
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 11 Issue 4

Fourth Quarter 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A NOTE FROM OUR 2005-2006 PRESIDENT Johnye Woodrow

I am writing just a short note to thank each and every one of you for being so supportive of our organization. I truly enjoyed my tenure as your president, and I am amazed how fast the time went by. I have tried to put into words how much the people and the friendships mean to me; and am at a loss for words. (For those of you who know me, I know you will find that hard to believe, but it is true.) I am afraid to start naming names, as I know the list is long, and I would inadvertently leave someone's name off the list. I think that one of the reasons our organization is so strong is that we have not only good people involved as officers, directors, and area representatives, but also such good people involved as members and residents.

I am very excited about Doug Martin taking on the role of president. I know each of you will be supportive of him, and are looking forward to working with him. Doug and Roxanne have been active in H.O.B.O. as Area Representative, First Vice President, and Clean-up Committee Chairman. He has worked hard for all of us for a long time.

Thanks to all of you and I hope you all enjoy a prosperous 2007.

AND FROM OUR 2007-2008 PRESIDENT Doug Martin *Looking to the Future/Remembering the Past*

It is with great enthusiasm that I view the next two years. Involvement with Lake Mitchell homeowners and associated benefits such as new friends, stronger friendships with those previously known, and participating in making Lake Mitchell a better place to live and play, propelled me to consider accepting the office of president for 2007 and 2008. I am sure it will be more involved than even I anticipated, but one overriding feature lead to the decision; and that is a chance to give back to the environment/community which has given so many warm,

cherished memories to me and my family for over 45 years.

Roxanne and I moved permanently to the lake in May, 2003. "The lake" in prior years also helped define who we are today. My first time on the lake was July, 1961 as an 8 year old boy wanting to explore the woods and swim. Roxanne first moved to Blue Creek in May, 1966 and as a 10 yr old quickly learned how to serve breakfast to fisherman in the Blue Creek Cafe when not begging her mom and dad to go skiing, swimming, exploring, playing with her dog and pestering her brother David. Those simple childhood dreams in time became memories, and when reflected upon bring comfort and happiness. The years between then and now were formative in establishing our commitment to loving and yearning to preserve the beautiful area we all know as Lake Mitchell.

Looking to the Future

It is our responsibility to preserve Lake Mitchell so children as well as adults can have the chance to build special memories. 'Looking to the future, remembering the past' is a slogan which will serve as my guide for the next two years. Our organization's purpose is "to preserve, protect and improve the quality of life in and around Lake Mitchell". Once each year at a planning session, a group meets to discuss ways to achieve that stated purpose.

An ever growing number of lake residents recognize the beauty most of us have known for years. Increased occupancy will bring additional pressure on fragile ecosystems. The increased boating will make education on boating safety and courtesy even more important. There will be an increased need to secure on board articles which may be blown into the water; and to take time to pick up loose bottles, trash and floating debris from those who may not have secured adequately.

Sure, it will be different than what was witnessed 20, 30, 40 or more years ago, merely due to the number of people, but the harmony of the lake's systems are in our hands; and handled properly will benefit many in the years ahead.



I commit to work in areas under our control, and be patient in areas, such as lake growth, not in our control.

In the previously mentioned planning session your elected leadership may bring ideas to the table for discussion and action, but please keep in mind this is your organization. Your ideas and participation in organized efforts at making the lake better are crucial. I want to strongly encourage everyone to suggest by email, phone, direct communication, or participation in H.O.B.O. board meetings ideas which may 'preserve, protect and improve the quality of life'.

Remembering the Past

H.O.B.O. leadership for the past 10 years has brought Lake Mitchell too many positive changes to mention here. H.O.B.O. has encouraged involvement, improvement, and participation in organized events. Many, my family included, have come to consider Lake Mitchell to be a viable, active community. It has become a place to live daily rather than a weekend retreat community only. Johnye Woodrow has for the last two years been a tireless leader. She has worked, encouraged and brought new ideas to our organization. As you cross paths in the next year, please thank her for her involvement and dedication.

There have been others of course. Dan Murchison, Jim Woodrow, Sam Piccolo and George Jackins each brought commitment, passion and organization. In short, they brought us to where we are today. Armed with the knowledge of the past, I derive great comfort in knowing we will be able to handle future challenges as they occur. Our organized efforts will continue to make the Lake Mitchell community grow better and closer.

We will have many new friends to meet, many friends to further enrich our lives and our families. We each have a chance to participate and become more involved. We each have a chance to make Lake Mitchell a better place. I look forward to the opportunities we have together in 2007 and beyond. My email address is dougmart@mindpsring.com.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 2 Jim and Johnye Woodrow

Any dues paid from November 19th to year end will be applied to your 2007 membership. Along with your paid dues, you will receive a complimentary copy of our 2007-2008 phonebook which should be available during the first quarter of 2007.

Let's make it our goal to achieve 100% membership for the year 2007!

We are pleased to welcome Harold and Memory Hagler who are building a new home in Area 2. Harold is retired from one job, but has taken on the responsibility as the

swim coach for Shelby County YMCA. Memory owns a knit shop in Vestavia. They have grown twins – a boy and a girl, as well as grandchildren. We know you are all looking forward to time on Lake Mitchell.

Area 2 has recently lost a resident and great friend. George DiGiorgio passed away on November 25th. George helped in the race to land men on the moon in its infancy.

His children described him as "the life of the party". He is survived by his widow, Marie DiGiorgio and their eight children, Rick, Bill, Mark, Phillip, Anita, Donna, Christopher and Michael. George especially loved and treasured time spent with his family and friends at their second home here on Lake Mitchell. We send our love and sympathy to Marie and all the family.

Area 6 Connie Ellis, Bob Jennings

It was a pleasant year on Bird Creek. We're thinking about starting an annual Bird Creek picnic this fall. I know Walnut Creek residents have been doing so for many years. It would be a great opportunity to visit, meet new neighbors, and discuss topics of interest such as the Arrowhead project.

I would also like to remind you to send in your 2007 H.O.B.O. dues. We would like to welcome Kathy and Raymond McCaffrey to Bird Creek. Raymond began a successful valve business with Lee Roy Jordan many years ago. You know they're great folks since they're big BAMA fans. Robert and Donna Jennings have moved to the lake. Robert has opened the Radio Shack in Clanton.

Our lake family lost a dear friend, a dedicated Christian man and much loved husband and father. Lane Sellers lost his long, courageous battle with cancer on December 23rd. He will be fondly remembered especially for his love and devotion to his fellow man through the many caring ways he helped people in need. An engineer in his life profession, Lane was blessed with a mind adept in math and science. Just one of the caring things he did was to tutor children in math and sciences when he was made aware of their problems. He loved the Lord and it came natural to him to help others as one way of serving him. So many people benefited from his gracious giving heart and he will be sorely missed. We express our condolences also to Aubry Ellis, who lost his mother Azile on November 2nd.

Mitchell Cagle, son of Chuck and Robin was recently recognized as a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership and Honors Organization at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Sigma Alpha Lambda is a national leadership and honors organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development, and lifelong professional fulfillment. Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

is proud to recognize and congratulate Mitchell for this outstanding achievement.

Let's every one of us practice safe and courteous boating this year. Be sure to stress to the kids to be careful and respectful of others while operating boats and personal watercraft. Have a great and safe year on our beautiful lake! Please call Connie Ellis (280-3142) or me (755-2943) for any H.O.B.O. questions or comments.

Area 8 Steve and Patsy Wideman

*Tw'as the Sunday after Thanksgiving. I awoke on the river.
 Though the weather was warm, what I saw made me shiver.
 The water before me on Walnut Creek
 Was covered with trash -- a sight I found bleak.
 I had hoped to go boating, so boating I went.
 I want you to know how that Sunday was spent.
 I paddled our john boat through all that debris
 And spent that fine day on a trash picking spree.
 Though the task seemed so hopeless - so much trash was there -
 I made my best effort; because, frankly, I CARE.
 Now there is a purpose to my tale in rhyme.
 What happened to me might be your fate next time.
 Let's don't let that happen. We can stop this. I know it.
 It's as simple as stopping to think where to throw it!
 Please tell your children and your guests at the lake
 Not to trash up our river -- for all of our sake.*

Dear neighbors on the lake, my funny tale in rhyme is true. Only two weeks after our area lake clean-up, I was disgusted to find countless soft drink bottles, drink cans, light bulbs, old shoes, medical waste, softballs, a cooler, a propane tank, domestic garbage, chunks of plastic and styrofoam, snuff cans, and booze bottles floating in front of our cabin. I hope you never wake to the same sad sight.

As a frequent trash picker on our lake, I want to share with you two important observations. First, the bottles and cans some folks fill with water and sink while boating eventually return to the surface or wash up on the banks. Second, styrofoam seems to last forever. Please, please, please carry a plastic bag in your pocket. You can use it for the waste you create and maybe even be a good egg by picking up trash you find. Thanks for your efforts to keep the river clean and beautiful.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.68
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.83
Alkalinity	20+	65
Hardness	10 - 120	61

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 Report Dan Murchison

Lake Mitchell's Future

Population growth and spreading development and construction all contribute greatly to habitat loss, trees and vegetation loss, sewage and septic pollution and water degradation. Our lake is subject to all of the above as we rush into the largest construction era in Lake Mitchell history. I believe that most of the builders working on our lake are caring individuals; and want to preserve and protect our lake, wildlife and forests for the present and for future generations. I also believe that money and population growth can possibly override man's best intentions.

Just in case you wanted to ask **my opinion** of a "best" plan to soften the pains of a fast growth era – and you just forgot, I will give it to you here. Just in case!
 In order of their importance:

1. **Population growth** – In the U. S. one factor is our lack of control of illegal immigration. We must let our government officials know that we demand action to correct this never-ending flow. And/or you may join the "Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development". They do more world-wide to educate and empower young women about family planning, Aids, and infant health than any other group. Their phone number is 1-770-963-3252; ask for Jennifer, or www.rifpd.org.
2. **Land Preservation** – H.O.B.O. could partner with Forever Wild, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, and all major land owners of the land surrounding Lake Mitchell to design a plan to possibly purchase and preserve sensitive and pristine lands around the lake. This might be the only way to save these lands from development.
3. **Environmental education** - Depending on when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issues a new operating license for the Coosa River hydro developments, either this year or next year will likely start the effective date of Alabama Power's re-licensing plan. The implementation of the **Shoreline Management Plan** should be a huge help in educating contractors building on Lake Mitchell about environmental concerns. H.O.B.O. members can be helpful as "watch dogs" to report shoreline violations to Alabama Power.

4. **Community action** - The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Association had 458 members in 2006. This makes our association one of the largest association groups in Chilton and Coosa counties. We all have the opportunity and obligation to participate and educate ourselves on all county activities. We need to utilize the talents of Lake Mitchell residents to help our lake community, as well as Chilton and Coosa counties plan for the future growth in the best manner possible. We can be most effective by attending county commission and city council meetings, being politically active, and joining local clubs. H.O.B.O. representatives are encouraged to attend as many environmental meetings as possible. Working together we can make a difference. I/we welcome your thoughts and suggestions.

BULLETIN BOARD

2007 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 16	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Mar 31	8 a.m.	Spring lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Apr 1	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	Martin home
May 18	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
June 2	4 p.m.	Annual Picnic	Higgins Ferry
June 3	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	Martin home
July 3	9 p.m.	Fireworks	Cargile Creek
July 4	10 a.m.	Pontoon boat parade	Higgins Ferry
	2 p.m.	Speed boat parade	Blue Creek
Aug 17	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Oct 19	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
TBA	8 a.m.	Fall lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Nov 16	7 p.m.	Annual General Membership meeting	TBA

Last call for phone book changes

This is the last newsletter before the new 2007-2008 phone book will be printed. **Look** at your address label and advise us if corrections need to be made. **Check** the previous phone book for changes in phone numbers or email addresses as well. Please check your neighbor's listings for errors and corrections also. Some of your neighbor's ownership may have changed and escaped our attention!

This is also the last call for anyone interested in putting an ad in the Lake Mitchell Phone Book. The prices for ads are \$35.00 for 1/4 page, \$60.00 for 1/2 page and \$100.00 for a full page. **If you are interested let us know by the end of January.** Judy Murchison at gugga4@bellsouth.net phone 755-0521 or 823-2308, or Jim Woodrow at ajwking@aol.com phone 755-0055 or work 663-4196.

How do you know you are a member?

Your newsletter mailing label will have an "M" and the digits "07" if we have received your dues for the 2007 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 new 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 Judy Murchison at 755-0521, or in Birmingham at 823-2308.

Fish habitat enhancement

Are you interested in helping with the Fish Habitat Enhancement program usually done in late January? H.O.B.O. partners with Alabama Power Company in placing old Christmas trees in the lake for fish beds. The date and time has not been established. Contact Doug Martin, President of H.O.B.O. at 755-0863, Jim Woodrow 755-0055, or Dan Murchison 755-0521 (Bham) 823-2308. Come help with this fun project and learn first hand where the best fishing holes will be next spring.

Memorial Gifts

<i>In memory of</i>	<i>from</i>
George DiGiorgio	Dan & Judy Murchison
Azile Ellis	Bob & Nancy Jennings

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

Annual Meeting 2006

We had a very interesting program at our annual meeting concerning development and construction on the lake. It was informative and gave insight to the vision of the various developers choosing to locate here. There are four major developments currently in planning or building stages, *Big Y Slough* on the lower Coosa side near the dam, *Alaga Lodge* property at Blue Creek, *Dixie Camp* at the back of Cargile Creek, and the south side of *Hatchett Creek* between Pennemotly and Bee Branch. If you

weren't there you missed getting good firsthand information!

H.O.B.O. Spotlight

Meet our new president! Doug Martin

I am 53 years old and have been married for 27 years to the former Roxanne Poole of Verbena. We have three children and the oldest, Monica and her husband Chad, presented us with our first grandchild, Amelia, two days before Thanksgiving. Our son Brad recently graduated from Auburn University and our youngest daughter Melissa is currently a sophomore at the University of Alabama majoring in nursing. I have been coming to Lake Mitchell since my father built the original home on Cove Branch in July 1961. We expanded the original cabin and moved to the lake full-time in May 2003.

It has been a privilege to serve on the H.O.B.O. Board of Directors for the last four years with the responsibility of chairing the Cleanup Committee during that time. The opportunity to participate in restoring our lake to look similar to what it may have been 50-70 years ago has been deeply rewarding. The many new friends we have come to meet and cherish during our years with H.O.B.O. have only enriched the pleasure we receive from being on the lake. Preserving the serenity and beauty for future generations is of great importance to both Roxanne and me.

I am originally from Birmingham, attended West End High School and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa from 6/1971-12/1974 with a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry. I had some postgraduate work (30 hrs) at University of Alabama in Birmingham from 1978-1979.

I have been a practicing perfusionist for 28 years and am currently employed by Princeton Perfusion Group, Inc. with the position of President and co-owner. The group provides contract perfusion services to hospitals utilizing open-heart surgery. Perfusionists are the individuals who regulate the blood flow, body temperature, and administer

solutions to stop the heart with the use of the cardiopulmonary bypass machine. PPG has provided perfusion services to Princeton Baptist Medical Center for over 16 years and to Shelby Baptist Medical Center for the last 2 years. Prior to private practice at Princeton, I was a Princeton Baptist perfusion employee from September, 1981 through November, 1990.

2007-2008 Officers

President	Doug Martin
1 st Vice President	Anita Lawson
2 nd Vice President	John Germann
Treasurer	Jim McCormick
Secretary	Becki McCallum

2007-2008 Board of Directors

Terry Bates
 Lee Bendall
 Graham Esdale
 George Jackins *Past President*
 Bob Jones
 H.L. (Mac) McMillan
 Dan Murchison *Past President*
 Mary Sue Olson
 Sam Piccolo *Past President*
 Carl Scott - *Chaplain*
Dale Vann
Larry Waldron
 Jim Woodrow *Past President*
 Johnye Woodrow *Past President*
 Skeeter Zuelzke

Dale Vann of Area 9 (Walnut Peninsula) and Larry Waldron of Area 10 (Cove Branch) are new members of the board replacing Duncan Austin and Fred Rogers, who have retired from service. Many thanks to Duncan and Fred – we will miss you, and are sincerely grateful for your service to our organization. We look forward to working with Dale and Larry. Plan to come to H.O.B.O. functions and get to know them!