



From President Rick Griffith --



Hello Lake Neighbors,

So, what do you think about when you hear “Lake Life”? My first memories of “Lake Life” go way back to the late 1950’s. We packed up all our camping gear and headed up to Lake Gunter’sville (Town Creek) and pitched camp on the shore of a wooded lot that my Dad and some buddies rented for the summer. We put up our regulation army tent (with canvas floor) and set up our regulation army cots. Our kitchen was a Coleman propane camp stove. There was a pavilion on the lot next to us with restroom facilities. I learned how to ski behind a 14’ aluminum “ski” boat with a 35 HP Johnson outboard when I was 6. All of my Mom and Dad’s friends’ children were my “river rat” buddies. Now, I am not a fisherman, far from it, but my Dad taught me how to fly fish. I still have his fly rod and reel. We used to night fish by parking our boat under the “big bridge”. Dad had a pole with a sealed beam car headlight hooked to a car battery that he stuck out over the water to attract the fish. I don’t remember catching too many fish, but what I do remember is the delicacies that we took with us to eat. Our meals consisted of Vienna sausage, potted meat, pork n beans in a can, soda crackers and an RC Cola. I thought that was soo cool. We would pretty much stay all summer with the moms, and the dads would commute back and forth to Gadsden to work. The weekends consisting of fishing, skiing, pitching horseshoes, and marathon Rook games among the parents. Those were some great memories.

So, by the time you read this newsletter, Spring will be here. I hope you and your family will make some great memories together at the lake this year. Your HOBBO Board is off and running for the year working on projects to make our “Lake Life” better and safer. Hopefully, we will have some announcements soon on some things we are working on. In the meantime, please make plans to participate in our first spring clean-up on May 13th. We need all the help we can get to clean up the lake, and you get a free hot dog

lunch. We should have a brand-new Marine 9 Fireboat on the lake soon. I hope we can have it on display for everybody to see. Yes, the big “banana boat” is being retired. I think we should sink it in the lake somewhere for fish habitat...just kidding.

Mark your calendars for the **HOBO picnic on June 3rd** and the **Poker Run on June 17th** benefiting our scholarship program. These are both fun family events. Our annual fireworks show will be on Monday night, **July 3rd** in Cargile Creek at 9:00. These events are posted on the calendar on the Lake Mitchell HOBO website.

Now, go out on the lake and make some memories and have a Vienna sausage on me. - Rick

(Note from Editor Laura Thornton: our Lake Mitchell Area Reps periodically submit articles for the newsletter, letting everyone know of any news or items of interest or concern. Below are the ones that were submitted for the current quarter)

AREA 1A – Ridge

Chan and Patsy Aldridge

SPRINGTIME ON LAKE MITCHELL

Spring is one of my four favorite seasons on Lake Mitchell. With everything waking up from the winter and new life around us everywhere, I love getting out on the lake. I love looking for wildlife like deer and beautiful flowers. We are blessed on Lake Mitchell with an abundance of flowers that God planted for us to enjoy.

My favorite all time flower is the Umbrella Tree, so called because the leaves are so large, that it would act as an umbrella for those caught in the woods during a storm. The bloom is a huge wild magnolia.



Between the end of May and the first of June, there are wild Cahaba lilies blooming up Hatchett Creek in the shoals. It's dangerous going, but seeing the flowers in full bloom is worth it.



The Alabama state wildflower – the Oak Leaf Hydrangea blooms on our lake in late Spring and early Summer.



If you haven't already seen them, go for a boat ride and look for the following – wild mountain laurel, wild rhododendrons, and wild azaleas.

Saturday, May 13th at 8:00 a.m. is our next Lake Cleanup. Everyone is encouraged to get out in their areas (or anywhere you see a need) and remove trash and debris from our beautiful lake so that it stays beautiful for years to come and for our children and grandchildren to enjoy. Afterwards everyone gathers at Higgins Ferry for a hot dog lunch and drawings for door prizes. Come help out and enjoy getting together with your lake neighbors.

Check the calendar on the HOB0 website at <https://www.lakemitchellhobo.org/calendar.html> to make certain you don't miss any of our exciting events. - Chan & Patsy Aldridge

Area 6 – Bird Creek

Durwood and Karen Brown

Hello from Bird Creek --

Spring has sprung as today (March 6th) we jumped 30 degrees- from 50 to 80. We Browns like the serenity of the cold weather during Winter; But we also enjoy seeing and hearing the Spring boat traffic "wake the Lake" once it warms up again.

Concerning boats- Remember to re-register your boat(s) again this season.

Using the Chilton Courthouse takes me only 5 minutes and \$35. You can call that office (205-755-1555) with any registration questions. The Courthouse also provides pamphlets on "Alabama Boating Laws & Regulations ". The Alabama Marine Police can be contacted at 334-353-BOAT or 1-800-272-7930.

Many of us are anticipating Lake Mitchell Marina and Grille reopening 3/31. Our neighbors Aaron & Susie Sims will be set to welcome all at 11am. Later that same Friday evening Karaoke kicks off at 6 pm. Congratulations and thanks again to the Sims for providing Lake Mitchell's fun, relaxing and unique Oasis. Best wishes for a totally successful 2023.

We hope you will join us **May 13th at 8 am** at Higgins Ferry Park. It's the semi-annual Lake Cleanup. It is always encouraging to see (and to be a part of) the collective efforts to fill that Dump truck with dozens of full trash bags. Once the boats return- Lunch is provided about 11ish with plenty of Hotdogs, cold Cokes, chips and cookies.

Also - You can claim a "Renew our Rivers" T shirt for participating.

Have a Fun & Safe Spring. / Durwood & Karen

AREA 7 – Bird Creek to Walnut Creek

Becki and Mau McCallum

I am so sad to report we have lost a long-time resident of our area. Mr. Tony Sturges had owned a property close to Higgins Ferry launch and loved coming here from his home in Florida. He was a retired professor from Florida State University, but was a native of Dothan, Alabama and a graduate of Auburn University. He and his wife Mary Perry, who predeceased him, came here regularly for "R&R". Tony's daughter, Sarah Sturges, will continue to come here for the same reason. We extend our sympathy to Sarah and all her family, Tony was special and will be greatly missed.

Becki McCallum, Area 7

AREA 9 – Walnut Creek Peninsula

Pamela and Kevin Sims

The December 1, 2022, edition of the Chilton County News, published the exciting news that the CR 264 paving project was complete. Mickey Bates, on behalf of the residents of Area 9, Walnut Creek Peninsula and Creekside, and Area 10, Cove Branch, delivered our final payment for the jointly funded project to the Chilton County Commission at their November 22, 2022, meeting. Thank you again to all who participated. We hope all residents and visitors who utilize CR 264 will enjoy the safety and comfort of this new roadway and that all of us will do our part to take care of it. (photos on next page)



Area 9 has begun the New Year with lots of activity. Patty Gilmore, from the Walnut Creek Peninsula, shared this exciting news with us --

“Congratulations to Peerson Waller, age 13, who caught this catfish January 13 off her dock on the point of Walnut Peninsula. It was over 3 feet long and local fishermen said it had to be over 40 lbs. Peerson’s scale couldn’t register a fish of that size. It was a happy night for Peerson! Her sister, Kathryn Ann, and I loved cheering her on from the shore and sharing in that experience with her.”



It’s great to see all of the activity at the lake. As folks are out walking or riding in utility vehicles, many are carrying bags to collect trash along the way. This regular cleanup is SO helpful in keeping our newly

paved roadway looking its best! On a recent February cleanup along CR 264 between CR 261 and Creekside it was clear that Litterbugs' beverages of choice are Gatorade, Michelob Ultra and Bud Light!



Thank you to all who help keep our roadways litter free

HOBO has many events scheduled for the spring and summer.
Please note these dates for your calendars.

May 13, 2023	Spring Lake Clean-up
June 17, 2023	Poker Run
July 3, 2023	Lake Fireworks

(Of note, Walnut Creek Peninsula's own, Dale Vann, is leading the Spring Lake Clean-up).

AREA 11A – Mountain Branch to Lay Dam

To start out the New Year right, Tonya and Bo Drake hosted all the families that live at Mountain Branch. Many of them are new to the lake, including the Drakes, so they wanted to get to know their neighbors. Two families were unable to attend. They hosted a potluck dinner and had a small fireworks show.



Water Monitors Needed (note from Jim Woodrow)

Now that Covid requirements have eased somewhat, we can plan some Water Monitor Training. I have had some volunteers in the past, but could not follow with training. Now I think that will be possible. The training will be for Water Chemistry involving Air and Water Temperature Measurements, Alkalinity, Hardness, pH, and Turbidity. Test requirement will be once per month, at a defined location, and at approximately the same date and time of day. HOBO will provide test kits and chemicals used in testing. If you have volunteered previously and were not trained, please consider doing so again. Contact Jim Woodrow at ajwking@aol.com or by phone at 205-913-0121.

Note from Coosa RiverKeeper Justinn Overton: below is a short synopsis from our Field Manager, Lucas Allison

With our sunlight being filtered through thick mountains of clouds and a heavy storm system on the way, a good opportunity managed to shine through, an opportunity we couldn't pass up. Our team loaded up our canoe, threw on our rain jackets and began the journey down to Lake Mitchell. Our destination was an unassuming tributary named Blue Creek, small in size, but grand in its beauty. While Blue Creek turned out to be an unexpectedly beautiful, wild oasis in a land of development and concrete, a hidden problem only revealed when it rains was heavy on our minds. This problem was our motivation for the patrol and our justification for dealing with potential storms. In the prior weeks, we had received a number of reports that this "unassuming" creek was pumping out large volumes of sedimentation during rain events, and we were there to figure out why. Despite studying topographical maps and droning the surrounding land the prior week, we still could not definitively point to any specific source that would be causing the sedimentation. This of course meant that it was time to try a more personal method, so we waited for rain and headed out. We waded up a couple miles of creek, finding unmapped sections, and searching for any obvious cause of the sedimentation. However, like most things in this field, and life, the problem was not so easy to spot. After another half mile, and no luck, the storm had finally arrived and we decided to head back to the canoe. However, during the wade back and following the flow of the creek now, we noticed some things and eventually came to some conclusions. The banks of Blue Creek appeared to be severely eroded in multiple different sections. This erosion was seemingly caused by the topography of the area and appeared to be completely natural. Given the amount of erosion visible and the lack of any other point source along the creek, this had to be the cause of the sedimentation. With our legs burning, our hair soaked, and our minds satisfied, we made the last leg of the journey back to the canoe. We loaded up our gear, and headed back for warm coffee and discussions on how we can restore this beautiful creek.

Since then, our Staff Riverkeeper has met with members of the Lake Mitchell HOB0 Board of Directors to discuss next steps, which could include reaching out to land owners and or contacting multiple agencies regarding the impact of excess sedimentation has on the rough horned snail.

*******SAVE THE DATE **** POKER RUN JUNE 17**** watch for more details to come*******

Lake Mitchell HOB
P.O. Box 1324
Clanton, AL 35046
Change Service Requested

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U.S. Postage PAID
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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 HOB 25th Anniversary Collector's Edition Calendar 2022 \$25 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.lakemitchelhobo.org