
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Anita Lawson, anitalawson@bellsouth.net

Well, my first year in office is almost over. It has actually been fun and educational. Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. has some of the finest people as Officers, Board of Directors, Area Representatives, and Water Monitors. Each and every one performs their duties and works as a team.

Our General Meeting was such a success thanks to everyone's efforts. Rob Coyne, Shoreline Regional Coordinator for the Lower Coosa/Alabama Power Company, (located in the Clanton office) had a presentation for us. His remarks left us all feeling so positive about the Shoreline Management office and Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.'s joint effort to keep Lake Mitchell as pristine and natural as possible.

Rob is the one to call if you are considering any construction to see if a permit or a fee applies. Fees normally will not apply if your project is considered to be maintenance of current structure. Just be courteous and call so that Rob can keep his records straight.

Verizon Wireless representatives Darrell Stafford and David Turk set up a booth outside our meeting. The new Verizon Tower near Roxanne and Doug Martin is in full service now and it seems Verizon service reaches areas that lost Bellsouth (AT&T) service. Not just wireless phone service, but wireless internet service is provided as well. You can get a booster to enhance your Verizon service if needed. Verizon also provided Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. with a Grand Prize phone for our door prize drawings. It was won by Sonny Bullard.

Jerry and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are so blessed to be a part of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

***Are you taking pictures for the next calendar?
Winter is beautiful on Lake Mitchell!***

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 5 Sonny & Peggy Bullard bullspad@yahoo.com

Here's hoping your Christmas was blessed but more important that you blessed others during this special time of the year. Jesus came, gave of himself therefore we give...kind words, a warm smile, a tender touch, a helping hand. These are not expensive gifts but are needed by all at one time or another. They are not just for Christmas, therefore continue to reach out in 2010 and you'll be the one blessed.

Our fall luncheon was fun even though our crowd was off. We had lots of food, fun and fellowship. Many lake stories were shared by some of the "old timers" while sitting around the table. Later we played lake charades and laughed heartily at the attempts to draw simple things like swimming, fireworks and parades. We discovered there were only a few artists in our midst. The Beatty's won the door prize. See what fun you miss! Hope you'll be able to join us in the spring.

Our big news from Area 5 is that Bob and Pasty Straka are grandparents for the very first time. Their daughter in Washington, DC gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on November 25th. Her name is Lillian Annabelle (Elle). Her grandmother said she is beautiful and we believe her. Congratulations to all!

Raymond and Barbara Freeman have been working hard remodeling their lake home and getting ready to become full time residents on the lake. There is a certain peace about waking up to the view of the lake each morning and we are sure they won't be disappointed. Welcome home!

The NEW YEAR is already here and it is time for our \$25.00 dues. You can help us by sending them early this year and you won't get tired of us having to remind you each news letter. Ha Ha!

May we challenge you to make this year count for others and trust us when we say you will be the benefactor of the blessings. Be blessed in 2010.



Area 6 Rick Miller dogdaddy2725@netzero.net,
Paula & Joe Pierson hansandpaula@yahoo.com

Hello everyone, let us introduce ourselves. We are the new Bird Creek Area Reps. I am Rick Miller, retired from the Pelham Fire Dept, and I live here full-time. This has been my summer home since 1955. My hobbies include gardening and boat building. I am currently Vice President of the Master Gardeners and I am also in the process of building a Victorian classic wooden boat.

I am Paula Pierson. My husband Joe retired four years ago and we moved from Birmingham to the lake full-time. We enjoy lake activities and traveling.

We especially want to thank Bob and Nancy Jennings and Connie and Aubrey Ellis for their past diligence as Area Reps for Bird Creek. We are looking forward to working with everyone in the coming year.

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson anitalawson@bellsouth.net

Our summer is completely gone. The winters on the lake are also pretty and relaxing. This year be sure your neighbors and you are watching each other. This could be termed a "mini" neighborhood watch program. If strange vehicles or people are appearing, let your neighbors know. Let's be safe this winter.

I just received my *Shorelines* newsletter from the power company and the rainy October and November helped generate extra power. At least some good came out of all our rains. I know it has slowed down construction. They are trying to get WildLife Rd paved.

If anyone is missing a black cat with long hair, it is coming to Mark Lipham's house. At first it would not come up to him or Kellie but they feed it every day along with his cat "Putter" and have actually petted it. It is a pretty cat but really scared.

Hope you had safe and happy holidays. See you next SUMMER. Anita and Jerry

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman
sampiccolo@centurytel.net

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.08
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.32
Alkalinity	20+	42.94
Hardness	10 - 120	39.41

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

2010 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 12	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Mar 27	8 a.m.	Spring lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Apr 18	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	Martin home
Mar 15		newsletter deadline	
May 7	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
June 5	4 p.m.	Annual Picnic	Higgins Ferry
June 13	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	Martin home
June 15		newsletter deadline	
July 3	9:00 p.m.	Fireworks	Cargile Creek
July 4	10 a.m.	Pontoon boat parade	Higgins Ferry
	2 p.m.	Speed boat parade	Blue Creek
Aug 6	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Aug 8	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	TBA
Sep 15		newsletter deadline	
Oct 8	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Oct 23	8 a.m.	Fall lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Nov 12	6:30 p.m.	Annual General Membership meeting	TBA
Dec 15		newsletter deadline	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Email any submissions to beckmau@earthlink.net and judymurchison@gmail.com for editing and inclusion.

Memorial Gifts

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.

In memory of

Bill Trimble

Dan & Judy Murchison

"Good Neighbor" postings

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 Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.:

Sonny Bullard has an outboard motor "parked" in his yard and it needs a new home! It is a 1997 **Mercury 225 EFI** reconditioned off shore electronic fuel injected motor. The price to remove this fabulous item to a new home is \$5000.00 – a bargain! Sonny rebuilt this motor for H.O.B.O. out of the two that were previously on the fireboat. The proceeds will go back into H.O.B.O. general funds.

From Durwood Brown:

Got leaves covering your roof or yard?

Got a deck that needs pressure washing and/or painting?

Got a shoreline full of logs, trash and other debris?

Got screens with holes or rips?

Got rotten or threatening limbs or trees needing removal?

If you cannot physically do this, if you don't have time to do this, or if you simply don't want to do this.....then I am your man. Call me for a free estimate. I am an active H.O.B.O. member residing on Lake Mitchell year-round. I can provide several lake resident references.

Lake Services by Durwood Brown 205-755-9915 or dbrown3852@aol.com

From Tammy Farris:

My husband and I bought our first house on Lake Mitchell (Blue Creek) in August 2004. Last year we purchased one of the new homes at Alaga Landing. We are in the process of buying the old Alaga Whitfield Boathouse from Bret Winford (our home is right next door).

I would love to have some pictures of the old boathouse/dancehall/lodge if anyone has some. I will be happy to pay for the cost of a CD or copies of the pictures. We plan to hang them inside the dancehall. Any other old memorabilia (signs, magazine adds, etc.) would be welcome too! My phone number is 205-876-4214 and my e-mail is yellaelephant@msn.com.

H.O.B.O. SPOTLIGHT

Did you know there is an Old Indian Fort on Blue Creek?

The ruins of this possibly significant Indian fort are located about 200 yards from the confluence of Blue Creek and a smaller tributary.

Local residents claim that the walls of these ruins were once 6 to 8 feet high with a stone floor; many of the stones were shaped and had a smooth masonry effect. Over the years people had removed the rocks for use in foundations and chimneys. The present ruins consist of rock rubble resembling demolished walls. The shape is triangular, with two 100 feet long sides and a 50 foot wide base. The rubble stands about 2 feet high.

Although the exact significance of the site is yet to be found by further investigation, the Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Alabama, has made preliminary studies which indicate the ruins would possibly date to the Middle Woodland Period (500 AD). Such a possibility would be highly important to the understanding of Alabama's pre-history, for the ruins are similar to the stone enclosures built by the Copena Indians of the period in the Tennessee Valley. This site is located further south than the known Copena territory. Affirmation of this theory would be invaluable to the knowledge of the earliest periods of Alabama history.

Another theory attributes the building of the fortification to a Welsh Prince, Madoc (Madog) who, some historians believe, landed on the shores of Mobile Bay in 1170 and traveled up the Dog River and Alabama River to DeSoto Falls. Three forts of similar description exist; DeSoto Falls, Fort Mountain in Georgia, and Old Stone Fort in Tennessee. The similarity between these forts and the Blue Creek fort is more than striking, and the historical evidence of fair Welsh-speaking Indians encourages the theory.

Hopefully the Old Indian Fort in Blue Creek valley will soon be under investigation to reveal its origin. Despite the present uncertainty, the ruins offer a fascinating prehistory site worthy of preservation and restoration.

Soon to follow: A Tale of the Blue Creek Indians by our memorable friend Ed Warren, now deceased.