



The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

HOBO Announces 2018 Scholarship Winners

Lake Mitchell HOBO is pleased to announce that Hannah Wilson and Courtney Penton are this year's scholarship winners. Each winner was awarded \$2,000. This is the 10th year that Lake Mitchell has awarded scholarships to students from Chilton and/or Coosa County.



Hannah Wilson

Hannah grew up enjoying Lake Mitchell when she visited her grandfather on Walnut Creek. She graduated from Chilton County High School, and will attend Troy University where she plans to major in Rehabilitation/Occupational Therapy.

Courtney is a 2018 graduate of Verbena High School. Courtney has worked with her family's farm where she learned that she really liked the side of the operation. She will be attending UAB where she will major in Marketing & Management.



Courtney Penton

Thanks to all who have supported our scholarships with your donations, taking part in the Poker Run, and by purchasing calendars.

This project provides a way of being good neighbors to those who live in the counties that border the beautiful lake we share.

Lake Mitchell HOBO will again award two scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 each to two highly qualified students in Chilton and/or Coosa County. Any student who is interested in applying for the Scholarship can do so at our website at <http://www.lakemitchellhobo.org/scholarships.html>. Contact Rebecca Beaty at rebecca.beaty@gmail.com if you need more information.

HOBO Calendars for 2019 will be available at the Annual Meeting on November 16th. Buy several and help us with this important project!

Upcoming Events:

October 22: Chilton County sesquicentennial presentation. 6:30pm at Chilton Public Library.

October 27: Renew Our Rivers Cleanup. 8am at Higgins Ferry Park.

November 16: Annual Member Meeting. 6pm at Alabama Power Water Course in Clanton.

From HOB0 President Scott Phillips:

Summer has ended, and winter has begun. Well it's not quite winter yet, but summer has definitely ended. And before we know it, fall will be over too.

I hope you had a wonderful summer and experienced laughter and love with family and friends. For those of you that experienced the Lake Annual Picnic, the Poker Run, and the Fireworks Show, please join me in thanking all the hard-working volunteers and generous contributions to add to our summer fun. For those of you that missed any or all of them, let me be the first to invite you to enjoy them with us next summer!

There is still much to do before winter with our October Renew Our Rivers Cleanup hosted by Alabama Power. The cleanup starts at 8:00 a.m. on October 27th from Higgins Ferry and we will need all the volunteers and boats we can get – enjoy a glorious fall day with us cleaning our lake paradise before winter sets in. A delicious hotdog lunch and camaraderie awaits once we return with our “catch.”

November 16th at 6:00 p.m. will be our Lake Mitchell HOB0 Member Annual Meeting held at the Alabama Power Water Course building in Clanton. We have another good program for you this year and HOB0 business to cover as we welcome Rebecca Beaty as our next President. Please join us for valuable information on our Lake happenings, fellowship, refreshments, and door prizes.

After all that activity, fall will wind down for HOB0 and I encourage all of you to prepare your homes, boats, and yards for the approaching winter. Enjoy a blessed Thanksgiving with your friends and family and live your faith during the Christmas season. Then we will all enter the new year with a fresh eye to the upcoming summer.

I want to thank many people that have helped me greatly over the time I have had the privilege to serve HOB0. The list is long and includes our Executive Committee, Board members, Past Presidents, Committee Chairs, Newsletter Editor, Web Master, Area Representatives, and many, many members and volunteers that have humbled me in watching how their contributions support HOB0's mission. I will simply say Thank You to you all and I enjoyed being on your Team! I look forward to continuing as a member of our Lake Mitchell HOB0 community team – I encourage you to join me

You Can Now Join HOB0 Online!

For those of you who don't like writing checks, **you can now pay your HOB0 dues online** through **our website – lakemitchellhobo.org**. It's easy. It's always available. You don't even need a stamp.

Dues are \$25 per year. You will receive an email confirmation of your payment when you pay online. Of course, **you can still complete the form on this newsletter and mail in a check.**

Membership in the Lake Mitchell HOB0, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is tax-deductible. Your dues support lake cleanups, water quality testing, newsletters, homeowner directories, picnics, area events and so much more! **It's the best bargain around.**

AREA UPDATES

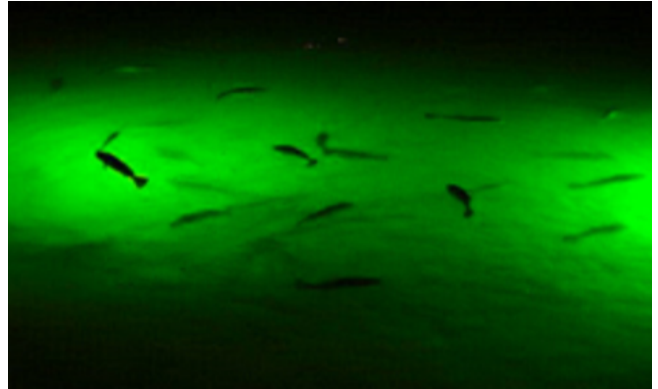
Area 1A - The Ridge

Has anyone noticed the mysterious green lights under the water of our beautiful lake? If not, take a boat ride after sundown and see what's up. You will see some fish that might make you think twice about swimming this summer. There are some very large Gar fish and Catfish in our lake.

A few nights ago, we were sitting on our deck, watching the "Green Monster" light and saw a mama beaver with her kit attached swim by. My wife squealed with excitement and scared the two apart. A short time later we heard the mama slap her tail to alert her baby to her location. We have also seen a muskrat swim across the light.

There is no telling what you might see if you sit and watch. You might even catch a few fish.

Chan & Patsy Aldridge



Area 5 - Cargile Creek to Bird Creek

Summer is over and many are grateful for the fall but I, personally, prefer summer when everyone is out on the water. The sound of boats and squeals of delight and laughter make me smile. Fall brings quietness but also beautiful majestic colors that only God can produce. It is a beautiful season and I hope those who do not live here full time will schedule time to come ride around and witness the lake draped in all the fall colors.

In the last year there have been new people move into Area 5. I hope to meet each of you one day. Many of those who sold and moved on were dear friends and they opened their lake houses for our area luncheons. They will forever be missed. Those new to the lake may drop by the house with the large green Area 5 Rep Sign on the boathouse which is located on the main river between Bird Creek and Cargile. There are lots of steps but if you don't want to walk up just give me a call and I'll walk down to meet you. After all, I'm used to all the steps.

If you are reading this and have not updated your email, home address and phone numbers and you know you've made changes in the last year please contact me at pnsbullard@gmail.com or call at 205-646-5968. We try our best to keep updated information in the system but almost any time I send an email I'll get the message "mailbox not found" which usually means it's been changed. Your help in contacting me with these changes will be greatly appreciated. Also if you are a new member to HOBO and in Area 5 I would appreciate hearing from you with your current information.

Remember to enjoy the lake in all seasons. You'll be glad you did.

Peggy Bullard

Area 8 - Bird Creek to Walnut Creek

Just a reminder, the fall lake clean-up day is coming up soon. This activity is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 27th at 8:00 a.m. at the Higgins Ferry boat ramp area. It is always a lot of fun and does a great deal of good for our lake. The more folks - and boats - we have for this activity the cleaner we can make our lake. Subsequent to the lake cleanup activity lunch will be served to all who wish to partake.

Jim & Linda O'Rear

Area 9 - Walnut Creek Peninsula

The lake has settled down after a busy summer. Waters are calm and temperatures are a bit more pleasant. During the next several months we need to continue enforcing our neighborhood watch. While we are visiting our lake homes, please take a moment and pick up trash on our lake and road ways. One of our main concerns continues to be the condition of County Road 32 and 264. The roads are creating dangerous driving conditions. As a community, we are asking each resident to contact the county road authorities and discuss and request that improvements be made. If anyone has any changes in address, phone numbers, or e-mail address, please let us know so we can keep our lake information current. Hope to see you at the lake during our winter season.

Joel & Betty Elam

Area 13A - East Pennamotley

This summer we said goodbye to longtime Lake Mitchell residents, Ann and Roy Stocking. They now have homes in Georgia and Arizona closer to family members. As sad as we are to see the Stockings leave, we are very happy to welcome Teresa and Keith Chambers to our lake neighborhood. The Chambers formerly lived in Maplesville, but have property on Lake Mitchell. They now live full time in Pennamotley.

For those of you who are served by CAEC (Central Alabama Electric Cooperative) they are conducting a survey to determine if there is a true need for broadband in our area. Jim and I were told at one of their meetings this broadband access may also apply to areas adjacent to their territory. If you would like to learn more go to caec.com.

Wathan and Jim Hand

Area 15 - Airplane/Finger Slough to Big Y Slough

We are proud to have been asked to serve as your representative to the HOBO Association for Area 15. We look forward to being of assistance to you and our beautiful Lake Mitchell.

Betty has been a resident of Finger Slough since 1967 when her parents started the cabin after camping and visiting at the lake for years. Trip has enjoyed the beauty of the lake since the late 1950's when he grew up at AlaGa Lodge. What a shame we didn't know each other then too. We are now enjoying Betty's mother's place with the fourth generation. Life is grand!

We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Labor Day weekend and a fantastic summer. Lake traffic appeared to be lighter than usual for a holiday weekend but the weather was wonderful with some rain at night, a nice breeze during the day, and eagles flying over the area. Beauty everywhere!

There is a little bit of a change coming for Area 15. Part of Area 14 (Airplane Slough) will now be part of Area 15 in an attempt to balance the numbers of residents in the two areas. Let's welcome our new Area 15 family members. I am in the process of updating the Area 15 member roster to show the changes and still need some email addresses from the Airplane Slough residents.

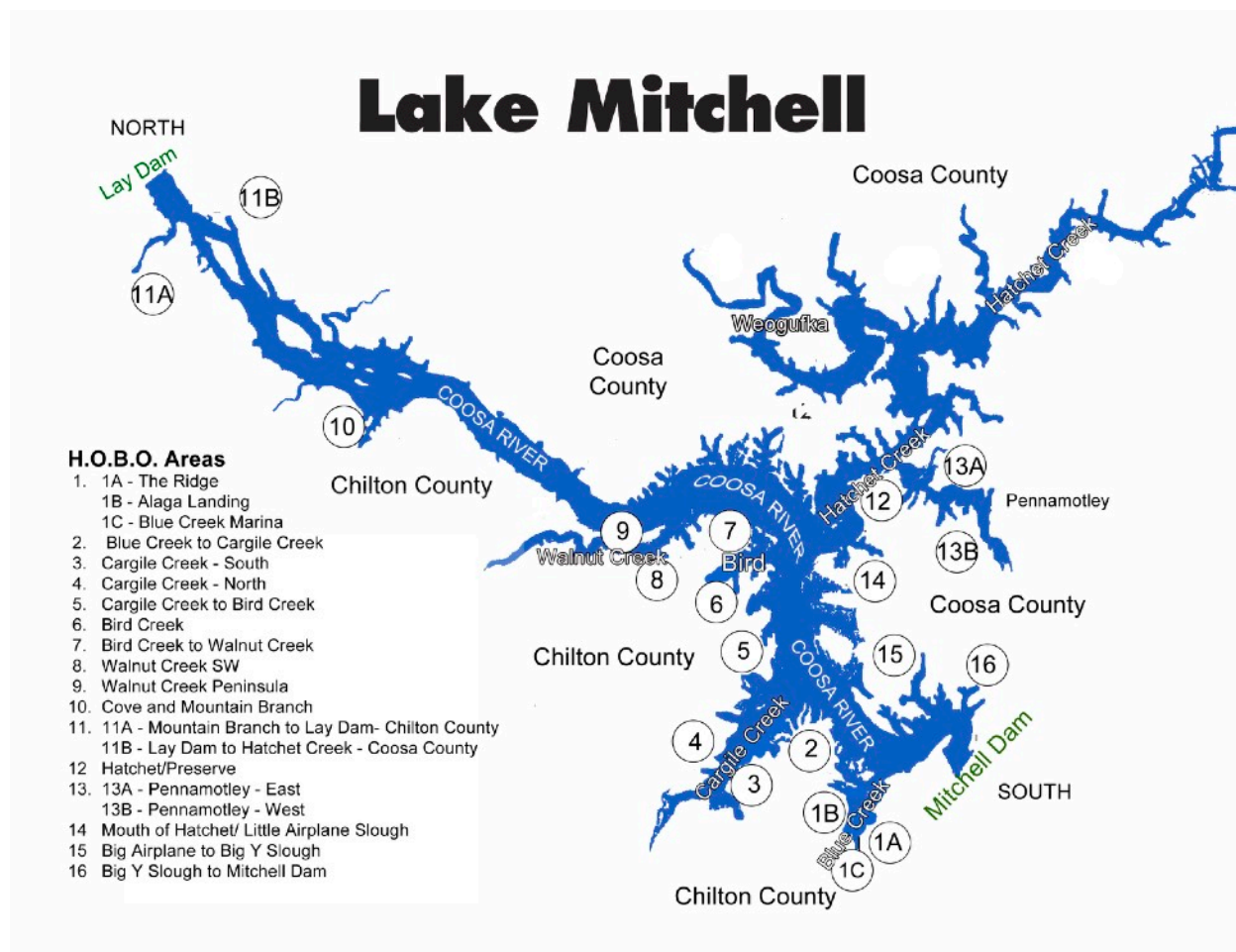
I must mention that a hot button for me is the safe operation of boat traffic. Perhaps it is the unknowing visitor to our lake who violates the State laws, but we can do our part by leading by example. Do you know the "rules of the road"? Remember, navigation lights have a meaning with the red bow light on the left, the green bow light on the right, and the white light on the stern. By Alabama law the boat operator is responsible for his or her wake. Damage can especially occur in small or narrow sloughs. Respect your neighbors and yourself. Stay safe!

Trip and Betty Janney

Area 16 - Big Y Slough to Mitchell Dam

As Fall finally arrives, we are settling into cooler weather and hoping everyone had a great summer! We are hoping to have new neighbors soon. If you have not ridden up to our area lately, please do. We have new Lake front lots available.

Nan Spivey



Airplane Slough Airstrip Connection

By Chip Gates, HOBO Historian

Our source for this story is Mr. Harris McGough. Harris' granddaddy was Thomas Dawson McGough Jr. Thomas McGough Jr.'s son (Harris' dad) was Thomas Dawson McGough III or Tom to his friends. From talking to Harris it is apparent his dad led an interesting life. Tom was born in 1915, and by age 15 he bought his first airplane, possibly a Fairchild or a Piper J-4. From then on Tom owned several airplanes until, much later in life, the cost of keeping them insured became too much. Tom's dad Thomas Jr. also flew, but Harris isn't sure who taught whom to fly.

When Tom wasn't flying he had other things to interest him. Harris said his dad had the first Triumph motorcycle in Montgomery. However, motorcycles and planes were just hobbies; motorcars were to be Tom's bread and butter, as he went on to own the Oldsmobile dealership (Capitol Motors) in Montgomery. Tom's brother (Harris's uncle) Frank owned Capitol Chevrolet in Montgomery, and at one time held a world speed record in a boat. Harris added his Uncle Frank's boat racing was partially sponsored by Johnson Outboard Motors.

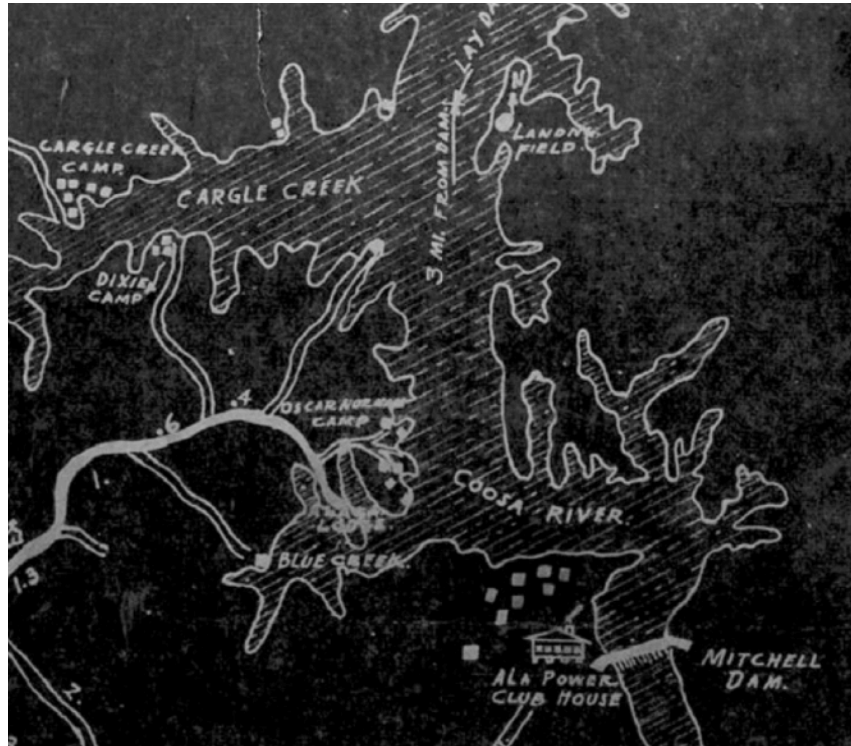


Getting back to Lake Mitchell, the McGough's (pronounced McGoo) had a place at the southern end of the lake on the Chilton county side. Harris remembers the location being called Mims Point. Directly opposite this location on the Coosa County side was Goat Rock, so called by Harris' granddaddy because sometimes wild goats would be seen there. This large rocky outcropping, now somewhat submerged, can still be seen next to the steeply sloping shoreline.

Today if you're traveling south from Cargle/Cargile Creek by boat, just before you reach a small island and where Blue Creek joins the lake, there is a slough on the right. There is a solitary covered boat slip on the point now, as the adjacent land is in a floodplain and no permanent structures can be built there. Along the right or north side of this slough is where the McGough's had their house, or actually houses, as they had three. There was also a small cottage for their handyman, Jesse Bibb. Jesse was like family to the McGough's, and was a steadfast companion of Tom's.

Sometimes Tom would leave the big city of Montgomery for some R&R. Way before the Interstate system was constructed, he would forego the drive up Hwy. 31 and instead fly to Lake Mitchell. Passing over Blue Creek and being very careful to avoid the nearby towers and high voltage lines coming from the dam, he would drop down to circle the house until he got someone's attention on the ground. Having been acknowledged, Tom would then cross over the lake and land on a grassy strip that Harris believes was largely cleared by Jesse's efforts. This strip terminated just south of the entrance to what is now known as Airplane Slough. This was so far back in the day that few people owned a plane, and Harris said he never knew of anyone else using the field. After securing his plane, Tom wouldn't have long to wait. Sometimes a family member, but usually Jesse, would get in Bessie, Harris' grandmother's boat, and make the short trip up and across the lake to pick Tom up.

To get a visual reference of this airstrip's location, see the map at right. On the Coosa county side and opposite the mouth of Cargle (Cargile) Creek you'll see where the field, complete with a North arrow, was located.



Across from the McGough's place was Mitchell Lake Lodge. Mr. Mims was the caretaker for 5 cottages owned by Carmelo DiGiorgio, two of which are still standing. Mims lived in a house that was behind and further up the hill from the cottages, and the "Lodge," even further back and higher still in elevation, afforded a grand view of the lake. This same Mr. Mims raised hunting dogs on part of the property.

To finish our story and to emphasize just how small a world it truly is, Harris said he and his playmates would sometimes go up on the hill behind where Mr. Mims stayed and visit a cabin owned by a lady school teacher. Around this cabin they would catch butterflies. My wife's parents, Vincent and Concetta Tamburello, bought this same cabin from the school teacher in 1953. Generations later relatives of the butterflies that escaped the grasp of those young boys still flutter by in the spring and summer.

P.O. Box 1324
Clanton, Alabama 35046
Change Service Requested

PAID Permit 12
Birmingham, AL

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

Annual Dues Required \$25	Fireworks Donation \$	Fireboat Donation \$	Scholarship Donation \$	In Memory/Honor Name _____ \$
Optional Purchase Boathouse Sign \$20____		Optional Purchase HOBO Photo Calendar \$15____		Optional Purchase 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