

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

From the Fall Cleanup...

Thanks to all the great folks who participated in the lake cleanup on October 21st!

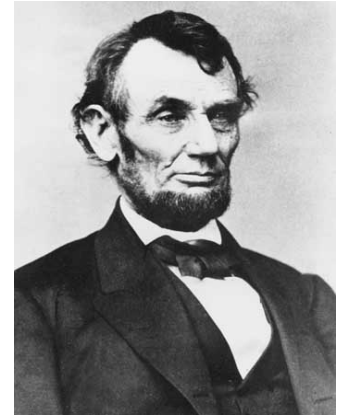
*Your help is vital to keeping our
lake clean!*



From HOBO President Scott Phillips:

"He has a right to criticize, who has a heart to help." -Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was a wise man. Early in my professional career, I was fortunate to have great mentors and coaches to help me understand just how wise he was. In organizations like Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners (HOBO) Association, we exist through our wonderful volunteers. It is the selfless service of the people who volunteer their time and resources that keeps our association going. Without them, it just wouldn't go on.



In this newsletter, I want to introduce some new volunteers to your Lake Mitchell HOBO Team - Frank Chitwood is our new newsletter editor and Tad Henry is our new calendar coordinator. I want to thank Melissa Naninni who edited the newsletter and the calendar for several years. She did a phenomenal job. I want to thank Peggy Bullard for her long service documenting our HOBO activities through her amazing photography. I want to thank your Area Representatives, who are the grass-root leaders serving as liaisons between the HOBO officers and the users of the lake. Many of our HOBO volunteers have been dedicating their time and talents for more than 20 years since the organization was founded. Our past Presidents continue to stay engaged and help our organization.

Without these volunteers, there would be no Lake Mitchell HOBO, no Fireworks Show around July 4th, no Annual Picnic, no Scholarship Program, no lake cleanups, and no poker run. However, without all of these wonderful volunteers the picnics, fireworks shows, lake cleanups, poker runs, calendars, phone directories, newsletters would not magically appear or take place at all. These happenings require hours of effort by many, many people - organizing, publicizing, setting up tables for events, cleaning up after an event, writing articles for the newsletter, testing water quality, maintaining ever-changing lists of homeowners and their contact information so that we can communicate with everyone. Some people may not think HOBO has any relevance but even non-members benefit greatly from the work of this organization. The lake and our community are cleaner, safer, friendlier and better informed because of the efforts of HOBO.

It is important to bring new people into the leadership of the organization so that it will remain vital and healthy for years to come. One of my early mentors told me that the four most powerful words were "I need your help." I have learned that he is right - the more we ask for help from others, the more we give of ourselves. So, I am asking for your help to volunteer for helping our Lake Mitchell HOBO sustain its growth and relevance to all those that enjoy our natural treasure. It is a privilege to serve as your President in this great all-volunteer organizations. To all its members I wish to say a heart-felt "thank you." Have a wonderful winter season!

AREA UPDATES

We would like to welcome our new Area Reps and thank them for their commitment to serve our Association:

Chan and Patsy Aldridge: Area 1A (Blue Creek). chan.aldridge@gmail.com

Wesley and Nickey Pinson: Area 1C (The Ridge). bluecreekmarina@outlook.com

Jerry and Karen Smitherman: Area 11A (Mountain to Lay Dam, Chilton side).
jerryrolltidesmitherman@gmail.com

Joe and Shelia Davis: Area 15 (Airplane/Finger to Big Y Slough). sheliaedavis@gmail.com

Area 3 - Cargile South

HOB0 Area 3 would like to welcome new members: Keven Cartwright, Gary and Gwen Vines, Maurice and Kimberly Lynn, Ronnie and Sandra Mitchell, David Condrey and daughter Marina, Geoffrey and Charlotte Hogg, and Bud and Judy Riviere.

One of the main functions of Lake Mitchell HOB0 is communication. Being a member of HOB0 assures you of being informed and involved. If you own, lease, or rent land in or around Lake Mitchell you qualify for membership in HOB0. HOB0 communicates with approximately 800 households in or around Lake Mitchell and maintains a membership of over 400 members making HOB0 one of the largest Homeowner organizations in Chilton and Coosa Counties. Our voice matters and your voice matters.

Our ability to keep you informed on many issues depends entirely on our ability to communicate with you. For our communication to get to you we must have your correct mailing address, phone numbers, and email address. Check yours and make sure we have it correct! Send any corrections to Jim Woodrow at ajwking@aol.com with a carbon copy to Marie Greene at marieandhugh@gmail.com or call your Area Rep and give the correct info to them.

Some of the issues confronting us today include the Water Wars with Georgia, pollution and litter in our Lake, fish kills and their cause, criminal attacks on our residences, fish stocking reports, invasive weed growth, fire and rescue boat activity, HOB0 picnics and meetings, poker runs, scholarship winners and much more. -Representative Dan Murchison

Area 5 - Cargile to Bird

Fall has finally arrived and for people like myself it feels more like winter. My area has had several new families in a little over a year. I would like to welcome the Jones, Merrick, Pinson, Henderson and Neely families to Lake Mitchell. I have met or talked to some of you and hope we might get better acquainted in the near future.

Since our last newsletter we had the lake cleanup with around 31 attending. A beautiful day with great fellowship. The only other activity this year will be the Annual Meeting in November. If you are not a full time resident on the lake let me encourage you to come during the fall and winter. I tell everyone "all seasons on the lake are unique and beautiful".

This has been a difficult year for me but with God's help along with friends and family I've made it. My responsibilities with my church and HOB0 have helped to keep me busy and I've appreciated the opportunity of being of service to the lake community. Sonny and I worked together as area rep with me handling all the technical and paperwork. He was the communicator and made an extra effort to personally meet as many of you in our area as possible. He loved meeting people and they soon learned to love him. He would insist I come along on his visits and of course I did. I would end up enjoying meeting and connecting with each of you as much as he did. I am forever grateful that I had a husband that nudged me out of my comfort zone and now many of you are personal friends to me as well. I still handle all the paperwork and communication via e-mail with no problem but personal contact without him is very difficult for me. I know there are individuals or couples out there that are younger and much more capable than I to fill the duties of area rep so if you are in Area 5 and interested in getting involved with HOB0 please contact me at pnsbullard@gmail.com or call me at 205-646-5968 and let's talk. There are great rewards and benefits of becoming an area rep. One of the best is getting to know all your neighbors and many others around the lake. For that I will always be thankful. Am I quitting? No! I'm offering someone else the opportunity to serve and be blessed. Be safe and stay warm through the winter. - Representative Peggy Bullard

Area 6A - Bird Creek

Greetings from beautiful Bird Creek! Fall is a special time for those of us fortunate enough to own property on Lake Mitchell. The steam begins to rise from the water signaling the change in temperature, while the smoke from the chimneys and firepits fills the evening air. Many of us welcome the quiet of Fall as much as we look forward to the activities of the Spring and Summer. For those that typically only spend time at the Lake in the summer, I encourage you to come enjoy the beauty of Fall on our Lake.



Bird Creek is fortunate to have many full-time residents. We recently welcomed another family to our full-time list, Richard & Lynn Morgan. Congrats Richard and Lynn! -Representatives Tina & Troy Crocker

Area 7 - Bird to Walnut

Still quiet in our area. I love fall and winter - it is the best time to be out enjoying the beauty of our lake community. Many in our area along with Area 6 are involved in discussions regarding Higgins Ferry Park and how we can contribute to make it the best it can be. Stay tuned for updates. For everyone on the lake, if you have constructive and economical ideas about ways to improve the park please contact Derek Collum, Troy Crocker or me to pass along for consideration. I will broadcast ways you can help as they arise and are communicated to us. Have a peaceful winter everyone! - Representative Becki McCallum

Area 9 - Walnut Creek Peninsula

Hope everyone had a great summer. The lake in the fall takes on a different beauty both in color and temperature. Several things have changed in 2017 in our area. I would like to thank Brad Sherrod for constructing a split rail fence to organize all of our name signs. Thanks to Mickey Bates for installing our surveillance camera system and keeping all the residents informed of the activity going on in Walnut

Creek. A hardy thank you to the residents that help keep our neighborhood clean by picking up trash on County Road 264. A new two lane bridge has been completed on County Rd 32 a welcome addition to our community. We look forward to 2018 in our Walnut Creek with friends and neighbors.

-Representatives Betty & Joel Elam

Area 13B - West Pennamotley

After a mild winter suffering more than our fair share of storms (but I am afraid fewer then we will see in the years to come) I am glad to see the coots have returned. The American Coots that overwinter here at Lake Mitchell, or Mud Hens for any Toledo fans, are known for their dark coats and white beaks. They stay here until they see the buds on the trees begin to swell and then they will head back north, following the thaw and rising temperatures.

In their absence we have seen new neighbors. Joy and Jason Headley purchased a lot down from us and have begun coming down for the weekends.

Work is being done in our slough and around the lake but it looks to be slowing down for the season.

As the mud hens fly in we also need to batten down the hatches on our decks and boathouses. Fun noodles never die, although they do come apart, and un-encapsulated white beaded foam needs to be removed if we see it. If you are able, please pull-in what you find and dispose of it properly. If you need a garbage can to put it in please let me know and I will pick it up from you. Unsecured life vests, deck chairs and tables, and increasingly cushions too, blow into the lake readily and are usually ruined by the time they are found. We cleared out a closet several years ago that holds nothing but this stuff and we also have several plastic, weather-proof boxes for what does not fit in the closet.

Besides the coots coming the good news is that the poison ivy will soon be in retreat ahead of the mosquitos, the snakes asleep, the ospreys shrieking and diving, the herons picking the banks and walking over my dock to do it. I love it. - Representatives Richard and Wendy Cruse

Area 16 - Big Y to Mitchell Dam

As we say goodbye to summer, we have memories of long, lazy afternoons riding in the pontoon boat with friends, young people laughing and playing in the water and friends in our slough practicing the driving of their boats.

We have watched as our neighbors are building new homes and plans are being made for more growth to our area of paradise.

We want to welcome our new neighbors and encourage all of you to come by and meet the new residents of The Cove.

We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving! -Representatives Nan & David Spivey



Rushton Revisited

By Chip Gates, HOBO Historian

William W. Wadsworth, as you may recall from an earlier article, was largely responsible for the founding **the town of Rushton**. Wadsworth, who later became known as the “Timber King of Alabama”, was born Oct. 17, 1841, near Prattville. He served as a scout and sharpshooter in the 21st Alabama Infantry during the Civil War. Wadsworth received multiple wounds throughout the war, including losing a finger in one skirmish. In 1865 in North Carolina he was shot through the body, the bullet passing near his heart, while another round shattered his left elbow, disabling him for life. Nevertheless, he survived the war and went into agriculture and the sawmill business. **The mill he built at Rushton, where Blue Creek flowed into the Coosa River, became one of the largest in the state.** It is reported there was narrow gauge rail line that was used to bring timber out of the woods and down to the mill. A second, standard gauge line, took finished products to market via a connection with the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, which was then known as the South & North Alabama Railroad.

William Wadsworth was not content with just his sawmill at Rushton. He maintained a commissary there, as well as at the town that bore his name. He also started a pottery works at Wadsworth and served as the town's postmaster for 23 years. **Wadsworth died in November, 1913, and is buried in a church cemetery there.** You can find his resting place by taking Hwy. 31 South from Verbena, then left onto Hwy. 143 S. towards Deatsville & Wetumpka. When you reach the intersection with Autauga Co. Rd. 68, the church will be on your left.

Back to our little town, in 1903 Rushton had its own U.S. Post Office. Having a post office back then quite literally put your town on the map. A 2-cent stamp was usually sufficient for general mail, but if you needed to correspond with someone overseas, you had to hand over to the postmaster a Liberty head nickel or 5 Indian head pennies. By the way, the name of this latter coin is actually a misnomer. According to Whitman's “Guide Book of United States Coins”, the person represented was not a Native American but Miss Liberty wearing a headdress. However you paid, five cents was far cheaper than taking it there yourself. Plus it allowed for more time on the job at the Blue Creek Lumber sawmill, or farming, mining, or hunting and fishing along



the as yet untamed river.

This last item was found on the *genealogytrails.com* website under Chilton County Military Data. At the beginning of the Civil War and at the age of 17, **William B. Jones** went to the community of Chestnut Creek and enlisted in Company B of the 1st Alabama Cavalry. Like Wm. Wadsworth, William Jones survived the war, and the 1907 Census of Confederate Veterans listed him as a resident of Rushton. In 1925 a Confederate Pensioners list showed the now octogenarian Mr. Jones living in Clanton. This move may have been brought on because of his age, but most assuredly it would have happened after the completion of Mitchell Dam and the submergence of Rushton in 1923.

The accompanying map is from May, 1919, and is entitled **Duncan's Riffle Development, Topography of Flooded Area**. The solid boxes are structures that will have to be removed, as they are below the darker 352' contour line. Today this corresponds with the full pool line, which in actuality is about 311 feet above sea level. Also note the parallel lines that indicate the "Old R.R. Bed", which hugged the northern side of Blue Creek. Those of you familiar with the southern part of the lake will recognize the narrow gap that now leads to Blue Creek Marina. Original map courtesy of George Jackins.

You Can Now Join HOBO Online!

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

Just complete the online form, select your dues and donations options, and then fill out your payment information (you will have to re-enter some data).

Dues are \$25 per year. Donation options such as Fireworks and Scholarships are listed on the website as \$1. You need to increase the quantity to equal your desired donation amount. For instance, if you wish to make a \$20 donation to the Fireworks, you would increase the quantity to 20.

You will receive an email confirmation of your payment when you pay online.

Of course, you still have the choice to complete a paper form and mail in a check if you don't want to pay online. The paper form can be downloaded from the website.

Membership in the Lake Mitchell HOBO, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is open to all Lake Mitchell property owners. Annual dues are only \$25 per family per year. Your dues support lake cleanups, water quality testing, newsletters, homeowner directories, picnics, area events and so much more! It's the best bargain around.

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