
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Anita Lawson, anitaklawson@gmail.com

Your H.O.B.O. Association was formed in 1996 by a group of individuals that wanted Lake Mitchell to remain as pristine as it was in 1921. Lake Mitchell Dam was being constructed at that time by Alabama Power Company for the purpose of generating power. Various "camps" came into existence as a result. This was all to become a part of the history of Lake Mitchell. In 1996 a board of directors and by-laws were established. Dues became a reality for the association. The Board voted for \$25.00 per year per family. In 2010, the dues are still \$25.00 per year per household. Your benefits for the \$25.00 have escalated over the last 14 years as the association has grown. The telephone book was developed by many hard working volunteers. Judy Murchison has worked diligently from the beginning to make this a professional, comprehensive and correct publication that would benefit you as a member of H.O.B.O. This year Judy is ready to pass her duties on to Cindy Wallingford. Cindy and Doug moved into Pump House Slough off Cargile Creek two years ago. Cindy is retired from Delta Airlines in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Wallingfords had always planned to retire near Phil and Betsy Ward (Cindy's sister) after many years of vacationing on Lake Mitchell. Your H.O.B.O. association needs your help in keeping the phone book data current and correct. Please report to Cindy any changes or corrections needed for the 2011/2012 phone books. You may email Cindy at Cindog2009@gmail.com.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. and Alabama Power Company have a partnership to keep our lake free of trash by having spring and fall lake clean-ups. We usually have approximately 100 volunteers meet twice a year at Higgins Ferry to spend the morning dragging trash out of our lake. A hot dog lunch is served following clean up. Rose Green and Johnye Woodrow make the lunch a success.

We would be so excited to have 200 volunteers this year. Come and join us. By the time you receive this newsletter we will probably have completed the March 27 clean-up,

but plan to join us on October 23, 2010 at Higgins Ferry launch.

Area Representatives were also enlisted to help keep H.O.B.O. members informed and connected. The Area Reps bring your needs and concerns to the association.

All Area Rep's names and numbers are included in this newsletter. Your association needs new involvement with fresh ideas. We also need volunteers for committees, Area Representatives, and prospective board members. We want YOU to be an active part of H.O.B.O. Let us know what you want your association to do for Lake Mitchell and how you would like to help. Don't forget our lake-wide picnic this year. We plan to have extra tables, chairs and a tent. A treat is in store for the children. Alabama Marine Police has a simulator of a water craft that the children can enjoy to learn driving techniques and safety rules. I hope to see you and your family for the picnic on Saturday June 5 at Higgins Ferry pavilion. Mark your calendar now.



AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 6 Rick Miller dogdaddy2725@netzero.net,
Paula & Joe Pierson hansandpaula@yahoo.com

Hello from Bird Creek,

I want to tell you about a new email that we have set up for area #6 residents. It is birdcreekhobo@gmail.com. We have established this for communications about events, security issues and other timely information that we feel you may need to be aware of that may occur between newsletters. If you have not received any email info in the past, please send your email address and also phone numbers to this email address. We will make sure you are added to the list.

The Norman King family is in the process of building a new home on their property. It is going to be beautiful. I'm sure we will all be watching the progress on this latest improvement to Bird Creek.

All appears to be quiet except for the few pretty days we have had, which brought a flurry of boat activity and those

working in the yards for spring cleaning. I know we are all looking forward to true spring.

Last month we had a nice turnout for the fish habitat enhancement that Alabama Power conducts. We put out 500 evergreen trees around the lake. You can go to their web site and get the GPS coordinates for the locations of the enhancements. alabamapower.com/fishdata

As a Master Gardener I have had several calls recently about fertilizer and when to apply. Our area or growing zone can surprise us with unexpected weather. Spring fertilizer should not be applied until after the last frost.

The reason is that about 10 days after application new growth will start. If a frost comes to this tender young growth it can kill or severely damage the plant or grass. Going by the old adage that it will frost in April on the same day that it thunders in February, that will happen April 23rd. So we may have a late frost this year. Please, always follow application rates, especially around the lake.

Hope to see you all at the H.O.B.O. picnic June 5th at 4:00 pm!

Area 9 Dale & Patty Vann RDVANN@bellsouth.net

Since I have not been to the lake much during these winter months I do not have a lot to report. I guess no news is good news. You know when we do not use our places the varmints take over as reported by Mike Ford and several others. Jimmy Neely reported squirrels had eaten away some of the pressure treated wood around his deck. Tommy Yearout reports having a squirrel living in his boathouse and it had eaten away at most everything. Steve Hicks had a squirrel get into his attic and chew some electrical wires. Seems David Miller and Joel Elam had squirrel problems also. I had a muskrat get into my boathouse and eat a 30 pound bag of cat fish food (and I do not think it set well in his stomach). So, next October bring your 22 rifle and let's go squirrel hunting. If you have not already done so please send in your H.O.B.O. dues for 2010 (\$25). Mail to H.O.B.O., P.O. Box 1234, Clanton, AL 35046. You can also order your lake Mitchell 2010 calendars at this same address (\$15). The fireworks display will be 7/3/10 and the pontoon boat parade will be 7/4/10. Let me know of anything else that you want reported.

Area 13B Sam & Nancy Piccolo sampiccolo@centurytel.net

The west side of Pennamotley Creek has experienced substantial progress in the past few years and there is more to come. Carolyn Thornton has many interesting stories to tell of the early days of our area. In the 1960's Carolyn and Jim Van Ryzin created Pennamotley Estates, a lake front community on the Coosa County side of Lake Mitchell. I didn't come onto the scene until the early 1970's when I bought my lake front property upon returning home from Vietnam. From the early 1970's to the early 1990's we used a motor home to enjoy our lot. During that time when we heard the first clap of thunder it

was a frantic drill to throw everything into the motor home and get rolling before the road became impassable. At one time our lake front community had ten full time residents but the condition of the County dirt road caused many families to give up and move.

Today we still have road safety and condition issues which we are looking forward to fixing in the near future. On the positive side we have good electric, telephone, mail, and trash service and we recently got high speed internet and city water. The residents are currently contributing to a road paving effort with 60% participation to date. The County Engineer is prepared to correct road safety issues after resolving some right of way matters with Carolyn Thornton and her family. So, in summing up I would say we are very close to having a very livable community on the Coosa side of Lake Mitchell.

We recently suffered a setback in that we lost one of our strong supporters. Jack Godin passed away recently and he will be sorely missed. Jack was involved with our city water and road effort and was always able to bring reason to the forefront in a calm and convincing manner. He was with our group of residents when we attended the December 8th commission meeting regarding our road and even though we were having a bad day Jack was able to articulate some positives that resulted from the meeting. I think we will correct the road safety issues and get the road paved but it will be a lot harder with Jack gone. However, I suspect he is already getting things done in Heaven.

Area 14 Rose & Eric Green rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com

Well spring is almost here! Hopefully it will bring sunny dry days - we sure could use them. The city water is finally here. You can still sign up; call Bill Spratlin at 205-365-8367. I have noticed we have a lot of new homes going up in our area and several houses have sold. Please let me know who your new neighbors are. Some of you seem to have my old contact information, here is the correct info: 205-492-7151, rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com. Also Eric and I are full time residents so if you need us please let us know. We hope to see everyone at the summer picnic; it is a fun time and gets bigger every year! See you soon.

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson anitaklawson@gmail.com

Spring will eventually get here and this cold wet winter will be behind us. I am looking forward to the trees and flowers budding out.

Finally - the water is here!! Lake Mitchell Water (Bill Spratlin) and the City of Rockford have been working hard to get the chlorine adjusted. It was so great when our power went out recently to still have water. You can still sign up - call Bill Spratlin at 205 365-8367 if you have any questions.

If anyone has their old water treatment systems that are still good and working, I will be glad to email this info out

to the lake residents that might have a need for these systems. You can email me your info and I will compile it into one email with all systems that are available.

Please remember to keep Jerry and me informed of any lake news. As your Area Representatives for H.O.B.O., we want everyone to be informed about our area as well as all of Lake Mitchell. You can call us or email us. All Area Reps numbers are included in this newsletter.

The economy is down and this leads to more break-ins. Let's all put an extra effort out to keep an eye on our neighbors homes to be sure no strange visitors appear unnoticed.

Let's have one of the best, safest summers on Lake Mitchell.

Mark your calendar and save the date

For the annual picnic at Higgins Ferry

pavilion

June 5 at 4 p.m.

Bring a side dish or dessert to share!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman
sampiccolo@centurytel.net

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	9.8
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.22
Alkalinity	20+	38.75
Hardness	10 - 120	36.87

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.

Fireworks Committee Jim McCormick

As this newsletter is being produced (early March) your Fireworks Committee is already preparing for this years event. It is at this time we apply for our Federal and State licenses. The Federal license is permitted through ATF which allows us to buy the explosives. The State license permits us to put on the show.

The next steps will be to get with our supplier to determine the shell selection which dictates the size and duration of our show. Then we choreograph the music to

synchronize with the show (which can be heard over our loud speakers or on 96.9 FM.) As the time grows closer we will assemble and check our equipment.

We love watching the boats show up the night of the show. The mass of red and green lights are impressive. It is this visual experience as well as the cheers, horns, and even the jeers, that keep us going.

Remember the show this year is Saturday July 3rd at 9:00 pm Cargile Creek. Thanks for your support!

BULLETIN BOARD

Alcohol and Boating: A Dangerous Combination

Submitted by Erica Shipman, Alabama Marine Police

Everyone knows that oil and water do not mix; the same is true for alcohol and boating. With the warm weather boating season fast approaching, many boaters are thinking about getting back out on the waterways and are asking questions about the boating laws and regulations to see if there have been any changes. Not unexpectedly, the number one boating question pertains to equipment and license requirements, but surprisingly, the second most asked question pertains to alcohol use and consumption on Alabama's waterways.

Just as Alabama law bans anyone from drinking and driving a vehicle (DUI), the law also prohibits anyone from boating under the influence (BUI). Specifically, it is illegal to be in physical control of any vessel (including personal watercraft), water skis, or any similar device if the operator:

- Has a concentration of alcohol in his or her blood of 0.08% or more *or*
- Is under the influence of:
 - Alcohol, any controlled substance or drugs *or*
 - Any combination of alcohol, controlled substances or drugs *or*
 - Any substance which impairs the operator's mental or physical faculties.

Alabama law establishes the following penalties for those arrested and convicted of boating under the influence:

- On the first offense, a fine from \$600 up to \$2,100 and/or sentence of one year in jail, and suspension of his or her operator's certification/license for 90 days
- On the second offense, a fine from \$1,100 up to \$5,100 and/or sentence of up to one year in jail with a mandatory sentence of not less than 5 days or community service for not less than 30 days, and suspension of his or her operator's certification for one year

- On the third offense, a fine from \$2,100 up to \$10,100 and/or sentence of up to 1 year in jail with a mandatory sentence of not less than 60 days, and suspension of his or her operator's certification for three years.
- Anyone over the age of 21 convicted of BUI who has a child under the age of 14 present in the vessel at the time of the offense shall be sentenced to double the minimum punishment that the person would have received if the child had not been present on the vessel

If a person is suspected of operating a vessel on the waters of Alabama under the influence of alcohol or any other controlled substance, he or she must submit to a field breath test or other approved testing device for blood alcohol concentration. Refusal to submit to a field breath test, or other approved testing device, will result in the same punishment as provided in Alabama law for operators of motor vehicles on state highways.

Although the Alabama Marine Police Division encourages all boaters to leave the alcohol at home, boaters who wish to bring alcohol must consider the fact that Alabama has both wet and dry counties. Boaters should check to see if the waterway where they will be boating is in a wet or dry county. A person boating on a body of water in a dry county is not permitted to have alcohol on board the vessel. On most bodies of water in wet counties, you may have alcohol on board for the passengers, but you should use a designated operator who will not be drinking. Keep in mind that some waterways fall within city jurisdictions and may have additional city ordinances pertaining to alcohol use and consumption. If you have any questions about a specific waterway in this area, please call the Montgomery Headquarters at 334-353-2628 or the District III Headquarters at 1-800-432-7389.

NOTE: The Coosa River runs the county line between Coosa County, a wet county, and Chilton County, a dry county. The county line is considered to be in the middle of the river.

Fun for Children at the annual picnic!

The Alabama Marine Police are planning to provide a "waterborne simulator" at the annual picnic so that children can experience what it is like to drive a vehicle on our waterways. This should provide a fun attraction for any youngsters attending this year.

H.O.B.O. also plans to provide more seating and shade this year, so plan to attend and bring a side dish or dessert to share. It is a great opportunity to visit with your lake neighbors and meet new friends!

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, 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.

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 Charlie Davis, Area 6:

I have a 9.9 horsepower Evinrude outboard motor, recently re-built, for \$600.00. Contact me at 205-913-7128 if you would like to give it a new home.

H.O.B.O. SPOTLIGHT

Unsold trees recycled in five company lakes to improve fish habitat by Donna Cope, reprinted from *Powergrams*

When Ginger Neely Duncan and her family planted five acres of trees on their land in Thorsby, they hoped to make children's Christmas wishes come true. Instead, their trees will make fishermen's dreams and tall tales a reality. "We planted the first patch in 2004, and boy was it a learning experience," said Neely Duncan, owner of Neely Farms Choose & Cut Christmas Trees. Installing their first 1,000 Virginia pine and fir saplings "took two days and the whole family," she said. "The time has really passed. Here we are today cutting down that very patch to be used for fish habitat."

This winter, Environmental Affairs specialists will sink into Lake Mitchell about 400 of Neely Farms' 6-to-11-foot-tall trees, creating habitats to attract fish. On Feb. 2-3, Doug Powell and Mike Clelland, who coordinate the Fish Habitat Enhancement Program, worked with Environmental Affairs staff Jennifer Rasberry, Danny Wright, Bill Pockstaller, Brad Vick, Richard Brown, Trey Lightsey and Daniel Hatchett to place trees at Lake Mitchell. Members of the Lake Mitchell Homeowners and Boat Owners Association also helped. Trees collected from the Mountain Scout Christmas tree sale will be sunk at Martin, Jordan, Lay, Smith and Logan Martin lakes. Fish habitats made from Christmas trees offer natural habitat for fish to hide and grow larger. Fishermen take advantage of the cover to catch bass and crappie using a global positioning system (GPS). Habitat locations are

listed on the company Web site at www.alabamapower.com/lakes/fishdata. Since the program's start in 1993, Environmental Affairs has sunk about 52,800 trees.

Everyone in her family helped plant the batch Neely Duncan is providing free to the company. The scheduled harvest had been disrupted when her mother, Yolanda, became ill and died.

When the owner's father, Chesley Neely, heard about the "extra tall," unsold trees, he immediately thought about Alabama Power's fish habitat program. The elder Neely retired from Corporate Real Estate in 2007 with 34 years of service, his last stint spent as chief technical specialist at the Dadeville Office, managing company lands on Lakes Martin and Harris. He contacted Corporate Real Estate Specialist Candy Hayes at the Clanton Land Office, and she put him in contact with Powell. "The family wanted to find a way for the trees to be beneficial, rather than having to burn them," Hayes said.

In all, the company's use of the trees has benefited many, Neely Duncan said. "We re-planted the patch," she said. "The most comforting thing is my mom helped plant the very first patch, therefore she helped make this happen. I was so happy that Alabama Power could use the trees. I hope we can supply some every year."

"Thank you" to H.O.B.O. volunteers assisting in this effort: Damon Abernathy, Sonny & Peggy Bullard, Bob Crabtree, Rose Green, Anita Lawson, Steve Miles, Rick Miller, Dan Murchison, Joe Pierson, Carl Roper, Carl Scott.