
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 9 Issue 4

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Fourth Quarter 2004

FROM THE PRESIDENT Johnye Woodrow

It's that time of year again to wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year! I have the privilege of serving as your H.O.B.O. President for the next two years. I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible and listening to your concerns for our Lake Mitchell Community. The Association has been in existence for eight years and has many major accomplishments to its credit. My goal is to carry us forward while maintaining the integrity of our initial core efforts.

2004 brought a lot of heartache to a great many of our residents, in part due to Ivan and the F-2 tornado of November 2004. The latter brought a lot of destruction to our beautiful shoreline. Bo Warren advised that according to his tally, on the Coosa County side of the Lake 9 houses were damaged and 4 were destroyed, with 6 boathouses damaged and 4 destroyed. On the Chilton County side of the Lake, 30 houses were damaged and 18 destroyed, with 20 boathouses damaged and 26 destroyed. These numbers are subject to revision as we have asked H.O.B.O. Area Representatives in the most affected areas to furnish us with a listing of those who suffered any damage at all. We will keep you advised on this. If you have not had an opportunity to observe the damage and the change in our shoreline, you will be greatly surprised.

For those who suffered damage, please accept our heartfelt sorrow and our offer to extend a helping hand in any way possible. ***Please be aware that any building, rebuilding, repairs, etcetera must be permitted by Alabama Power Company. Please call Bo Warren, Alabama Power's lake representative before you start reconstruction as you may be subject to new permit requirements.***

Bill Collum, Chilton County EMA Director, immediately contacted our liaison to the Chilton County Commission, Mary Sue Olson. We furnished his department a listing of known permanent residents on the lake and his department

was to contact those residents and advise what procedures were being implemented to assess and possibly assist with damage. Sam Piccolo, liaison to Coosa County Commission, took Les Sellars, Coosa County EMA Director, on a boat tour of the damaged properties.



I contacted Doug Powell of Alabama Power Company who graciously coordinates "Renew Our Rivers" clean-ups with the various Lake Associations on the Coosa River and Birmingham Fox 6 News. Due to the clean-up efforts of the various insurance companies involved, the EMA initiatives, and the time of year, we concluded it would be better to wait until our first scheduled lake clean-up in 2005 to make a lake-wide clean-up effort. We will be able to take advantage of Alabama Power's barge for a full week before the scheduled Saturday clean-up. It would be a good idea for any of you to make a note of the worst areas remaining after the insurance companies finalize their effort, so we can concentrate on returning them to their original or better than original state.

If any of you need to know how to contact these EMA departments please give me a call at 205-663-4196.

Other officers for 2005-2006 are Doug Martin-First Vice President; John Germann-Second Vice President; Becki McCallum-Secretary and Jim McCormick-Treasurer.

Directors for 2005-2006 are Duncan Austin, Terry Bates, Lee Bendall, Graham Esdale, George Jackins, Bob Jones, Anita Lawson, H. L. (Mac) McMillan, Dan Murchison, Mary Sue Olson, Sam Piccolo, Fred Rogers, Carl Scott, Carol Willie, Jim Woodrow, and Skeeter Zuelzke. Mary Sue Olson serves as Liaison to Chilton County Commission and Sam Piccolo serves as Liaison to Coosa County Commission.

Unless otherwise noted, our area representatives will remain the same and are shown in each newsletter. Committee Chairpersons and the focus of each committee

will be announced in future publications along with the 2005 calendar of events.

To initialize the process, I established the 2005 Strategic Planning Committee consisting of myself, the past presidents and their spouses; Dan & Judy Murchison, Jim Woodrow, Sam & Nancy Piccolo, George & Donna Leigh Jackins; and our first Vice President, Doug & Roxanne Martin; as well as Duncan & Jan Austin. Duncan was the Chairman of this Committee for 2003–2004. A recent meeting of this group brought forth a lot of interesting and innovative ideas. We will be discussing some of these at our quarterly Board of Directors meeting in January and will be presenting these ideas to you in the near future.

Other committees are in the process of being established and staffed. If you are interested in working within the Association structure, please let me hear from you.

Communication is and will be our key to success. Please voice your concerns, questions, and suggestions. They are welcomed, and I look forward to working for you and representing our lake for the next two years.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 3 Judy Murchison

Due to increased demands from his law practice, Squire and Grace Gwin have asked Judy and Dan Murchison to take back responsibilities as area representatives for Area 3 - Cargile South. Squire and Grace are very supportive of H.O.B.O. and look forward to the time when they can spend more time being involved. Contact Dan or Judy at 755-0521 lake or 823-2308 Birmingham, danmurch@bellsouth.net gugga4@bellsouth.net

Area 7 Becki McCallum

We just about recover from one major storm and are hit with another disaster! Our area was not affected by the Thanksgiving tornado, but our sympathies surely are with our neighbors south of us that were so terribly affected. For those of you who do not come regularly in the fall/winter season, you will see much devastation to trees and property the next time you ride the lake south of Higgins Ferry launch. Our thoughts and prayers are with all lake residents dealing with this damage. If you need help, call on your neighbors – many of us would be happy to help in any way we can.

I'm pleased to announce Lisa and John Owen will be your new area representatives, effective immediately. Many of you may have met them, even though they are relative newcomers to our area. I know all of you will enjoy getting to know them and their two offspring, Brad and Kelly.

We attempted to have an area social in October, but most of our residents were unavailable. Those of us in attendance had a great visit. We will try to have another one Memorial Day weekend in hopes more of our neighbors will be at the lake. We have some new residents in our area in the slough by Lake Mitchell Marina. Welcome to Nat & Ashley Bryan and family, as well as Brian and Stacy Dickerson and Walt and Mary Chapman. We're looking forward to getting to know you!

Area 9 Dale Vann

Good news, bad news. The good news is hopefully all the high winds from the hurricanes and the recent tornados are gone for a while. The bad news is that they left some of us with quite a bit of damage or a lot of cleanup to do. Patty and I have been on the lake for 20 years and this is the worst we have seen. Hopefully it is over for a while. Things are happening on Walnut Peninsula Area #9. More people are moving in and the construction and renovating of the existing facilities keeps going. New neighbors include:

Charlie and Amy Law Family

Bucky and Carrie Law Family

Charlie and Sarah Ireland Family

Jack and Martha Grissom Family

We are glad to have you in Walnut Creek Area #9.

If you are building, please watch your building materials. There has been some theft of lumber and building materials. Also, please be careful when you come and go on County Road 264. There was a traffic fatality several months ago near the one lane bridge. With all the curves on that road you need to drive slowly.

Remember; give me a call (205) 979-5559 at home or (205) 755-0825 at the lake if you need something reported in the newsletter.

Area 14 Betsy Ward

On October 30th, we lost a long time resident, Larry Speed. He had been coming to the lake for over 30 years. His daughter Laura Curtis said that her Dad loved being at the lake more than anything. We will miss seeing him fish from his dock or from his yellow boat.

Area residents received a lot of damage from the tornado that struck our lake on Wednesday, Nov. 24th. The families hardest hit were: Joe & Laura Curtis, Steve & Charlotte DeLoach, Eric and Rose Green, Michael Smith, and Joe Mims. Almost all the homes in our area were affected in some way, with damage from moderate to severe. We are all hoping for a quick recovery, but are grateful that there were no personal injuries considering such devastation. Long time resident Larry Holler said he saw the storm coming across the water and that it looked like a black ball moving up the river. He sought refuge in

the basement of the Deloach home, which was totally destroyed.

I encourage all residents of our area to join H.O.B.O. Membership for the New Year is now due. You can also make a donation for the July 4 fireworks and Marine 9 (the fire and rescue boat). It was very comforting to see the boat on the lake shortly after the tornado. We are very fortunate to have this service capability. I hope everyone in our area and all over the lake has a wonderful New Year. Thanks for allowing me to be your area representative, and if anyone has any news or suggestions please feel free to call me (256-377-1102).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.29
pH	6.5-8.2	7.6
Alkalinity	20+	58.46
Hardness	10-120	53.46

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

Membership 2005 – “M” - Jim Woodrow

We are starting a new year on Lake Mitchell and once again our Memberships are due. Membership in H.O.B.O. is \$25.00 and extends from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005. Membership in Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. strengthens our lake community and by working together gives us a stronger voice in civic and environmental affairs. For 2005 we will strive to increase our membership.

During past years we have had a lot of area residents ask “Have I paid my membership for the year?” We put some thought into this, and we have come up with a method of letting everyone know their membership status for the current year. We send the H.O.B.O. newsletter to all lake residents in our Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. database using a mailing label. On past mailing labels we have been putting the lake area, designated by a number. This year

we are adding a letter “M” to indicate paid membership status.

When you get your newsletter, look at the mailing label, if you have an “M” at the end of the line where the name is, then you have paid membership for the current year. If there is no “M”, be sure to send your \$25.00 to Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., PO Box 1324, Clanton, Al, 35046. We also accept donations for the July 4 fireworks fund, as well as East Chilton Fire Dept/Marine 9 (fire/rescue boat).

Membership status can also be determined by asking your Area Representative. Also contact your Area Representative with new ideas, questions, and concerns. We need to hear from you to make Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. a better organization.

Thanks to local sponsors

We would like to extend our **thanks** to the businesses and individuals that sponsored door prizes at our annual meeting on Nov 12, including Alabama Power Company, Malcolm Pierson, Heaton Farms, Martin Funeral Home, Verbena Pecan, and Cooper Consulting. Those of you who missed the meeting really missed out on some great gifts! We appreciate your patronage and support of the local businesses that support our organization and mission.

H.O.B.O. Spotlights

We would like to feature articles about special people, events, or items of interest under the heading of “**H.O.B.O. Spotlights**”. There are many people that work for, and on behalf of all of us as well as events that impact our lake. We look forward to giving these the special attention they deserve. If you know of someone or something to share with all of us, please send your comments to Judy Murchison or Mac McMillan.

H.O.B.O. Website Mac McMillan

Have you visited the H.O.B.O. website recently? Fifty three hundred people have. Pay it a visit. Currently there is some important information there regarding invasive plants on our lake that we all need to be aware of and report to Alabama Power Company for eradication. Check out the Website, it's for your information and enjoyment.
www.LakeMitchellHOB0.homestead.com

New phone directories

The new lake resident phone directories for 2005/2006 will be published in January. To make a change to your listing or add your email address, please contact your area representative, or Judy Murchison. Of particular importance are changes in your area, if you have a new

neighbor we want to make sure they are included. All paid members will receive a complimentary copy of the directory once they are completed.

Lake Mitchell Memorial Fund

Many residents and friends of the lake may not be aware of the establishment of the Lake Mitchell Memorial Fund. This fund was started in 2004 to enable those who would like to remember a loved one with a gift to benefit a place they loved. The monies received for this fund will be "earmarked" for special projects to be determined by the Board of Directors. If you or someone you know would like to make a contribution to the Fund in memory of a loved one, please send to Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., PO Box 1324, Clanton, Al. 35046. Please be sure to note "Lake Mitchell Memorial Fund" on any contributions made.

Contributions received in 2004:

By:	In memory of:
Bill McCallum	Doris Swindle
George & Donna Leigh Jackins	Doris Swindle
Roy Carpenter	Ruth Beene
Dan & Judy Murchison	Ruth Beene

Letter from Chilton County EMA

To Lake Mitchell HOBO folks:

Thank you for the opportunity to hopefully clear up any misunderstandings in regard to assistance from FEMA with F-2 tornado damage.

Chilton County EMA actually did four different damage assessments. I did a preliminary on the day of the tornado. My Damage Assessment Team did our standard assessment which we turned in to the State of Alabama. Then I did another survey with the Alabama EMA Regional Coordinator, and finally we did a fourth survey with representatives from FEMA and SBA. But with all of that surveying and digging we still did not have enough uninsured damage to warrant a declaration from Governor Riley or by FEMA.

That is "good news/bad news". It's a blessing from God that no one was hurt or killed on that morning, and that most of the people affected were insured. It's bad news if you were not insured or if you were under-insured.

I appreciated the help of Mrs. Mary Olson and Jim and Johnye Woodrow in identifying those who live on the lake. This was a big help in submitting our report to the state.

I have talked with Mr. Doug Powell with APCO and he will contact me sometime after the first of the year to arrange for a time when the lake level can be lowered and much needed clean-up can be done. I am aware that many of you have debris around your piers and boat houses that

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must be cleared before summer. I'll pass this information on to your organization as soon as I get it.

Thanks for all the hard work you have done. May God bless you.

Bill Collum
Chilton Co. EMA

H.O.B.O. SPOTLIGHT

H.O.B.O. is proud to Spotlight Mr. Cecil Woodham, Manager of the Alabama Power Company office in Clanton. Cecil has been a true friend of H.O.B.O. from it's beginning in 1996. His quick response to our phone calls and his willingness to help with meeting arrangements, mailings, and general support is greatly appreciated by the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. community. Cecil has served Chilton County in many outstanding ways. He serves on numerous boards including United Way, the American Red Cross, the Chamber of Commerce, Family First, the American Heart Association, the Industrial Development Board, the West Central Alabama Rehabilitation Board, the Growth Alliance Steering Committee and Region 20/20.

Cecil was born and raised in Barbour County. He was blessed with parents who instilled in him a strong work ethic. After working his way through Troy State University and receiving a Business Administration and Marketing degree, Cecil worked for several companies in Barbour County before signing on with the Alabama Power Company where he has worked for 35 years. He is the manager of the Clanton office, serving the Chilton County area as well as parts of Autauga and Coosa counties. From our dealings with Cecil, we have learned that he truly strives to ensure that all customers are very satisfied with Alabama Power Company and the services they provide. Cecil and his wife Judy make their home in Chilton County. We also know he is constantly striving to work for improvements in the tri-county area he serves – Chilton, Elmore and Autauga.

Thank you Cecil – H.O.B.O. salutes you and appreciates all your help.

PAPA'S RIVER Patsy Wideman

A terrible thing happened about 6:15 the morning of Thanksgiving Eve, 2004. A tornado dropped down from the sky and wreaked havoc on the ancient trees and well-loved old cabins and on the lives of many Lake Mitchell residents, both permanent and weekenders. First hit was Dixie Camp, and the damage there was savage. The tornado tore roofing off the long line of boat stalls at G.R.A.C.E.'s (previously Inman's Camp). The tornado then moved along Cargile Creek removing sections of porches, roofs and houses. That's when the tornado

arrived at the place I've always called Papa's River.

My grandfather, Cleo Armstrong, bought Armstrong's Point around 1950, the year I was born. I grew up with stories about the building of his cabin. Papa cleared the land in pioneer fashion, battling snakes for the right to build on his land. At first, there were no roads – not even dirt, so building supplies were brought in by water on barges. Through the years, the original little fish camp underwent many changes. It grew into a fine, sturdy little house, nestled among the tall, stately pines at the top of the hill. My aunt, Virginia Armstrong, turned the point into a much-admired garden spot. Thanks to my aunt, my grandparents were able to spend the last years of their lives as permanent residents on Cargile Creek. My aunt lived in the river house until about three years ago, when she sold the place to a nice family, Rick and Sissy Flynn and their boys.

Lake Mitchell flows sweetly through my childhood memories. Memories of my little sister and me craning our necks to be the first to see the river as we arrived for a visit; the smell of gasoline mixed with motor oil; the smells of Coppertone Suntan Lotion, of Noxema for sunburns and of Campho Phenique for mosquito bites; the mouth-watering fragrance of Mama's fresh-picked blackberry cobblers baking and of fish frying for our supper. Memories of learning to ski, of lying on an inflated float and gazing up at the pine trees etched against blue sky and puffy clouds; of swinging in brightly-colored hammocks with good books; of Fourth of July celebrations and family gatherings. The list could go on and on.

The Thanksgiving Eve tornado changed the landscape which I still hold so dear on Cargile Creek and that of other areas of Lake Mitchell also. Many of the lovely old pine trees now lie on their sides with their root balls unearthed. Many others snapped off mid-trunk. Trees easily 75, maybe 100 years old, gone now forever. At Papa's place, the cabin appears to be intact, though buried beneath a great many trees. How many trees, I hadn't the heart to count. Many cabins fared far worse and are now beyond repair. My heart aches for the losses being suffered by my neighbors on the lake. My heart aches, with theirs, for beloved parts of our lives gone now forever.

By the time Steve and I were able to visit Cargile Creek, the sky was blue and the weather cold and clear. There was the smell of wood smoke as trees, limbs and debris were burned. All around us were sounds of backhoes, chain saws and hammers as the people on Cargile Creek began the work of restoring order, rebuilding and replanting. Things will never be as they were before the tornado visited Cargile Creek, but we old-timers will still have our wonderful memories of what went before.

Now is the time for building what will be the cherished memories of the next generation of river children. Bless the builders. Bless their efforts. May their memories lend them strength and heart for the work at hand. May the new Cargile Creek be as treasured as the old.