
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 15 Issue 2 www.lakemitchellhobo.homestead.com **Second Quarter 2010**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Anita Lawson, anitaklawson@gmail.com

Your H.O.B.O. Board, Area Representatives, and Officers all work hard to improve the quality of Lake Mitchell.

You and I both know it also takes the members efforts to keep Lake Mitchell at the top as the best lake on the Coosa chain. Please take a little time, call your Area Rep and report any news they can share with our members. Be sure your dues are paid for 2010. This \$25.00 helps us with expenses. Check the information in the current 2009/2010 phone book and if any changes need to be made please notify your Area Rep. It is a big job printing the phone books. Your \$25.00 dues will provide one phone book. If you have multiple families for your lake address we would like all families to become members. Be sure your email is up to date with your Area Reps.

All cameras need to get into action. We need lake photos to be submitted for our 2011 calendar. Please send your digital, landscape oriented photos to roxymartin@mindspring.com. The

calendars support our scholarship to a Chilton or a Coosa County graduating senior each year. Bob Jennings sold almost 75 calendars in his area last year. Bird Creek rose to the challenge and we really appreciated Bobs' support. Can your area challenge this?

This past February, Alabama Power Company and H.O.B.O. volunteers put 400 Christmas trees into Lake Mitchell to enhance fish habitats. Neely Farms in Thorsby donated the trees that were taller than most want for Christmas. The trees will benefit Lake Mitchell fishing for many years by providing a hiding place for the smaller fish.

In April, Alabama Power teamed with US Fish and Wildlife Services to do a controlled burn on Hatchet Creek Island. This will benefit the red cockaded woodpeckers for many years to come.

Our Marine 9 boat has been missing in action for some time now. It was taken to Brech Marine in Selma and they have made all the repairs needed to get it in top condition. The East Chilton Volunteer Fire Department has not been able to get it back home yet. Hopefully, by

the time this letter is received it will be back in the water. Your board is working on this matter.

The 2010 Summer Picnic was a success in spite of the storms that day. The Marine Police brought a simulator for the kids and adults to experience driving a jet ski.

Everyone that tried it was required to follow the safety rules and provided a life jacket that is required. It was a great experience and hopefully the children that tried it will be impressed enough to follow safety rules into adulthood.



AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 5 Peggy & Sonny Bullard
bullspad@yahoo.com

Summer almost got here before spring this year but we couldn't be happier. Love it! Our winter months were colder than usual for Alabama weather with much more rain than usual, but it produced the beautiful foliage that we are now enjoying all around the lake. Our place feels like a jungle but we can still see the lake and the flowers are more beautiful than ever this year.

We had our Spring Fling at the Strakas' this year and the attendance was off some due to weddings, ball games and graduations. Our granddaughter was graduating in Pensacola and we had to leave quickly ourselves but enjoyed getting to together with everyone. There were some first timers there and we hope they enjoyed themselves enough to join us again in the fall.

Please check your address on your newsletter and make sure you have M10 at the end of your name indicating that H.O.B.O. has received your dues for this year. We were talking to someone from Florida who has a small lake house and they could not believe our membership was only \$25.00. They pay \$\$\$ for a year. Ouch! It is less people in their area, but still! So we encourage you to send in your dues and get involved with a worthwhile organization. The picnic, cleanups and annual meetings will keep you updated on what is happening as well as give you an opportunity to meet your lake neighbors. Please get involved and represent Area 5; it does make a difference.

We need your help in keeping up with any changes in our area such as address, phone number, and email as well as changes in ownership. Our phone book will be updated in 2011 and we would like for it to be as accurate as possible. Also, when someone new moves in an area we try to welcome them in person and present them with a gift packet and some information about H.O.B.O. Please keep us posted on any of your changes and notify us of any others that you may be aware of. Thanks and have a safe and blessed summer.

Area 9 Dale & Patty Vann RDVANN@bellsouth.net

Summer is here and we are all starting our weekend trips back to the lake. While at the lake this spring I noticed a lot of boaters, it seemed as if it was midsummer. And with that comes the snakes, beavers, squirrels etc. I had to take care of one large size snake that use to have a home behind my seawall. Looks like the Neelys are still having problems with beavers. I have not heard of any more problems with the squirrel population.

County Road 264 coming into our area needs repair on the potholes. The county did fix the dangerous situation where the side of the road was actually caving in. Thanks to them for the quick repair.

If you have not paid your H.O.B.O. dues please do so now. The money is well spent. Call me if you have any questions (Dale Vann 205 910-3713). Be safe and do not drive your boat too close to piers unless you are at idle speed. Please call with any questions.

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson anitaklawson@gmail.com

Summer is here. Swimmers, skiers, boaters, fishermen (and women) are all out and active. Let's all put on our safety first attitudes.

We realize our road is a mess but guess what - so are most of the other roads in Coosa County. Our severe winter did lots of damage. I understand the plans are to pave Wildlife and Pennamotley roads and repair North Coosa 1 this summer. If your road is damaged, please call the road department 256 377 2261 and be sure your road is on their list. Just remember, be patient they are extremely busy.

Have you paid your 2010 dues - still just \$25.00 per year? Check the address and be sure "10" is after your name. If you have a question, don't hesitate to call us. Lake Mitchell Water is still available. Have you tried it? Come by our house and have a big tall glass of ice water. It is great.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	8.92
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.38
Alkalinity	20+	37.5
Hardness	10 - 120	35.63

Quarterly Report Average Water Quality

A low **dissolved oxygen** level indicates a demand on the oxygen in the system. Pollutants such as inadequately treated sewage as well as decaying natural organic matter can cause low oxygen levels. The **ph** scale ranges from very acidic such as battery acid to very basic such as household lye. The midsection of the scale between 6.5 to 8.2 is optimal for most organisms. If a body of water has an abundance of buffering materials causing high **total alkalinity**, it is more stable and resistant to ph changes. When alkalinity is above 20mg/l there is a marked increase in nutrient utilization. **Hardness** refers primarily to the amount of calcium and magnesium, which enters the water mainly by leaching of rocks. Both minerals are essential to the development and growth of aquatic plants and animals.

Scholarship Committee Steve Miles

The scholarship committee has awarded its second annual Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Environmental Scholarship to Katherine Scott of Thorsby High School. Katie will be attending the University of Montevallo. We would like to congratulate her and thank all the other applicants for their efforts. The scholarship was presented to Katie by Nancy Piccolo at Thorsby High School.

The selection was very difficult but the committee came up with a very worthy candidate in Ms Scott. I would like to thank Rebecca Beaty, Nancy Piccolo, and Jim Woodrow for all of their hard work serving on this committee.

We will have an update on Katie when she starts at Montevallo this fall. Thanks to all H.O.B.O. members who supported this wonderful opportunity to give a scholarship to this senior high school student through your donations and calendar purchases.

Environmental Committee Dan Murchison danmurchison@gmail.com

I am planning on having an environmental committee meeting with Alabama Game and Fish and others to discuss the stocking of Hybrid stripe in Mitchell Lake. We need to either stop the stocking or promote the catching and eating of Hybrid stripe. Before we eat them we need a fish tissue test done by ADEM to confirm they are not carrying high levels of PCBs. Also, we need to discuss the loss of native stripes in Mitchell Lake and the loss of mussels. Anyone interested in this can contact me for more info.

BULLETIN BOARD**Your interest and assistance is welcome**

We are always looking for lake folks to become involved in your organization. What is your area of interest or talent? Some of the places you may become involved are on a committee (social, scholarship, publicity, environmental, education, just to name a few). Other positions available include web site coordinator, calendar coordinator, and secretary.

Please contact Anita Lawson and express your interest or willingness to serve! anitalawson@bellsouth.net , 256 377-4584.

2010 Lake Mitchell Calendar

Hopefully, all of you are taking lots of photos to submit to this year's calendar committee.

Please note the criteria for submission of photos below:

*All photos **must** be digitally produced (scanned regular photos cannot be accepted due to the image quality for calendar purposes)

*All photos will be uploaded to www.shutterfly.com. If you wish to view the photos on shutterfly, please email roxymartin@mindspring.com and a link will be forwarded via email

*A photo cd may be mailed to Roxanne Martin at 1409 County Rd 261, Clanton, 35046; Please make sure your name is on the correspondence for identification purposes.

*Photos submitted should be centered on the Lake Mitchell community and its' environment: landscapes, wildlife, water activities, etc.

* Photos should be in landscape format rather than portrait format (horizontal, not vertical)

You may enter as many photos as you wish. Photos will be accepted between March 15, 2010 and August 15, 2010.

Jellyfish? Frog eggs? Gar eggs? Or what? Don Inman

Reprinted from Fourth Quarter 1999

How often have we seen the gelatinous masses attached to various underwater structures, including weeds, and wondered "are these actually some kind of eggs?" Actually they are bryozoans – Pectinatella magnifica – one of at least 22 species found in the fresh waters of North America.

By definition bryozoans are moss animals as they live and grow in colonies, forming moss-like masses of growth over the object to which they are attached. Each jelly or gelatinous mass is a colony of individual microscopic zooids less than 1 mm in size which collectively are called bryozoans. The gelatinous portion is very extensive and is the non-living portion of the colony. Each colony may contain literally thousands of zooids.

As bryozoans feed on plankton, zooplankton, algae, etc., we refer to these animals as filter feeders and can expect some degree of improved water quality. Our lake has another example of "nature's filters" - the mussel - a very important ecological animal. In closing, we want to add

that bryozoans are related to many other animals including coral and jellyfish.

Courtesy of Danette & Chris Haynes, Biologists@ Shelton State

Our efforts count!

As reprinted from Alabama Marine Resources Division calendar 2001

Each person's small efforts add up to a big difference for fish habitat:

- Recycle used oil and filters, batteries and antifreeze
- Keep trash from blowing overboard
- Use shore-based restrooms and pump-out facilities
- Use oil absorbent materials in your bilge and for spill cleanup
- Keep detergents and bilge cleansers out of the water
- Whenever possible, do repairs and painting away from the water
- Avoid boating in shallow waters, especially those with submerged vegetation

Tell your friends and fellow fishermen about the importance of fish habitat and the simple things they can do to protect it!

It takes a LONG time for trash to "disappear" from the deep:

Paper towels	2-4 weeks
Newspaper	6 weeks
Apple core/cardboard	2 months
Waxed milk carton	3 months
Cotton glove	1-5 months
Cotton rope	3-14 months
Photo-degradable 6-pack ring	6 months
Biodegradable diaper/wool glove	1 year
Plywood	1-3 years
Painted wood stick	13 years
Tin cans/Styrofoam cups	50 years
Styrofoam float	80 years
Aluminum cans	200 years
Plastic 6-pack rings	400 years
Plastic bottle/disposable diaper	450 years
Monofilament fishing line	600 years
Glass jars/bottles	could be forever!

Please keep your trash "above board"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Email any submissions to beckmau@earthlink.net and judymurchison@gmail.com for editing and inclusion.

Memorial Gifts

The Lake Mitchell Memorial Fund is available for gifts in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Please send your contributions to our post office box and note your check accordingly. The intent is to set aside these funds until there is a sufficient amount to fund special projects. There were no memorials received this quarter.

“Good Neighbor” postings

If you have an item to sell or give away, or are looking for an item, you may submit a written request to Becki McCallum at beckmau@earthlink.net. She will verify that you are a current member and reserve the right to edit the content. Any requests for publication need to be made by the newsletter deadline posted on the above calendar.

From Durwood Brown:

Got leaves covering your roof or yard?

Got a deck that needs pressure washing and/or painting?

Got a shoreline full of logs, trash and other debris?

Got screens with holes or rips?

Got rotten or threatening limbs or trees needing removal?

If you cannot physically do this, if you don't have time to do this, or if you simply don't want to do this.....then I am your man. Call me for a free estimate. I am an active H.O.B.O. member residing on Lake Mitchell year-round. I can provide several lake resident references.

Lake Services by Durwood Brown 205-755-9915 or dbrown3852@aol.com

Lake Mitchell Recipe/Daily Journal Johnye Woodrow
ajwking@aol.com

We are compiling a recipe/ daily journal/ nostalgia book for and by the residents of Lake Mitchell. If you would like to contribute to this, please forward your favorite recipe, old & new photographs, memories/narratives of life on the lake. If you send in an old photograph (i.e. Lake Mitchell ski club), or a photograph of a place of interest on the lake (i.e. the old rope swing) **please include a short story about it.** If your favorite recipe is not your original, please note the source of the recipe.

Rose Green, Patty Vann, Roxanne Martin and myself will be working together to bring this to you.

Cute sayings from your children/grandchildren, etc about the lake are also welcome. Please forward all of your ideas, narratives, photographs to ajwking@aol.com. Be sure and include your name and your source. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us hear from you.

Do you know about “River Church”?

We have lakeside services sponsored by Clanton First United Methodist Church. They are held every Sunday morning at 8:30 at Higgins Ferry Trobaugh pavilion. Come by boat or by car to “start your week right” with a short church service. All are welcome.

***Let's celebrate our freedom this
holiday season by flying our
nation's flag in honor of those who
have and are currently protecting
the freedoms we enjoy!***

H.O.B.O. SPOTLIGHT

An historical account of the Blue Creek Indian fort was published in our Fourth Quarter 2009 newsletter. This tale follows, as promised.

A Tale of the Blue Creek Indians as relayed by Ed Warren, we remember him fondly.

Once upon a time, a long time ago, almost before the world was and surely before time began, the Blue Creek Indians inhabited all the land that is now Alabama. As you can see, theirs was a widespread nation. This would be very widespread because the only communication between the tribes was by runner. Imagine how difficult it was for the GREAT CHIEF WETUMPKA to keep his lesser chiefs advised when some of them lived what is now near Mobile and others lived north of the Tennessee River!

WETUMPKA lived in the Old Indian Fort that is located on Blue Creek in what is now Chilton County. The word “Wetumpka” means “shining rock”. However, our little tale does not concern the life and times of WETUMPKA but rather his death. As all good Indians do, WETUMPKA finally died.

Now we meet SPINNING ROCK. He was Wetumpka's son and as such a candidate to succeed his father as the GREAT CHIEF. Anyway, a great meeting was called. Runners were sent to the far corners of the Blue Creek Indian nation calling all the lesser chiefs to a meeting to decide who would be the next GREAT CHIEF.

There were seventy-five lesser chiefs gathered at this meeting. The POW-WOW (elective meeting) was held in a clearing where BLUE CREEK MARINA now stands. The marina is owned and operated by Bo Warren. Good boating. Good skiing. Good fishing. Good fellowship. But, let us get on with the story. “Spinning Rock” was wise beyond his years and so he knew deep in his heart that each and every lesser chieftain would pull every sneaky trick in the book trying to become the GREAT CHIEF himself. Even worse than trickery, there could easily be civil war among the tribes.

True to the course of human events, the POW-WOW lasted for weeks with no progress. All this time SPINNING ROCK sat quietly with his arms folded. Waiting. Waiting. Waiting to pull off his big trick. SPINNING ROCK was biding his time. Keeping his own counsel. He knew that he had the one great “trick” that would prevent a civil war among the tribes. He was waiting for the right moment to make his move. Finally he decided the moment had come.

SPINNING ROCK rose before the council with feathers agleam and his very best blanket of many colors draped about his wide shoulders. His peace pipe was aglow with red-hot embers. With arms extended in a dramatic manner he began: “brothers, we have gathered to select a new GREAT CHIEF and instead we are getting closer and closer to selecting WAR. Not only WAR, but CIVIL

WAR. Brother against brother. Indian against Indian. This should not be. Save your war paints to be used against the White Devil – not your brothers.”

There was a rousing round of applause at this point and SPINNING ROCK continued: “I have been in a deep dream with my medicine spirit and have been told that if this gathering will elect me as GREAT CHIEF for only a short time, there will be peace and happiness. Here before you is a polished medicine rock. I will spin the rock on a smooth surface and ask you to select me as GREAT CHIEF for only as long as the rock will spin. This will be the magic that will bring us peace and happiness.”

All the lesser chiefs agreed to this arrangement as they knew the rock would not spin for any length of time, and besides they liked the idea of magic being involved.

SPINNING ROCK then took the medicine rock between his thumb and forefinger and gave it a twirl. The lesser chiefs gathered about to watch the rock stop spinning. But to their amazement, stop it didn't. It spun and spun and kept on spinning. It spun for a week without ever stopping. Finally, the lesser chiefs got tired of waiting so they all went home with plans to be called back when the spinning stopped.

They were called back forty-eight years later when SPINNING ROCK himself died of old age. It is interesting to note that the medicine rock kept right on spinning until the white man came and drove all the Indians down the “Trail of Tears”.

This little bit of history may seem to be a myth and perhaps shrouded in a bit of mumbo-jumbo magic. But

such is not the case. There is a simple explanation of the long-spinning rock. Simply this. There is an enormous boulder sticking out of the ground near the Old Indian Fort on Blue Creek where WETUMPKA lived and it has dual magnetism. We all know that the earth's magnetism pulls in one direction only – to the north. The “Blue Creek boulder” has a dual magnetic field that pulls in both directions. By placing a magnetized ferrous rock between the two pieces of the “boulder”, the alternating pulls will keep the magnetized rock spinning forever. It's all very simple.

We have some pieces of the “boulder” here at Blue Creek Marina and will be glad to demonstrate the spinning rock if you so desire. The marina is owned and operated by Bo Warren. Good boating. Good skiing. Good fishing. Good gracious.

In conclusion, dear gentle reader, it would be well to realize that none of the above is truthful – except the part about the spinning rock. That is the gospel truth.

The Great White River Father – Ed Warren

We welcome submissions for “spotlight” articles. Is there a location or lake person you have a particular knowledge of that would be of interest to others? Please email Judy Murchison judymurchison@gmail.com, or Becki McCallum beckmau@earthlink.net with any suggestions.