

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.
Annual Meeting
November 14, 2014
Minutes

The meeting was called to order and an invocation was given by President Lee Poe.

Present at this meeting were newly elected Senator Clyde Chambliss and Representative Mark Tuggle. Both were available for questions from HOBBO members.

Rebecca Beaty introduced this year's **HOBBO. scholarship winner, Brandon Merced**, and presented him with a HOBBO. calendar. Rebecca reported that, though Brandon did not win the election to become a member of the Coosa County School Board, he did win forty percent of the vote an amazing accomplishment for a young man Brandon's age. Brandon expressed gratitude both on his on behalf and on behalf of other high school students in the area for HOBBO's generosity in supporting the scholarship fund.

The **first guest speakers were Jacob Sim, Park Ranger at Higgins Ferry, and Gerald Arrington, Chilton County Park Manager.** Jake reported that the two new docks at Higgins Ferry are now framed in. One of the docks will be 50 feet long and the other 110 feet long, with a "T" at the end. Jake has updated the web site for Higgins Ferry and has created a Facebook page for Higgins Ferry. Because of a new sign on the interstate, as well as good reports by word of mouth, more campers are now using the Higgins Ferry campgrounds. Campers have been seeking Jake out to express their thanks for the fifteen new fire rings, the three new benches and the gravel walking trail connecting the campgrounds to the parking area and the river. Jake also spoke of efforts being made to improve the bass and crappie fishing, which included stocking fingerling white bass in Hatchett Creek.

Gerald reported that he and Jake are busy making both short-term and long-term plans for next spring and summer. Gerald also reported that the campsites at Higgins Ferry have now been marked to assist campers in locating their campsites.

Jake called attention to the hard work and special efforts of **Louie Bentley** in keeping Higgins Ferry in good shape for everyone's enjoyment.

The next **guess speaker was Brian Smith with Alabama Forestry Commission, assisted by Chilton County Ranger, Matt Jenkins, and Autauga County Ranger, Joe Small.** The goal of the Forestry Commission is to protect forests from wildfire, insects and disease. At this meeting, Brian spoke primarily about the Forestry Commission's Firewise Program, which is aimed at keeping houses and cabins from catching fire. Because of the high degree of wild land and urban interface, Chilton County has been ranked as being a "moderate to high" fire area. Brian spoke about the Forestry Commission's **free** fire risk assessments for both individual homes and communities. He also showed slides describing modifications that can be made to make our cabins less vulnerable to fire and to make our cabins more readily accessible to firetrucks and other emergency vehicles in the event of a fire. Brian answered questions most of which were related to controlled burning.

During a short break, drawings were conducted for door prizes.

The HOBBO. annual meeting agenda commenced with the **announcement of officers, directors and area representatives**, which included the following: President Steve Miles; Vice-president Scott Phillips; 2nd Vice-president Rebecca Beaty; Secretary Patsy Wideman and Website coordinator Marie Greene. The list of directors was read, and new directors were nominated and unanimously approved.

This included **Melissa Nannini**, who works on the **HOBO calendar**. The lists of area representatives and water monitors (including newly trained Park Ranger Jake Sim) were also read.

The **Budget Proposal for 2015** was presented and discussed. The only proposed change in the budget for 2015 was a \$500 increase in community participation to cover expenses related to participation by students from both Chilton and Coosa County schools in next year's Water Festival. In 2014, 650 students attended from both counties attended the Water Festival. The costs related to the Water Festival and needed repairs on Marine 9 were the only two line items in the 2014 budget that exceeded the amount designated. The new proposed budget (\$20,800) was unanimously approved as presented.

Regarding **HOBO membership**, Jim Woodrow reported that there are now 750 households on Lake Mitchell. Jim was recently informed of twenty-two additional houses on the Chilton County side of the lake and thirty-eight new houses on the Coosa County side of the lake not previously in our HOBObase. With 400 HOBObase members, there is presently **over 50% HOBObase participation**. There are sixteen areas on our lake with area reps. **An area representative is needed for newly designated Area 11B**, with Stan Holt continuing to represent Area 11A.

Joan Hargrove has accepted the position of HOBObase's new **scrapbook coordinator**.

This year's **HOBO calendar** is on sale for \$12. With the help of those who contributed photographs, Anita Lawson has created a beautiful calendar for 2015.

Drawings were held for remaining door prizes.

Past president Lee Poe was presented with one of the two scrapbooks representing events during his term as HOBObase's president. Lee graciously passed the podium and the microphone to in-coming president Steve Miles, who acknowledged the good job done by his predecessor.

A motion was made and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. President Steve Miles accepted the motion, and the 2014 HOBObase Annual Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Patsy Wideman