



From President Bob Thornton



Wow! What a weird year! I hope that all of you are okay.

Several of our members were hit really hard by the recent tornadoes on Cargile Creek and on the Coosa County side around Airplane Slough. They remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Things are still being changed by the Covid-19 virus. First is our **May 1 Cleanup**. We still plan to have it as scheduled. Alabama Power will not participate with their boats due to their Covid restrictions. They will however still provide trash bags, tee shirts, etc. We will have them, nets, and grabbers available at the Higgins Ferry pavilion at 8:00 a.m. We need as many people as possible to participate and bring their boats. We will be able to bring our collected trash back to the pavilion area. Park Ranger Donald Giles will arrange for a dump truck to remove it. We will not have the traditional hot dog lunch afterward, so bring your own lunch and drinks if you wish to eat following the cleanup.

We will have the annual picnic on June 5. HOB0 will provide the meat, tea and paper products as usual.

Unfortunately, we will not have the Poker Run this year due to the Corona virus and the necessary crowding in the pavilion before and after the event. We definitely plan to reinstitute the Poker Run next year.

So, in conclusion, as my boss used to say, "Everything is normal except those things that are normally abnormal." Or, as we Auburn people say, "Just wait until next year!"

Request from HOB0 Historian, Chip Gates

Greetings folks! Those of you with any recollections, fond remembrances or tales of Dixie Camp, please get in touch with me. No story too large or too short. One or the many storylines that needs further exploration is about a former camp owner named Ms. Gray and her goose Charlie, but any anything you have to share will be most welcome. I can be reached at gatesestate@bellsouth.net or at 205-382-4591. Please leave a message if no answer. Thanks!

(Stay tuned for more Lake Mitchell history and trivia from Chip in next quarter's newsletter)



MEET THE EDITOR:

Hi - my name is Laura Thornton. My husband, Bob, is the new President of HOBO. We are both honored and humbled to be able to serve in this organization, and we look forward to meeting more of you as time goes on. We live in Prattville, but we love to spend as much time as we can at the lake. We bought our place on Lake Mitchell 10 years ago when I retired from my job with the State of Alabama. Bob had already retired from his job as a supervising engineer with Alabama Power, as well as serving as Colonel in the US Army Reserve. We were debating how to spend our retirement – Should we travel? Buy a place at the beach, or at a lake? We’d spent time over the years at Lake Jordan and Lake Martin, but something just drew us to check on Lake Mitchell. I think we looked at every single house for sale at the time before deciding on a little log cabin on a quiet slough on the upper end of the lake. It is just perfect for us, and we love it !

Bob is from Montgomery, and I am from Birmingham. We met at Auburn our sophomore year, and we married right after graduation. Except for the time his active duty took us to Fort Gordon then Fort Monmouth (and then took him for a year’s tour of duty in Vietnam) we have made our home in Alabama ever since.

We have two sons, four grandsons, and two granddaughters. Both sons graduated from Auburn. One went to medical school at UAB; the other went to Southwestern Baptist Seminary, and both of them now live in Alabama. We love to open our lake house to them and other family members and friends as often as possible. Isn’t that what makes it all worthwhile?

My goal is to make the HOBO newsletter interesting and informative and useful to you. This is a learning process. If you have any suggestions or ideas for future issues, please pass them along to your Area Rep, who can then pass them along to me.

Stay safe, and be happy! Enjoy this special place we call Lake Mitchell, and thank you for being such wonderful people who care deeply about the lake.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Area Representatives are the lifeblood of HOBO. They are the contact point for people with homes in a specific area of the lake. For reference, here is the current listing:

HOBO AREA	REPRESENTATIVES
1A-The Ridge	Chan & Patsy Aldridge
1B-Alaga	David & Cindy Thomas
1C-Blue Creek	Wesley & Nickii Pinson
2- Blue to Cargile	Jim & Johnye Woodrow, Tim & Donna McDow
3-Cargile South Side	Dan & Judy Murchison, Janet Pandzik
4-Cargile North Side	Rick & Vickie Griffith, Susan Orr
5-Cargile to Bird	Peggy Bullard
6-Bird Creek	Troy & Tina Crocker
7-Bird to Walnut	Mau & Becki McCallum
8-Walnut South Side	Linda O’Rear
9-Walnut Peninsula	Joel & Betty Elam
10-Cove Branch	Tim & Stefanie Watley
11A-Lay Dam, Chilton	Chip & Arlisa Caudle
11B-Lay Dam, Coosa	Eddie & Janine Buzbee
12--Hatchet & Preserve	David & Dianna Cassens
13A-Pennamotley East	Jim & Wathan Hand
13B-Pennamotley West	Richard & Wendy Cruse
14-Hatchet to Little Airplane	Alan & Donna Weaver
15-Big Airplane to Big Y	Trip & Betty Janney
16-Big Y	David & Nan Spivey

Our Area Reps will periodically submit updates for the newsletter, letting everyone know of any "news" or items of interest. Here are the ones for this quarter:

Area 1A - Chan and Patsy Aldridge

Welcome to our new neighbors on the Ridge, Brian and Marcela Richardson. Brian is a Urologist at Jackson Hospital in Montgomery. His focus is Robotic and Minimally Invasive surgery. Brian is originally from Mobile, AL and Marcela is from Cali, Columbia. They have two children – Sebastian (almost 3 years old) and Aria (6 months old). During Covid, they decided to purchase Ralph and Jane Mason's home as a place they could come and enjoy the beauty and peacefulness of the water and the natural habitat. They are looking forward to some warm weather and hopefully some good fishing!

Area 5 – Peggy Bullard

Greetings – 2020 was a lonesome year without all the HOB0 activities and getting to meet and greet everyone. Our Area ice cream social never made it past the planning stage. Maybe this year. Of course that will depend on my pier being rebuilt. It was destroyed on October 29th when the storm Zeta blew through. Many around the lake received damage and trees were down everywhere. Hopefully by the time this is printed work will have started to restore my dock.

I want to welcome some new people to Area 5 and hope I don't miss anybody. Scott and Amy Bailey will be the new owners of Greg Allen's place. Greg will still be around as Amy is his daughter and they have agreed that he is allowed to hang out with them anytime he would like to. James and Laura Washer purchased the Kirpatrick's place. The Dillard's purchased Beth Wise's place and Debbie Corum sold to Jeremy Dennis in 2019. Welcome all to Lake Mitchell. You won't regret being on this beautiful lake. We hope you will or have already joined HOB0 and will get involved with all the activities when we are released to enjoy them once again. Meantime, as your Area Rep, I would enjoy getting to know you via call, email or a text. I can be reached at 205-646-5968 or pnsbullard@gmail.com. Let me know if I can help you in any way.

I'm ready for fun in the sun. Anyone else?

Area 9- Walnut Creek Peninsula - Joel and Betty Elam

Hello neighbors- We hope you are well and you are enjoying the lake as much as possible. It seems that with covid-19 that our days are a bit different much like the weather- cold, rainy, sunny, warm, cloudy, and windy. Betty and I hope for a better 2021.

We encourage everyone to continue watching out for each other and their property when you are the lake. Also, you will notice a lot of trash that has been thrown out on Co Rd 264. Let's all work together to keep our lake area clean.

Walnut Creek Peninsula has several new families. Love to welcome, Heather & Mackie Ford, Bryan & Ming Walker, Greg & Vicki Lockhart, Allen & Jan Caton & Johnny & Annette Miller.

Area 12 - Hatchett Creek and Pennamotley Creek: - Dave & Dianna Cassens

There has been and continues to be an explosion of growth in our area! The Preserve and Eagle Point at Lake Mitchell both are vastly growing with new residents and new construction.

We welcome new members of Area 12 in The Preserve:

Ben and Ligia Branch

Paul and Nicole Powell. (Full-time Residents)

Jim and Julie Meads.

We welcome new members for Area 12 in Eagle Point:

Don and Lynn Mundie

Mark Turner

Bobby and Lenda Campbell

Don and Louise Hewlett

Scott and Carrie Busby

David and Bethy Heath

Area 13A - Wathan and Jim Hand

We have two new HOB0 members in East Pennamotley. They are Susan and Denver Nolin, who bought Jamie and Toby Vinson's house on Mimosa Point Road. Susan and Denver already know several families on Lake Mitchell and are looking forward to meeting others when we are able to socialize. Currently Susan is employed by Samford University and Denver flies for FedX. Their permanent residence is in Inverness in North Shelby County.

A few of our residents contracted the COVID virus, but all have recovered. We are ready for Spring and Summer and seeing all of our friends again!

Special Note from Past President Ralph Mason:



Dear Members of Lake Mitchell HOB0 Association: For the past 15 years we have lived on Lake Mitchell. It is time for us to leave this beautiful environment as we need to move closer to our adult children and grandchildren. In October 2020, we decided to sell our beautiful home on the south end of Lake Mitchell and move to the Birmingham area. Jane and I will treasure the friendships and hospitality that we experienced during our time of living here. As Bob Hope would say "Thanks for the Memories." Special thanks go to all who volunteered to participate in the many events that were sponsored by HOB0. They should be applauded for their service. It was an honor to serve as president of the HOB0 association.

New Children’s Playground at Higgins Ferry Park – Update

Last quarter’s newsletter provided a lot of information on the plans for the playground. This quarter, we are proud to say that this is now a reality. Here is an article written by Durwood Brown, chairman of the committee

This idea was created last summer when Nancy Piccolo spoke with Kathy Giles and learned that area kids needed a nicer playground. Soon afterwards a Committee was formed with the Giles, Piccolos, Thorntons, Browns & Steve Miles. In cooperation with Alabama Power Co. and Chilton County Commission we started the HFPP (Higgins Ferry Playground Project) on 8/26/20.

We chose GameTime, an Alabama (Ft. Payne) manufacturer of playground equipment. Our Committee scouted out several central Alabama playgrounds installed by GameTime during this decision making process. Chilton Co. agreed to approve and substantially fund the replacement of the old, unimaginative, and unsafe playground that had existed since the 1990s.

The new bright blue/green structure is an exciting combination of swings, slides, monkey bars, climbing wall, tunnel, and a merry go round that twirls 3 or 4 kids at a time. Additionally- several new benches and tables have been/will be placed near the playground area.

Funding for the HFPP ranged from \$20 anonymous gifts up to 5 figure donations from various businesses, individuals and organizations. The Committee was pleased to use several local vendors for other expenses such as fencing, T shirts, printing, refreshments, etc. We attempted to involve all of Clanton and Chilton County.

Higgins Ferry Park is flourishing now - primarily due to the Park Management of the Giles. They both tirelessly keep the Park clean, safe and enjoyable. Guests can swim, boat, fish, camp, picnic and even host events in the Pavilion. It can be rented for \$100 to accommodate Church events, Company Outings, Anniversaries, Birthday parties, Graduations, etc.

Thanks again to ALL who made this possible with their generous donations of time and money!! The dedication and ribbon cutting was held March 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Our wish is that the playground will be enjoyed by children today, and their children for several generations to come.

Glory to God.

Durwood Brown, Committee Chairman





Spring is here, and we are looking forward to spending more time on Lake Mitchell. With warmer weather flowers bloom, trees put out new leaves, and our grass needs to be cut for the first time. The dogwood, mountain laurel, and wild azaleas along the lake banks are another indicator of Spring. With the warmer temperatures we also get warmer water; which means plants begin to grow just as they do on land. Whether we reside on the Lake or just use the Lake for recreation we encounter plant species which are not native to our Lake. A few of the non-native species are listed below:

Lynqbya can be recognized as a brownish colored mass that has a feeling of slime if touched. The floating mass will emit an odor of hydrogen sulfide gas (rotten egg odor). It multiplies fast and is a hazard to aquatic species. Deterioration of this plant material will cause a decrease oxygen level in the water. **Water Hyacinth** is a free-floating plant and can be recognized by its broad thick leaves with small purple flowers. This plant can congregate in large groups, multiplying rapidly where water is slower moving to cover the water surface. Decay of this plant decreases oxygen levels, which is dangerous to aquatic life. **Water Lettuce** is a floating plant that resembles an open head of lettuce. It is rapid growing and derives its nutrients from the water. The higher the nutrient level is in the water the faster the plants will multiply. **Hydrilla** is also invasive and spreads rapidly in warmer weather. This is normally an aquarium plant but can be introduced to a Lake environment. It can cause dissolved oxygen levels to be depleted, potentially causing fish kills. It is one of the world's worst invasive plants.

While the above species are the most harmful, there are other aquatic plants that appear around Lake Mitchell and can concentrate along the bank areas. Non-invasive naturally occurring plant species may also cause problems for fishing, swimming, and boating.

To address and control aquatic plants, Alabama Power Company has a spraying program. To report an infestation of aquatic plants - Call: 1-800-LAKES11 (1-800-525-3711).

Provide information to Environmental Chairman Jim Woodrow at ajwking@aol.com or by phone to 205-425-9431, or contact your Area Representative and have them pass along issues that are discovered. Through this newsletter and future articles that come from the Environmental Committee and through information provided to Area Representatives, we will keep you informed of our activities.

Lake Mitchell Marina Update

Aaron Sims, the new owner of Lake Mitchell Marina, has been coming every few years to Lake Mitchell to visit his brother & sister-in-law, Kevin & Pam Sims, who have a lake home on Walnut Creek. During these vacation trips, Aaron would sit on the porch of the Marina having a cheeseburger while enjoying the magnificent views of the lake and dreaming about the possibility of someday owning it. When his brother called last year to say the Marina was for sale, this dream suddenly became a real option. After flying to here to investigate this possibility, a friend of Aaron's gave him a book called Trust Your Crazy Ideas which inspired his move "from Walnut Creek, California to Walnut Creek, Alabama!"

Aaron is living onsite now and working as fast as he can to prepare the Marina for the 2021 season which is now upon us. As of this writing, the Marina is open 7 days a week (through September) from 8 am – 8 pm with fuel, ice, sodas, snacks, etc. available. Aaron is targeting May 1st to open the restaurant, which will offer delicious food Thursday night for dinner only and Friday through Sunday for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

You are encouraged to email Aaron at lakemitchellmarina@att.net with any ideas on changes to the property, additional services the Marina can offer, and of course any specific food selections that the Lake Mitchell community, fishermen and vacationers alike, would like to see offered on the menu.

Baits will soon be available. Please check for updated information about the Marina on the Lake Mitchell Marina Facebook page or call the Marina itself at 205-755-8100.

Aaron is super-excited and is sincerely feeling blessed by what seemed a far-off dream which has now come true. He gives tremendous thanks to previous owner Diane Knighton for her continued support and critical advice during this transition. Please stop by to see the progress, give feedback, and enjoy the services!

--Information provided courtesy of Linda O'Rear, Area 8 Rep

Final Lake Mitchell photo calendar will be in 2022!!

Next year will be the last edition of the Lake Mitchell calendar, as HOB0 is retiring this project. Since this is our 25^h anniversary, and also our last year to produce a Lake Mitchell calendar, let's plan to go out with a bang! Please submit your very best photos to Tad Henry at lakemitchellphotos@gmail.com or via the photo form on our website. Photos that are not selected for the calendar will be displayed online. This is your opportunity to show off the beauty and excitement and peacefulness and fun that is to be found on the lake.



Lake Mitchell HOB
P.O. Box 1324
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Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Membership Application

Annual Dues Required \$25	Fireworks Donation \$	Fireboat Donation \$	Scholarship Donation \$	General Donation \$	Optional Purchase Lake Mitchell Photo Calendar \$18 each
Check One:	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member			Optional Purchase Additional Phonebook \$10 each
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 HOB, P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046
Or join and pay online at www.lakemitchellhobo.org