



Volume 31, Issue 1, Winter 2026

**PRESIDENT'S CORNER:** by Chan Aldridge



We had another wonderful Annual Meeting in November with a great turnout. We even had the presidents from Lake Jordan HOBBO (Andy Miscisin) and Lay Lake HOBBO (Karen Jensen). We had two special guest speakers – Tom Stackhouse (Central Access/Central Alabama Electric Cooperative) and Justin Overton (Coosa Riverkeeper). They shared important information to our residents.



(THREE HOBBO PRESIDENTS - Lake Mitchell HOBBO President Chan Aldridge in the middle is flanked by Lake Jordan President Andy Miscisin and Lay Lake President Karen Jensen.)

For those of you who couldn't make it, I would like to share some accomplishments from HOBO over the last year. We are a 501(c)3, all volunteer, non-profit organization. Our mission is to Preserve, Protect, and Improve Lake Mitchell.

I would like to thank everyone who has paid dues or given extra monies to help our association be the best it can be. In addition to monetary donations, many, many people give of their time and talents to make our lake great. Here are just a few:

- (1) HOBO and Alabama Power have a joint effort to clean up the lake semi-annually. This involves many volunteers picking up trash along the shorelines to make our lake more beautiful. Afterwards, Johnye and Jim Woodrow and their team of volunteers host a hot dog lunch for everyone.



(picnic after the clean-up – enjoyed by all)



(Unloading from another great day of cleaning up)



(Team work makes the dream work)

(2) Alabama Power and HOBO volunteers get together in the Spring to put out fish attractors made out of old Christmas trees. This gives the small fish a place to hide while growing up.



(Tony Boykin, Chan Aldridge, Durwood Brown, and Bob Thornton working together to create fish habitat)




(Assembling fish habitats to be loaded on barge.)



Alabama Power's barge that was used to transport fish habitats to spots on the lake. Kenny Hall (right) helped the Alabama Power employees on this barge.)

Lake Stocked with Crappie  
By Chan Aldridge



On October 4, David Spivey and I got to witness the release of 20,000 crappie fingerlings into Lake Mitchell at Higgins Ferry. The state hatchery raised crappie for one year in an acre pond in Eastaboga, Alabama to be released in Mitchell Lake. This hatchery has 22 ponds for raising different kinds of native fish to be stocked in our Alabama public lakes.

The first thing they did at Higgins Ferry was to pump water from our lake into their big truck fish holding tank to acclimate the fish to the lake water temperature. There was a 10-degree difference in the temperature. They opened a shutter door and the water and fish slowly poured into the lake. They all swam off into their new aquatic wild life home. They released all the one-year-old crappie they raised in the one-acre hatchery pond. That was a lot of baby crappie. Thank you to our Alabama Wildlife Fish and Game organization. Thank you Mike Holley for all you do, especially for designating these needed fish for our lake.

Our lake HOBBO organization is probably the best thing that has ever happened toward taking care of God's beautiful lake. Dan Murchison was our first HOBBO President and continues to be active in this organization. Alabama Power is our best support partner. Thank you to Alabama Power for all your help.

- (3) At the end of May each year, we all get together and have a picnic at Higgins Ferry. Once again, Johnye and Jim Woodrow and their team of volunteers get everything set up and provide barbeque for everyone. All the lake residents bring a covered dish and much great fellowship is had.



(What a beautiful spread of food shared by our lake neighbors – everyone has a great time!)



(Vickie Griffith, Dan Murchison, Leslie and Steve Miles)



- (4) Throughout the year, Jim Woodrow keeps our database updated with the names of people who move onto or off of the lake so that everything is ready when he and Johnye have our updated telephone directory printed every other year. This is a wonderful gift to our HOBO members that most lakes don't have.



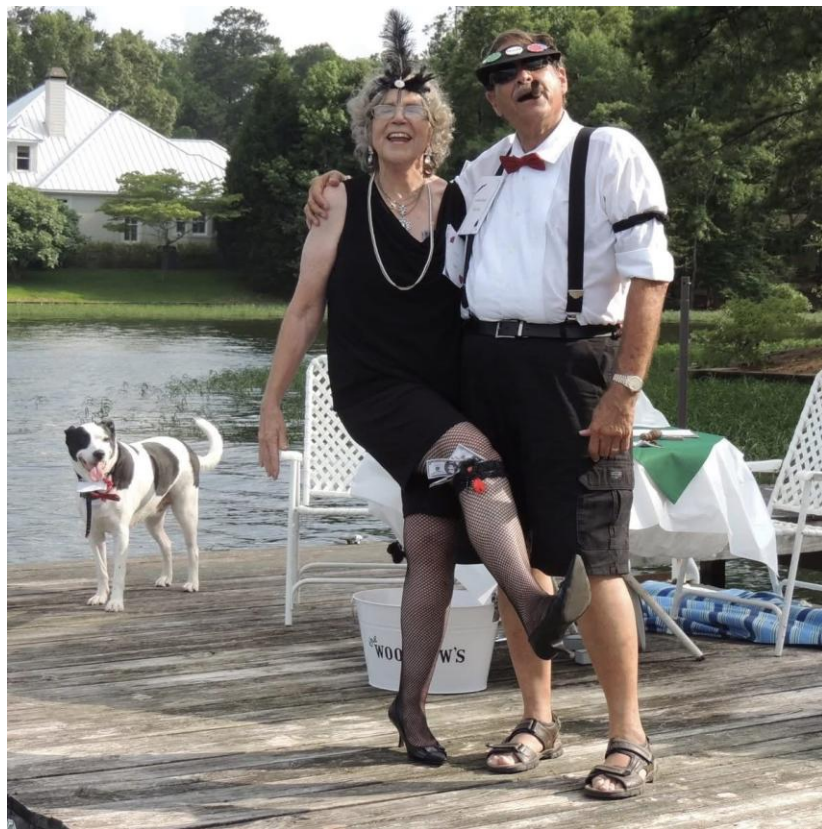
- (5) The day before Father's Day each year, HOBO hosts a Poker Run to raise money for scholarships and teacher grants in Chilton and Coosa counties. The number of people who work tirelessly behind the scenes and participate in the Poker Run itself is into the hundreds!



(Lots of workers are needed to make the Poker Run a success.)



(Tammy Upchurch and Nancy Piccolo – two of the hardest workers of the Poker Run)



(The dealers have as much fun as the participants! Johnye and Jim Woodrow at the first Poker Run.)



(SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS)

- (6) Four times a year, our editor Laura Thornton gathers articles from our leaders to make a newsletter to let all the lake residents know what's going on around our beautiful lake. We would like to thank Alabama Power for mailing out the newsletters for so many years. Effective January 1, 2026, the newsletters will continue to be written and will be posted on the Lake Mitchell HOBO website which Marie Greene keeps updated for us, but will no longer be mailed out.
- (7) In July, Jimmy McCormick and his team work with our vendor and provide a world class fireworks show to anyone who wants to come out and enjoy it. The number of boats on the lake that night is amazing! In 2026, we will have the biggest fireworks show yet to celebrate our country's 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. Any extra donations to this cause would be greatly appreciated.



- (8) We have 41 Area Representatives who do their best to welcome new residents and keep up with current residents in their area and keep them all informed of news on our lake. Some of these host get-togethers and others keep in contact either in person or via e-mail.
- (9) We have six people who regularly monitor the water to make sure our lake stays healthy. We will periodically include the results in the newsletter.
- (10) Ken McElroy, Durwood Brown, and I installed 20 new slough and island identification signs, which you've probably noticed around the lake, and more are still to come. Soon, anyone who is not familiar with our lake will still be able to find their way around. Thank you, Ken, for your great job spearheading this project.



Thank you to these, and all the people who make our lake the beautiful place we all enjoy. Teamwork makes the Dream Work!

**AREA REP NEWS:****Area 6****Durwood and Karen Brown**

From Bird Creek,

Happy New Year Lake folks, we write this on Thanksgiving Saturday realizing you won't be reading it until 2026. Karen and I hosted exactly 50 family and friends (ages 1 to 91) all throughout our home, deck and porch. Guests included cousins from N.C., Idaho and California. The rest of us were Alabamians. Even the new Mayor and First Lady (my 1st cuz) of Alex City joined us. We also welcomed neighbors the Morgans; and Douglas and Jenna's family from Prattville helped to make it a great day. We honored the memories of those we've lost, including Karen's only uncle and another first cousin of mine (both passing in October).

The weather was so spectacular that many dined and chatted either by the porch fireplace or the sunny deck. We even had two boat rides.

Now – it's cold! I'm reminded of a cold winter night here in 1959 when we arrived at "dark 30". Daddy drove us from Selma in our 1955 Studebaker Commander, after closing his drugstore about 5:00. By the way- the last 5 miles of CR. 28 from Ma Bates Store was a dark lonely dirt road then Upon arrival here- Daddy quickly built a roaring fire to fight the Frigid air just outside our walls. My brother, sister and me (9, 6, and 7 respectively) promptly parked our shivering Fannies on the hearth as the fire crackled and blazed. However, our parents had a job that we All had to do. The project was installing VCT flooring on our little cabin's den floor that evening. Trouble was however, that the floor and those 250 cold 12 x 12 vinyl tiles were stiff and brittle. They had to warm up in order to be placed. The kids' job was simply to hold each tile as close to the fire as we dared. Subsequently that would render the warmed tiles with enough flexibility and adhesion for successful placement by mama and daddy. Methodically, we 5 got it done late that night after a few hours of teamwork. The Reward for us before going to bed was Hot Chocolate & Graham crackers. Funny how we can remember details from 65 years ago so well. Yet now it's... "Karen, Where did I leave my phone and my keys?"

Let's live, laugh and love in 2026. Have a blessed year.

**Editor's Note** by Laura Thornton

Well, as the old saying goes, nothing is certain except death and taxes. So it goes with our newsletter. Since we no longer have a subsidized printing and mailout service available to us, we are having to adapt. It would not be a wise use of your dues to spend a large portion on paper, ink, and postage for a multi-page full-color newsletter. Therefore, we're going electronic.

Your Area Rep may send this newsletter out to you via email, or you may receive a text advising you that it is available on the HOBBO website. Either way, you will have the option to view and read it electronically. Or, if you have a printer available, you can still print it out yourself. Remember, we need articles and suggestions for article, so send them in, along with photos.

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

Annual Dues Required \$25	Fireworks Donation \$	Fireboat Donation \$	Scholarship Donation \$	General Donation \$	TOTAL OF DUES PLUS YOUR DONATIONS \$
Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member					
Last Name			First Names (Both spouses, if applicable)		
Home Mailing Address:					
Lake 911 Address:				Lake Area	
Email 1			Email 2		
Home Land Line or N/A		Lake Land Line or N/A		Cell #1	Cell # 2

Detach and mail form along with your check to Lake Mitchell HOBO, P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046  
Or join and pay online at [www.lakemitchelhobo.org](http://www.lakemitchelhobo.org)