
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 15 Issue 3 www.lakemitchellhobo.homestead.com Third Quarter 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Anita Lawson, anitaklawson@gmail.com

December 2010 will bring an end to my term as President of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. It has been an honor to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors.

H.O.B.O. was established by a group of people with a vision to try to preserve our lake through growth and changes in the coming years. They established methods of communication from one end of the lake to the other. This communication has formed a bond for all residents of Lake Mitchell.

You, as a resident, should want to continue the vision. It is a well known fact that you can accomplish more with team work. Your officers, Board of Directors, Area Representatives, and Water Monitors make up the team. H.O.B.O. needs new team members.

The Annual General Meeting will be Friday at 6:30 PM at the Alabama Power Company Building off I-65 on Hwy 31. Please make time to attend this meeting and meet with your officers and directors to determine how you can help.

The slate of new officers will be presented at this meeting. Also attending this meeting will be Alabama Marine Police Captain Brooks and Officer Harrison. They will be addressing lake concerns as well as the recent rash of thefts occurring on Lake Mitchell. Both Coosa and Chilton Counties have been affected. Boats, boathouses, and homes have all been vandalized in the last few months.

The H.O.B.O. 2011 calendars should be ready for you to purchase at the meeting. The cost is still \$15.00 per calendar. This year will be the best yet. Remember your lake visitors and family when purchasing your calendars. View sights of Lake Mitchell all year!

Saturday, October 23 will be our fall lake cleanup. We team with Alabama Power and our volunteers to keep our lake safe and clean for water sports and fishing. Call your Area Rep or me for details on how you can help.



AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 1 Ralph Mason ralphmason@wildblue.net

Harry and Joan Hargrove, lot owners at The Ridge at Lake Mitchell, retired during the past year from their positions in Vienna, Virginia. Harry had a long and distinguished career with Boeing, and Joan has been a teacher in both public and private schools. They recently moved to a rental home in Clanton to oversee the construction of their home at the western end of our community. We will welcome the Hargroves as full-time residents in 2011. They have been members of H.O.B.O. since they purchased their lot in 2008.

The Ridge at Lake Mitchell, a homeowners association at the south end of the lake, has lost a faithful and hard worker who has maintained the common areas of the community for the past three years and has worked for individual residents as well. Robert Hargrove (no relation to the above family), a resident of County Road 59 outside Verbena, died on Saturday,

May 22, 2010 while cleaning storm debris from his mother's home in Birmingham. According to the Jefferson County Coroner's Office, he came into contact with a live power line. Robert will be greatly missed by those of us who knew him.

Area 3 Judy & Dan Murchison judymurchison@gmail.com

We have two new families to "Welcome to the Lake" - Pam & David Lathem and Wendy & Chad Smith. We are looking forward to meeting you all.

Lake Mitchell is a special lake and we know you all will love it like the rest of us do. We hope you will get to know other residents by getting involved with things that go on here at the lake. Our lake clean ups - beside the "I've been a part in doing something good for our lake" feeling on those days - the fellowship and friendships will be cherished (the hot dogs are delicious after the clean ups), the Annual Lake Picnic (terrific food and more new friendships), General Membership meeting (once a year)

where you will learn how Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. works and why (We have nice door prizes for the general meeting). We have fun! And like my Granddaughter used to say "we try our hardest" to Preserve, Protect and Improve our Lake Mitchell. Join H.O.B.O. - dues are only \$25.00 a year and you get a new phone book sent to your home with your paid membership bi-annually. The H.O.B.O. Association is a very good thing for our lake. Call us with any questions.

Also, we want to welcome a very special little person to our Lake Mitchell Family - Jeremiah Greer Haswell, new born son of Jeremiah (Jeremy) & Lindsay Haswell. The proud grandparents are Jill and Don (Donny) Greer. He will be called "Greer". He has had a rough first few weeks but we hope that by the time this newsletter comes out he will be home and planning his first trip to Lake Mitchell. Greer, Gugga and GrandDan and the rest of your Murchison family here on the lake eagerly await you.

Sad, sad news from Area 3 - Mary Evans, a longtime resident on Cargile Creek, lost her long battle with cancer in August. Vernon and Mary were one of the first residents we met when we found our cabin on the lake.

We send our heartfelt and deep sympathy to Vernon and the rest of the family.

Area 9 Dale & Patty Vann rdvann@bellsouth.net

By the time you are reading this...summer will be over and the leaves should be turning to their autumn colors. As most of you probably know we lost a good neighbor, Missy Bailey. Missy was a permanent resident and will be missed by all.

A new Lake Mitchell phone book will be out soon. Check your listing to be sure it is correct, also add your email if desired. If corrections are needed please contact me at 205 979-5559.

In July someone threw out a full bag of garbage on County Road 264. The animals got into it and scattered it everywhere. Please be considerate and take your garbage home or call Macon Sanitation to schedule regular service. I wish this person would contact me and admit throwing the garbage out...bottom line...do not litter.

I hope everyone is having a good fall and enjoying this time of the year at Lake Mitchell. Be sure to let me know of any events you may know of in the Walnut Creek area.

Area 10 Roxanne & Doug Martin roxymartin@mindspring.com

Well, the summer is coming to a close and my favorite time of year is just around the corner, fall and football. As the number of people on the lake decreases, we need to watch our neighbor's houses! The Stephens on North Cove Branch had their bass boat stolen, 2009 Blazer with a 250 horsepower Yamaha motor. It was on the boat

trailer by their house; someone hooked it up and drove off with it. Please be on alert to help protect our homes.

The fall clean up is October 23rd, plan to attend to clean trash from the lake, enjoy good food and friends. Let's all help to keep Lake Mitchell beautiful!

The new H.O.B.O. Phone Directory is being updated now. Please let me know if you have any changes for the directory, such as new phone numbers and email addresses.

If Doug and I can be of assistance, please give us a call or email.

Area 14 Rose & Eric Green rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com

Hope everyone had a great summer! We noticed it was a very busy one, seemingly with lots of boats that don't usually come to this lake. I wonder if the gulf coast oil spill contributed to this. It has also been a busy summer for our area. I notice many of the nearby homes seem to have new owners. Please tell your neighbors about H.O.B.O. and encourage the newcomers to join us in our efforts. With this year's membership you will get the new edition of our lake phone directory. We need to know about any changes to your listing. Please notify me or your area rep of any errors or changes needed, either to your listing or that of your friends and neighbors. Use the form on the back of this newsletter to send in your 2011 dues.

Please be aware of anyone that you don't recognize around your area. We have had a lot of theft recently, both by land and by water, so be a nosy neighbor and keep a close watch. If you see anything suspicious please call the Coosa County Sheriff or the Marine police. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns questions, or new info about your neighbors at ROSEGREENLAKE14@YAHOO.COM, or 205-492-7151.

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson anitaklawson@gmail.com

What a great summer we had on Lake Mitchell in 2010. It was hot and that made the water feel so good. Memories were made and will be kept for years to come as the children become adults and tell their children of the good times.

The Walls certainly enjoyed their grandchildren. The Robbins pontoon boat got very little rest from pulling children all day long.

We have one more chance to keep Lake Mitchell clean for next summer's fun and games on Saturday, Oct 23. If you want to participate in the H.O.B.O./Alabama Power Lake Mitchell clean up, do not hesitate to call us and we can fill you in on the details. After the work is done, you will get to enjoy the best hot dog you have ever had.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	6.36
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.87
Alkalinity	20+	65.31
Hardness	10 - 120	53.75

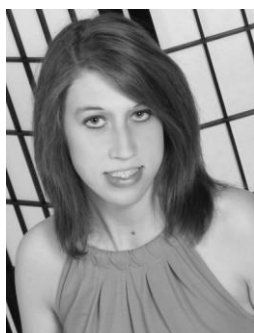
Quarterly Report Average Water Quality

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 Rebecca Beaty
rebecca.beaty@gmail.com

Thank you note received from our current scholarship recipient:

"Thank you so much for giving me the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Association 2010 Scholarship Award. I was very honored to have been chosen. It was quite a surprise and a huge honor. It will be put to good use. Thanks again. Katie Scott"



The Scholarship Committee has been busy contacting the schools in Chilton and Coosa Counties to inform students of the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Environmental Scholarship that will be awarded in the spring. To apply, a student must be a senior in good standing with at least a B average, and planning to attend an Alabama college in the fall of 2011. The student must submit an application form, participate at one or more Lake Mitchell clean-ups, write an essay, and are interviewed by members of the committee.

For the past two years, with the help and support through donations and Lake Mitchell calendar sales, we have given two students a scholarship in the amount of

\$2,500.00 each. Thanks to all of you who have helped support this worthy cause.

If you know of a student who is interested in applying, please contact Rebecca Beaty at rebecca.beaty@gmail.com, or call (205) 305-7597. I will get the application forms and information to you or to the student.

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 or calendar coordinator.

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

Please verify your listing

It is time for the next publication of your lake community phone book. Please re-check your listing and contact your area rep with any corrections or changes. Please peruse those of your friends and neighbors as well!

Theft is an issue! Becki McCallum

This report is from Area 8, Walnut Creek:

Sometime between 5:30 p.m. on Sunday 6/13/10, and 4:30 p.m. on Thursday 6/17, someone cut the padlock on the door of our boathouse and cut the steering cable and other wires connecting the 40-yr.-old 65 hp Mercury motor to our same-age bass boat. Before absconding, the thieves replaced our lock with their own heavy duty padlock, perhaps planning to return for more plunder. The Chilton Co. Sheriff's Department sent Officer Fanning (a very nice fellow) out to make a report on the robbery. We also reported the robbery to the water patrol folks and alerted all our neighbors. Other than the theft of a free-standing cast iron bath tub from property nearby, Steve and I are unaware of any other problems of this sort in our area.

My advice: Make sure your padlocks on your boathouses are too hefty to be cut off with bolt cutters. Let's all keep an eye out for strangers pulling up to our neighbors' piers or on our neighbors' property. And please let us know if anybody tries to sell you a 40-yr.-old 65 hp Mercury motor. We need one!

Patsy Wideman - Patsy_Wideman@alnd.uscourts.gov or 755-0940

We have had other recent reports of thefts as well, from both sides of our lake. One person reported that rip rap for a seawall was taken! Other reports of boathouse break-

ins are reported also. Please make an extra effort to be a "nosy neighbor" and keep an eye out for persons pulling up to a dock when the owners are not there. There are a few other deterrents you might consider: installing motion lights on your boathouse or a driveway alarm for your house. You can get a good one at RadioShack for about \$100.00 that will ring when someone (or something) enters your drive.

It is disturbing these events seem to be increasing, hopefully armed with this knowledge we can better "police" our neighborhoods.

Notice from Alabama Power Company

White, beaded foam due for removal on Lake Mitchell

With shimmering blue waters and peaceful, tree-lined shores, Lake Mitchell is heaven on Earth for people like Lee Bendall. Nature provides more evidence to support his view.

"Mitchell is a beautiful lake," said the longtime homeowner, who, with his wife, Jane, has lived lakeside for 51 years. "With the Renew Our Rivers cleanups done by our Lake Mitchell Homeowners and Boat Owners Association and Alabama Power during the past several years, you don't see a lot of debris in the water."

One exception, Bendall said, is the occasional sight of a white foam cup floating on the water, often which has drifted off a boat. Those cups are a reminder of a more troublesome time, when iceberg-like, beaded foam floated across some Alabama Power lakes in ugly lumps. Those days will soon be just a memory.

Jan. 1, 2010 was Alabama Power's deadline for the removal of white, beaded foam in any form on floating docks, piers or other structures on its 12 reservoirs. Rosalind Griffin, land supervisor for Alabama Power Land Resources - North Region, said there are still a few properties around Lake Mitchell that require attention.

"The majority of homeowners on our lakes have already made the change to remove beaded foam from their property, and we appreciate their help with this issue," Griffin said. "We want homeowners to know we're happy to work with them through the replacement process. There is no charge for a permit if the homeowner is removing or replacing white, beaded foam with approved materials."

Homeowners are responsible for the proper disposal of old, beaded foam. For more information about approved materials, permits or other questions, please contact Alabama Power's Rob Coyne, shoreline manager for Lake Mitchell, at 205-755-4220. You may also visit the company's Shoreline Management Office in Clanton.

"We all have a stake in keeping the white lumps from ruining the crystal waters at Mitchell," said Griffin. "Not

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

only are we keeping the waters pristine, this also is in the interest of protecting wildlife, fish and other aquatic life."

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.

In Memory of:

Larry Hollar

from:

Pat Crocker

"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 Judy Murchison, Area 3 – I am still looking for old wooden skis for a craft/building project. Please let me know if you have some. 755-0521 or judymurchison@gmail.com.

From Doug Martin, area 10:

For Sale Tanks for Water System

80 gal holding tank, 20 gal pressure tank, filter tank and a chlorinator – All for \$250.00

Please call Doug Martin at 205-755-0863

From Durwood Brown, area 7:

Call me for a free estimate for any and all home maintenance services. 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

Old Marine 9 engines are sold!

Sonny Bullard of Area 5 graciously offered to refurbish and sell the old engines after we replaced them with new ones. At our last board meeting on Oct 1 he presented our organization with proceeds totaling \$4500.00. Thank you so much Sonny!

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

We are still collecting items for our project. 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. Keep the cards & letters coming – even the “one liners”! You can send to ajwking@aol.com via email, or contact me, Rose Green, Roxanne Martin or Patty Vann. As always, thanks for your help and support.

H.O.B.O. still needs you

We are still in great need of a volunteer to manage our website. This would not take a great deal of time as it has already been set-up. If you have any experience with websites – please volunteer! Call Anita Lawson at 256 377-4584, or John Swindle at 205 601-6789.

LM H.O.B.O. is now on facebook!

You may like to visit our page:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lake-Mitchell-HOBO/116083648414342?ref=ts&v=wall>

H.O.B.O. SPOTLIGHT

Who is Jim McCormick? *By Dan Murchison*

Just about everybody on Lake Mitchell knows - he is the fireworks man! The 4th of July on Lake Mitchell has been highlighted every year because this is the date Jim and his helpers in Cargile Creek light up the sky with the fireworks show and patriotic music to honor our U.S.A. The oohs and aahs, hoots, applause, and boat horns all respond their personal thrill and appreciation of the fireworks fired off his sophisticated launch pad up into the night sky. While I can't see Jim during the event I can just

feel his sheepish grin when one of the big ones explodes in the sky and he mumbles - I bet that one woke up everybody!

I keep wondering how Jim seems to make each event bigger and better each year. I did hear a rumor that Delta Airlines had rerouted their flight patterns for this event! Wonder why! Boats gather in Cargile Creek from all over the lake and people who want to impress their friends invite them to come here for the fireworks show.

When recently asked why he continues to do this every year he said "because it's a tradition of Lake Mitchell and I like it." Jim and friends have been putting on the show for 27 years and over the years he has personally been responsible for most of it.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. has a place on the newsletter dues application where anyone who wants to can make a donation to our fund to help defray the cost of the show.

Donations are very much appreciated.

Jim and his family are a big part of why Lake Mitchell is such a great place. They love their country and our lake. The McCormick family has been on the lake in the same spot (Jim's parents Opal & J.I. built the cabin) for well over 50 years. The family has been involved with the happenings on Lake Mitchell going back to the "Ski Club" (that's another story), the boat parades, and Lake Mitchell Home Owners & Boat Owners Association. Jim was the first homeowner to join the H.O.B.O. association when it was founded in 1996. A retired banker with a great sense of humor, Jim has served on the board of H.O.B.O. as Treasurer for many years. Jim's wife Trisha, sons Gregg, Jim III & wife Jennifer, son Daniel, daughter Caroline are all right there with Jim in all he does. Many thanks to Jim and all the McCormick family from the people on Lake Mitchell.