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# The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT Johnye Woodrow

I know you all join with me in offering our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We were very fortunate in Alabama to have not suffered any more damage than we did. We are also very blessed to have families on our lake who have graciously offered their homes to displaced families from the three states. I am aware that the Jennings (Area 6), the Owens (Area 7), and the Jackins (Area 4) have all donated use of their properties. Other families have helped in various ways; supplies, monetary donations, etc. I am happy to live in such a caring community.

Our lake-wide clean up is scheduled for November 5, 2005 - AFTER the lake draw-down in October. This will give each of us an opportunity to clean around our piers, boathouses, and walls. Call Doug Martin, Clean-up Committee Chairman, if you need plastic bags for your river trash. Once in bags, you can place the RIVER TRASH only (NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE, PLEASE) on your pier. If you will notify Doug or your Area Rep of your location on the lake, we will pick up the bags from the piers on clean-up day.

Alabama Power Company always provides a barge for at least one of our lake-wide clean-ups each year, and we depend on resident volunteers to bring their boats as well. However, as time goes on we are seeing a need to own a dependable pontoon boat to use along with the barge and our volunteer's vessels.

*We are actively seeking a donation of a used, older model pontoon boat. We prefer a metal deck, if possible, as the boat will be used principally for our lake clean-ups. The engine needs to be running or in serviceable condition. We do not care about seats (other than for the operator). We are a 501-C3 organization and would be glad to give a receipt for this donation.*



In lieu of a donation, we would consider a purchase at a reasonable price. If you have or know of such a boat, whether for donation or for sale, please call me at 205-663-4196 (M-F) and let me know the details. Or you may submit a written offer to Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., P. O. Box 1324, Clanton, Alabama 35046.

We appreciate any thoughts anyone may have regarding this. Feel free to call me anytime. Once we have an operable boat, we will still need all volunteers, so please don't misunderstand this request.

A recent article in The Clanton Advertiser by Scott Mims advises of plans to improve and enhance Higgins Ferry Park. The appearance of the park will be improved, additional parking for vehicles and trailers will be added, and additional campsites will be added. The work should begin by the fall of 2006. Chilton County has agreed to patrol the park and keep it free of litter.

H.O.B.O. has Welcome Bags for new residents on our Lake. The Welcome

Bags include information about Lake activities, H.O.B.O., and interesting and informative literature on a wide-range of subjects related to lake homeownership. If you are new to our lake family and have not received yours, please contact your Area Representative.

Congratulations are in order to Sam and Nancy Piccolo, Area 13B. Their area's membership in H.O.B.O. is 96%. You can identify your Area Representative by a green H.O.B.O. flag displayed on their property. If you have not joined our Association, go by and talk with them. They will be glad to discuss the benefits of our organization with you.

Geraldine Nelson and Herbert Shaw have retired from organizing the July 4<sup>th</sup> Pontoon Boat Parade. They have been involved with the parade since 1985. Originally, thirteen boaters called themselves the "Pontoon Club". They gathered for picnics on the lake by tying their boats together; and they organized the first pontoon boat parade for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Herbert and Geraldine took over the

permitting and leading the parade in 1987 and have faithfully handled it every year since. Geraldine says that we have had as many as 43 boats participate. I know everyone on the lake joins me in saying *THANK YOU* to these two people for all of the memories they have provided us. We wish you the very best and appreciate that you cared enough to be sure this tradition continues. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July on Lake Mitchell was made perfect by their efforts; as well as Sibley Reynolds, Bo Warren (speedboat parade), and the McCormicks (fireworks).

I am currently working with Chilton County EMA regarding the National Flood Insurance Program being made available to lake residents. We are in the process of compiling a list of questions that would enable this process to move forward. You will receive these questions via a separate mail-out shortly and I urge you to respond as quickly as possible. This is applicable only to the Chilton County lake residents at this time.

Thanks to all of you who work so hard to make our lake a better place to live, work, and play. We all enjoy the benefits of your labors.

*Get involved with H.O.B.O. You will be glad you did!*

## **AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

### **Area 3** Dan and Judy Murchison

We would like to welcome some new folks to our area:  
 Danny and Shirley Bates  
 Pete and Julie Bernier  
 Tommy and Kim Duncan  
 Ken and Kathy Mahun Kerttula  
 Shan and Tricia Paden (from area 6)

Glad to have you on Lake Mitchell!

### **Area 5** Bob Jones

Summer has come and gone and our area has seen a lot of rebuilding as well as new construction. It's great to see everyone's efforts to recover from the storms of last year. This past June 5th we lost one of our full time residents. Paulette Broome passed away at her home here on the lake. Her husband David still lives here year round. They were originally from Birmingham before moving here full-time two years ago due to her health.

On a more light-hearted note, we have a new set of twins (girls) born this month to George and Kimberly Hawkins. It's exhausting just to think about that! Congratulations to both of you. Hope to see them soon with the new family. Also Fred and Carol Crawford have moved from area 4 to area 5 - glad to have them in our area.

One last thing - I know many of you lost a lot during the past storms. One thing you might not have thought about if you lost a boathouse is the Marine 9 identification signs.

If you will give me a call, I'll arrange to have yours replaced. You can call me at 755-3988 or email me at [Rumscum@direcway.com](mailto:Rumscum@direcway.com). Also, if you have an email address and we don't have it in our database, please send it to me. It is a great way to communicate and stay abreast of happenings on the lake.

Hope to see ya soon, Bob.

*Editor's note: If you use emails for H.O.B.O. communications, please remember to note it is H.O.B.O. related in the subject line. Many of us do not open unrecognizable messages due to the abundance of spam.*

*Also, please notify your area representative if your email address has changed since the phone book was published. They will in turn notify Judy Murchison and Jim Woodrow, who are responsible for keeping the database up-to-date. You may also notify them directly at [gugga4@bellsouth.net](mailto:gugga4@bellsouth.net) and [ajwking@aol.com](mailto:ajwking@aol.com). We appreciate everyone's assistance in keeping records current and accurate.*

### **Area 9** Dale and Patty Vann

I want to give everyone in Area 9 a report on Mike Ford's progress in getting county water to our area. It seems that Mike has made a lot of progress in a very short time. The county plans to build a water tower on our side of the lake. Connections could be made to Area 9 from this tank. It appears that the tank could be finished by summer 2006.

Each of you will be getting a letter from Mike informing you of the situation and his progress. Obviously we need a commitment from as many of the Area 9 residents as possible. Hopefully this will help keep the cost within your budget.

*Thank you Mike for your efforts on this project.*

Also, I contacted the county road engineers and asked that the potholes in County Road 264 be repaired. I was told they would take care of the situation.

On a sad note, Tom Dozier – husband of Beth Dozier, passed away recently. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Beth.

### **Area 14** Betsy Ward

As many residents have noticed, there is much new construction in our area. Everyday we are pleased to see our landscape improved. We are thankful that we came through Hurricane Katrina unharmed (we didn't even lose power), but saddened for all those on the coast that lost so much.

Thanks to those in our area that joined H.O.B.O. for the first time, and also to long-time members for rejoining. What a blessing to be a part of the Lake Mitchell Community. Happy Fall to All.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Water Quality Report** Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O <sub>2</sub>	5-9	7.62
pH	6.5 - 8.2	8.0
Alkalinity	20+	53.0
Hardness	10 - 120	48.4

## 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.

**Environmental Report** Dan Murchison, Chairman

I am beginning to see a little surface action from the fishing side. Shad are getting larger and game fish are starting to take more interest in pushing them to the surface for a late evening feast.

Construction erosion continues to damage our lake by creating excessive mineral deposits, smothering small crustaceans, destroying fish eggs, and killing other microorganisms. As H.O.B.O.'s interested in the preservation of Lake Mitchell, we owe it to ourselves to become educated about the detrimental effects of excessive erosion to our lake. For those who intend to disturb the river or creek banks to build – it is vital to plan how the dirt will be kept out of the water **before starting construction**. If your contractor can't present you with an erosion prevention plan please find someone who can, or make a plan yourself for him to follow. I have access to vast amounts of erosion prevention information that I will be glad to share with you or your contractor.

*Our primary objective as an organization is to preserve, protect and improve our lake environment for future generations. Let's all be aware of environmental concerns.*

**BULLETIN BOARD****Plan to Participate in Fall Lake Clean-up**

November 5, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Your help is always needed! The lake draw-down will be a few weeks prior to this clean-up. Plan to get bags from your area rep to use in policing your shoreline prior to the clean-up (these are white bags with sponsor logos). If you can at least monitor the area where you live it would be a good deed. Let your area rep know you will have bags on your dock (RIVER DEBRIS ONLY) so they can be

collected on clean-up day. All hands would be welcome in covering other areas of the lake. If you have a boat and would be willing to take 3-4 people with you to cover other areas, please be at the launch before 8:00 a.m. Those that do not have boats will rendezvous there to assist. Wear warm clothes and water boots, and bring some work gloves! H.O.B.O. has some "Pic Sticks" to sign out, but if you have a hook or net it would be helpful. Plan to drop off collected debris at the launch at noon and stay for a hot dog lunch following.

*This is always a fun day, and a great way to get to know fellow lake residents and friends of the lake while doing something positive and helpful for our environment. It is such a great service to keep our lake clean for everyone's greater enjoyment. The hot dogs are a welcome "finishing touch". Come join the fun and fill those bags with trash!*

**Speaking of trash:** Frank Atkinson, Park Ranger

We are having a problem with persons discarding household garbage in the Higgins Ferry Park trash containers. These trash containers are **not for public use**. These are private trash containers for campers of Higgins Ferry Park ONLY. There are three trash containers for boaters to use located near the public boat ramp (also not for household garbage). Offenders can be fined and or assigned to do community service work if caught dumping household garbage in these containers.

It has come to our attention that several lake residents have dumped household garbage in these private containers. This cannot continue as we only have enough space in our dumpsters for the park garbage. We appreciate all resident's cooperation in this matter.

*FYI. There are independent trash contractor services available in our lake areas. Look in your phone book, or call the county health department to locate vendors in your area. Your neighbor or area rep may already know a reliable vendor to recommend.*

**Fireworks 2005** Jim McCormick, Committee Chairman

Many thanks to all of our H.O.B.O. friends that contributed to this year's fireworks show. I have heard from so many that say they plan friend, family, social and church events around the show each year. The display is made possible by those who send fireworks contributions in through H.O.B.O.

There is also a lot of labor involved. We have a group that has been helping for many years now and are the nucleus of the show. They are faithful and dependable assistants; they show up, know what has to be done, and make it happen. I spend a lot of my time getting out of their way! The veterans include Graham Esdale, Sibley Reynolds, Mike McCormick, Rick Griffith and family, as well as my sons Jim and Gregg and their tribe of friends. This is not a

male-only work force; there are wives and girlfriends equally involved.

For those who are into details and like to look behind the scenes:

- The State and Federal licensing process begins in March.
- The firework shells are selected and ordered in May.
- The music is traditional patriotic with a few changes year to year. The beginning song is non-traditional, it serves to get the sound levels right and the crew fired up. Usually there is an underlying theme. Don't be surprised if next year we start with "When the Saints Come Marching In"!
- This year we put up 244 shells, shot in 22 minutes 19 seconds, synchronized to music over a large sound system and simulcast on FM 96.9.
- We used 170 ft. of aluminum foil, 315 ft. of masking tape, 50 ft. of duct tape, 300ft. of rope and 1.4 miles of 18 gauge wire. We then position 22 loaded mortar racks weighting 1100 lbs. on shore and on two borrowed barges. But then none of this would take place if it all were not all ignited but by one small 6 volt battery.

My thanks to all for your support through the years.

#### **Alert: "Invasive Plants"** Jim Woodrow

As the summer comes to an end and the growing season begins to diminish, there is cause for concern over invasive plants in Lake Mitchell. Several homeowners have identified areas where there is an abundance of these plants in swimming areas and around boat houses and piers.

A recent issue of the Alabama Power *Shorelines* Newsletter identified lyngbya, algae which like shallows and areas with slow moving currents, as being present on both Lay and Jordan Lakes. These same algae have been reported on our lake as well by a concerned Lake Mitchell homeowner.

Other invasive plants such as water hyacinth and water lettuce are floating plants, and are harmful to the environment in large concentrations. Homeowners and boaters need to be alert for these plants. Concentrations of water hyacinth and water lettuce have been found on our lake already and are an on-going concern.

Location of water hyacinth, water lettuce, and lyngbya may be reported to Alabama Power Company by calling 1-800-Lakes11 or by contacting your Area Representative, an Officer, or a Director of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

We all need to be aware of these plants and watchful for them so they may be eliminated whenever possible.

#### **There are good guys and bad guys** Dan Murchison

We have been informed that some "bad guys" have taken two Kawasaki Jet Skis from behind Johnye and Jim Woodrow's cabin in Area 2. They were on a trailer with covers and the trailer was locked. Both were white with blue seats. If you have heard anything or seen anything regarding these jet skis please contact the sheriff or the Woodrow's. Be a nosy neighbor and watch for unusual activity at your neighbor's home, or on the road going in and out. Note unusual cars or trucks in the area and report it to your neighbors or Area Representative. You never know when it may be very important.

We also have "good guys" on the lake. A good H.O.B.O. member, Ross Robinson in Area 3, demonstrated the H.O.B.O. spirit when he noticed a parked pontoon boat sinking and helped find the owner so it could be salvaged. The owner was very appreciative.

Keith Evans, son of Vernon and Mary Evans in Area 3, recently found a loose floating pontoon boat. He and Vernon took the time and the effort to pull it to their pier. After much effort the owner was identified and hopefully will come claim his boat.

Thank you, Ross, Keith and Vernon for being such good neighbors.

#### **A Note about Visibility**

Many lake residents already have name signs posted on their docks, driveways and roads to lead visitors to their homes. There are local suppliers that can provide you with high quality name signage. If you are interested in ordering name signage, please feel free to call me and I can refer you to some of them; Becki McCallum, 755-5334. It is a help not only for visitors, but for emergency response personnel to be able to identify your property quickly and accurately.

The numbered boathouse signs are extremely important for Marine 9 – if you don't have yours, please order it right away! The boathouse signs may be ordered through H.O.B.O. (see the appropriate box on the membership application).

Reflective house number signs for your mailbox may be ordered through your local fire department. In Chilton County for the Verbena area call Jeff Patterson at 755-2071, for East Chilton coverage area call Terry Bates at 755-6169, for Gap of the Mountain call Sammy Mathis at 755-6142. The Richville area does not presently have these signs available.

#### **Planning repairs and improvements?**

Are you considering making changes or upgrades to your lakefront property? All changes within Alabama Power Company property easement (5' elevation above "full pool", or 317' above sea level) must be approved by Alabama Power Company.

Make sure you check with Alabama Power Representative

Bo Warren , 755-8959.

### **Interested in volunteering?**

Would you like to help improve Lake Mitchell? Would you like to meet more of your neighbors, make new friends, get involved in activities around Lake Mitchell? Have you recently retired, or have extra time in your schedule? If the answer is yes, we urge you to volunteer and get involved in your Lake Mitchell Home Owner & Boat Owners (H.O.B.O.) Association. If you would like to assist your area representative, call them and offer to help. If one of the H.O.B.O. Committees might interest you, call the chairperson of the committee and volunteer. Only through a cooperative effort can we Preserve, Protect and Improve Lake Mitchell.

### **Memorial Gifts**

Two gifts have recently been received for the Lake Mitchell Memorial Fund. A gift was made in memory of Larry Speed by Laura Curtis, and in memory of Georgie Hanby by George and Donna Leigh Jackins. This is a special way to remember a loved one and all gifts are appreciated. These funds are set aside for special projects/purchases as approved by the Board of Directors.

### **Still looking for those great stories!**

We published in our last newsletter a notice that we would love to hear stories from long-time residents on our lake, and we are still longing to hear from you. We need your help though, please write down your information along with any interesting story or tidbit of history you are willing to share and email it to Judy Murchison at [gugga4@bellsouth.net](mailto:gugga4@bellsouth.net), or Becki McCallum at [beckmau@earthlink.net](mailto:beckmau@earthlink.net). We could sure use your help in getting these stories written and we are looking forward to hearing from you!

### **Accessibility during lake draw-down**

Please remember to lower your boats and tie up elsewhere if you desire lake access during the draw-down period from October 12<sup>th</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Notice to Non-Member Residents**

This newsletter is sent to all lake residents regardless of membership status. We want all residents to be aware of events and matters of interest or importance. We hope that you will take the opportunity to join us in our efforts to improve our lake community and you can do that in a number of ways. First, by paying annual membership dues. These funds are designated for uses to benefit all lake residents. We are constantly looking for ways to benefit our lake community and your dues are instrumental in helping fund many of our accomplishments. Secondly, by taking an active part in activities benefiting the lake. Most notable of these is our semi-annual lake clean-ups, and acquisition of the Marine9 fire boat.

Annual membership dues of only \$25.00 per resident family cover a calendar year. In appreciation of your membership, you will receive one complimentary copy of our lake resident phone book bi-annually.

Share a little time with your lake neighbors to help make Lake Mitchell an even better place to live in the future. Joining does not require that you do anything beyond paying dues, though we would love to have you participate in any and all activities that interest you. We have a lot of fun doing what we do, and we want to share the joy! A membership application is included on the last page of this newsletter, please send it in today!