

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Welcome New HOBO President Rebecca Beaty!

From HOBO President Rebecca Beaty:

Another year is here and I am looking forward to serving as the President of Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association. I have been involved with HOBO since 2001 when my husband, Wayne and I took part in our first lake clean up. Even though we were not able to get all of the trash out of the lake, I realized as I saw boats bring in bag after bag to be loaded onto the dump truck, that we as a group, made a difference that day.

I wanted to be part of an organization that worked together to "Preserve, Protect and Improve" the quality of the water and the lives of those who live in and around the lake.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers in HOBO. Your Area Reps are the front line to pass on information and listen to any of your concerns. We have five Water Monitors who test the water monthly and send their reports to Alabama Water Watch who track the data over time to see if there are any changes in the health of the lake.

If you haven't checked out our website lately, then do so. Marie Green is our Web Master. Our website contains a wealth of information, as well as giving everyone the ability to securely pay dues, make donations, and order merchandise online. The web address is <https://www.lakemitchellhobo.org>. If you have not paid your membership for 2019, you can do it in a matter of minutes.

I could go on and on naming people who do their part to be good stewards of the lake and the lands that border it. These volunteers have fun and work hard to improve the quality of life on the lake, and create a community on Lake Mitchell. There are many ways you can get involved. Volunteer to help with the HOBO Picnic on June 1st, take part in the Poker Run on June 15th, or you can join us for Renew Our Rivers Lake Clean Up on March 23rd and



October 26th. Perhaps you will also realize the difference one person can make, and just maybe you will get hooked as I did.

-Rebecca Beaty

You can reach Rebecca at rebecca.beaty@gmail.com.

Helicopter Crashes into Lake Mitchell

On November 16th of 2018 a law enforcement helicopter clipped a power line near Cargile Creek, causing the helicopter to crash and sink approximately 70 feet in Lake Mitchell. The pilot, a retired police officer, and a passenger were killed. In December, the helicopter was floated to the surface and towed to Blue Creek Marina where it was removed from the lake.

Upcoming HOBO Events

March 23rd: Renew Our Rivers Lake Clean Up

June 1st: HOBO Picnic

June 15th: Poker Run

July 4th: Fireworks

October 26th: Renew Our Rivers Lake Clean Up

November 15th: Annual Meeting

You Can Join HOBO or Renew Your Membership Online!

For those of you who don't like writing checks, **you can now pay your HOBO dues online** through **our website – lakemitchellhobo.org**. It's easy. It's always available. You don't even need a stamp.

Dues are \$25 per year. You will receive an email confirmation of your payment when you pay online. Of course, **you can still complete the form on this newsletter and mail in a check.**

Membership in the Lake Mitchell HOBO, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is tax-deductible. Your dues support lake cleanups, water quality testing, newsletters, homeowner directories, picnics, area events and so much more! **It's the best bargain around.**

AREA UPDATES

Area 1A - The Ridge

Aquatic Plant Management – Alabama Power has a wonderful website where we can learn more about managing our aquatic plants. You can read it all at apcshorelines.com.

If you have weeds around your dock or seawall and want to get rid of them, call 1-800-LAKES-11 to speak with one of Alabama Power's biologists. Each situation is evaluated on a case by case basis and assistance is not guaranteed. If the issue meets one of Alabama Power's management criteria and treatment is warranted, the vegetation may be treated with EPA registered herbicides which are applied by licensed applicators.

There is a link on the Lake Mitchell HOBO's website under General Info/Invasive Plants. Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with which ones are native and which ones are "Invasive". There is a pamphlet you can download to be able to recognize these. This will help you recognize the species of invasive plants found on our lake. If you find any of these, please report to Alabama Power and they will come out and help get rid of them. There is a convenient link on our website where you can click to report invasive vegetation

Chan & Patsy Aldridge

Area 9 - Walnut Creek Peninsula

A new year has come and new folks have arrived in our area. Please take a moment and welcome them to our lake. We now have a new lake Board member, Ken McElroy, from our area. Ken has been a long time resident of Area 9. We want to welcome him and his wife Donna to our HOBO Board of Directors. Please reserve Saturday May 25th, Memorial Day weekend, on your calendars for our meet and greet your neighbor get together. This meeting will held at our house. More information coming as the date gets closer.

Joel and Betty Elam

Area 12 - Hatchet/Preserve

We hope everyone had a safe and blessed Holiday Season with Christmas and the New Year!!

We welcome Patrick and Nancy Higginbotham to the Lake. The Higginbothams bought the new home in Eagle Point this past May. They live in Birmingham and come almost every weekend to enjoy their beautiful new lake home. Stop by and say hi and welcome them to our beautiful lake!!

We know everyone is very much looking forward for this cold and rainy winter to be over and to Welcome Spring!!! Ready to enjoy the lake!!

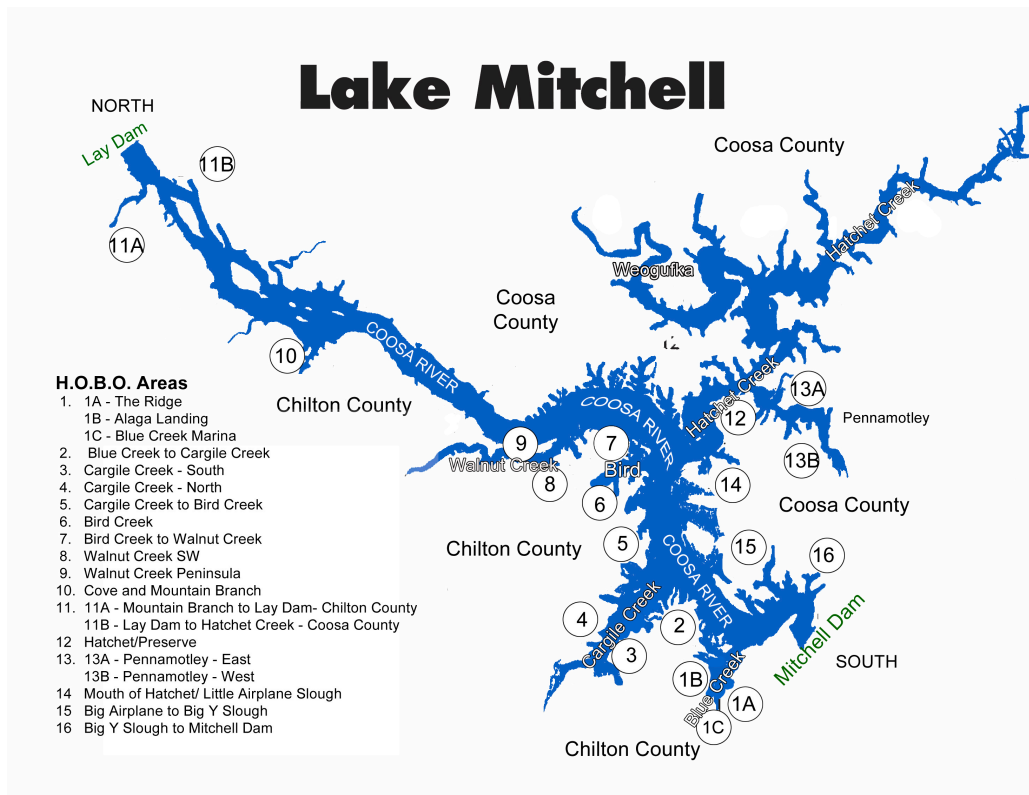
Dave & Dianna Cassens

Area 13A - Pennamotley East

I hope everyone on the lake had as good a year as Wathan and I did. Wish we had something really interesting to report but all I can say is fortunately we continue into a new year with a healthy and loving family, still enjoying a daily morning walk with our dog, Tassie; have the best lake neighbors anyone could ask for; and worship at a church which is very close to our hearts. I hope by the time this is printed in our newsletter the water will have become a lot clearer; I'm tired of the muddy water. A few lots continue to be for sale on the east side of Pennamotley. There are several houses under construction and lots being cleared on the west side of Pennamotley. If you're like me I always hoped the lot we cleared would be the last to be cleared on the lake.

We wanted to ask any of you historians, engineers, etc. what this is in the picture at right. This structure is on the south side of Mimosa Point Road about 200 yards or so from the shoreline of Keith and Teresa Chambers' lot which used to be the old boat landing on the east side of Pennamotley. To give you a perspective Teresa is standing next to whatever this may be. The top surface is a round dome filled in and topped off with cement. I can't tell if there was an accompanying structure. Anyway, if you feel you might know let me know (jimhand9256@gmail.com) and I'll include it in our next newsletter.

Jim and Wathan Hand



Lake Mitchell History Quiz

By Chip Gates, HOBO Historian

Test your knowledge of Lake Mitchell and its surroundings. Answers to be found at the end.

1. James Mitchell, the second president of Alabama Power and for whom the dam and lake are named, was born
 - a. in Birmingham
 - b. in Montgomery
 - c. in New York City
 - d. in Canada
 - e. on a farm in Shelby County

2. Mitchell, born not long after the end of the Civil War,
 - a. worked for an investment banking house in London
 - b. was responsible for the first electric railway system in Rio de Janeiro
 - c. helped build hydroelectric and steam plants throughout Brazil
 - d. all of the above
 - e. none of the above

3. The initial work for Mitchell Dam started in 1920 and included surveying, the clearing of timber, and the construction of three camps above the dam site. The pay for workers at the time started out at
 - a. 15 cents/hour
 - b. 25 cents/hour
 - c. \$1.00 per day
 - d. \$3.75 per day for an unmarried man

4. Prior to and during construction vast amounts of timber was cut and processed to create an unobstructed lake bed. This timber was then
 - a. shipped to Montgomery and Ft. Payne for building materials and furniture making
 - b. used to create forms for the dam's concrete to be poured into
 - c. employed in the building of 3 coffer dams in the river bed
 - d. used to build the construction camps
 - e. all of the above
 - f. b, c & d

5. One of the *greatest* threats to the dam's construction workers was
 - a. venomous snakes
 - b. malaria
 - c. flash floods
 - d. falls
 - e. drunken brawls after hours

6. Ferries that used to cross the river and/or lake included
 - a. Mims
 - b. Smith's
 - c. Higgins
 - d. all of the above
 - e. a & c only
7. Which was not a fishing camp on the Lake?
 - a. Inman's
 - b. Wyatt's
 - c. Big Jim's
 - d. Little Joe's
 - e. Dixie's
8. The boy scout camp located just south of Bird Creek was called
 - a. Camp Winnataska
 - b. Camp Arrowhead
 - c. Camp Mitchell
 - d. Camp Heron's Nest
 - e. Camp Eagle Feather
9. Hatchet Creek was originally called
 - a. Little Coosa
 - b. Big Sandy
 - c. Ponchishatchee
 - d. Weoka
 - e. Sufkahatchee
10. In the early 20th century, which was not a town/community in Coosa County?
 - a. Dollar
 - b. Gold Branch
 - c. Fixico
 - d. Weogufka
 - e. All were towns or communities in Coosa County

Sources include *Putting "Loafing Streams" to Work* by Harvey H. Jackson III; *Images of America / Alabama Power Company* by James L. Noles, Jr.; *Lake Mitchell* by Alan T. Rogers, Esq., July 1997; various maps from <http://alabamamaps.ua.edu>, and Wikipedia.

Answers: 1.d, 2.d., 3.b., 4.f, 5.b, 6.d, 7.c, 8.b, 9.c, 10.e

Send in Calendar Photos!

We have several great photos already for the 2020 Lake Mitchell calendar, but now it's time to get winter photos. Please take some and send them in!

Here are just a few checklist items for each photo:

- the photo orientation needs to be Horizontal, not Vertical, or able to be cropped horizontally. Hold that phone sideways!
- they need to be emailed in Actual Size for highest quality (after you choose the picture to attach, the dropdown menu for Image Size on the right of your message will allow you to choose Actual Size), in **jpg format**.
- please be sure to add a photo credit so we can print your name below the picture.
- send to lakemitchellphotos@gmail.com

PS if you have some great older photos that have not appeared in a past calendar, send them as well.

Thank you, and I'm looking forward to seeing the beauty, activity, and joy of the moment in your pictures!

Tad Henry, Calendar Coordinator



Newsletter Editor Wanted!

As our current newsletter editor is moving this summer, we're looking for the next editor of the Lake Mitchell HOBO Newsletter! The Editor compiles submissions from the President, Area Representatives, and Historian quarterly. This can be done in Microsoft Word or Apple Pages. Each issue takes about 4 hours to compile, edit, and submit for approval and printing. Please email us at lakemitchellnewsletter@gmail.com if you're interested.

P.O. Box 1324

Clanton, Alabama 35046

Change Service Requested

PAID Permit 12

Birmingham, AL

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Membership Application

Annual Dues Required \$25	Fireworks Donation \$	Fireboat Donation \$	Scholarship Donation \$	In Memory/Honor Name _____
Optional Purchase Boathouse Sign \$20____		Optional Purchase HOBO Photo Calendar \$15____		Optional Purchase Additional Phonebook \$10____
Name: _____				Check One: Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/>
Home Mailing Address: _____				
Lake 911 Address: _____				Lake Area: _____
Email: _____				
Home Phone: _____		Lake Phone: _____		Cell Phone _____

Detach and mail completed form along with your check to: Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., PO Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046