
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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Fourth Quarter 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT Johnye Woodrow

It is hard to believe that the year 2005 is over. H.O.B.O. accomplished so many things, but the best surprise accomplishment was that we asked for, and received, a used pontoon boat. It will be refurbished to use for lake-wide clean-ups in connection with the Alabama Power Company barge and crew. Skeeter Zuelzke, Board of Director member, and his wife Kathy mentioned this need to a new lake resident, Laythe Sykes. Laythe and his family recently purchased a home in Area 15 that came with two older pontoon boats. He very graciously understood our need and made the donation.

Please be sure to thank them when you have the opportunity.

Sonny Bullard of Area 5 is bringing the boat back to operational condition. I am so excited for our organization and can hardly wait to put it to use!

This is the time of year to renew your membership if you have not already done so. Please see the application on the last page of the newsletter. We would like to meet or exceed the 2005 membership numbers. Your continued support is always appreciated. Remember, the telephone book you received in 2005 is for two years (2005 and 2006). If you did not receive a book in 2005, but join for 2006, you will then receive a phone book.

Now is also a good time to thank all of the Board of Director members, Area Representatives, Committee members, and their spouses for all of their hard work in 2005. Being President is not a hard job when you are surrounded by great people who do not mind working for the common goal of *Preserving, Protecting, and Improving Lake Mitchell*. All of us who are affiliated with Lake Mitchell have a common interest and love for the Lake. If you are interested in becoming more active in the Association, please let us hear from you. We appreciate all levels of volunteers.

We cannot pass up the opportunity to thank all of the good folks of Alabama Power Company who help us with the

publishing and mailing of our quarterly newsletters. Cecil Woodham, Annette Rowe, the crews in the print shop and the mail center work so well with us and provide a valuable service. Also, the Environmental Department of Alabama Power Company, Doug Powell, Jennifer Rasberry, and a host of others always are there as partners with our volunteers and TV Channel Fox6 to promote the Lake-wide clean-ups. They provide equipment and people to assist. These two events are always so much fun. Don't forget to mark your calendars to be there. April 1, 2006 is our spring clean-up date.

We are looking forward to 2006. The Executive Committee, who is charged with the focus of H.O.B.O., will be meeting soon. If you have ideas you would like to share, you may include them on your membership renewal/new application, call your area representative, or call any other officer or director. The photo contest in 2005 was fun and we plan on making this an annual event.

Welcome to all who are new to Lake Mitchell. We pride ourselves on being a community, not just a "place". Keep an

eye out for yourselves and your neighbors. Remember to control litter whenever possible. Trash hurts.

I wish each and every one of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year for 2006. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as President for one more year and look forward to all of the things we can accomplish together!

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 9 Dale and Patty Vann

Area 9 is off to a good start on the project of obtaining county water in our area. I'm happy to report we now have Doug Martin and Area 10 coming in as co-sponsors of this project. Mike Ford as chairman has done a good job getting it started.

A telephone survey was conducted by Dale, Doug and Mike and the overall reaction by the home owners was "let's go for it". Look for a letter from the committee of



three with specific details and information. In fact, you may get the letter before this newsletter is published.

Area 15 Jerry and Anita Lawson

Old man winter is now upon us. Let's all try to help our neighbors when needed. Please keep your phone book nearby and if a neighbor has any problems, please find someone to call. Jerry and I are down almost every week. Do not hesitate to call us.

We are already looking forward to next summer on Lake Mitchell!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.94
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.85
Alkalinity	20+	53.4
Hardness	10 - 120	51.2

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 Report Dan Murchison, Chairman

The landscape of Lake Mitchell is changing -- many new and larger homes are replacing older cabins or "camps" as they were originally referred to.

The future of Lake Mitchell is in our hands and that of the large land owners. As the price of land increases more land owners will be enticed to sell to large developers. We see that occurring on Smith Lake and Lake Martin where multiple occupancy condos are being built. We H.O.B.O.'s need more than ever to work together to formulate a plan that will identify and invite the large landowners to discussions about sensitive wetlands, unique fish and wildlife areas and other primitive sites to be preserved around Lake Mitchell. Your help is needed! Please keep H.O.B.O. strong by inviting all those with an interest in the future of Lake Mitchell to join H.O.B.O. and participate in our efforts.

BULLETIN BOARD

Report Direct from Entertainment Hollywood

Grayson Russell, age 7, son of Crystal and Jerry Russell and grandson of Hazel and Cecil Cleckley (owners of The Sports Shop); has a role in a movie to be released in July or August of 2006. The NASCAR themed action comedy will feature Will Ferrell (Elf, The Protector); Grayson will play the part of Ferrell's youngest son in the movie. Grayson and his mother stayed two and a half months in Charlotte, North Carolina while the movie was filmed. There were 6,500 children auditioning for the part from all parts of the country and Grayson was selected - quite an honor! We're all proud and excited about his adventure into the world of movies and look forward to seeing him on the big screen.

Interested in volunteering?

Calling all scrap bookers! We are looking for a volunteer to compile bi-annual records of H.O.B.O. activities. Please call Judy Murchison at 755-0521 or 823-2308 if you would be willing to handle this activity. Archival items generally include pictures and newspaper articles relating to our H.O.B.O. activities and members.

Memorial Gifts

A gift was received for the Memorial Fund from Dan & Judy Murchison in memory of Mary Aldridge.

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.

Lake Mitchell shirts for sale

Judy Murchison still has available a few long-sleeved girl's shirts with "Lake Mitchell" embroidered on them. She has one size small, three medium, one large, and one extra large on hand for \$10.00 each. She also has a few caps for \$7.00 each. Please call her if you are interested in making a purchase.

Sad News – Recent losses of friends on Lake Mitchell

Judy Murchison

Area 1 – Blue Creek. *Mary Aldridge, November 1, 2005.* Mary and Chan were instrumental in the forming of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Chan was the first area representative for area 1. Mary was a delightful, beautiful person – always made you feel so welcome in their home. To have known Mary was to have loved Mary. She will be greatly missed by all of us who had the pleasure of calling her friend. Our sincere sympathy and prayers go to Chan and her two dear daughters as well as the rest of her family.

Area 3 – Cargile Creek South. *C. D. "Buster" Norris, November 13, 2005.* Buster, Suzanne, and their boys Rance, Barry and Steve had the place on the south point

coming out of Cargile Creek for some 20 plus years. Buster, an avid fisherman, dearly loved Lake Mitchell. They left the lake several years ago to move to Florida. His sister and brother-in-law Betty & Richard Meyer have a lake house in Area 11. Lake Mitchell friends remember Buster fondly and send sincere sympathy to Suzanne and all his family.

Area 6 – Bird Creek. *Callen Alred, Sr.* Callen Alred, a long time resident of Bird Creek, passed away October 23, 2005, after a long illness. Callen's mother became a homeowner at Lake Mitchell on March 1, 1932. Callen and his sister Jerry enjoyed the lake as children and adults. Callen Sr. and Margaret moved to the lake full-time in 1975. Callen and Margaret's love for Lake Mitchell continues with their children, Ginger and Cal. Callen is survived by a sister, Jerry Losey of Greenville, S.C.; daughter Dr. Ginger Alred, Jemison, Al; son Cal, Birmingham, Al and grandson Adam Alred. H.O.B.O. sends our sympathy to all the Alred family.

Area 6 – Bird Creek. *Chris Roy*, age 25, grandson of George and Elizabeth Roy. Chris, a Calera fireman, was killed in an accident involving a fire engine and an 18 wheeler. He was following an ambulance to assist with a medical call at the time of the crash. To honor this fine young man, the Calera Fire Department has named the building the "Christopher J. Roy Fire and Rescue Station No. 2". Chris had special ties to Station No. 2 as he assisted in construction of the building. It was his home station.

Everyone who called H.O.B.O. to inform us about his death spoke of what a fine, caring young man he was. We send our sympathy to his family; mother, Joyce, dad, J. R. and brother, Richard. His grandfather, George Roy, has been the mayor of Calera for over 20 years.

Area 7 – Bird to Walnut. *Johnnie Trobaugh, October 16, 2005.* Our lake family lost the founder and first pastor of "River Church". Johnnie Trobaugh loved the Lord and he loved our Lake Mitchell. Each summer from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, it has become

a tradition for those who live at the lake or who come for week-end outings to join together in worship at Higgins Ferry Trobaugh Pavilion. As fellow Christians, regardless of denomination, we congregate and sing "*Shall We Gather at the River*". Unless he was sick or out of town, he was always at River Church shepherding his river flock. We will remember him fondly each and every time we gather for our Sunday worship. Johnnie's contribution to the people of Chilton County through his ministry, through weekly articles in the *Clanton Advertiser*, and through personal friendships will be sorely missed.

Area 9 – Walnut Peninsula. *Gerow Hodges, October 1, 2005*, was described by all who knew him as "a prince of a man". His beneficence and his accomplishments are many. He was a deacon of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Shades Valley Citizen of the Year (1959) Birmingham Citizen of the Year (1978) and Vestavia Hills Distinguished Citizen (2002). He was a member of the National Advisory Board of the Boy Scouts of America and was awarded the Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope and Silver Buffalo awards in recognition of his "distinguished service to boyhood" locally, regionally and nationally. He received awards for his tireless civic work from the Kiwanis Club, Samford University, Salvation Army, Baptist Medical Centers, United Way, Crippled Children's Foundation to name just a few. One of the things he did in life that will be remembered especially was; rejected for military duty during World War II because of a college football injury, yet determined to serve his country, he joined the American Red Cross and was assigned as a field supervisor attached to the 94th Infantry Division and, subsequently, Patton's Third Army. Risking his life to negotiate with the Germans behind enemy lines, he arranged three prisoner of war exchanges during World War II, which resulted in the release of 149 allied prisoners, and was decorated with two Bronze Stars (the highest military award for a civilian). In 2002, honoring his heroic efforts an hour long documentary of the POW exchanges ("*One English Officer*") was shown nationwide by PBS.