state agencies accountable for impairment issues that impact the Coosa River, local communities, biodiversity, recreation and quality of life.**

## **Area 6 – Bird Creek**

**Durwood and Karen Brown**

To Our Fellow Bird Creekers,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you from Durwood & Karen Brown. We have agreed to serve as Bird Creek Area Representatives for 2023. We live in the middle of the 1st slough on the left (North) side. We're fortunate to have gotten to know many of you already since moving back here from Florida in 2008. More about us later.

I must be the first to say that very few (including the two of us) could take the Crocker's place as Area Reps. Troy & Tina did this so well for several years. They were constantly keeping us informed about Events, Safety Concerns, Power Outages, etc. They have always been thoughtful to welcome new neighbors; and their concern for others and generosity extends beyond Bird and all over our Lake. We appreciate you Troy & Tina.

Welcome is due to Phil & Racheal Sims who have the new house on our East end; and Welcome also to "newly weds" Aaron & Suzy Sims at the West end.

Sadly, longtime fine neighbors Chuck & Robin Cagle (lot 164) will be selling their big beautiful home. The Agent is Laura Hammac 251-533-0640.

Best wishes Chuck & Robin. We will miss you.

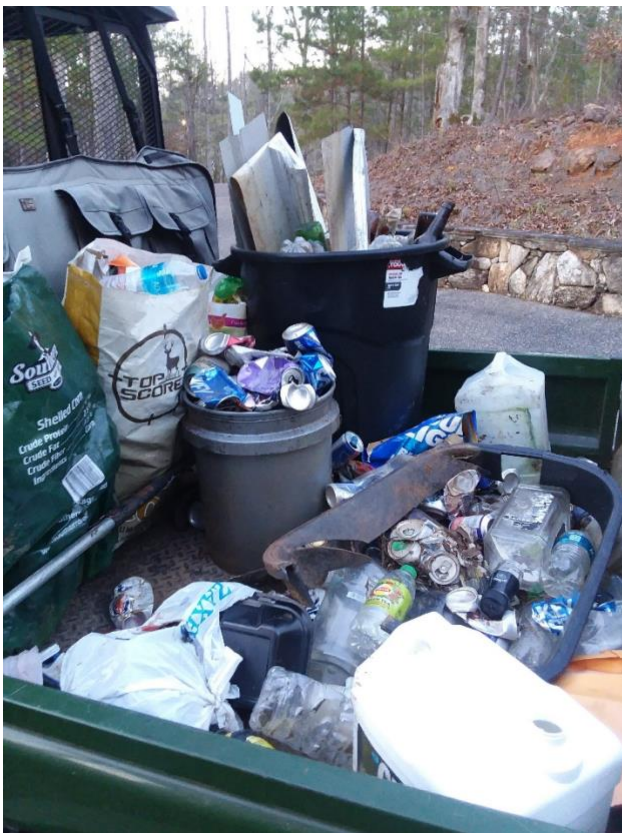
Please let us know if we have missed anything. If we can be of help to any of you - please let us know.

Durwood 205-299-8021

Karen 205-299-8251

**AREA 13-A Pennamotley East**

**Jim and Wathan Hand**



This photograph is of the trash one of our newer H.O.B.O. members, Lamar Daugherty, collected last spring on CR 27 and on Mimosa Point Road. Lamar and his wife, Shea, are at Lake Mitchell almost every weekend. Lamar was recently elected to represent Area 5 on the Coosa County Commission. We hope all our members will be responsible for keeping our roadways clean as well as our water.

Another happening in the spring were the accidents of Diane and Patrick Robinson. In separate accidents, both of the Robinsons were injured. The residents of 13A, as well as other H.O.B.O. members across the lake, provided much needed support with meals, transportation, laundry, etc. A big shout out to the men of Verbena Methodist Church, who built a wheelchair ramp for the Robinsons. When the ramp was no longer needed by the Robinsons, the ramp was disassembled and taken to another H.O.B.O. resident in need of a ramp. Anyone looking for a church home would be welcomed at Verbena Methodist.

Building at Bird House Point continues. Susan and Darrell Heisler will soon enjoy living in their new home. Many thanks to Byron King for filling in some of the potholes on Mimosa Point. Wishing all our friends a safe and happy holiday season.

Wathan and Jim Hand

### **SPECIAL NOTE FROM TREASURER JIMMY MCCORMICK –**

When I write a check I like to know what the money is used for, you know, just where does it go?? Our checks to Alabama Power or to the Water Authority, well that's pretty clear, but donations, gifts, dues? Not so clear. We have a general idea of course and we feel it is going for a good cause. But for me, I want to know just EXACTLY how is my money going to be spent ?

For most of our lake community, twenty five dollars is not much of a burden to our financial health. However; as your Treasurer I would like to tell you how your Board puts our collective dues to work.

We will start with the Association Mission Statement, and that is to Preserve, Protect, Improve. Our lake would not be what it is today if we did not Preserve, Protect, Improve our water quality.

We have an Environmental Committee that works with Alabama Power, Alabama Water Watch, the Coosa RiverKeeper, and other organizations to monitor what our watershed is filtering into our lake. We have Member Volunteers as water monitors testing the water at various parts of our lake. These testing kits are supplied by HOBO. (\$800+)

We also spend about \$800 a year on our semi-annual Lake Clean-Ups, where hundreds of us have shown up to go to designated spots throughout the lake to collect litter. And litter is described as fishing line and lures, bottles, cans, tires, mattresses, balls (foot, basket, tennis, soccer) and did I mention refrigerators? And oh yeah a goat. After we complete our mission we are all fed courtesy of your \$25. (No we did not eat the goat)

Your Association is also civic minded. We have a Scholarship Committee. This Committee works with school counselors, reviews applications, and interviews school seniors from Coosa and Chilton Counties who wish to apply for our scholarship. The winning applicants receive a \$2000 scholarship sent to the school of their choice to continue their education. Also as a result of the Poker Run (aka; the riverboat gamblers) we were able to send grants to seven Chilton and Coosa County schools for special education accommodations, playground equipment, band uniforms, library books, and a V5 Robotic brain. (ok I don't know what a Robotic brain is either but I'm pretty sure I need one)

We do our best to communicate, so we spent \$1200 to mail out meeting notices, clean-up announcements, picnic invitations, as well as the newsletter.

Every other year we spend about \$4000 to collect data, print, and mail our lake residence telephone books to mail to members. (more are available by request).

We are all about community. We have budgeted \$400 for Area Reps to communicate and have parties for their area members. And we spend hundreds to provide the meat, and supplies for the covered-dish Summer picnic held at the boat launch.

The largest community event we have surrounds the 4th of July. All can enjoy and any can participate in one of the two Independence Day parades. Hundreds of us line the shoreline to enjoy the party boat parade in the morning and the power boat parade in the afternoon. Around the 4th (date may vary) after the sun goes down we all gather around the shoreline or ease our boats towards Cargile Creek to enjoy the Lake Mitchell Fireworks Show, which is the largest, private donation funded show in the State!!

We have a unique form of protection provided by our Fireboat, known as Marine 9, the designation given by the East Chilton County Fire and Rescue unit that mans the boat. I don't know of any other lake our size that can claim a boat this large, this fast, with as much on board lifesaving equipment as we do.

All of this for \$25 !!!!!!!

And your organization has never had a debit, a loan, or a past-due bill.

You, the members, have donated thousands towards Marine 9, Fireworks, and Scholarships, as well as the other endeavors of HOB0. You have also purchased bags, shirts, and hats and have bought ads in the phone book etc. And you also volunteer.

The Lake Mitchell Homeowners and Boatowners Association was formed through the vision of Dan and Judy Murchison. At that time membership dues were established at \$25 We have maintained that same level for 27 years.

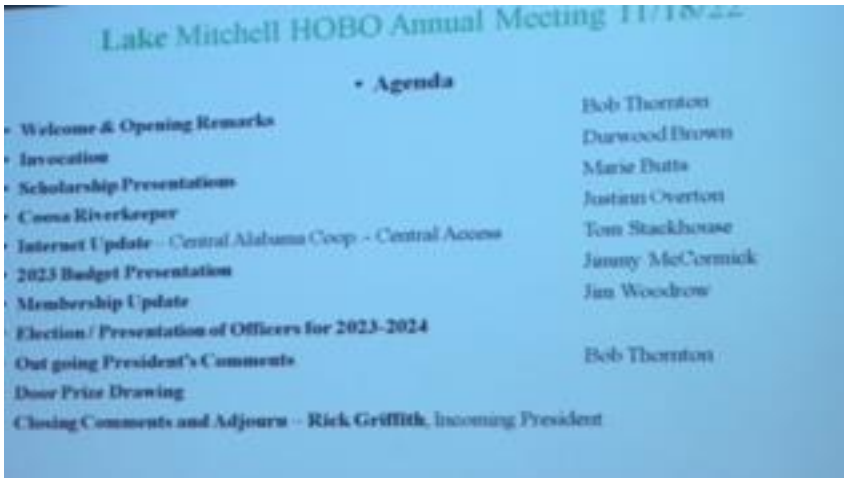
I hope you agree that your investment is a good value. Please make sure you have joined for 2023. Meet your neighbor and make sure they have joined. Show them this article or ask them to call me for any questions. For every check we write, for every cause we support, we need to make sure our money is used wisely. If you agree please be a member and call any officer or Board member to learn ways to volunteer.

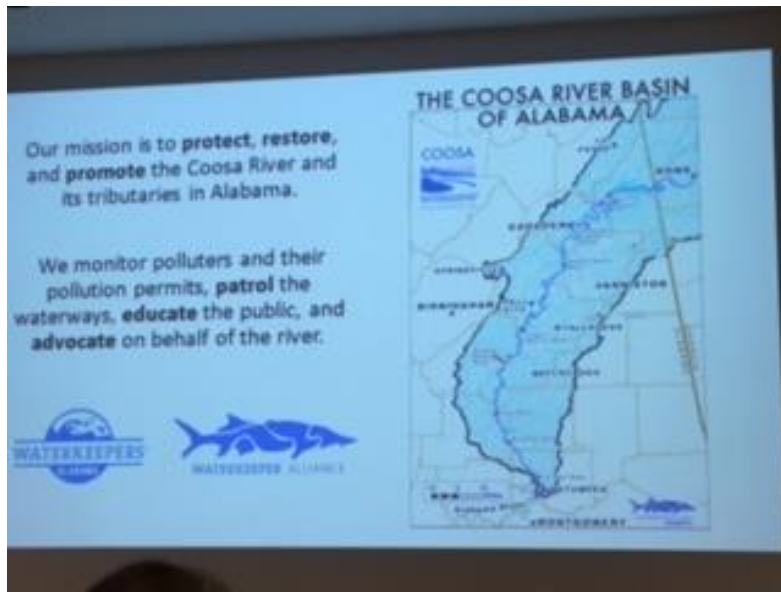


**Comments from Editor Laura Thornton:**

The entire membership of HOB0 is always invited to attend our Annual Meeting each fall, to receive updates on what the organization has accomplished during the past year, to vote on the budget and the new officers, and to listen to outside speakers on items of interest. This year’s meeting was held at the APCO office in Clanton on Friday, Nov 18. We were glad to hear from our two scholarship recipients in person in addition to our main speakers Justinn Overton and Tom Stackhouse.

I’m including a few pictures for those of you who were unable to attend. This is the agenda, followed by a picture of Marie Butts speaking about the work of the Scholarship Committee and introduction of two students.





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

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

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](http://www.lakemitchelhobo.org)