

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 1

First Quarter 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Ralph Mason ralphmason@wildblue.net



The New Year offers us many opportunities to improve the role of H.O.B.O. in sustaining the beauty of the natural resources surrounding us and the high quality of life at Lake Mitchell. We are all

stewards of the eco system in which we live and enjoy recreation. By uniting our individual efforts through the H.O.B.O. organization, we can further our official mission to "Preserve, Protect and Improve" the quality of life in and around Lake Mitchell.

Our Executive Committee will begin preparation of our organizational focus for 2012 in its January meeting. H.O.B.O. members are encouraged to provide recommendations on activities related to Lake Mitchell through their Area Representative or through one of the board members.

I am happy to announce that we have new volunteers to serve our organization in key positions beginning in 2012:

Secretary	Marie Greene	Area 9
Director	Rose Green	Area 14
Director	Jim Ray	Area 13A
Director	William Walters	Area 2
Area Representative	Joan Vickery	Area 4
Area Representative	Stan Holt	Area 11

Our 2011 Annual Meeting highlighted the value of our members who volunteer to do jobs that make Lake Mitchell a special place to live.

The keynote speakers at the event, Eric Reutebuch and Wendy Seesock, of Alabama Water Watch (AWW) and Auburn University, provided data that shows that Lake Mitchell ranks near the top among the lakes of Alabama in clean water quality. The Water Monitors who have been trained by AWW and who have served our lake residents with unswerving excellence were recognized.

Robin Cagle, the new Principal at Verbena High School, was honored for her faithful service as a Water Monitor on Bird Creek since 1996.

The Fireworks Support Team was also recognized for their behind-the-scenes effort to support Jim McCormick

in making the Fireworks on the Fourth of July weekend an annual highlight in our life on the lake.

In 2012 I hope that many of you will volunteer to serve in H.O.B.O. I am certain that there are opportunities in your particular area of interest and expertise.

Annual membership dues in H.O.B.O. are only \$25.00 per family, payable each January. If you have never joined H.O.B.O. in the past, please make it your New Year's Resolution to join in 2012. If you are a member already, but haven't sent in your 2012 dues, please remember to do so soon.

You will find the application form at the end of this newsletter.

H.O.B.O. members are welcome at all meetings and social functions. We especially encourage lake-wide participation in the events marked with an asterisk* in the calendar table below.

H.O.B.O. is your organization. Get involved! Let's make 2012 the best year ever on Lake Mitchell.

Ralph



2012 H.O.B.O. CALENDAR of EVENTS

DATE		EVENT
Jan	13	Executive Committee Meeting
Feb	24	Board of Directors Meeting
Mar	15	Newsletter Articles Due
Mar	24	* Renew Our Rivers Clean Up
Apr	15	Area Representatives Meeting
May	4	Board of Directors Meeting
Jun	2	* Annual Picnic
Jun	15	Newsletter Articles Due
Jun	24	Area Representatives Meeting
Aug	3	Board of Directors Meeting
Aug	26	Area Representatives Meeting
Sep	14	Newsletter Articles Due
Sep	19	Executive Committee Meeting
Oct	27	* Renew Our Rivers Clean Up
Nov	2	Board of Directors Meeting
Nov	16	* Annual Meeting
Dec	14	Newsletter Articles Due

AREA REPRESENTATIVES			
Area	Area Name	Representative	Phone
1	Blue Creek	Ralph & Jane Mason ralphmason@wildblue.net	205 755-6618
2	Blue to Cargile	Jim & Johnye Woodrow ajwking@aol.com	205 425-9431 205 755-0055
3	Cargile South	Judy & Dan Murchison danmurchison@gmail.com	205 755-0521 205 408-7445
4	Cargile North	Joan Vickery vickery200@yahoo.com	205-280-7336
5	Cargile to Bird	Sonny & Peggy Bullard pnsbullard@gmail.co	205 755-9514
6	Bird Creek	Paula & Joe Pierson hansandpaula@yahoo.com	205 280-6377
7	Bird to Walnut	Becki & Mau McCallum beckmau@gmail.com	205 755-5334
8	Walnut SW	Lee & Kim Poe Mr.LeePoe@yahoo.com	205-389-2480
9	Walnut Creek Peninsula	Dale & Patty Vann rdvann@bellsouth.net	205 979-5559 205 755-0825
10	Cove and Mountain	Roxanne Martin roxypmartin@gmail.com	205 755-0863
11	Mountain to Dam Area	Stan Holt sholt1428@charter.net	205-980-1428
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	David & Kay McKeever kmckeev@bellsouth.net	256 249-4413
13A	East Pennamotley	Jim & Wathan Hand jmhand@centurylink.net	256-377-1153
13B	West Pennamotley	Sam & Nancy Piccolo samppiccolo62@gmail.com	256 377-4801
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Eric & Rose Green rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com	205-492-7151
15/16	Big Airplane to Big Y Slough	Jerry & Anita Lawson anitaklawson@gmail.com	205 663-7035 256 377-4584

Area Representative Reports

Area 4 - Joan Vickery

2012 is here and we are excited about the New Year. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest Area 4 neighbors, Dennis & June Samples. We wish you many happy years of building memories on Lake Mitchell.

As a reminder, the H.O.B.O. dues are now due. While you are at it, you may also like to pick up a new 2012 calendar for \$15. Just let me know and I will get your request to the right person.

With a new year comes, renewed anticipation for another wonderful time of building memories with family and friends on the lake.

There is not a bad season at Lake Mitchell. Winter offers self-time for reading and other hobbies; spring is time for planting and getting the camp ready for guests; summer brings family and friends together for all of those snapshot opportunities; and fall closes out the season with color and once again allows us to catch our breath. I guess there is never a bad time to be on the lake and of course catching a few fish along the way makes for a wonderful year.

See you on the lake!

Joan

Area 7 - Becki & Mau McCallum

Hi all. It has been very quiet in Area 7 this fall. However, I hear there have been intrusion issues around the lake and ask that everyone be observant of traffic in your neighborhoods. Please call me at 205-755-5334 if you have any issues to report in Area 7.

Those of us that travel County Rd 28 have a concern; the lines on the road desperately need to be repainted. If you share in this issue please call the county engineering office at 755-0530 to express your concerns.

We hope you all had happy and peaceful holidays, come enjoy the tranquility of the lake in winter!

Becki

Area 9 - Dale & Patty Vann

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and that Santa was good to each of you. Please keep me informed of any news worthy events that may happen in the Walnut Creek Area. It cannot be reported until we know about it. As far as I know things are okay in the Walnut Creek Area. No reported break-ins or boat/trailers have been stolen

Two things to remember...

- The Lake Mitchell 2012 calendars are available. Please send check (\$15.00) to H.O.B.O., P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, LA 35046. Proceeds go to the scholarship fund for an area high school student.
- Please remember to pay your H.O.B.O. 2012 dues (\$25.00). Pay early and get it out of the way. Also, please remember to donate to Marine 9...fireworks and utility boat.

That's all folks...

Dale Vann

Attention Area 11 Residents – Lay Dam Area

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. wishes to especially invite Area 11 residents with houses near Lay Dam on the upper end of Lake Mitchell to join the H.O.B.O. group.

Our new Area Representative for your area, Stan Holt, along with help from some of our past presidents and residents in the area will be calling on all folks in Area 11 to meet you and find out how H.O.B.O. can work with you for the betterment of your specific area and Lake Mitchell in general. We need your help to introduce us to your neighbors and give us your suggestions. Please feel free to call Stan Holt at his home at 205- 980-1428 or cell at 205-908-4259.

Area 15/16 - Anita & Jerry Lawson

I cannot believe another year has passed. Our summer was so busy at Lake Mitchell; we tried to enjoy every day.

We all need to keep in touch with our neighbors. There have been break-ins on our side of the lake. Larry and Marsha Turner had a break-in at their house in our slough. We have more people moving in full time and this helps. Let your neighbors know if you are not there and if anyone is - call the police.

Jerry and I are enjoying our water so much!! We lived off river water with a filtration system for over 10 years. We had busted pipes at the boathouse and did not even think twice before we ordered the water. Call Glenda at Rockford Water for billing questions at 256-377-4911 or call Bill Spratlin at 205-365-8367 with any questions.

Our garbage service is also working out!! They pick up every Tuesday. Call 866-252-0458 if you are interested in getting garbage removal.

Now we just need to get to work on moving the mailboxes closer to our homes to prevent pilfering. Perhaps that will be our 2012 project??

Our calendars were such a success. We had several pictures from Coosa residents this year. Anne Germann had a prize picture of children tubing - their expressions were priceless. Have you gotten your calendars yet? Call me at 205-960-5083 or Steve Miles at 205-612- 2185.

We will be planning a get together in the spring with Cathy York for our areas - Come and meet your neighbors - I bet they are fun folks because they have chosen Lake Mitchell just like we all did.

Anita and Jerry Lawson

Robin Cagle Honored for Long Service as Lake Water Monitor

At the 2011 Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Annual Meeting, Robin Cagle was recognized for her service as a water monitor on Lake Mitchell. Robin monitored the water quality on Bird Creek for many years and provided valuable input to the Alabama Water Watch Program.

Sam Piccolo, Chairman of the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Water Quality Committee, stated that over the years many water monitors have come and gone but Robin was a steady performer over all that time.



Robin's responsibilities increased greatly after her selection as Principal of the Verbena School System. Consequently, Sam advised her that she had done more than her part as a water monitor and it was time for

her to help find a replacement. Being a typical Robin, she immediately convinced John Swindle that he was the right person for the job. To make the transition, Robin provided John her kit and they jointly accomplished the water test of Bird Creek for November 2011. John will be ready to solo as soon as he is trained by Jim Woodrow, the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Water Watch Trainer.

To say the least, the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Water Testing Program on Lake Mitchell has thrived over the years because of monitors like Robin

Memorial Gifts

The Lake Mitchell Memorial Fund is available for gifts in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. The intent is to set aside these funds until there is a sufficient amount to fund special projects. Please send your contributions to H.O.B.O., P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046 and note your check accordingly.

Recent Gift in Memory of:
E.T. & Margaret Clapp
Bill Randle

From:
Ed Clapp
Barbara Rankle

Let Your Voice Be Heard

If you have news to report, a joy to share, an idea for a H.O.B.O. project, or a concern about an issue involving life at Lake Mitchell, contact your H.O.B.O. Area Representative.

Wanted: New Water Monitors

H.O.B.O. is calling for volunteers who will periodically sample and test the water quality from the lake near their property. H.O.B.O. provides the water test kits for volunteer monitors and Alabama Water Watch will provide the training. A training class will be scheduled for 10 or more volunteers.

Anyone with questions or with interest in becoming a Water Monitor should contact Jim Woodrow at ajwking@aol.com or by phone at 205-913-0121.

The Lake Mitchell Water Monitor Volunteers have concentrated their efforts in the area of water chemistry monitoring over the years, but all current monitors have agreed to also be trained in the bacteriological monitoring program. By initiating a bacteriological sampling program we will be able to learn more about lake conditions and perhaps identify causes of problems, which would lead to action for improvement.

The numbers in the Water Quality Report below are averages of only six sites on the lake that are currently being monitored by volunteers. To get a more comprehensive picture of Lake Mitchell water quality, we need volunteers from all areas of the lake

Water Quality Report

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX-SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O2	5 - 9	6.62
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.87
Alkalinity	20+	82
Hardness	10 - 120	64

Dissolved Oxygen

Low dissolved oxygen indicates an excessive demand on the oxygen in the water. Pollutants such as inadequately treated sewage as well as decaying natural organic matter can cause low oxygen levels, potentially resulting in "fish kills" or other negative impacts on aquatic organisms.

pH

The pH scale ranges from very acidic such as battery acid to very basic such as household lye. PH less than 4.0 or more than 11.0 is usually lethal to fish and other organisms. Decreases in pH could be the result of runoff from acid soils (e.g. fertilized farmland or acid mine drainage) or contamination from livestock waste.

Alkalinity

Water with an abundance of buffering materials such as limestone increases total alkalinity, making it more resistant to pH changes and therefore more stable for aquatic life. When alkalinity is above 20mg/l there is a marked increase in nutrient utilization.

Hardness

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.

Alabama Water Watch

The 2011 Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Annual Meeting featured a presentation by representatives of the Alabama Water Watch Program (AWW). Alabama Water Watch is a group within the Fisheries and Allied Aquaculture Department at Auburn University. The AWW Program got its start in 1993, when guidelines were first established and workshops were conducted to teach citizen-based water quality monitoring to individuals in the state of Alabama. The AWW organization now has a nineteen-year history of training and data collection related to citizen volunteer monitoring on streams, rivers and lakes in Alabama. Volunteers come from anyone interested and concerned for the environment and environmental issues.

AWW has developed protocols with procedures for three types of water monitoring:

- Water Chemistry Monitoring
- Bacteriological Monitoring
- Stream Bio Monitoring, where aquatic insects, snails, worms, etc. are evaluated.

At the meeting Eric Reutebuch and Wendy Seesock from AWW discussed Lake Mitchell water quality. There have been a series of volunteer monitors taking samples at various sites on Lake Mitchell since the creation of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. in 1996.

Data collected has been trended over time to show that the water quality in the Lake is good to moderate with some identified areas that require closer monitoring. Nutrient enrichment was identified as a concern for our Lake and one area, Pennamotley Creek, has been identified as having a trend in decreasing dissolved oxygen levels.



President Ralph Mason presents a \$1000 check to Alabama Water Watch representatives on behalf of H.O.B.O.

Get more information about Alabama Water Watch and see water quality data from many Alabama lakes including Lake Mitchell at www.alabamawaterwatch.org.

Volunteers Needed to Help With New Fish Habitats

Doug Powell of Alabama Power Company has scheduled Wednesday, February 1 and Thursday, February 2 for fish habitats made from recycled Christmas trees to be installed in Lake Mitchell.

We need 10-12 volunteers to meet at Higgins Ferry public boat launch to help tie the trees into bunches and load them onto the boats for dispersal. Alabama Power will furnish the rope and gloves for tying the trees as well as the barges for distributing the bundled habitats to 10 sites along the lake shoreline.



Alabama Power and H.O.B.O. volunteers will install Christmas tree fish habitats on Feb 1 and 2 in Lake Mitchell.

Time to start is generally 8 a.m. We will likely get all the trees tied on the first day unless it rains. Alabama Power will be there two days to help with clean up and removal of any left over concrete blocks, etc. Volunteers can pick spots they would like trees placed and maybe ride with APCO to the spot to verify placement. We usually go to Country Kitchen for lunch on day one. We may have a fish attractor made of bamboo for you to look at! Come join the fun and sweeten you favorite fishing hole.

Contact Dan Murchison if you are interested in assisting with the fish habitat project. Call Dan at 205-408-7445 or email him at danmurchison@gmail.com.

Grab Your Camera – You Could Be Next Year's Calendar Winner!

It is time now to begin shooting photos for the 2013 H.O.B.O. Calendar. All H.O.B.O. members are encouraged to grab your camera and use your artistic eye to capture interesting moments that represent life on Lake Mitchell at all seasons of the year.

Remember when composing your shots that the calendar is printed in a landscape (or horizontal) format; therefore portrait (or vertical) pictures will not work for the calendar. Shoot your pictures in the largest file format that your camera allows. This will ensure the best quality when the photos are printed in the calendar.

The autumn deadline for submitting photos for the 2013 calendar will be announced at a later time.

2012 H.O.B.O. Photo Calendars Available Now

Order your 2012 H.O.B.O. photo calendar today by calling Anita Lawson at 205-960-5083. The cost of the calendar is \$15 and all proceeds go to the H.O.B.O. scholarship fund for an area high school student.



This photo shot by Roxanne Martin of her grandchildren represents the month of May in the 2012 H.O.B.O. calendar.

2012 Calendar Photo Winners		
Front Cover		
Russell Turner Area 15		
January Rebecca Beaty Area 15	February Ray Parker Area 8	March Mark Lipham Kellie McGriff Area 15
April Melanie Anderson Area 14	May Roxanne Martin Area 10	June Destiny Maxon Cindy Wallingford Area 5
July Robin Cagle Area 6	August Anne Germann Area 13B	September Patsy Wideman Area 8
October Jim Ray Area 13A	November Seth Woodrow Area 2	December Becki McCallum Area 7

2012 Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Annual Membership Application

Annual Dues Homeowner \$25.00	Marine 9 - Donation Maintenance & Operation \$	Fireworks - Donation Purchase of Fireworks \$	Utility Boat - Donation Maintenance & Operation \$
Other Donation Boathouse sign ____ Memorial Fund ____ Education Fund ____ Scholarship ____ Other (specify) _____ Amount \$			
Name:		Check One: Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/>	
Mailing Address:			
Lake 911 Address:			Lake Area:
Email:			
Home Phone:		Lake Phone:	

Detach and mail completed form along with your check to: Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., PO Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046

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Can't remember whether you've paid your dues for 2012? If you have already paid by the time this newsletter went to print, "M12" (for "Member-2012") will be next to your name on the mailing label of this newsletter. If you don't see "M12", please complete and submit this form along with your check for your Annual Homeowner's Dues plus any additional donations you would like to contribute.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.
P. O. Box 1324
Clanton, Alabama 35046

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