



Hands-On Leaders Get the Job Done for Lake Mitchell HOB0

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners say a resounding **"Thank You!"** to Steve Miles as he completes his term as President of Lake Mitchell HOB0. We are grateful for Steve's skillful, consistent, and effective leadership, and we enjoyed his keen wit and wonderful sense of humor as he guided our members during the past two years.

At the HOB0 Annual Meeting on November 4, 2016, Steve introduced our incoming president, Scott Phillips. We welcome Scott and look forward to his guidance as we



Scott Phillips & other HOB0 members at Alabama Graphite tour.

continue to work together to accomplish our dual mission: to promote safe and enjoyable

recreational use of Lake Mitchell while protecting the lake environment so that generations to come will be able to enjoy it as we do now.

Scott is uniquely equipped to serve as President of Lake Mitchell HOB0. Among many other qualifications, he has been a member of the Alabama Environmental Management Commission for 14 years – serving as Chair, Vice Chair and Rulemaking Committee Chair. He is currently the Vice Chair of the EMC. He also has served as the Chair of the Cahaba River Clean Water Partnership and served on the inaugural Board of the State of Alabama Clean Water Partnership.

He also served as the Leader of the State of Alabama Drought Assessment and Planning Team.

Scott lives on Lake Mitchell with his wife, Gay. They have two sons – Chris, a graduate of The University of Alabama, and Patrick, a graduate of Auburn University. Scott & Gay have one granddaughter, Mary Francis.



Outgoing President Steve Miles presides over HOB0 Annual Meeting



Scott attends an Area 9 meeting.

A Message from Our New President – Scott Phillips



It is my great pleasure to greet you this New Year as the President of the Lake Mitchell HOB family. I hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Holiday Season as we ended 2016 and started 2017. I was thrilled to see so many of our members at our Annual Meeting before Thanksgiving. I want to express my gratitude to the leadership of our Past President, Steve Miles, and all the hard work of the Board, Area Representatives, and members who helped to make 2016 such a successful year.

Now, as we go into our New Year, I want to encourage everyone living and playing on our Lake Mitchell to join the Lake Mitchell HOB Association family. For those of you that have been long-time members, I ask that you maintain your membership and become more involved with your Lake Mitchell HOB Association family. Help all of us maintain and improve the quality of life for all the residents, homeowners, boat owners, and visitors who enjoy our amazing lake. For those that are not members, we ask that you join our HOB Association and help us protect and preserve the amazing lake environment we all enjoy.

This year, I am going to be working with the Executive Committee, Board, Area Representatives, and all members to understand what our members would like to see our HOB Association “be” for the membership. We will continue to provide avenues to efficiently and effectively inform our members using our newsletter and web site as well as any other possible ways that may assist in reaching all members.

I am also going to challenge all of us to increase our membership so more people can enjoy the feelings of camaraderie and engagement we all feel when we work together to make our Lake better for all of us. I want our HOB leadership to continue to serve our members at an exceptional level and to keep our membership growing, engaged, and excited about life on Lake Mitchell. I will work hard this year to bring more people into our HOB family and continue the excellence of our Lake Mitchell HOB Association benefits.

But I need your help. I need you to help me bring more homeowners and boat owners in as members to our HOB Association. I need you to volunteer for service by leading or becoming a member of one of our HOB Committees, becoming an Area Representative, volunteering for one of our many events, and offering your ideas, suggestions, & feedback to me and the Executive Committee on what we could do better. With your help, this will be another great year for Lake Mitchell HOB Association.

Special Feature

Crappie fishing on Lake Mitchell

THE LAKE MITCHELL CRAPPIE THUMPER

Early winter's crappie have been scattered. Some are still in fall pattern, some in winter. This was verified by my electronics-- showing few schools of crappie deep over structures.

The water clarity has been very clear, until the 4-5 inch rain we received the first week of January. After this cold snap we can expect crappie to go to their winter haunts.

There is nothing like feeling the light thump of a crappie hitting a jig on a cold winter day!

Area Representative Reports:

Area 1-Blue Creek and The Ridge Bobby Lewis

Everything seems to be quiet during this time of the year in area 1. There is still a little building and changing in the landscape, but everyone seems to be happy now that there has been some rain and cooling after a long, hot summer and fall. We occasionally still see Eagles in the area, but I have yet to see their nesting area.

One final note, I have more Neighborhood Watch signs, so if you want one for your neighborhood or street in Area 1, please contact me. Correct contact information is: docx2@mindspring.com, and phone 205-901-8308.

Area 5-Cargile to Bird Peggy Bullard

Happy blessed New Year everyone. I'm writing to thanks to all of you for your love and concern for me. My life and world is definitely different & extremely lonesome without Sonny. I must say that the Lord God has kept His promises of being with me, directing me & being my very present help & comforter. He has used some of you in helping me through a most difficult time in my life. After Sonny's death I realized that much of the time I depended more on Sonny than on the Lord. That was really OK with God but now he is teaching me to depend on Him. I must tell you He has been faithful. Many have wondered if I will stay on the lake and the answer for now is yes. This has been home for over seventeen years & I am happy here.

For now I will remain your area rep but I'm afraid I won't be as good as Sonny in visiting & checking on you. I certainly can't fix your motors or electrical problems but I am getting good at a lot of things I've never done before so who knows. I will keep you informed of lake events as usual. You may still contact me with any lake related questions & if I don't know the answer I'll find someone who does and get back with you. If there is anyone reading this who would like to get involved with HOB0 & serve as Area 5 Rep please contact me for details. There will be a time for me to pass the baton for after all... I am getting older!

This article has been all about me but I know many are wondering so now you know. Keep me in your prayers & please call and drop by any time. It does get lonesome on top of this hill especially during wintertime, but spring is coming.

Remember to send in your membership dues and love, laugh & enjoy your family in every season of life.

From Chip Gates- Lake Mitchell HOB0 Historian

I would like to know what *you* would like to know about the lake and its history. What rumors or stories have you heard? I will put it in this column and see what information our readers may have on the subject. The history of our lake and its surroundings are a mosaic, and often it takes several people to furnish the missing pieces. For example, how did **Airplane Slough** get its name? Based on an old map and the opinion of several readers, there was a short airstrip alongside the lake immediately south of it. But did a plane really crash into the mouth of the slough? The field was only used for practicing take-offs and landings during World War II. I contacted the base historian at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Dr. Robert Kane. Dr. Kane said the closest major fields during the war were Maxwell and Gunter. Both had numerous auxiliary fields, but these were generally within a few miles of their respective bases. That way if a plane developed engine trouble shortly after takeoff, the pilot could quickly find a safe place to set it back down. Dr. Kane provided some web addresses concerning the topic of WW II military fields. One of these sites had a listing of abandoned auxiliary fields in Alabama, but the closest to the lake was in Deatsville. So the question of the field remains. Who owned or used it? And are the rusted and crumpled remains of a plane still sitting on the lake bottom at the mouth of Airplane Slough? I would very much like to hear what our readers know or have been told about this, or any other stories from the past. Local folklore, tall tales and even myths are welcome. They are part of the lake's history too, and often there's a bit of truth in even the strangest story. You can contact me at gatesestate@bellsouth.net. Thanks, Chip

Factors Influencing Aquatic Plant Growth

If you have been on Alabama Power Company reservoirs this year, or any reservoir for that matter, you may have noticed an outbreak of aquatic plants. I can't count the times I've heard people say, "I've never seen it this bad," or "This has never been here before." Our reservoirs are dynamic ever-changing systems where the aquatic plant communities are influenced by many factors. A few requirements for aquatic plants to grow are sunlight, temperature, nutrients, and water (yes, just like any other plant). Let's take a look at each of these requirements.

Sunlight

There are two categories of aquatic plants: emergent and submersed. Emergent plants are rooted in the lake bottom and "emerge" above the water line as they grow to continue their life cycle. Submersed plants, on the other hand, may or may not be rooted to the bottom and stay below the water line during their life cycle. Emergent and submersed each has different sunlight requirements. Emergent plants spend stored energy early in the year trying to "emerge" above the water surface to sprout leaves and begin photosynthesizing to produce more energy. They rarely survive if they are not able to make this transition. Sunlight tends not to be a limiting factor for emergent vegetation, as you can see by the abundance of shoreline vegetation on our lower Coosa lakes such as Lay, Mitchell, and Jordan. Submersed plants, meanwhile, are more easily influenced by sunlight or a lack thereof. They depend on sunlight getting into/through the water column; which has been very easy to do this summer with the clear water that accompanies a drought. Adding to the problem are lower water levels caused by the drought, allowing sunlight to hit the lake bottom, where it rarely reaches. These plants bolstered by abundant sunlight have been spreading like wildfire.

Temperature

Different plant species respond differently to temperature changes, but almost all thrive in warm conditions. It's no surprise sustained hot temperatures this summer have contributed to increased plant growth. We have shifts in the aquatic plant community throughout the growing season and these shifts are often due to temperature requirements of plants. Certain algae prefer cooler water temperatures, such as Spirogyra – a bright green, slimy alga that is often the first to show up in the spring and recedes as water temperatures increase in the summer. Exotic plants thrive in hot conditions because many originate from tropical areas. Water Hyacinth and Water lettuce have high growth rates in the summer months. Water can also act as a buffer from freezing conditions in the late fall/early winter because water has the ability to gain heat and lose heat slower than air. Have you ever jumped into a swimming pool or lake on a summer night and felt how much warmer the water is when compared to the air? It is because the water has retained more heat from the sunlight during the day. Submersed aquatic plants or those that are on the water's surface often survive longer into the winter than emergent plants because of water's ability to stay warmer longer.

Nutrients

The Coosa has a large aquatic plant community because the river system is rich with nutrients. But too much of a good thing can cause unwanted aquatic plant growth. Nutrients enter the river from various sources including municipal and agricultural runoff, improperly designed septic or sewer systems, and over-fertilization of lawns.

Fertilizer making our yards lush and green often runs off and affects aquatic plants. Homeowners can avoid adding nutrients to the river by reducing the amount of fertilizer used on lawns, maintaining buffers of natural vegetation along the reservoir, and by not dumping or blowing grass clippings into the lake.

As grass and leaves decompose, the nutrients they contain are released back into the water and become available to aquatic plants. Alabama Power's Shoreline Management Department has a Best Management Practices (BMP) document with suggestions on responsibly managing the shoreline. This document can be viewed at apcshorelines.com/pdfs/Shoreline_bmp.pdf.

Water

Some aquatic plant species will have high growth following a drought. Certain plants are considered annuals and reproduce by seeds; some of which lay dormant on the lake bottom for years before they germinate. A drought is considered a "disturbance" event and causes these dormant seeds to germinate when covered with water after the drought.

As I mentioned before, our reservoirs are dynamic, ever-changing systems and we cannot assume everything will stay the same. Some years provide better conditions for aquatic plants than others. As reservoirs age, other factors such as sedimentation drive changes. Aquatic plants are often an indicator changes are taking place with the factors mentioned above.

Coming Soon

Renew our Rivers Lake Clean-Up	Saturday, March 25, 2017	8:00 AM	Higgins Ferry
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AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Area	Area Name	Representative	Phone
1	Blue Creek/ The Ridge	Bobby Lewis docx2@mindspring.com	205-212-1020 205-901-8307
2	Blue to Cargile	Jim & Johnye Woodrow ajwking@aol.com	205-425-9431 205-755-0055
3	Cargile South	Dan Murchison DanMurchison@gmail.com	205-408-7445
4	Cargile North	Connie Hampton connie28fan@yahoo.com Susan Orr sorii@bellsouth.net	205-755-6344 334-312-6131
5	Cargile to Bird	Peggy Bullard pnsbullard@gmail.com	205 -755-9514
6	Bird Creek	Leslie Miles lesliemiles0@gmail.com	205-755-6432 205-612-2172
7	Bird to Walnut	Becki & Mau McCallum beckmau@gmail.com	205 -755-5334
8	Walnut SW	Beau Battaglia beauredsox@yahoo.com	504-909-6990
9	Walnut Creek Peninsula	Betty & Joel Elam Betty687@aol.com	205-807-9056 205 -755-2775
10	Cove and Mountain	Roxanne Martin roxypmartin@gmail.com	205 -755-0863
11	Mountain to Lay Dam	Stan Holt Stan-holt@att.net	205-980-1428
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	VACANT	
13A	East Pennamotley	Jim & Wathan Hand jmhand@centurylink.net	256-377-1153
13B	West Pennamotley	Richard & Wendy Cruse wendycruse@gmail.com	205-253-8298
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Eric & Rose Green rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com	205-492-7151
15	Airplane/Finger to Big Y Slough	Tommy Carpenter rtcarmen@southernco.com	256-377-1046 205-586-1749
16	Big Y to Mitchell Dam	Nan & David Spivey davidaspivey@gmail.com nanspivey@gmail.com	256-377-1178 205-492-0375

Did You Know?

By Chip Gates

In 1886 a mapmaker named W.S. Hoole showed a community on the south side of Hatchet Creek opposite the mouth of Weogufka Creek. This place was called **Varnerton**. In 1887 on another map it was spelled **Varneton**, but it wasn't long before it disappeared from all maps completely.

Did you know in 1957 the US Geological Survey indicated **Wyatt's Fish Camp** was on the northeast corner of Bird Creek and the Lake? This location may have also been known as **Turner's Point**. Did you also know the same map showed **Elmer's Camp** to be on the east side of Pennamotley?

If you want to go island hopping in time, know that on a 1929 map of Coosa County **Ware Island** (airstrip, north end of the lake) was known as **Johnson Island**. Just south of that what we now know as **Gilchrist Island** was called **Pate's Island**. Somewhat surprising, **House's Island** (formerly known as the Big Island) in the middle of the river opposite present-day Higgins Ferry boat launch, is still shown above water, some 6 years after the gates were closed on Mitchell Dam. Much more recently I have been told that one year when Alabama Power lowered the water level quite a bit for shore line clean up and dock repairs, it was possible to stand in the middle of the lake, in front of the Higgins Ferry Park, and not have to tread water.

Doctors Harrison Rippatoe, Thomas Riser and Ed Gant practiced medicine at or near Sylacauga from 1837 to 1844. In the same time frame there was a gold mine back in the hills and just north of Blue Creek called Rippato's [sic] **Mine**. With a distinctive name like that, there *has* to be a connection to the doctor. It has been said the gold from this mine was not so much in rock form but a very fine powder, like flour. Chan Aldridge (area 1) provided that last nugget of information. South and slightly west of the Rippatoe Mine was **Judge Terry's Gold Mine**, and just below this mine was the **Goldwaite and Walker's Gold Mine**. These last two mines were closer to the main road of the time (the predecessor of Hwy. 31) than the river and were just east of the Chestnut Creek Post Office. John LaTourrette with Colton & Co. published this information back in 1837.

If you are familiar with Popeye and watched his cartoons as a child, you may find it interesting to know his "roots" drew their sustenance from the Coosa River, albeit a little upstream from Lake Mitchell. This last snippet was taken from *The Messenger*, a Gadsden-based community newspaper.

Back in 1913, the lock and dam at Mayo's Bar in Georgia was completed by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, making navigation over the Horse Leg Shoals of the Coosa River easier. The dam raised the water levels about 10 feet. Charged with keeping the channel clear, the corps used the boat "Annie M," later re-named "Leota." The boat's captain was named Sims, and he was a resident of Ohatchee. His son Tom became a comic strip artist when he inherited the strip "Thimble Theatre" from creator Elzie Segar. The strip's story line dealt with the Oyl family that owned a shipping business. Commodore Oyl had a son, Castor, and a daughter named Olive. One of the sailors that worked for the commodore was a wise-cracking and spinach-eating chap named Popeye. Tom Sims took that character, spun him off and gave him his own strip, thus creating **Popeye the Sailor Man** in 1929.

Tom Sims was quoted as saying, "Fantastic as Popeye is, the whole story is based on facts. As a boy, I was raised on the Coosa River. When I began writing the script for Popeye, I put my characters back on the old Leota that I knew as a boy, transformed it into a ship and made the Coosa River a salty sea." So who among you knew that Olive Oyl had a brother? While you're pondering that, you should also know that Olive had a couple of uncles, obviously on her dad's side. One was named Otto Oyl and the other, described on Wikipedia's web site as an "intrepid explorer", was named Lubry Kent Oyl. There's no way

P.O. Box 1324
 Clanton, Alabama 35046
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Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Membership Application

Annual Dues Homeowner \$25.00	Marine 9 - Donation Maintenance & Operation \$	Fireworks - Donation Purchase of Fireworks \$
Other Donation Boathouse Sign \$15____ Memorial ____ Education Fund ____ Scholarship ____ Other (specify) _____		
Amount \$		
Name:		Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> 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