



The Lake Mitchell
H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Welcome New HOBO President Rebecca Beaty!

From HOBO President Rebecca Beaty:

Everywhere I look lately I see green peeking out. I love this time of year! Everything seems to shout fresh new beginnings. These signs of spring also signal that soon we will all be on and in the water. It is time to make sure your boat is in good shape, and if your license sticker was mailed to you during the colder months make sure you have put it on before you take your boat out on the lake!

Alabama Power Company and the Department of Conservation are planning to put 150 trees for Fish Habitats. If you would like to help with this project, report to Higgins Ferry at 9:00 A.M. on April 23rd. Contact Lee Poe if you have any questions. mr.leepoe@yahoo.com



Save these dates for some good times on the lake!

June 1st – Lake Mitchell HOBO Picnic – 4:00 P.M. – Higgins Ferry

June 15th – Poker Run – 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. – Higgins Ferry

July 6th – Fireworks – 9:00 P.M. – Cargile Creek

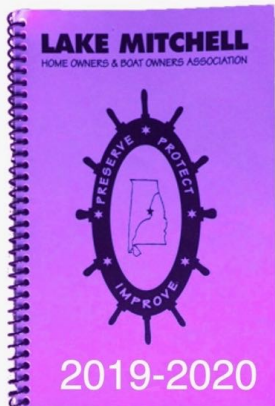
October 26th - Renew Our Rivers Cleanup

November 15th - Annual Meeting

-Rebecca Beaty

You can reach Rebecca at rebecca.beaty@gmail.com.

NEW DIRECTORY COMING THIS SUMMER



Be sure and update your contact information for 2019 by completing the HOBO application and paying your dues for 2019. All paid members will receive a new directory at no additional charge! That alone is worth the price of an annual membership.

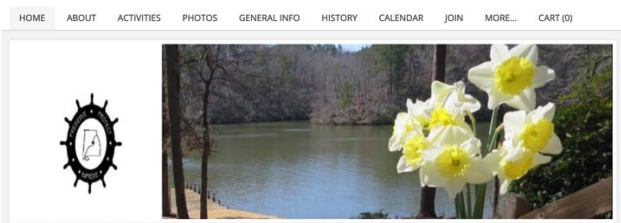
In addition to containing contact information for all lake homeowners, the directory contains local emergency contact information, a listing of HOBO Officers and Area Representatives, a map of Lake Mitchell showing the Area numbers, ads by local sponsors, and more.

INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS DETAILS

Independence Day Fireworks will be on Saturday night 9:00pm July 6th. That's right our Fourth of July fireworks will actually be on July the 6th at the mouth of Cargile 9:00pm. This will be our 30th year for the fireworks and it will be the largest ever. With never to be seen before effects in Alabama. Has anyone ever seen fireworks shot into the water only to emerge and go into the air? Please help get the word out for the correct date. We have added thousands to our budget for this show and we are getting the most experienced crew to stage the event. Our 30th year! Wow. And the biggest and best! Wow. On Saturday July 6th. Spread the word!!!

Online Memberships Up; HOBO Facebook Page Helps Publicize Events

Lake Mitchell HOB



A record number of Lake Mitchell Homeowners are joining HOBO through our website www.lakemitchellhobo.org. It's fast and now easier than ever with our simplified method of making optional donations to projects like Fireworks, Scholarships and the Fireboat. Plus, when you pay online, you will receive a confirmation email that you can use for tax purposes. All you need to join HOBO online is a credit card. You do not need a PayPal account, although PayPal handles our online transactions.

In addition to our website, HOBO is also using our Lake Mitchell HOB Facebook page to communicate upcoming events and to disseminate important lake information in a timely manner. This paper newsletter is quarterly, but our Facebook page is updated whenever

news breaks or announcements need to be made. If you have not visited our Facebook page, we encourage you to “Like” us today.

Get Ready for the Poker Run on June 15

This year we are upping the ante! The first place prize will be \$500!

Make your plans to participate in this family-fun event. Travel in your boat from Higgins Ferry to seven poker dealer sites around the lake to draw your winning hand. Then return to Higgins Ferry for the awards.

Register online at the Lake Mitchell HOB0 website. Proceeds benefit the HOB0 Scholarship Fund.

Newsletter Editor Wanted!

As our current newsletter editor is moving this May, we’re looking for the next editor of the Lake Mitchell HOB0 Newsletter! The Editor compiles submissions from the President, Area Representatives, and Historian quarterly. This can be done in Microsoft Word or Apple Pages. Each issue takes about 4 hours to compile, edit, and submit for approval and printing. Please email us at lakemitchellnewsletter@gmail.com if you’re interested.

Send in Calendar Photos!

We have several great photos already for the 2020 Lake Mitchell calendar, but now it’s time to get spring photos. Please take some and send them in!

Here are just a few checklist items for each photo:

- the photo orientation needs to be Horizontal, not Vertical, or able to be cropped horizontally. Hold that phone sideways!
- they need to be emailed in Actual Size for highest quality (after you choose the picture to attach, the dropdown menu for Image Size on the right of your message will allow you to choose Actual Size), in **jpg format**.
- please be sure to add a photo credit so we can print your name below the picture.
- send to lakemitchellphotos@gmail.com

PS if you have some great older photos that have not appeared in a past calendar, send them as well.

Thank you, and I’m looking forward to seeing the beauty, activity, and joy of the moment in your pictures!

Tad Henry, Calendar Coordinator

The Killingsworth's come to Fixico, Part 1 of 2

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

This introduction is from an article by John D. Fair of the University of Texas as found in the Encyclopedia of Alabama. William Stockham came to Birmingham in 1903 and founded Stockham Pipe Fittings, later to be renamed Stockham Valves and Fittings. Initial products included streetcar wheels, window sash weights, manhole covers and iron pipes. The company grew rapidly, partially due to the benefits it offered its employees. As Mr. Fair wrote, "Stockham provided not only housing and health care for its workers but an on-site YMCA, a night school, annual picnics, a Christmas banquet, sponsorship of baseball, basketball, and bowling teams, and even food, clothing, and coal during the 1930s. These benevolent acts also had the self-serving effect of bonding the workers to the company ..." This bond existed between the co-workers as well, which ultimately led three of them, Milton Huffman, Hubert Merrill and Walter Killingsworth, to each build a small home away from home on Fixico Creek.

If you are familiar with where Little Joe's Fishing Camp used to be, you'll know all the cabins were on the left or north side of the slough as you entered from Weogufka Creek. The majority of these small cabins were built so that their water-side was resting on tall posts right at the water's edge, or out over the water in some cases. This close proximity to the water would ultimately lead to their removal, but that wouldn't take place for at least 60 years.

If you entered the slough from Weogufka Creek back in the 1940's and 50's at the bend you would come upon in order Milton Huffman's new cabin, a couple of empty lots, Hubert Merrill's place, a cabin owned by a son/step son of Merrill named Luther, several more empty lots, a cabin whose owner's name may have been Smotherman, then Walter Killingsworth's humble abode, followed by Huffman's original cabin, some more empty lots, and then a cabin owned by an Anniston police officer whose name is believed to be Ike Cleghorn.

Beyond these cabins were a couple of lots, 3 small cabins owned by Little Joe, and finally Little Joe's itself. Bear in mind that a lot in this case was not a lot, as in a large area, but more like postage stamp size. Step out of the front door and you'd practically be in the middle of the dirt road that led to the cabins and ended a hundred or so yards away. This is probably why so many of the cabins had their main entrance on the side.

Before we continue, here is an interesting bit of trivia. Across the road and about 50 yards up the hollow from the Huffman's new cabin was a well and pump that supplied water to the cabins. The cabin owners installed and maintained this miniature water works themselves.

Walter Killingsworth learned of this little spot of heaven from co-worker Milton Huffman and built his place in the mid-1940's. Setting aside his not small feat of personally building the cabin, think of the logistics involved back in the day, traveling some 80 miles from a home in East Lake, winding down the Florida Short Route (now Hwy. 280) to Sylacauga where the family usually stopped for dinner (a grilled cheese sandwich with No Pickles for son Bill), then on through Weogufka and down some dirt tracks that Coosa County offered up as roads to finally reach the cabin. The preceding run-on sentence is used to try to emphasize what was the norm for many folks who didn't live on the lake full time, but enjoyed their time there so much to still make the journey. After all the investment of time and effort Walter kept the cabin until the late 1960's, by which time his son Bill had graduated from high school.



Early Killingsworth cabin, before decks & docks were added

Walter was obviously very talented in working with his hands because after finishing the cabin (Editor's question; is a lake place ever truly finished?) he went on to build several boats and even water skis in his garage in East Lake. Walter's son Bill, our source for this story, said the design his dad used for the boats was based on one from a Birmingham boat

manufacturer he believes was called “Barry’s”. The standard woodworking tools of the day were used: various saws, sanders, glues and clamps.

Bill said their extended family and friends spent many, many weekends and vacations at the cabin until his graduation from high school in the late 1950’s. An only child, Bill spent a lot of time boating, fishing, and traipsing through the nearby hills. He learned to water ski behind a 15 horsepower Evinrude, which undoubtedly took some time to time to master just getting up. Water skiing was very much a big deal for the kids that got to come along with the Killingsworth’s, many taking their first lessons from their hosts.

When asked about seeing any old mining structures in the woods, Bill recalled seeing the remnants of an old dam across Weogufka Creek just upstream of the rapids. One day he and a friend were wading across the rapids when a snake floated by. Bill said that he didn’t realize his friend, a somewhat out of shape kid, could run so fast in waist-deep water.

A few years later, and with a more powerful 35 horse Evinrude, a teenage Bill and a cousin went up Weogufka Creek to a spot just below the rapids to do some fishing. While casting they saw a large water moccasin swimming across the creek. Boys being boys, Bill unthinkingly cast across the snake and gave the rod a yank, snagging the reptile. They were immediately confronted with the question of what to do next, but that was decided for them. The unhappy moccasin realized who put him in that situation and started swimming towards them. The boys didn’t want to cut the line and lose a nice lure so they got the snake close enough to dispatch it with a paddle. Lesson learned, Bill said.

On another occasion, these boys happened upon a still in the woods. Again, boys being boys and toting .22 rifles, they shot up the still. Later, Little Joe’s wife Mildred, having heard of this incident, gave the boys “what for” and said they were lucky they weren’t shot themselves. The still wasn’t the Caudle’s, but Mildred was wise enough to know it wasn’t smart to mess with such things.

This concludes Part 1. Be sure to watch for Part 2 in a future newsletter. Please send your questions and comments regarding this story, plus any other lake tales to me at gatesestate@bellsouth.net.

AREA UPDATES

Area 9 - Walnut Creek Peninsula

The rain has stopped and finally the sun has peeked through the clouds. Summer has arrived with a lot of activity on the lake.

One helpful resource we use is the Coosa Riverkeeper Swim Guide. The Coosa Riverkeeper organization offers many helpful water conditions for swimming as pH levels, water temperature, and through their lab they test for *E. coli* and fecal contamination. The results are posted every Friday before noon for the most popular swimming areas. You can check the Coosa Riverkeeper Swim Guide at coosariver.org/swimguide and get the skinny before you swim.

Thanks to all that participated in March lake clean up. Mark your calendars for the annual HOBO picnic on June 1, Poker Run on June 15, fireworks on July 6 at 9pm, and lake clean up October 26.

Joel and Betty Elam

Area 15 - Hatchet/Preserve

Happy Spring!

I hope this finds everyone well and looking forward to Lake Life. The latest storms have caused some damage to our lake neighbors' property on the Chilton County side. Please continue to check on folks you know. Don't forget to check your boat registrations to be sure you are current for fun on the river.

I am going to put my safety hat back on and suggest that we all go through our emergency plans for home, our lake get-away, and while traveling. A neighbor of ours at home just lost her entire house to fire. She and one dog were all that got out of her house. She was able to grab her purse and the fire department recovered her fire safe, but lost everything else. Some important points are: she did not have her cell phone and had no way to call 911, no flashlight close by and the power was off, the smoke detectors did not work or did not wake her, the dogs woke her about the fire and valuable papers were protected by a fire-proof safe.

Please, please, please stay in a preparation mode and have your really important items available for quick escape. This is especially vital at a weekend residence. Be sure you have programmed your cell phone with emergency information and phone numbers for the area (such as the Richfield Fire Department 256-377-2211, Alabama Marine Police 800-432-7389, Coosa County Sheriff 256-377-2211, and your neighbors). Consider a portable fire-proof safe for valuable items. Check your smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and flashlights at your lake home to be sure they are operational. Don't forget to check for critters that may have made a winter home in your summer home. Prepare for the worst and hope for the best!

Trip and Beatty Janney

P.O. Box 1324
 Clanton, Alabama 35046

PAID Permit 12
 Birmingham, AL

Change Service Requested

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

Annual Dues Required \$25	Fireworks Donation \$	Fireboat Donation \$	Scholarship Donation \$	In Memory/Honor Name _____ \$
Optional Purchase Boathouse Sign \$20____		Optional Purchase HOBO Photo Calendar \$15____		Optional Purchase Additional Phonebook \$10____
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