



**From President Rick Griffith --**



Dear Lake Neighbors,

At this writing it is mid-June. I hope you and yours are having a great summer so far.

Today I write to you with a heavy heart. Lake Mitchell HOBO has lost one of its great ambassadors, loyal workers, board members, and most of all, a great friend. Dale Vann passed away unexpectedly on June 4<sup>th</sup>. He and his wife Patty had just celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary a couple of days before and were getting ready to take a train trip to New Orleans to memorialize the occasion.

In my many years serving on the HOBO Board, Dale has always been there to offer his support to the current administration and to help in any way he could.



Dale has been in charge of our two lake-wide cleanups each year for as long as I can remember, and it was my privilege to accompany him on his boat for several of those clean-ups, including the one we just had in May. Dale always liked to start the clean-up in Walnut Creek first because that's where he and Patty have resided at the lake for many, many years.



*Dale and Patty Vann*

So, at the Poker Run on Father's Day weekend, Vickie and I made our first stop the Glasscock's in Walnut Creek, and as we passed by Dale and Patty's house I gave him a silent salute. He was a great husband, father, granddad, and great-granddad. He will be greatly missed.

Rest in peace my friend.

You know none of us are promised tomorrow. Life is fleeting and can end in an instant at our appointed time, so enjoy today to the fullest. And hopefully today is at the lake. There is no better place.

Rick



*Photo of Dale Vann driving his boat in May on the most recent lake clean-up, with Ken McElroy, Rick Griffith, and Bill Pinson on board*

Dale Vann (1942-2024) served on the Lake Mitchell HOBBO Board of Directors and was the chairman of the Clean-up Committee for many years, He organized the bi-annual cleanups that have resulted in removing tons of debris and trash from our shores.

Dale and his wife Patty also served as Area 9 HOBBO Representatives for several years, helping to promote a great sense of community within the Walnut Creek Peninsula residents.

Rest in peace good and faithful servant.

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My enduring memory of Dale Vann will be a telephone conversation on a Friday or before a long week-end. When asked, "What are you and Patty going to do this week-end, Dale?", his response was always a simple, concise "GOING TO THE LAKE."

Rest in Peace, brother.

**Editor’s Note:** *There are 20 designated residential Areas on Lake Mitchell, and each of them has at least one set of appointed representatives. They are wonderful sources of information, and they also are your contact point for all HOB0 activities or for reporting any news. If you are unsure of who your representative is, check your HOB0 phonebook. You can find your rep’s name, address, phone, and email info there for easy contact.*

## AREA REP NEWS

### AREA 1-A – The Ridge

**Chan and Patsy Aldridge**

We all love the beautiful vegetation on our lake. The wildflowers are beautiful in the Springtime and the hardwood trees turning all shades of fall colors are gorgeous in the Autumn. However, there are other kinds of vegetation that we don’t like seeing. These are the invasive plants that are sometimes found on our lake.

### STEP 1: LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THESE INVASIVE PLANTS

Water Lettuce

Lyngbya

Water Hyacinth

Hydrilla &  
Eurasian Milifoil



### STEP 2: RECORD GPS LOCATION WHERE INVASIVE PLANTS ARE SPOTTED

Download a GPS app on your mobile device. Choose one that allows you to share your location. When you spot invasive plants, get as close to them as safely possible. Use the GPS app to record your location on your device.

### STEP 3: SEND GPS COORDINATES TO ALABAMA POWER.

Send the GPS coordinates via email to Tim McLean at Alabama Power at [tmclean@southernco.com](mailto:tmclean@southernco.com) or call **1-800-LAKES-11**. For more information about keeping our lake free from invasive species, check out the information on our website.

<https://www.lakemitchellhobo.org/invasive-plants.html>

**AREA 6 – Bird Creek**

**Durwood and Karen Brown**

The Poker run was a massive success. Hats off to all participants – especially those who planned and executed this worthwhile event. The Poker Run profits provide scholarships and/or grants to deserving graduates and teachers. Also, our poker run was well represented by Bird Creekers- including 1st place winner, Johnny Littleton w/ Aces over Kings Full House. Congrats Johnny - how about some ice cream.

Aaron Sims of Lake Mitchell Grill, Melinda McCullough/Shane Hay of Capital Investment Advisors and Troy and Tina Crocker (Signfaces) all provided either food, door prizes, signs, graphics, etc. Additionally, the Crockers even served as a dealer stop. Special thanks to all these for the Poker Run success.

We extend condolences to Bunni Miller, Miller ( Rick’s daughter) and their family in the passing of long time Bird Creek HOBO Rick Miller. Rick was friendly and helpful to people all over the lake. I will always imagine him waving back at me whenever I’m down the Creek looking for him on his porch.

Lastly, we welcome, New Bird Creekers & Creekettes:  
Toni Miller, Karin Payton, Shane, Christy, Justin, Jacob, and Lauren Hay. We will provide contact info in the next Area email.

The Browns wish you a Safe & Happy Summer. We hope to See You on the water and at Aaron’s Restaurant.

**AREA 9 – WALNUT PENINSULA**

**Pamela and Kevin Sims**

What an exciting time as we enter summer and more fun on the lake. During this winter and into spring, many residents of Area 9 are undertaking exciting projects on their property. On a recent boat ride around Walnut Creek peninsula, we noticed at least a dozen residences with new or updated houses, boat houses, sea walls, driveways and hardscapes. Following are photos of some of those properties that the owners shared.

We appreciate all of you who responded with HOBO dues following the first 2024 HOBO Newsletter and hope many more will support HOBO with your \$25 annual dues now.



## AREA 13B

## Wendy and Richard Cruse

Hi Neighbors - Just a few things for the summer newsletter....

#1 Watch for snakes! Our neighbors (and us too) have reported a lot of sightings this year. Lots on the roads. We have seen several coming across the lake mid day and early evening while swimming, Be aware!

#2 Enjoy our beautiful lake this summer. The Eagles and Ospreys are flying ALL over the place. We have several nests on the water and you can get a glimpse of them nesting and the chicks are out learning to fly and hunt! If you have not already heard about the Merlin bird ID app then you should check it out.

<https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> We use it at least once a week and have educated our family about many native birds that do not come to feeders. I've

learned what a Pine Siskin is and how they sound, I can pick them out In the mornings singing now!

#3 Get ready for the Great Alabama 650! This is a long race over 10 days. Canoe, paddleboard or kayaks race down the Coosa River. Qualifying competitors will race down the Coosa River starting at Weiss Lake down to Ft. Morgan in Mobile This will begin in September and go through October. This is the longest kayak race in the US and it is coming through our lake. [Alabamascenicrivertrail.com](http://Alabamascenicrivertrail.com) has all the information you need about this exciting event on our river.

Everyone have a safe summer Wendy, Richard and Mary Cruse



P.O. Box 1324  
Clanton, AL 35046

Paid Permit 12  
Birmingham, AL

**Change Service Requested**

**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>TOTAL OF DUES PLUS YOUR DONATIONS</b> \$
<b>Check One:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Renewal</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>New Member</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 HOB0, P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046  
Or join and pay online at [www.lakemitchellhobo.org](http://www.lakemitchellhobo.org)