
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Doug Martin, dougmart@mindspring.com 2007-2008

It is amazing how fast the last two years have flown by here on Lake Mitchell. Though we have already had Thanksgiving, it would be a mistake not to remember how fortunate I have been to serve in your organization. First, it is important to say thank you for letting me serve as your leader. The process of serving, through the various meetings, events and one-on-one conversations, has led to countless new friendships and relationships. Those contacts have led to benefits for our Lake Mitchell community.

Many of you answered the call for serving during the last two years. Your volunteer efforts have benefited all of us. The time and energy are greatly appreciated. Without those efforts, our organization would become a loose association of individuals that is collectively ineffective. The energetic passion you feel for Lake Mitchell was even more impressive when issues affecting us came to the forefront. Attendance at the annual meeting to hear speakers on shoreline management was just one example of the interest of Lake Mitchell homeowners.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. membership elected a new slate of officer's and Board of Director members during the annual meeting in November. There are several new faces and leaders to emerge from that group. They will bring new ideas and suggestions and I would ask you to strongly consider supporting their efforts when called upon to serve.

Anita Lawson will be leading us during the next two years. When the opportunity arises, either through email, phone call, or visit, let her know who you are and ask if there is anything you can do to assist. I look forward to the ideas and leadership she will bring to the table.

Lastly, I need to thank Roxanne for her support during my term. She has given H.O.B.O. much of her time in many, many projects. Her support through phone calls, visits and computer time was invaluable in making my efforts effective. We both look forward to continuing the

valuable relationships we have developed over the course of 2007 and 2008. Thank you!

Anita Lawson, anitalawson@bellsouth.net 2009-2010

Beginning 2009 as President of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Association has me in awe. Our past presidents each accomplished so much and I am wondering what can come next.

Our organization was established in September 1996. Dan Murchison was our first president serving in 1997/98 and had the vision of how our organization should be set up to Preserve, Protect, and Improve the quality of Lake Mitchell.

Jim Woodrow followed in 1999. The first Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. telephone book was created. The fire and rescue boat "Marine 9" became a reality. Lake Mitchell was the first lake to own and operate a marine rescue boat with equipment equal to an ambulance. It is manned by the East Chilton Volunteer Fire Department.

Sam Piccolo began his term in 2001 with a mission to fund the maintenance of Marine 9 for many years to come. This mission was accomplished through fund raisers including a very successful raffle.

George Jackins in 2003 had the insight to initiate projects to preserve pristine areas of the lake. This vision continues today.

Johnye Woodrow became the first female president in 2005. She stepped into office immediately after the November, 2004 tornado. We subsequently had the biggest lake clean up in our history. Her 2005 Strategic Planning Committee was established to gather great minds and great ideas for our organization. The Lake Mitchell Utility boat became our new tool for lake cleanups as well as other uses.

Doug Martin entered the Presidency in 2007. He established a very successful photo contest as well as the 2009 calendar. The proceeds of the calendar sales will fund our newest project, The Lake Mitchell Environmental Scholarship. Doug has also been very involved in working on our website as well as Shoreline Management issues.

Jerry and I have been on Lake Mitchell for about 35 years. We are on the Coosa County side across from Cargile Creek in Finger Slough. When we first purchased our home, we had over 5 miles of bad dirt road, no



telephone service, and very few neighbors. We now have paved roads, telephones, and very fine neighbors. In fact, I would vote that we have the very closest slough at Lake Mitchell. Our residence is in Pelham but we love Lake Mitchell all twelve months of the year.

We are both retired so we now stay at the lake 3 or 4 days a week, though family ties keep us from moving down full time.

In my tenure as President, I am looking forward to the challenges that will arise. Our mission will continue to Preserve, Protect, and Improve Lake Mitchell.

I would like to see more young people get involved in lake activities. Young boys that grew into adults on Lake Mitchell - such as Tommy Robbins, Jim McCormick, and Graham Esdale, were involved with a Lake Mitchell Ski Club. If young people are taught water safety and environmental respect, and if they interact with each other from all around the lake, they will grow to love Lake Mitchell and will have a much better opportunity to grow into fine adults who will enjoy our lake and our H.O.B.O. association for years to come.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 5 Sonny & Peggy Bullard bullspad@localnet.com

WHAT? It is already nearly the end of the year as we write this newsletter. Time really does fly when you are having fun or very busy. December is always a busy month but we have been extra busy with Courtney, our granddaughter, getting married on December the 13th. We went to Florida five days early to help prepare for the wedding along with many other family members and friends. I (Peggy) called it "Our little French American wedding" for the bride is a very little American and the young man she married is of French descent. Courtney lived in Romania for ten years so they had a traditional Romanian wedding dance at the reception. The winter wonderland wedding was beautiful and the reception was fun and entertaining and we came home ready for a vacation just in time to celebrate Christmas. I know that everyone had a busy month as well but pray you found the time to remember the one who is the "Reason for the Season".

New phone books will be out in 2009 so get your dues in early and reserve your copy. It would be good for Area 5 to strive to be 100% in this New Year.

Here it is winter and we are already talking of our Area 5 Spring Fling which will probably be sometime in May or early June. We haven't set a date yet but we are looking forward to getting together again.

We are hoping you have had a blessed Christmas, keep a warm heart and we'll see you in the spring.

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson anitalawson@bellsouth.net

Not much to report this time of year. We are so glad we are not slipping and sliding on the old red dirt road. Our paved road should be appreciated by all.

As for Lake Mitchell Water, it is going slow. The new water lines are installed down Turkey Run and at the last

look they are working on Lakeview at this time (weather permitting). No one will get water until all pipes are in. Hope you had a safe and Happy Holiday!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman

sampiccolo@centurytel.net

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.63
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.76
Alkalinity	20+	67.75
Hardness	10 - 120	64

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

2009 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 13	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Mar 14	8 a.m.	Spring lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Apr 19	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	Martin home
Mar 15		newsletter deadline	
May 1	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
June 6	4 p.m.	Annual Picnic	Higgins Ferry
June 7	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	Martin home
June 15		newsletter deadline	
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 7	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Aug 9	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	TBA
Aug 15		newsletter deadline	
Oct 23	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Oct 24	8 a.m.	Fall lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Nov 20	6:30 p.m.	Annual General Membership meeting	TBA
Dec 15		newsletter deadline	

Report from Annual Meeting 2008 Doug Martin

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. held the annual membership meeting on November 21, 2008 at the Alabama Power Company in Clanton, Alabama. Mr. Billy Schilling, Land Manager of Corporate Real Estate for Alabama Power Company, was the featured guest speaker. There were several other APC employees in attendance and they

contributed to the program as well. They were Ms. Rosalind Griffin, Ms. Gala Wheat, Mr. George Carr and Mr. Matt Bowers. We had excellent attendance and a lively discussion on Mr. Schilling's topic of shoreline management on Lake Mitchell, especially regarding closed boathouse structures.

This report is a recap of the highlights of the meeting and may be useful to many. Regarding closed boathouses, APC acknowledged the permissible repair of up to 50% of the structure over the expected life of the building. Once the 50% threshold is attained the requirement to convert to an open boathouse would exist.

A cumulative total of repair will be maintained by APC. For example, if a strong wind downs a tree on a roof and requires replacing, it would be permissible and amount to a 20% repair of the structure. Should the same tree destroy the roof and 2 walls (15% each), it would be considered at the 50% threshold. APC would then require a conversion to an open structure.

Minor maintenance/repairs are also permissible without a permit and include items such as painting, replacing a few pier boards, changing shingles on a roof or replacing boathouse doors. They urged all homeowners to call APC if there were any questions whether a permit was required. There were other questions regarding dilapidated boathouse structures, especially where safety is a concern. APC indicated they would be in the process of identifying those structures and contacting home or landowners about removal.

I would like to extend thanks to Mr. Schilling and others mentioned above for their valuable time at our annual meeting. Their presence and change in policy on closed boathouses demonstrates an open willingness to work with the reservoir's stakeholders.

The importance of maintaining harmonious working relationships with all parties is critical. Together we can optimize the beauty and recreational bounties of the Coosa River basin by good communication and open minds. We can be thankful all parties involved are passionate about this valuable resource.

New Phone Book 2009-2010

We are compiling the new edition of our lake phone directory. Please check your listings **and those of your neighbors**. Many corrections have been made, but please notify us regardless. We would rather double-check one that has already been done than miss any change. It seems that when folks sell and leave the lake they don't inform us of transfer of ownership. If you don't have the 2007-2008 phone book to look through it might mean that you are not up to date on your dues. If you don't see MO8 on your mailing label we don't have you in the database as a paid member. Let us know if there is an error. Jim Woodrow keeps the database info up to date and can be contacted at ajwking@aol.com.

Please note this is the last newsletter before the 2009-2010 books will be printed.

Any corrections should be sent to Judy Murchison at gugga4@bellsouth.net and Jim Woodrow at

ajwking@aol.com. If you would like to place an ad in the new directory, please call Judy Murchison at 755-0521 or 408-7445, gugga4@bellsouth.net.

Memorial Gifts

None received this quarter

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Email any submissions to beckmau@earthlink.net and gugga4@bellsouth.net for editing and inclusion.

Officers and board members 2009-2010

Anita Lawson	Area 15	President
Ralph Mason	Area 1	1 st VP
Chuck Traetto	Area 13B	2 nd VP
Jim McCormick	Area 4	Treasurer
Becki McCallum	Area 7	Secretary

Board Members:

Melanie Anderson	Area 14	
Rebecca Beaty	Area 15	
Lee Bendall	Area 9	
Aubrey Ellis	Area 6	
Graham Esdale	Area 4	
Rick Griffith	Area 4	
George Jackins	Area 5	Past President
Doug Martin	Area 10	Past President
Steve Miles	Area 6	
Dan Murchison	Area 3	Past President
Mary Sue Olson	Area 2	
Sam Piccolo	Area 13B	Past President
Carl Scott	Area 5	Chaplain
John Swindle	Area 6	
Dale Vann	Area 9	
Jim Woodrow	Area 2	Past President
Johnye Woodrow	Area 2	Past President

Are you taking pictures?

Dust off your camera and take some winter photos! Submission for next year's photo contest will begin in April. We like to get photos from each season on the lake (they are ALL beautiful). If you have not purchased a 2009 calendar, please contact Roxanne Martin to get your copy. Each calendar is \$15.00 and proceeds will fund our new *Lake Mitchell Environmental Scholarship*. The first scholarship is to be awarded in the spring to a qualified resident from either Chilton or Coosa County.

Calling for volunteers:

We are currently seeking an interested person to manage the "blog" on the new website soon to be unveiled. Please contact Doug Martin (dougmart@mindspring.com) or

John Swindle (john@tridigitalbb.com) if you are interested in joining this project.

Ethanol is Bad Mojo for Marine Engines! John Swindle

Gas is gas... right? Wrongamungo! Lots of gas has about 10% ethanol mixed in it. There are local exceptions which I'll discuss further below. But first... ethanol is in the gas we buy for our cars, and many boat engines are really modified car engines, so what's the big deal? Glad you asked. The main difference is that the gas tends to remain in a boat's fuel system much longer than in cars, and ethanol has much more time to "do its detrimental deed":

- Ethanol attracts water (and condensation is a really big deal particularly in the winter). The ethanol and water settle at the bottom of your fuel tank, mix up and create a goo.
- Of course the first thing that gets sucked out of your fuel tank and into your engine is -- you guessed it -- the stuff on the bottom.
- Ethanol dissolves fiberglass in fuel tanks.
- O-rings, hoses, etc. exposed to ethanol will deteriorate more rapidly.

The good news:

If you buy your gas at any of the Lake Mitchell marinas, none of them use ethanol! That is, not until they can't get pure gas anymore. If you buy gas at a gas station, avoid the big names (Chevron, Shell, Texaco, etc.) because they ALL use ethanol. However, many small companies like Loves, Murphy's, etc. do not use ethanol... at least not yet. But eventually, it will be government mandated, so keep asking at the pump.

Recommendations:

1. Use PLENTY of Stabil in your fuel if it's going to sit there a while (particularly in the winter when there is more

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water condensation in the tanks). It can absorb some of that water as well as preserve your fuel.

2. Change out your fuel filter.
3. Keep those tanks topped off so there is no air in the tanks which leads to condensation.
4. Stay away from the big name gas stations and always check to make sure there is no ethanol in the gas. However, if you must use gas with ethanol, you might be okay if you use it up pretty quickly.

You might be interested in this article about ethanol effects on marine engines:

<http://www.lakemartin.com/News/Article.asp?ID=1004> !

You can now be a "Good Neighbor" in another way!

You now have an opportunity to give and take, or sell and buy with your lake neighbors. We are offering this opportunity to any current (annual dues paid) member of our organization. If you have an item to sell or give away, or are looking for an item, you may submit a written request to Becki McCallum at beckmau@earthlink.net. She will verify that you are a current member and reserve the right to edit the content. Any requests for publication need to be made by the newsletter deadline posted on the above calendar.

From Tom Owings on Walnut Peninsula

Yeah!! We finally have County Water on Walnut Creek Peninsula. I called Chilton County Water Authority and they do not recommend installers. I've just had water hooked up to my house by Chelce White of Centreville who has done my rental/repair work for over 30 years. He does good work, is reliable and has always been fair with pricing. He may be contacted at (H) 205-926-7499; (C) 205-316-8794. If he doesn't answer, leave a message and be sure you mention this is for water hookup on Lake Mitchell. Or if you wish to discuss with me, my e-mail is homeprop@aol.com or phone (O) 205-926-7755; (C) 205-926-7744