



Volume 31, Issue 2, Spring 2026

**PRESIDENT’S CORNER:** by Chan Aldridge



Springtime on Lake Mitchell is one of my favorite times of the year. (I do have 4 favorite seasons) Seeing all the new green vegetation sprouting to life across the lake from us as the trees lose their wintertime look makes us look forward to springtime. Have you noticed the infinite number of green shades on the trees as the leaves mature?

We are blessed to have beautiful wildflowers on the lake. It seems that in the Spring there is almost always something beautiful to see -

Below is the Wild Magnolia, also called the Cucumber Tree or the Umbrella Tree. The blooms and leaves are the largest on the lake, and the largest in North America.



Wild Mountain Laurel on Lake Mitchell makes it look like it has snowed on the mountainside. From leaf to stem to branch, Mountain Laurel is poisonous in all its forms. The USDA says it can even be fatal to both humans and some animals, so don't be tempted to pick it and bring it home.



**"BEAUTIFUL BUT DEADLY"**



When the Wild Rhododendron is in bloom, the mountainside lights up in shades of pink

To keep our lake looking its best, we have a volunteer lake cleanup twice a year, Spring and Fall. Our next lake cleanup is Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at Higgins Ferry. Afterwards, we all meet back at Higgins Ferry to offload all the treasures (garbage) we find and join together for a free hot dog lunch. It's a wonderful time of fun and fellowship (the hot dog lunch is nice too!). Free t-shirts are handed out (supplied by Alabama Power) and door prizes are given away too.



There is no telling what you'll find on a lake cleanup! Above Jeannette and Chip Gates and I show off our latest "finds".



Bob Thornton, Patsy Aldridge, Paul Hammock and I are on our way to pick up lake neighbors Alan and Beverly Stewart to help with Mitchell Lake shoreline cleanup. We had much laughter onboard the Coosa Queen pontoon boat on this day.



This is the Coosa Queen ready to off-load all of our "finds" from a productive day of lake cleanup with Bob Thornton, Chan Aldridge, Beverly and Alan Stewart. On top is the most unusual thing we found on this day. What do you think it is? Someone suggested it might be a UFO antenna



Above are Billy & Emmy Spencer, Paul Hammock, Scott and Gay Phillips, and Patsy Aldridge enjoying a lake cleanup together.



A great group of volunteers after a morning spent cleaning up – Ken & Donna McElroy, one of our scholarship candidates, Patsy & Chan Aldridge, Emmy & Billy Spencer, Scott & Gay Phillips, Paul Hammock, and Rick Griffith.



Our next get together after the lake cleanup is Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, when we have a lake-wide picnic lunch at Higgins Ferry at 4:00 p.m. HOBOS supplies the paper goods, drinks, and barbeque. Everyone else brings a side dish or dessert and we have a wonderful time together. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to get to know new lake neighbors and reconnect with old friends you may not have seen in a while.

We all love the beautiful vegetation on our lake. The wildflowers are beautiful in the Springtime and the hardwood trees turning all shades of fall colors are gorgeous in the Autumn. However, there are other kinds of vegetation that we don't like seeing. That is the invasive plants that are sometimes found on our lake.

STEP 1: LEARN TO RECOGNIZE THESE INVASIVE PLANTS

Water Lettuce

Lyngbya

Water Hyacinth

Hydrilla &  
Eurasian Milfoil



STEP 2: RECORD GPS LOCATION WHERE INVASIVE PLANTS ARE SPOTTED

Download a GPS app on your mobile device. Choose one that allows you to share your location. When you spot invasive plants, get as close to them as safely possible. Use the GPS app to record your location on your device.

STEP 3: SEND GPS COORDINATES TO ALABAMA POWER. Send the GPS coordinates via email to Tim McLean at Alabama Power at [tmclean@southernco.com](mailto:tmclean@southernco.com) or call **1-800-LAKES-11**. For more information about keeping our lake free from invasive species, check out the information on our website.

<https://www.lakemitchelhobo.org/invasive-plants.html>

- **2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS** -

- |         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| May 2   | Lake Cleanup   |
| May 30  | Annual Picnic  |
| June 20 | Poker Run      |
| July 3  | Fireworks      |
| Oct 3   | Lake Cleanup   |
| Nov 6   | Annual Meeting |

**AREA REP NEWS:****Area 4****Vickie Griffith and Susan Orr**

**Hey Cargile Neighbors!** It's been great seeing so many boats on the lake during our pretty days this spring. Cargile is gearing up for an incredible birthday celebration for our country's huge 250 years, and we want you to join in!

**1--Have you read and sent in your Poker Run survey** I sent out a couple of weeks ago? Please let us know asap if you're interested in helping in any way with our family fun and important fundraiser at the lake. Click this link to read more!

**PLEASE [click here](#) for the flyer & Interest form**

**2--Have you thought about HOW you will decorate your boathouse/ house/ dock areas for our **HUGE America 250 celebration** at the lake this summer? Let's get Cargile decorated in our **RED...WHITE...BLUE** for May--June--July this summer!!!**

**3--Have you sent in your 2026 dues yet? Please do this soon** by clicking the link below.

Join Lake Mitchell HOB  
[lakemitchellhobo.org](http://lakemitchellhobo.org)

**Important dates for your Calendar:**

**May 2--Lake Spring Cleanup--Higgins Ferry---8:00 a.m.**

**May 30--HOB Picnic--Higgins Ferry---4:00 p.m.**

**June 20--POKER RUN FUNDRAISER**

**July 3--FIREWORKS--Cargile Creek**

Hope to see you on the lake soon, ready for an incredible spring and summer of fun!

**Area 6****Durwood and Karen Brown**

We just love living near Clanton, Alabama. You can count on most folks there to be friendly, kind, courteous, and helpful.

A few weeks ago, I was fortunate enough to make two new Lake acquaintances in town the same day. First- I was enjoying lunch with my buddy Scott at Main St Café- where Scott introduced me to Nickie who happens to own the Main St Café. Our brief conversation revealed that she and Paul are in Area 12 (Hatchett to Preserve). We each mentioned several names of lake friends we had common. By the Way - Main St. is a really good Breakfast or Lunch Cafe. We've enjoyed eating there easily over a hundred times.

Less than an hour later, a nice person stopped me as we both walked out of a Dollar General. She had noticed my Lake Mitchell "Renew our Rivers" T-shirt and asked if I had a Lake place. As we spoke, I found out that she (Sheila) and Donald are in Area 5 (Cargile to Bird) less than a mile from us Browns. Likewise - We both know many of the same fine lake folks.

So proudly wear your Lake Mitchell T-shirts. You may make a new friend. If you need one... you can purchase a variety of them from Aaron Sims in Walnut Creek or Bill Pinson in Blue Creek. Also, you can even get a free T-shirt for participating in the lake cleanup on May 2. I want to also mention that the McCormick 's have sold us some "sharp looking" souvenir Tees commemorating the Independence Day fireworks that Lake Mitchell is noted for.

The weather is warming up! Happy Spring y'all. We will see you on the water soon.

**Area 15A**

**Rob and Theresa McKibben**

Area 15 A had a dessert get-together back in October at Theresa and Rob McKibben's cabin on Big Airplane Slough. This was the first chance to meet some of our neighbors in this newly split area. We are looking forward to spring and summer on the lake and more chances to meet our neighbors!



### **Editor's Note** by Laura Thornton

Fifteen years ago, Bob and I started our journey as “Lake People.” Neither of us had really thought about getting a place on the lake. Neither of us had actually grown up spending a lot of time on the lake. One of my aunts and uncles had a cabin on the Warrior River I had gone to a time or two as a child. Another aunt and uncle had a nice place on Lake Martin that I spent a few days at every summer. My in-laws had a small cabin on Lake Jordan they bought after retirement that we utilized a time of two for kids’ swim parties when we lived in Wetumpka. But after they died and we moved to Prattville, neither we nor Bob’s brother had the time or inclination to keep it up, so we sold that property.

We thought when we retired, we might buy a condo at the beach. But after considering the very real possibility of hurricanes, and the distance involved in utilizing it or keeping it maintained, we decided against a beach house. There are a world of lakes in Alabama, but the only ones we were familiar with were Lake Martin, Lake Jordan, and Gunterville. Looking at a map, we saw the closest one to us was Lake Mitchell. So, we contacted local Realtor Kathy Zuelzke and made an appointment for her to show us any available properties, since we had no clue about where we’re like to locate, or even what type house we’d prefer.

She took us on an extended tour via boat, and I think we must have looked at every single house that was listed for sale! (and there were quite a few at that time). We saw quaint fishing cabins that had been in families for years, we saw cute modular homes comfortably decorated, we saw newly-built (and some still under-construction) mini-mansions, we saw homes with flat, level lots, we saw homes with stairs that went down and down and down till they finally reached the water, we saw homes with great views over “big water”, we saw homes with neighbors all around and just a stone’s throw across a creek, and we even saw vacant lots where we could build our own dream home. It was almost overwhelming, but we took our time thinking about our choices, then asked for a repeat tour - this time narrowing our selections down to what we thought we really wanted.

There was one house we liked, a lot, because it had about everything we wanted. But it was just a little too much above our budget, and the owner wouldn’t negotiate downward. So, we made an offer on our second choice, and it ended up being exactly the right one for us. It was a log cabin less than 10 years old that was on a quiet and peaceful part of the lake. Perfect for our needs and our lifestyle. We purchased it in 2011, then went out and bought a boat, and thus began our adventure on Lake Mitchell. We have loved it so much – the cabin and the Lake itself. The drive is just 45 minutes from our home, and it is convenient for our family and friends to visit. Keeping up two houses’ utilities, insurance, cleaning, etc is sometime a pain, but it is worth it.

Another thing that is worth it, is being a part of Lake Mitchell HOB.O. We got involved almost from the very start, and it has been such a blessing. We have met so many wonderful people who have become friends. We have enjoyed the activities, the projects, the comradery, the hard work, the laughter, the partnership, and the fun, and we heartily recommend HOB.O to anyone who lives or owns property at the lake. Jump on in -- you can come to the annual picnic, do the Poker Run, watch the fireworks, join the cleanup. Talk to your Area Rep if you’d like to be on any committees or perhaps become a member of the Board of Directors. There is information on the Lake Mitchell HOB.O website or in the Directory. We’re always looking for new faces and new friends to work with. You won’t regret it !!

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE MARIE BUTTS, CHAIRMAN

The 2025-2026 scholarship recipients are as follows:

**Anniston Taylor** (Isabella High School)

Anniston will attend Auburn University  
In the fall.

**Tenna To** (Chilton County High School)

Tenna will attend the University of Alabama  
In Birmingham in the fall.



The School/Teacher grant recipients for 2025 are as follows:

CENTRAL ELEMENTARY School of Coosa County (funds to attend Special Olympics; After-school Art Club)

CENTRAL HIGH School of Coosa County Tech Center (Opportunity to Develop Workplace Skills; Chat and Chew Project; Mini-Playground)

CENTRAL HIGH School of Coosa County (Water and Soil Analysis; Leaping through Body Systems; Flowing Fluids; HP Color LaserJet Printer)

ISABELLA HIGH School (Classroom Store to Teach Life Skills)

VERBENA ELEMENTARY School (Vinyl Cones and Now Net Instant Nets)

JEMISON ELEMENTARY School (Sensory Area for Autism Unit; Classroom Lighting; Expand Sensory Play Area for Special Education Classroom; Math Centers)



From Central Elementary: Nia McDonald, Kai, Marie Butts, Ms. Kaitlyn, Ms. Payton (funds to attend Special Olympics)



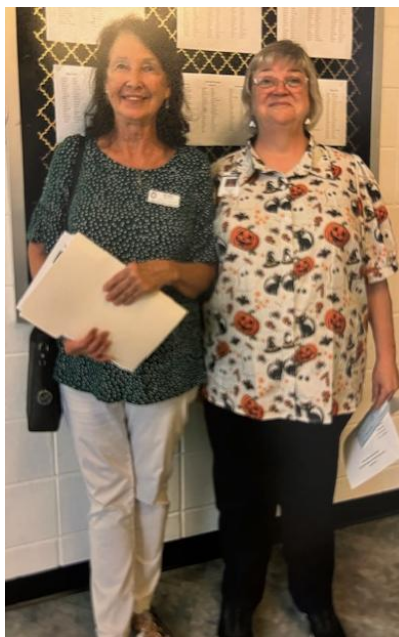
From Central Elementary: Lorie Blackie, Ronda Moreland, Marie Butts, Shannon White (After-School Art Club)



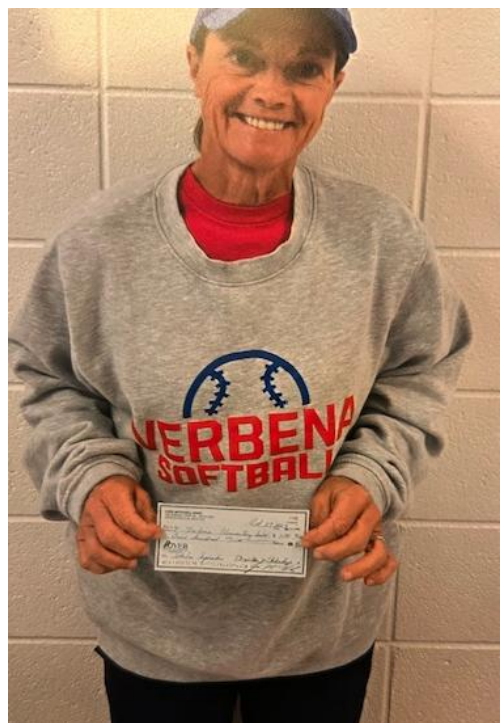
From Central High School Tech Center: Hester Hamby (Developing Workplace Skills), Marie Butts, Karen Hayes (Chat & Chew), Lisa Worley (Mini-Playground)



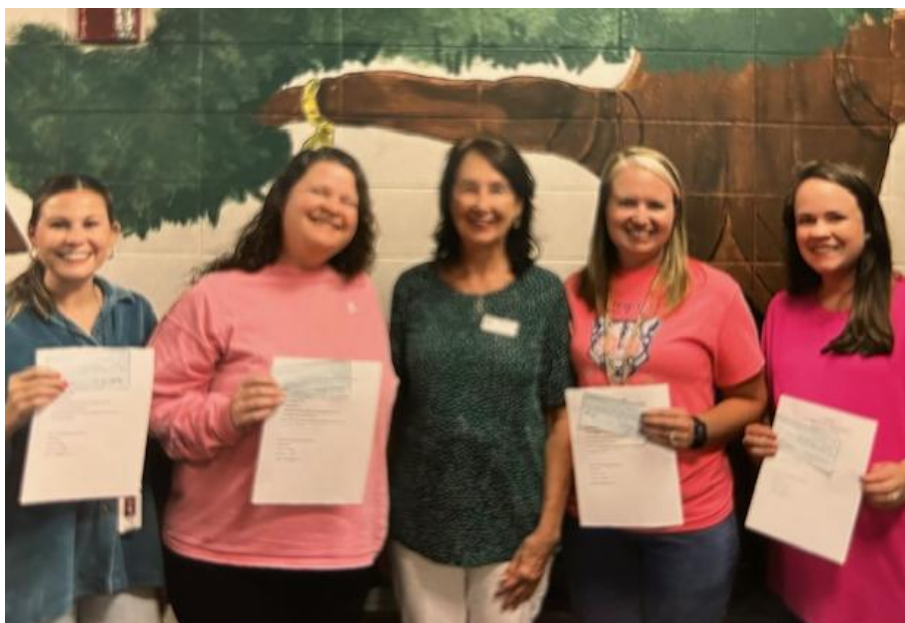
From Central High School: Mary White (Flowing Fluids), Alicia Thompson (Leaping through Body Systems), Jacques Mitchell (Water & Soil Analysis), Marie Butts, Diana Shealy (HP Color LaserJet Printer)



From Isabella High School: Marie Butts, Cindy Hurst (Classroom Store to Teach Life Skills)



From Verbena Schools: Sheila Speaks (Vinyl Cones and NowNet Instant Nets)



From Jemison Elementary: Haley Davis (Expand Sensory Play Area), Rebecca Brown (Math Centers), Marie Butts, Sarah Lutz (Sensory Area for Autism), Macey Gentry (Classroom Lighting)

NEIGHBORS CONNECTING WITH NEIGHBORS - OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:



*Anyone at the Lake Interested in  
Mitchell Mahjong ?*

Some folks at Lake Mitchell who enjoy playing Mahjong are looking for others at the lake who might enjoy getting together to play.

Send an email to  
MitchellMahj@aol.com  
with your name and contact info  
if you are interested.

**Mark your Calender  
for May 2**



## Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Membership Annual Dues Form

Print this page if you wish to mail in your annual dues, or click the link to pay online.

<https://www.lakemitchellhobo.org/join.html>

DUES & DONATIONS	
Annual Dues	\$ 25
General Donation	\$
Fireboat	\$
Fireworks	\$
Scholarship	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$



MEMBERSHIP STATUS	
Check One	
Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Member	<input type="checkbox"/>

Last Name	
First Name(s)	
Home Address	
Lake Address	
Email 1	
Email 2	
Home Phone	
Cell 1	
Cell 2	

Mail completed form along with your check to:

**Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., PO Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046**

or join online at <http://www.lakemitchellhobo.org/join.html>