



## From President Rick Griffith --



Greetings Lake Neighbors,

At this writing it is early December and by the time you read this it will be next year, 2024. This year has gone by so fast. At my advanced chronological age, it seems as if time has sped up. I hope that all of you have had a great year at the lake and that everybody accomplished what they needed to get done during the draw-down. We had a great clean-up in October during the draw-down thanks to Dale Vann and all of the Area Reps who planned and promoted the event so well. Thank all of you as well who cleaned up your area in advance and had your trash "ready for pickup" by the APC boats.

We had a great Annual Meeting in early November highlighted by our guests Corporal Marshall Westbrook of ALEA who spoke to us about new boating laws that are forthcoming and about his experience with lighted navigation aids. This is a project we are considering implementing on our lake to mark hazardous areas with lighted buoys. We were also glad to have Justinn Overton our outstanding Coosa Riverkeeper, who updated us on the graphite mine project as well as some information on our "beloved" snails.

Sadly, this was our last Annual Meeting at the local Alabama Power Company facility. Due to changes in corporate policy, their meeting space will no longer be available for us to use. So, we are now indeed HOBO'S and will be looking for a new space to meet next year. Thanks to APCO for allowing us to use their meeting space for so many years.

As 2023 comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to once again give a big THANK YOU to all of our board members, officers, area reps, and all of the volunteers who work to make this organization so successful every year for more than 25 years. You are greatly appreciated!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

See ya'll on the lake  
Rick

## AREA REP NEWS

### AREA 6 – Bird Creek

**Durwood and Karen Brown**

Hello from Bird Creek,

Many thanks to those who collected River trash during the drawdown. Several HOBOS (including myself) presumed that lots of trash would manifest itself once the lake receded. I was wrong based on the shoreline that me and my neighbor, Roland Webb traveled Cleanup Day. What we did observe during the drawdown were various attractive seawalls of wood, stone, or rip rap up and down Bird. Our creek now looks better than ever.

Mark these dates as the 1st half of 2024 is upon us:

May 4 Spring lake cleanup

June 1 Annual hobo picnic

June 15 Poker run

July 5 Fireworks

We encourage any & all neighbors to become HOBOS. Give me a call on this. Your \$25 annual dues underwrite scholarships, water, testing, fireboat expenses plus events like those listed above.

Special “shout out” to several neighbors who trudged in the mud to clean up Turner’s point on September 30. Andy Pond, Ben Handley, Karen Brown plus Area 7 residents Mau and Becki McCallum, Ralph Atchison, and John Burroughs did a great job. Thanks again y’all.

Yet again our condolences go out to another Bird Creek family. This time to the family of Leighton Nelson, who passed away September 28. Leighton’s wife, Ginna and her parents, Nelda and Pete Glaser are more of our good Bird Creek neighbors.

Leighton loved the outdoors; and of course that included Lake Mitchell. A tribute honoring his life was well attended at Higgins ferry Park Pavilion on October 6.

Also, we just learned that Bob Jennings, a long time Bird Creek resident, passed away 12/3/23. Bob & Nancy’s home is right beside their kind neighbors-the McCulloughs & the Cooks. I’d been acquainted with Bob for many years; and he was always friendly to wave and speak to me. Our condolences go to the Jennings family during this time of loss.

**The Browns wish you all a Blessed Winter, Merry Christmas & a Happy 2024**



Photo of Higgins Ferry Park during the drawdown (construction of 225 foot seawall in background)

**AREA 9 – Walnut Peninsula****Kevin & Pam Sims**

On the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend Area 9 residents from Walnut Creek Peninsula and Creekside gathered for our annual HOB0 get together. This tradition was started by Patty and Dale Vann, continued by Betty and Joel Elam and now we are enjoying the opportunity to host.

Mickey Bates brought his cannon to honor and celebrate the Holiday. Mickey shared his thoughts with us and I asked him to summarize those to share here.

*"Each Memorial Day as a tribute to the sacrifice of those that gave the last full measure of devotion to our country and the freedom that we all enjoy, a Cannon Salute is fired by members of the Bates family on Walnut Creek peninsula. The cannon is a scale replica of a Revolutionary War era cannon and fires a round cannon ball as was typical of the period. Although no actual cannon ball is fired, the loud discharge and bellowing smoke and fire serve to remind us of all of those that made the ultimate sacrifice. The cannon is also usually fired on the Fourth of July to celebrate the birth of our nation and again on Veterans Day to honor all of those that have served in our armed forces. The cannon is usually fired from the high banks overlooking the Coosa but on this Memorial Day weekend it was along the creek bank under a waving American flag. It is a family tradition of the Bates' to always remember those that sacrificed and those that have served and to those that continue to serve today. Today as I write this is December 7<sup>th</sup>, Pearl Harbor Day, Let us never forget."*





During the lake water draw-down, Area 9 residents worked to clean up the shore line all along the peninsula. We are thankful to be part of the Lake Mitchell Community.

Pamela and Kevin Sims



## In Memoriam:

### H.O.B.O's Unsung Heros.....

If ever words described any of us who work with H.O.B.O, it ESPECIALLY describes Judy Murchison, wife of Dan Murchison, founder of H.O.B.O.

Judy passed away on October 6, 2023 just days before her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. She left behind not only a loving family, but an untold number of friends from all of her endeavors including H.O.B.O.

Judy tirelessly supported Dan. In the early years, she not only opened their home willingly for the initial meetings, she would even cook dinner on occasions!

As I got to know her as a friend, I was amazed that she rarely ever was "out on the water", but she knew everybody!

She was a force behind the scenes.

Her most noted contribution to H.O.B.O. is the bi-annual phone book. She worked tirelessly to keep the information as accurate as possible. The format used today is virtually the same as her original concept. She loved gardening, dogs, cats, re-purposing items, playing tennis, Auburn football, her family, and her friends. When I think of her, I picture her with a smile playing on her face, and a twinkle in her eyes. She will be missed.

I know so many of us have personal stories to tell or remember about Judy. She was one of a kind and selflessly worked to improve H.O.B.O. into the organization that it is today. She will forever be in our hearts. It is always hard to say goodbye to our friends. – Johnye Woodrow

Photos of Lake Mitchell volunteers hard at work during the semi-annual Clean-Up -

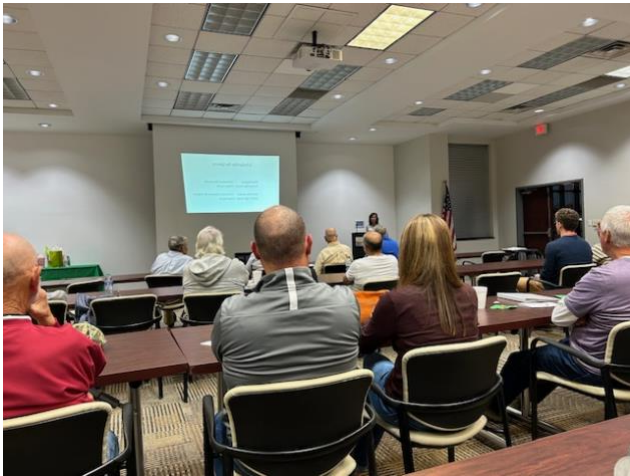






Photos from Annual Meeting in November.





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*Editor's notes: (1) Please correct the phone number for GRACE'S Marina (page 106 in your new HOB0 phone book) to 205-299-1740 to text or call them.*

*(2) It's never too early to mark your calendar – The Lake Mitchell HOB0 **fireworks** show will be on **SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2024.***

We are sad to report the death of Wayne Beaty, husband of former HOB0 President Rebecca Beaty. Wayne passed away on December 11, 2023, after an extended heroic battle with cancer. Wayne and Rebecca lived in Montevallo, but they loved spending time at their place on the lake, and were involved in many HOB0 activities over the years, especially the Poker Run. Wayne was active in Montevallo Community Theater, was a Boy Scout leader, a Vietnam veteran, and was known for his great sense of humor. He will be missed not only by his family, but by all who knew him





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

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**Birmingham, AL**





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

<b>Annual Dues Required \$25</b>	<b>Fireworks Donation \$</b>	<b>Fireboat Donation \$</b>	<b>Scholarship Donation \$</b>	<b>General Donation \$</b>	<b>TOTAL OF DUES PLUS YOUR DONATIONS \$</b>
<b>Check One:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Renewal</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>New Member</b>					
<b>Last Name</b>			<b>First Names (Both spouses, if applicable)</b>		
<b>Home Mailing Address:</b>					
<b>Lake 911 Address:</b>					<b>Lake Area</b>
<b>Email 1</b>				<b>Email 2</b>	
<b>Home Land Line or N/A</b>		<b>Lake Land Line or N/A</b>		<b>Cell #1</b>	<b>Cell # 2</b>

Detach and mail form along with your check to Lake Mitchell HOBO, P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046  
Or join and pay online at [www.lakemitchelhobo.org](http://www.lakemitchelhobo.org)