
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 12 Issue 4 www.lakemitchellhobo.homestead.com **Fourth Quarter 2007**

FROM THE PRESIDENT Doug Martin

December provided a great time to spend with family and reflect on the year just passed and the one to come. At this writing our water level has been rising with the recent winter rains. Like most lake residents and companies dependent upon adequate water flow, Lake Mitchell homeowners and others on the Coosa are still hoping for the winter rains to completely fill our 'bucket'.

There is much to be thankful for in and around Lake Mitchell. We have not suffered nearly as much as others in Alabama and Georgia. During 2007, the drought left many on our part of Alabama waterways (Lake Mitchell) without the ability to drop their boats in the water due to lack of depth. Despite those conditions, many were able to 'get out' with their boats and share a ride with those not as fortunate. There were other thoughtful efforts as well.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. sponsored many events throughout last year. The first public event for the year was in January 2007 when approximately 30-35 cold weather hardened lake folks met for the Fish Habitat placement in conjunction with Alabama Power Company. Around 200 Christmas trees were placed in selected locations for building fish structure. Those coordinates are publicly available for all to use.

Of course, each Board of Directors meeting is open to all. The second event and arguably one of the most beneficial was the spring cleanup, chaired by Larry Waldron, where large amounts of trash were removed from Lake Mitchell. The next event was the annual H.O.B.O. picnic held the first Saturday in June. Again, with excellent assistance from the co-chairs of the Social Committee, Gail Foster and Rose Green, and many others we had a great time with equally good food.

H.O.B.O. then sponsored the first Lake Mitchell float in the annual Chilton County Peach Parade with coordination provided by Hugh Greene and his committee of float builders.

The Fourth of July fireworks, in spite of low water and mid-week holiday, provided the best display yet. We owe a huge amount of gratitude and thanks to Jim McCormick for his leadership in making that event happen.

The fall cleanup, with a large number of you turning out, yielded still significant trash and made our front yards cleaner once again. The annual H.O.B.O. general membership meeting was held November 16, 2007 with two excellent speakers, both bringing contemporary information on the status of our water levels and other pertinent information about living on a waterfront. The Lake Mitchell Fire and Rescue boat with 100% volunteer staffing continues to provide a very valuable service to all homeowners and visitors on the lake.

This newsletter you are reading was put together by Becki McCallum and Judy Murchison. Their work at keeping us all informed through this medium is invaluable in maintaining strength in our numbers. That strength translates into a better Lake Mitchell community.

There have been many other area representative and committee meetings held through the year. The reasons for mentioning these are varied. First and foremost is to thank each of the leaders and volunteers for the time you sacrificed and the work you did. A second reason is equally important. There are many opportunities for H.O.B.O. members to become involved in some part of your organization. It may be a small amount of time you can volunteer, but it will be a significant contribution to our lake community.

As with any volunteer organization, we need new people with new energy and ideas to stay viable. I would like to encourage you to call me or someone you know who is involved and let us know what your interests are. We will find a meaningful spot for your participation. As we enter 2008, your organization is strong and continuing to develop in areas which affect lake life and living. The Community Relations Committee will be organizing in '08 and one of their purposes will be to find better ways for Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. to be informed on how



proposed governmental policies could or would affect our lake.

I would like to leave you with a quote from a recent museum visit which seemed somewhat thought provoking,

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we understand, we will understand only what we are taught.” Baba Didum

If this quote moves you into considering volunteering for the Education Committee, please let me know. That’ll be the last plug for volunteering (in this newsletter anyway).

See you on the water.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 5 Sonny & Peggy Bullard

By the time this newsletter is out the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays will be long past. First and foremost we hope that your days were filled with Love, Joy and Peace. Secondly that you gave as much or more than you received, ate all you wanted without gaining a pound and had many friends and family around.

We were blessed with 29 people at our home for the annual Family Christmas Party on Saturday after Thanksgiving. Sonny and I spent Christmas in Florida with our daughter, her husband and our three wonderful grandchildren.

Though Sonny has had three surgeries this year we are and have been blessed. Our prayer is that 2008 will be GREAT and surgery-free for us.

It is again the time of the year to think about sending in your annual membership dues of \$25.00 and due always in January; although most of us are a little slow which makes us feel the due date comes around too soon each year. Renew your membership early this new year and encourage your neighbors to renew or join H.O.B.O. as well. Our area is rather large and it takes a team effort for us to push toward being 100%.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you this spring for our Spring Brunch. There are great families in our area and we would like to get to know all of you. There will be more information later with the location, date and time. Warm winter blessings to all!

Area 10 Roxanne & Doug Martin

We hope your Christmas was merry and want to wish you all a Happy New Year! We hope 2008 is a healthy and prosperous year for all.

There is not much news on our end of the lake. However, we are thankful for the rain we’ve received and are hopeful more will come soon.

Please mark your calendars and plan to be at the spring clean-up March 15th. If you have never participated before, we provide a good service to our environment and have fun fellowship with lake friends too!

Don’t forget it is time to pay membership dues for 2008, thank you if you have already paid.

See you on the lake.
755-0863, or email roxymartin@mindspring.com.

Area 14 Rose and Eric Green

Hope everyone had wonderful holidays! Just want to remind you to renew your H.O.B.O. membership. We are shooting for 100% participation from our area this year. Eric and I still reside on the lake full-time, but we have disconnected our land-line phone service. We can instead be reached by cell phone. Eric is 205 288-4681, and Rose is 205 492-7151. You may also email us at ROSEGREENLAKE14@YAHOO.COM. Please don’t hesitate to contact us for any reason. We wish everyone a great 2008 on the lake!

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson

Holidays are such fun if you just relax and enjoy. Do not think everything has to be done perfectly. Will it make a difference 10 years from now?

Remember, summer will soon be here and we can again enjoy Lake Mitchell.

I have been in touch with Lake Mitchell Water and a news letter will be coming from them. It is closer than you imagine. Be patient. The City of Rockford had some stumbling blocks in obtaining their permits but it is looking good now.

Do you know about our "critters" near the lake? A mountain lion has been spotted more than once. A pair of bobcats is usually out in the early morning. Of course, the scary ones are the coyotes that have been heard around dusk. These are the ones to be leery of.

Let’s welcome our new neighbors Joe and Sheila Davis. They purchased the Cole’s home. Also, the Pentons sold to Rob and Mignon Wall. They are expanding their home to welcome the company every weekend.

See you this summer?

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.65
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.95
Alkalinity	20+	90
Hardness	10 - 120	77.4

Quarterly Report Average Water Quality

A low **dissolved oxygen** level indicates a demand on the oxygen in the system. Pollutants such as inadequately treated sewage as well as

decaying natural organic matter can cause low oxygen levels. The **ph** scale ranges from very acidic such as battery acid to very basic such as household lye. The midsection of the scale between 6.5 to 8.2 is optimal for most organisms. If a body of water has an abundance of buffering materials causing high **total alkalinity**, it is more stable and resistant to ph changes. When alkalinity is above 20mg/l there is a marked increase in nutrient utilization. **Hardness** refers primarily to the amount of calcium and magnesium, which enters the water mainly by leaching of rocks. Both minerals are essential to the development and growth of aquatic plants and animals.

Environmental Committee Dan Murchison, Chairman
Anita Lawson and Jim Woodrow have attended several of the most recent "Forever Wild" meetings on behalf of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Forever Wild is the State of Alabama program that uses oil money paid by large oil companies to the state for oil exploration and drilling off our coast in the Gulf of Mexico. Part of this money is used to buy qualifying land to be preserved in its natural state for both animals and plants and never allowed to be developed.

Anita and Jim now report that after many years of negotiations 10,000 acres in the Coosa Hunting Preserve along Hatchet Creek and Lake Mitchell have been put in this "Forever Wild Program".

This is a very positive significant development for Lake Mitchell and all surrounding communities.

I think there are many of us who have forgotten what an old forest (50 years or more) looks like. Many of our children and grandchildren have never seen the beauty and tranquility of an old forest. There is a small "old forest" in our own neighborhood at Flag Mountain just east of Lake Mitchell in Coosa County. Jim Woodrow and I visited Flag Mountain just last year. We were amazed at the height of the mountain, the old rock fire tower, and the beautiful old forest right in our own back yard.

Your children and grandchildren deserve to see it! Look at "Flag Mountain" online.

The Land Preservation Committee of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. hopes other land owners in the area will consider selling their land to the "Forever Wild" program and preserve a piece of history for present and future generations.

Thanks to Anita and Jim for keeping us informed and thanks to the Nature Conservancy and other environmental groups who assisted in this accomplishment.

BULLETIN BOARD

2008 Calendar of Events

H.O.B.O. is your organization! Members are welcome at all meetings and social functions. Annual membership dues in H.O.B.O. are \$25.00 per family, payable each January. See the back page of this newsletter for the applicable form.

Feb 15	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Mar 15	8 a.m.	Spring lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Apr 20	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	Martin home
May 2	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
June 7	4 p.m.	Annual Picnic	Higgins Ferry

June 8	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	Martin home
July 4	10 a.m.	Pontoon boat parade	Higgins Ferry
	2 p.m.	Speed boat parade	Blue Creek
	9 p.m.	Fireworks	Cargile Creek
Aug 8	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Aug 10	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	TBA
Oct 24	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Oct 25	8 a.m.	Fall lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Nov 21	7 p.m.	Annual General Membership meeting	TBA

March 15 is Lake Mitchell Spring Cleanup

The spring cleanup will be held at Higgins Ferry Park on Saturday, March 15 from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

It will be followed by a picnic lunch provided by H.O.B.O. There will be free t-shirts for participants and even more rewarding fun. Please plan to attend. We need you!

Please contact Larry Waldron at (205) 987-7217, or Doug Martin (205) 755-0863 for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This section has been added to our regular format to announce human interest items such as births, deaths, weddings, etc. If you have an announcement to submit please email the notice to beckmau@earthlink.net and gugga4@bellsouth.net for editing and inclusion.

How do you know you are a member?

Your newsletter mailing label will have an "M" and the digits "08" if we have received your dues for the 2008 calendar year. The first line also contains a digit(s) representing the area where you reside on the lake. Use this digit to determine who to contact as your area rep. We value your membership yearly! Your dues help support projects sponsored by the organization and every little bit helps. Thank you for your continued support.

911 Boathouse Signs

We have a supplier for the green on white address identification signs for use on your boathouses and piers. These are a significant aid to Marine 9 in case of emergency. The cost of the sign is \$9.00. If you would like to have it mailed directly to you rather than coordinate pickup from your area representative, the cost of mailing is an additional \$3.00 per sign. If you do not have one and would like to order, please contact Jim Woodrow at 663-4196 or 755-0055. His email is ajwking@aol.com. As an alternative you may contact Judy Murchison at 755-0521, or in Birmingham at 408-7445 gugga4@bellsouth.net.

Memorial Gifts

In memory of _____ from _____

The Lake Mitchell Memorial Fund is available for gifts in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Please send your contributions to our post office box and note your

check accordingly. The intent is to set aside these funds until there is a sufficient amount to fund special projects.

There were no contributions received this quarter.

Fish Habitat coordinates for trees placed Feb 2008

You can find coordinates for the 2008 fish habitat enhancement online at

www.alabamapower.com/fishdata.

2008 Photo Contest

Get ready to "take your best shot"! Pending board approval, look for details to follow in next newsletter regarding this year's photo contest.

H.O.B.O. Spotlight

Barbara Teel, long-time Lake Mitchell resident

My love of Lake Mitchell began when I was about 15 years old. I was dating Joe Teel, who later became my husband. His grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom McKee, had a cabin on the point of Cove Branch. They were in the lumber business and owned a large plot of land on the river. I remember the construction of their cabin. There were gatherings filled with family, fiends, fishing, swimming, cooking, and laughter. When Joe and I married we spent our honeymoon at the cabin on Cove Point. Later his parents, Jakie and Evelyn Teel, built a cabin around the bend and his uncle and aunt, Thomas and Louise McKee, built a cabin between the two. The whole area was filled with Teels and McKees. The original cabin built by Mr. and Mrs. McKee was sold out of the family at one time leaving us to gather at the Teel's. At my in-laws cabin we had many summer gatherings but the Fourth of July Celebrations are the most memorable. We cooked whole pigs over fires and made Brunswick stew in large black iron wash pots. The adults would stay up all night and cook. They passed the night by telling

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entertaining old stories and creating new stories to be passed on to future generations. Joe and I had three children, Laura, Sara, and Joseph. All three of our children love the lake and so do their children. I think Sara probably has an extra love of the lake since I was there when I went into labor with her!

My children and I spent many happy days at the lake with their grandparents. They would go pick blackberries and make jam. (Evelyn always called it snake jelly since you would probably see at least one while picking the berries!) Since all three of my children were born in May and my mother-in-law's birthday was in May we began our own version of May Day. It was always on Mother's Day weekend and we kicked off the summer in grand fun! The traditions continued with some change. My daughter Sara purchased the original McKee cabin in 1989, bringing it back into the family. The Fourth of July celebrations moved there with the addition of children rolling down the hill and making s'mores. After Joe passed away I purchased the extra lot that Sara owned and built my own house next door to her. The construction was a family affair. Joseph headed it up and everyone else pitched in with painting, clean up, landscaping, and electrical work. I'm lucky to have a handy family. Now our family gathers on the same hill at Cove Point where it all started over 50 years ago. My hope is that this little slice of Heaven with its' wonderful memories and traditions will always remain in our family to bring joy to all who visit.

In addition to loving being at the lake and fishing, I enjoy gardening, cooking, entertaining, and playing cards. I am involved with volunteer work and am a member of First Baptist Church of Clanton.

Please submit articles or suggestions for features to Becki McCallum beckmau@earthlink.net, or Judy Murchison gugga4@bellsouth.net.