



## From HOB O President Rebecca Beaty:

I heard someone say this past week that this is the time of year where you have your heater on in the morning and your air conditioner on in the afternoon. That's Alabama weather! This is a wonderful time of year to enjoy all that nature has to offer.

Life will soon be really busy on Lake Mitchell! Our Renew Our Rivers Lake Mitchell Spring Clean up will be March 21<sup>st</sup>. Mark your calendars and let's clean up the mess that has been left behind from the winter storms and trash flowing in from the various creeks. Afterwards prepare yourself to have some of the best hotdogs you ever tasted!

Speaking of calendars, if you have not yet gotten your Lake Mitchell HOB O Calendar, go to our website <https://www.lakemitchellhobo.org/> and order one or more than one today. Each month provides a reminder of our beautiful lake.

Any high school senior in Chilton or Coosa counties who is planning to apply for one of our Lake Mitchell HOB O Scholarships needs to make sure to get your application in by March 1<sup>st</sup>, and if you haven't yet taken part in one of our clean ups, now is your chance. Report to Higgins Ferry Pavilion by 8:00 a.m. We hope to see a good number of you on March 21<sup>st</sup>.



Speaking of Higgins Ferry Park, Kathy Giles has big plans for fun times this spring and summer at the park. We are fortunate to have Donald & Kathy Giles as Higgins Ferry Park Ranger & Wife/Partner. They are truly a dynamic duo!

Mark your calendars now for the HOB O Annual Picnic on June 6<sup>th</sup> and get ready to have a blast at the Poker Run on June 20! Then it is Fireworks! Donate to the fireworks fund so that we can have a show that is as fabulous as last year's show. It was truly fantastic!

Wow! Now I am writing about summer. Time goes by quickly. Enjoy every minute you have on Lake Mitchell and be safe. I look forward to seeing you on the water.



## Area Representatives and Reports

### Get To Know Your Neighbors

As lake Homeowners and Boat Owners we hope that you will get to know your neighbors. Please **submit** your ideas and wishes for your lake, celebrations, etc. to your Area Representative(s) so we can work together and share your hopes and visions for the future of Lake Mitchell.

Please keep the numbers listed below to communicate with your area representative(s).

### Area 1A/1B - The Ridge and Alaga - Patsy and Chan Aldrige [chan.aldrige@gmail.com](mailto:chan.aldrige@gmail.com)

Earlier this year, I was taking a childhood friend on a trip down Weogufka, where his father used to take him hunting. I was remarking that I had had my fishing boat for 20 years and had never had to be pulled in. While we were out, we came across a grandfather and his grandson who had broken down. I had the privilege of towing them back home. This was one of three times I got to help people this year.

Well, you know what the Bible says - Pride goes before a fall. After we went back down towards Weogufka, we broke down too! God sent a Good Samaritan to help us and get us back home. Thanks to Jason and Kelly Franklin – our Good Samaritan.

This got me thinking - do we all have someone to call on if/when our boat leaves us stranded.

I decided to reach out to Area 1A and 1B to see who would be interested in becoming part of a “Mayday” text group. These would be people who wouldn’t mind their number being shared in case others broke down on our beautiful lake. If the text goes out and you aren’t available, it isn’t a problem. If you are, you can be the Good Samaritan. We had a good response from several HOB O members in our area. If you’d like to be included in our group, shoot me an e-mail to [chan.aldrige@gmail.com](mailto:chan.aldrige@gmail.com) with your name, area you live in, and cell phone number, and I’ll be happy to include you. I hope to get to help each of you in the years to come and am thankful for anyone who gets the chance to help me.



I hope this finds you in the best of health with your sights set on a great 2020 at our beautiful lake.



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**Area 2- Blue Creek to Cargile Creek** - Tim McDow (205) 966-7651 [timcdow1@gmail.com](mailto:timcdow1@gmail.com)

Johnye and Jim Woodrow (205) 425-9431 [jwoodrow@insurancenetworkal.com](mailto:jwoodrow@insurancenetworkal.com)

**Area 3 - Cargile Creek-South Side** - Judy and Dan Murchison (205) 408-7445  
[danmurchison@gmail.com](mailto:danmurchison@gmail.com), Janet Pandzik (205) 224-0432 [pandzikj@gmail.com](mailto:pandzikj@gmail.com)

**Area 4- Cargile Creek - North Side** - Susan Orr (205) 822-8737 [shorr1972@gmail.com](mailto:shorr1972@gmail.com)  
Vickie Griffith (205) 602-2612 [vgordv7@yahoo.com](mailto:vgordv7@yahoo.com)

**Area 5 - Cargile to Blue Creek** - Peggy Bullard (205) 646-5968 [pnsbullard@gmail.com](mailto:pnsbullard@gmail.com)

**Area 6 - Bird Creek - Troy and Tina Crocker (205) 280-4959** [birdcreekcrockers@gmail.com](mailto:birdcreekcrockers@gmail.com)



*HOBBO Area Representatives gather for a planning meeting at the home of the Crockers.*

**Area 7 Bird Creek to Walnut** - Becki and Mau McCallum (205) 755-5334 [beckmau@gmail.com](mailto:beckmau@gmail.com)

**Area 8 - Walnut Creek South Side** - Jim and Linda O'Rear (251) 533-4437 [l1826o@gmail.com](mailto:l1826o@gmail.com)

**Area 9- Walnut Creek Peninsula** - Joel and Betty Elam (205) 991-3775 [betty687@aol.com](mailto:betty687@aol.com)

**Area 10- Cove Branch to Mountain** - Roxanne and Doug Martin (205)266-6985



**Area 11A Mountain to Lay Dam Chilton Side-** Jeff and Sharon Inman (205) 612-7222

jeffreyinman@hotmail.com

**Area 11B- Lay Dam to Hatchett - Coosa Side -** Eddie and Janine Buzbee (205) 229-4190

eddiebuzbee7@gmail.com

**Area 12- Hatchet to Pennamotley -** Dave and Dianna Cassens (205) 480-9273

diannacassens@gmail.com

**Area 13A East Pennamotley** Wathan and Jim Hand jmhand9256@gmail.com

Greetings from East Pennamotley.

There have been a few developments in 13A this fall. Shea and Lamar Daugherty bought the Alverson house on Mimosa Point Road. We are sad to see the Alverson's leave, but are delighted to get to know the Daughertys, Currently, their permanent address is in Weogufka, but they come to the lake house almost every weekend.

Also, Nancy and Allen Zeigler, who are second generation Lake Mitchell people, have decided to live at Lake Mitchell permanently. Allen is retired and Nancy works remotely. We are so happy to have the Zeiglers here all the time.

Best wishes to all our lake friends and neighbors for a happy, healthy new year!



**Area 14 - Rose Green (205) 492-7151** rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com

**Area 15 - Trip and Betty Janney (205) 217-3231** Tripjanney@centurytel.net

**Area 16 - David and Nan Spivey (706) 566-6095** nanspivey@gmail.com

Our Cove neighbors recently met for our annual subdivision meeting. It was nice to see so many of our neighbors. We discussed how fast our year has gone by and how we are looking forward to spring and summer on the Lake.

Jeff Price has announced his candidacy for Mayor of Clanton, Alabama. His platform includes strengthening educational opportunities for the youth of Clanton; paralleling our Lake Mitchell Scholarship program. Griffin Price graduated May 2019 from Samford University and Boyd Price will graduate May 2020 from Samford University. Congratulations!



## Mitchell Lake Lock & Dam

By Chip Gates, HOBO Historian

Eh, what's that you say? Mitchell Lake **Lock** and Dam?? If you have ever taken a boat ride to the southern end of the lake, or perhaps even toured the dam itself, you know that there is no lock at Mitchell Dam. However, the inclusion of a lock was certainly contemplated, and not just prior to the dam being built. You might be surprised to find out how recently it was considered.

According to the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association, Inc. ([www.caria.org](http://www.caria.org)), the Coosa River drops 450 feet in elevation between Rome, Georgia, and its confluence with the Tallapoosa River below Wetumpka. That's the length of one and half football fields. Considering the overall distance covered, that's not much of a drop, assuming it was on a gradual slope. But as you will see, nature offered up some interesting features along the way.

The following introduction to the Coosa River's lock history is from the American Canal Society's *Canal Index*, and is entitled "Coosa River Navigation." The Coosa River begins at Rome and flows 284 miles into the Alabama River just above Montgomery. In the **1870's**, the U.S. Army's Corps of Engineers began what would have been a far-reaching project to make the Coosa navigable from Rome to Wetumpka. Some 31 locks were planned, 7 were begun, and 5 were actually built. These five enabled steamboats and other more shallow draft vessels to travel from Rome down to the present-day location of a railroad bridge at Riverside, Ala. Most of these locks only had a lift of 10-15 feet, so the dams associated with them were of commensurate height. The last lock in the system, number 31, was started at Wetumpka in **1891**. The sidewalls were completed but the dam was never built.

The majority of the dams and locks proposed by the Corps would have been built on the lower half of the river's length, as there were many shoals and falls in this stretch to be overcome. Some of the names of these locations would have been enough to give any boatman pause: Devil's Race, the Narrows, Hell's Gap, Closet, Moccasin's Reefs, Butting Ram Shoals (adjacent to Gilchrist Island) and the Devil's Staircase. This last, the worst of the worst, and



known for its loud roar, was just above Wetumpka. Not anywhere close to the tumult of the Devil's Staircase, the future site of Mitchell Dam, at a place called Duncan's Riffle, would probably have warranted a lock and a small dam.

A riffle, in this case, is a rocky or shallow part of a stream or river with rough water. In a story found in the September, 2015, issue of *Discover St. Clair*, Jerry C. Smith presents an interesting assemblage of facts entitled **Locks of the Coosa**. Well worth taking a look at online, a couple of the photos contained within paint a drastically different picture of how you may have envisioned the locks and steamboats; the former being rather simple wood, concrete and stone affairs, the latter being nothing like the scale and grandeur of those that plied the Mississippi. For never completed. *Robert Snetzer, of the Army Corps of Engineers said, "... (The locks) were built with federal funding, and with the delays in funding, the riverboat traffic died out. Truck and railway transportation became more economical, thus the wor*

part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when Alabama Power proposed building high dams across the Coosa River, the federal government required that an earthen section be left adjacent to each dam for the construction of a high-lift lock, should Washington later decide to make the entire river navigable. And so the dam was completed, time passed, and while the concerns of pleasure craft owners, skiers and anglers on Lake Mitchell may have included reckless boaters, sudden storms, or running out of gas or sunscreen, towboats pushing 100 foot long barges were not an issue.

But wait! For reasons unknown, many, many years later the Corps undertook a study to determine the most feasible location and design for a lock at Mitchell Dam. Mitchell Dam is located at river mile 37.3, as one travels up from the Alabama River. The water level at full pool drops from 312' above sea level behind the dam to 251' below. For a moment let's disregard that a lock at only Mitchell Dam would serve little to no purpose. Several locks would be needed elsewhere, such as at Lay and Jordan or Bouldin dams. Casting this not-so-trivial matter aside, consider the Corps' *Technical Report HL-84-12*, which was submitted in **December of 1984**. First a scale model was constructed that faithfully reproduced starting about 14,500 feet upriver from the dam to 6,500 feet below the dam. Several plans (A & A-1, B, B-1, B-2 & B-3, and C & C-1) were drawn up and studied, all of



which placed the lock and its associated structures, guideways and channels some 400-600 feet east of the dam on the Coosa County side. A very substantial amount of dynamiting and excavating would be required to remove the nearby hill for whichever plan was chosen. Such things as navigation conditions for downbound tows leaving the lock and avoiding the Hwy. 22 bridge, or upbound tows making the immediate hard turn to port upon exiting the lock canal were considered. Water velocities during low flow and high flows times, as well as during times of power generation were factored in. Without going into any more of the hundreds and hundreds of tedious details a project of this magnitude would entail, suffice to say the report was exceedingly thorough in typical government fashion.

And the end result of this study? The big hill on the Coosa County side of Mitchell Dam is still there and unspoiled. And we still have to watch for reckless boaters and storms, keep the fuel tank above "E", and wear plenty of sunscreen. However, sharing the water with anything much larger than a pontoon boat is not now, nor ever likely to be a concern. Truly a blessing, isn't it? Sometimes you need to remember to be thankful for what you don't have.

## WATER QUALITY REPORT

Jim Woodrow, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE	5-SITE AVG
Dissolved O2	5-9	6.30
PH	6.5-8.2	7.83
Alkalinity	20+	79.67
Hardness	10-120	58

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> HOBO 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

Or join online at [www.lakemitchelhobo.org](http://www.lakemitchelhobo.org)