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### From HOBO President Rebecca Beaty:

Another Autumn has arrived. This is such a wonderful time to be on the lake!

Renew Our Rivers Lake Cleanup was held on Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. In spite of inclement weather, we had a good turnout of volunteers who braved the drizzle and wind to make our lake more beautiful. We gathered at Higgins Ferry pavilion. Everyone got their gloves, trash bags, and tools to go out to clean up the lake. All returned with the collected trash by 11:30 for a delicious hot dog lunch! We cleaned our lake and had a great time!

We were especially excited to see applicants for our Scholarship 2020 program supporting our Lake Mitchell cleanup program. Participation in at least one of our two lake cleanups is a criterion for each scholarship applicant.

A thank you to all who came out to support HOBO!



## Regarding The Environment by Jerry McGaughy

It is the beauty of Lake Mitchell that draws all of us to the lake! It is imperative that we maintain an unspoiled water environment. We are in critical need of **water monitors** on the lake. We currently have only five monitors on the lake. We encourage you to volunteer. It is not a huge commitment to preserve the water quality. A short training class is required, with water testing reported monthly. Recertification is required every two years.

Please text or phone me with your contact info (205-335-1302), and I'll organize a class with Jim Woodrow or contact Jim Woodrow (205-914-0121).

Our monitors are all part of the Alabama Water Watch. Their website is [alabamawaterwatch.org](http://alabamawaterwatch.org).

On another issue, please visit the Lake Mitchell HOBO website , click on general info, and invasive species to learn how to recognize invasive species, and what you can do to help.



## Love Lake Mitchell...What We Can Do To Help by Dan Murchison

- \*Plant native trees, shrubs, and flowers
- \*Replace trees a safe distance from your home; replacing trees, flowers, shrubs, etc. In clear areas to stop erosion
- \*Be aware of using fertilizer, and insect repellants around our lake and its creeks
- \*Have your septic tank pumped every three years to protect our lake and groundwater
- \*Discuss with those completing construction or landscaping work for you, to keep extra soil and other run off out of our lake and streams
- \*Join and support environmental groups protecting our lakes and streams
- \*Don't litter and attend our lake cleanups
- \*Respect your neighbors by reducing boat wake action, reducing erosion and our shorelines

Official Online Alabama Boating Safety Course-<https://www.boat.ed.com/alabama/>

## The Killingsworths Come to Fixico, Part 2

By Chip Gates, H.O.B.O. Historian

*(For Part 1, see the Second Quarter, 2019 Newsletter)*

If you've read the earlier stories, you know Little Joe's was primarily known as a fishing camp and honkytonk. The latter was a large, long wooden structure built out over the water (see photo). When you entered there was bar off to one side and an open space for dancing, drinking, or whatever. Adjacent to the open area and further out over the water was Joe and Mildred's bedroom, and behind that was their son Jo-Jo's bedroom. Beyond this and getting close to the opposite side of the slough was a large covered porch and storage area. So like many a small business during this time period, the proprietors actually lived on site.

Our story source, Bill Killingsworth, said he and his dad knew Little Joe and Mildred Caudle pretty well. The Caudles only had the one child, Jo-Jo, who was a few years older than Bill. I asked Bill where Jo-Jo would have gone to school, since this was such an isolated part of the county. Originally Bill thought Jo-Jo went to high school in Weogufka, but now believes he went to Rockford. It is still a mystery where he attended lower grades.





Bill remembers Jo-Jo mainly working around the fish camp, doing cleaning, yard maintenance, and taking trash to the dump. Bill never saw him do any fishing. He does, however, remember Jo-Jo castrating the Caudle's pigs, "which made enough noise to wake the dead." When he recollects these times, Bill can still hear that awful sound in his mind.

One funny story Bill offered was how Jo-Jo had promised a bullfrog to one of his teachers. Bill just happened to have one and traded it to Jo-Jo for a Bowie knife. What happened to the hapless frog is unknown, but Bill still has the knife. After Jo-Jo graduated from high school, Bill's dad got him a temp job on an assembly line at Stockham Valve, and Jo-Jo lived with the Killingsworths in Birmingham for several months during that time. Later Jo-Jo would marry a Weogufka girl and they moved to the Atlanta area where he worked at the airport. After that contact was lost with Jo-Jo.

Coosa County was officially a dry county at this time, but there weren't any restrictions on minors being inside the honkytonk at Little Joe's Fishing Camp. Bill confides that he was aware of alcoholic beverages being served there, but not any hidden stashes of them. He said the liquor, beer and whisky, all in regular containers (as opposed to moonshine), was stored more or less in plain sight in a nearby outbuilding on the property. Bill remembers the fish camp boats were parked underneath, including a white Higgins boat with the politically incorrect name "Dago". This was not a Higgins landing craft of World War II fame, nor was it a relic from the Higgins Ferry. It was instead a standard wooden inboard that happened to bear the same name, but perhaps a little more powerful and lighter than the better known Chris-Craft. On one occasion someone who had had a little too much to drink brought Dago in too fast (possibly Little Joe himself?), taking out a piling or two. Bill said "it was a wonder the whole place didn't collapse into the backwater".

We now find ourselves some 60+ years later in early 2019. Little Joe's main building only has a post or two left sticking up above the water to mark its former location. All of the waterfront cabins from the bend in the slough where the Huffman's built their second cabin down to Little Joe's have either burned or been torn down and removed. Except for a concrete pad or two up on the bank, there is no trace of what was once an isolated but highly interesting place on the lake. The surface has been scratched on this little corner of the world, and I hope that Little Joe's and Fixico Creek can still offer up some more fascinating tales before they are lost forever.

Please send your questions and comments regarding this story, and any other lake tales to me at [gatesestate@bellsouth.net](mailto:gatesestate@bellsouth.net).

## IN MEMORIAM

In this beautiful fall season on the lake we would like to remember Judy Thornton, a long time resident of Lake Mitchell. During the early years of our HOB0 organization, Judy and her husband Harold, served on our HOB0 board. Judy loved the lake and always worked to make it a better place,



## 2020 Lake Mitchell Photo Calendars Are Now On Sale

Go the [www.lakemitchellhobo.org](http://www.lakemitchellhobo.org) and order yours today. They make great Christmas gifts for anyone who enjoys Lake Mitchell.

## Welcome to Our New Park Ranger Family



Lake Mitchell HOBO would like to officially welcome Donald Giles as our new park ranger. He and his wife Kathy have been working hard to improve Higgins Ferry Park, and to build a sense of community. They have plans to install bird houses and create a nature habitat for all to enjoy. They are seeking funding to build seawalls along the Park shoreline. Through the fall Donald and Kathy hosted pot luck dinners on Monday nights for anyone to attend. They are also creating monthly activity events that are open to all children. In early November they hosted a fall festival with games, crafts, and activities for the kids, and they are planning another event for children around Christmas. Betty Elam, Area 9 HOBO Rep, has taken her

granddaughter Marleigh to participate in these events and said that the Giles are doing fantastic things for the kids and the community. "Marleigh can't wait for the next event."

Please checkout the *We Love Lake Mitchell Alabama* Facebook page for details of upcoming events.



## Lake Mitchell History Quiz, Part 2

Test your knowledge of Lake Mitchell and its surroundings. Answers to be found at the end. For Part 1, see Lake Mitchell History Quiz under the History tab on the Lake Mitchell HOBO website (lakemitchellhobo.org).

11. After the completion of the Lock 12 project (Lay Dam), in 1917 Alabama Power formed its own construction company for future projects. This construction company was named

- a. Lay Construction Co.
- b. Alabama Building Corp.
- c. Dixie Construction Co.
- d. The Great Southern Construction Co.
- e. Martin & Mitchell Enterprises

12. Of the thousands of acres purchased for the Lake Mitchell reservoir, the average cost was

- a. \$17.50/acre
- b. \$21.00/acre
- c. \$25.00/acre
- d. \$30.00/acre
- e. \$32.75/acre

13. A spur line off the L&N Railroad main line was built to bring in the huge amounts of material needed to build Mitchell Dam. This spur had its connection point with the main line at

- a. Clanton
- b. Cooper
- c. Marbury
- d. Rockford
- e. Verbena

14. The sawmill town that once had its own post office and commissary but was going to be covered by the impounded waters of Lake Mitchell was called

- a. Duncanville
- b. Wadsworth Town
- c. Salem
- d. Enid
- e. Rushton

15. The location of Mitchell Dam was at a place originally called

- a. Albert's Overlook
- b. Devil's Staircase
- c. Duncan's Riffle
- d. The Rapids Race
- e. Smith's Ford

16. Alabama Power is constantly monitoring the weather in an effort to maintain a relatively constant level on Lake Mitchell. Full pool on the lake is 312 feet above sea level. However, owing to the technology of the day, pre-dam construction maps in 1919 & 1920 showed the projected full pool at what contour line?

- a. 302 feet
- b. 322 feet
- c. 332 feet
- d. 352 feet
- e. 372 feet

17. Lake Mitchell has approximately how many miles of shoreline?

- a. 215
- b. 150
- c. 110
- d. 92
- e. 81

18. The two rivers that come together in Rome, GA, to form the Coosa River are the

- a. Oostanaula & Etowah
- b. Yamasee & Conasauga
- c. Chamberlain & Euharlee
- d. Choctawatchee & Pea
- e. Little Tensaw & Ocoee

19. Put these creeks in order, going north from Mitchell Dam:

- a. Blue, Big Y, Cargile, Hatchet, Callaway, Walnut, Mountain
- b. Blue, Hatchet, Cargile, Bird, Walnut, Clay
- c. Cargile, Walnut, Hatchet, Blue, Higgins
- d. Blue, Cargile, Bird, Hatchet, Walnut, Yellowleaf
- e. Cargile, Hatchet, Goat, Walnut, Clay, Clear Spring

20. Approximately how many river miles are there between Mitchell Dam and Lay Dam?

- a. 8.5
- b. 10
- c. 14
- d. 16.7
- e. 18

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: 11.c, 12.d, 13.b, 14.e, 15.c, 16.d, 17.b, 18.a, 19.d, 20.c

P.O. Box 1324

**Change Service Requested**

PAID Permit 12

Birmingham, AL

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

<b>Annual Dues Required</b> \$25	<b>Fireworks Donation</b> \$	<b>Fireboat Donation</b> \$	<b>Scholarship Donation</b> \$	<b>In Memory/Honor Name</b> _____ \$
<b>Optional Purchase</b> Boathouse Sign \$20____		<b>Optional Purchase</b> HOB0 Photo Calendar \$18____		<b>Optional Purchase</b> 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