

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Volume 18 Issue 2

Second Quarter 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Lee Poe Mr.LeePoe@yahoo.com



Hope everyone is having a nice spring. As I write this we are beginning to have a few warm days and daylight savings time has just started. It is nice having a little daylight when I get home from work.

We now have a historian for Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. - Chip Gates. I hope everyone will join me in welcoming Chip to the organization. If you have any historical information regarding Lake Mitchell I am sure he would love to hear from you. There is also an article about him in this issue.

I heard from Forever Wild that hiking trails are scheduled to open soon in the Forever Wild land in Coosa County. The trail will start at the parking lot next to the bridge over Hatchet Creek on County Road 29. It is 11 miles long and ends at the intersection of WMA Road 153 and 128. This will be a nice addition to the area.

I also appreciate everyone who nominated Walnut and Yellow Leaf Creeks for possible funding for cleanup projects.

Hope everyone enjoys spring on the lake.

Lee

Water Quality Report

Jim Woodrow, Water Testing Chairman

PARAMETER	O.K. RANGE	CURRENT QTR	LAST QTR
Dissolved O2	5 - 9	9.06	7.59
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.47	7.7
Alkalinity	20+	75.33	85.59
Hardness	10 - 120	60.00	65.88



Fireworks 25th Anniversary

This year will mark our 25th anniversary to celebrate Independence Day with a fireworks show on our lake.

As in years past the show can be viewed from Cargile Creek at 9:00 pm. However, please note that the show will take place on FRIDAY JULY 5, NOT on Thursday the 4th. It was felt that by making this scheduling adjustment more lake families could enjoy the show.

We will again have the 20-minute show synchronized to music that can be heard by many over the four large loud speakers. You can also tune in to the music over the radio.

This year we are moving the radio dial to FM 94.7, hoping the signal will reach further out the mouth of Cargile.

Please make plans to watch the show and pass the word that we will begin at 9 p.m. on JULY 5th.

Upcoming H.O.B.O. Social Event

The H.O.B.O. Annual Picnic will be held at 4 p.m. on June 8 at the Higgins Ferry pavilion. Bring sides and desserts. H.O.B.O. will furnish the meat and drinks.

If you have never attended the picnic before, make your plans to join us this year. It is a great time to get to know other H.O.B.O. members and the food is always great. Gather your family and your neighbors and come by boat, by car or on foot. Just come!



AREA REPRESENTATIVES			
Area	Area Name	Representative	Phone
1	Blue Creek/ The Ridge	Bobby Lewis docx2@mindspring.com	205-212-1020 205-901-8307
2	Blue to Cargile	Jim & Johnye Woodrow ajwking@aol.com	205 425-9431 205 755-0055
3	Cargile South	Kim Trimble Kimt205@gmail.com	205 755-7965
4	Cargile North	Joan Vickery vickery200@yahoo.com	205-280-7336
5	Cargile to Bird	Sonny & Peggy Bullard pnsbullard@gmail.com	205 755-9514
6	Bird Creek	Leslie Miles lesliemiles0@gmail.com	205-755-6432
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 Lay Dam	Stan Holt Stan-holt@att.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	Airplane/Finger to Big Y Slough	Tommy Carpenter rtcarpen@southernco.com	256-377-1046 205-586-1749
16	Big Y to Mitchell Dam	Jerry & Anita Lawson anitaklawson@gmail.com	205 663-7035 256 377-4584

Welcome New H.O.B.O. Area Representatives

There are several new Area Reps listed in the table above. We welcome our new reps and want to express appreciation to all – both old and new – for your service to our lake community. All lake residents should express your ideas, comments, concerns and suggestions for H.O.B.O. to your local Area Rep. If you don't know your Area Reps personally, contact them and introduce yourself.

Area 1 – Bobby Lewis

My name is Bobby Lewis. Ralph Mason recently twisted my arm into becoming the new rep for Area 1, and my wife Cynthia has agreed to help me with the project. Seriously, we look at this as an opportunity to get to know more of our lake neighbors and look forward to meeting you.

We have a home in Alaga Landing and have enjoyed spending time on Lake Mitchell both there and in the Cargile Creek area for the past several years with family and friends.

We have seen lots of activity on the lake for the past few weeks as we have been down to the area. There are a few new houses and other building projects in our area, so we look forward to meeting new neighbors.



Heron photo by Bobby Lewis

For the first time this year, we have seen eagles nearby. We actually saw one pluck a fish from the water in our slough, and neighbors have also seen them. Perhaps they have been here in the past but I haven't heard anyone say anything about sightings until this year.

We look forward to a great summer and meeting more of you in the area.

Bobby and Cynthia Lewis

Area 2 – Jim and Johnye Woodrow

Hi! It's been a long time since I wrote an article for the newsletter but I have so much to share. I have to start with how great a communication tool this publication is. I have been around so long, I am not even sure whose idea this was originally. But, it was a great idea; and each newsletter editor has brought it to new levels. My hat is off to Marie Greene who has done a great job of giving the newsletter a new look and format. It is full of interesting articles and I know folks look forward to receiving it.

Second thought pertains to our area! I recently picked up an October 2012 issue of Peach Living; and on the cover was Sue Ann Hoyt, a local Clanton artist. There was a great article about Sue Ann in the magazine. I know the magazine was older, but if you can find a copy, please pick it up and read it. Sue Ann is the daughter of our own Mary Sue Olson. Their website is: peachlivingmagazine.com

Miss Mary Sue was the driving force for the paving of county road 547; and the first area rep in Area 2. Mary Sue is a remarkable lady.....she did a lot of her own carpentry work when building her home on the lake. She was very instrumental in planning, organizing and the completion of Minooka Park on Highway 31, Chilton County (near Calera). She has been a mentor in a lot of ways and neither H.O.B.O. nor I will ever be able to show our gratitude for all she has done to help build the foundation of this organization and make Chilton County a better place to live and work. If you get a chance, send her a card to let her know we all think of her fondly and appreciate her many endeavors that benefitted all of us.

Third thing has to do with the Lake Community as a whole. Jim & I had the pleasure of eating at Lake Mitchell Marina & Restaurant this past weekend. I am still bragging about how good the food is!!!! If you don't do anything else, you need to eat here one time; and trust me, you will go back and back. I am an oyster snob, meaning, most restaurants cannot please my idea of how a good oyster should taste.....trust me, they exceeded my expectations!!! Then I topped it off with a chocolate stuffed beignet.....absolutely delicious! They have a new menu.....Go and try for yourself.....

Fourth, and maybe the tiniest, but definitely not the least, Robert Rush Letson IV has made his debut into the world. His grandfather, Bob Letson, loved this lake as long as he lived, and his father Rush Letson III, spent many weekends of his childhood on this lake. It is good – the tradition continues. Welcome to Lake Mitchell little one!! Their lake home is in Area 15, Coosa County, but since I have known his dad since he was pre-school, I took the liberty of sharing the news.

Johnye Woodrow

Area 3 – Kim Trimble

Dan Murchison is being succeeded by Kim Trimble as the Area 3 H.O.B.O. Representative. Kim, who lives on Cargile Creek, attended Auburn University and is now back in school studying Environmental Science. The Trimble family has been on Lake Mitchell since 1971. We appreciate Kim accepting this position and look forward to working with her. Give Kim a call or email her at kimt205@gmail.com with questions, suggestions or comments.

Doug & Cindy Wallingford recently had a sink hole close to their property in the back of Pump-house Slough. Candy Hayes, with Alabama Power Co. assisted them in getting this problem corrected.

Please send Kim any other area news.

Dan Murchison

Area 5 –Peggy and Sonny Bullard

Another year has gone by and we are already well into 2013. What a journey we have had already. Sonny is doing better and on his way to recovery and we give God all the glory. With 3 major surgeries in 2012 and a blood clot and pneumonia in early January, as a result of a late December surgery, he has had many battles to overcome. With the Lord's help he is making progress and is slowly getting back to work and enjoying every minute of it. I survived all without too much damage.

Much heart felt sympathy to the Wise family in the loss of Jerry on March 3 at the age of 67. Jerry was a graduate of Chilton High School in 1963 and U.A. in 1967. He served in the U.S. Army in Korea and worked for the Department of Defense for 34 years. We send prayers for comfort and peace for Beth, his wife for 39 years, and his children and grandchildren.

The turnout for the fish habitat in February was lower than usual but there were around 200 trees bundled and placed in the lake to create homes for the fish. We were able to be there to make pictures, but Sonny was still in recovery and not able to work. It was about the first outing he had, so he was glad to be there and just fellowship with the guys. It was a beautiful day and I would encourage you to come experience this event next year.

The annual picnic will be June 8TH. Hope we'll get to see some you there. The fireworks will be July the 5TH at 9:00 P.M. Spring and summer are our most favorite time of the year and it is HERE! Take time to review the water safety rules and laws with your family and friends and then enjoy your time on the water.

Sonny and Peggy

Area 6 –Leslie Miles

Paula Pierson has been our area rep the last several years and she has done a wonderful job making sure we have all the latest news and updates. I know all of the residents here give her a big thank you for her hard work and commitment. She has passed the torch to me and I am honored to be the new Area 6 rep; I just hope I can fill her shoes!

I would like to thank Rick Miller, Hans Pierson and my own husband Steve Miles, for participating in the Renew our River Fish Habitat Project, assisting Alabama Power dispersing Christmas trees. Bird Creek residents are awesome in helping and being a part of this H.O.B.O. community.

We are looking forward to getting back out on the water and eating at the marina. It's a fabulous way to not only get a great meal but have fellowship with all our Lake Mitchell friends!

Happy Spring. *Leslie Miles*

Area 7 –Becki McCallum

Area 7 has a few new neighbors to introduce. Brad and Ashley Owen have moved into their new home on County Rd. 473 and will be spending lots of time enjoying the river with extended family.

We will have another new neighbor on County Rd. 711. Ben and Amanda Bentley and their three sons will soon be enjoying vacations at their new lake home. They also will be close to family; Louie and Nancy Bentley of Area 7 are Ben's parents.

Speaking of the Bentleys, you may have seen them and their home featured in a recent issue of Peach Living magazine. Louie has a long family history in Chilton County, and they have settled into retirement here. Nancy is an accomplished musician; you may have heard her play at river church. She is also an egg artist; she has many beautifully decorated eggs and has sold them at art shows. Both Louie and Nancy enjoy working outside and visits with friends and family.

We are all looking forward to 2013 lake season.

Becki

Area 10 – Roxanne and Doug Martin

The beautiful weather is bringing much more activity around Cove Branch. Folks are spring-cleaning their houses in anticipation of good times on the water this year. There has been some rebuilding during the winter with several new projects being seen.

We hope to have an area get-together this spring, perhaps late April or May. We can do it at our house, or if someone wants to volunteer their facilities, please let us know. There are a few new neighbors and it would be good for everyone to meet and greet.

Trees have been sunk by Alabama Power Company on our end of the lake this year (early March), so check out the GPS coordinates on the Alabama Power website to take advantage of the new fishing spots.

Please stop by and say hello if you see us.

Roxanne and Doug Martin

Area 11 – Stan Holt

H.O.B.O. was well represented at the Fish Habitat Project that took place on the north end of the lake in March. 100 trees were placed and the GPS waypoints will be available on the Alabama Power website soon. Hopefully this will become a yearly event. *Stan*

Area 13A - James and Wathan Hand

[Editor's Note: James and Wathan represent the East Pennamotley area. Their story about a neighbor, Jamie Vinson, is so moving that I have taken the liberty to move it to a separate article in this newsletter so that

everyone will read it. It is entitled *Local Lake Hero*. Look for it on a later page. *Marie Greene, Editor*]

Area 13B - Sam and Nancy Piccolo

A lot of good things have happened in our Pennamotley Community over the years with the paving of our road being one of the most recent. However, we also suffered a recent loss of one of our more prominent members with the death of H.L. (Mac) McMillan who passed away on March 4, 2013.

Mac was always out front in our Lake Community no matter what the project. He patrolled our road with his pick stick and four-wheeler and removed all litter. We used his deck boat to install boat house signs and used his metal fishing boat to clean heavy debris (tires, etc.) from the Pennamotley Creek waters. He was a key player in attempting to keep Mimosa Point clean; he was one of a two-member team that cleared pine trees from our road after the March 1993 snow storm; and he was always a major supporter (collecting funds, etc.) of our many road-gravel and later road-paving projects.

On a wider scale, Mac was a major supporter of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. serving as a Board Member, Water Monitor, builder and maintainer of our only successful website to date, and he was a major financial contributor to the Marine 9 Project.

Mac's actions clearly demonstrated that he loved Lake Mitchell. He enjoyed relationships with many people around the Lake. I know he had many good times with friends in Bird Creek, but he wasn't a stranger in any of the Lake's creeks. He loved going to dinner at Lake Mitchell Marina and he always looked forward to spring and River Church.

Mac always seemed to have an upbeat way of looking at things and took life's lumps in stride. He lost two wives to cancer but he would point out that he was very fortunate to have been married to two wonderful women. Mac loved his way of life at Lake Mitchell and thanks to his family that provided needed support, he was able to enjoy that way of life right to the end when he passed from this earth. Mac's family was always very important in his life and he was quick to share exploits of Mike and Meg and their families. We will miss Mac McMillan on Lake Mitchell. *Sam*

Area 14 - Rose and Eric Green

Hope everyone had a great winter and happy holidays. We had a great winter here on the lake, or you might say we just got spoiled this winter with all the wonderful warm sunny days to get out on the water. Hope it continues through the spring. Of course I'm sure by late summer we will be looking forward to a few cooler days. We look forward to seeing everyone on the water. Remember to be safe and courteous to others on the water. *Rose*



Area 15 - Tommy Carpenter

Hello everyone. It looks like spring is here and the dogwoods will be blooming and crappie going crazy. I finally broke down and upgraded my boat so hopefully I will see you on the lake soon.

Above is a picture of my Dad with the first fish caught out of my new boat. He caught it the old way - using a cane pole and a live minnow.

Tommy

Area 16 - Anita Lawson

Hopefully by the time this newsletter goes out, the warm weather will be here. Spring Break for Shelby County will be gone and everyone will be waiting on summer.

Area 16 just keeps growing in more ways than one. Just noticed Kathy and Matt Davis are going to be grandparents - Congratulations.

The water area is narrow in Area 16, so be mindful of your wake from the boats. The erosion caused by the wakes can eat up your property fast without a sea wall.

The logging trucks have been busy on County Road 121 (formerly called North Coosa 1). Slow down and be aware.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this summer.
Anita

Apply for Your Shoreline Permit Before Beginning Construction or Maintenance

Remember, if you have plans to do any maintenance or construction along the shoreline you need to obtain a permit from Alabama Power. Don't wait until you are ready to start your project to apply for your permit because sometimes it may take several weeks before a permit is issued, depending on the number of requests to be processed by Alabama Power. Once a permit is obtained, projects must be completed within one year of the date of the approved shoreline permit.

The program's general policies are:

1. Alabama Power encourages shoreline structure owners to maintain the upkeep of existing boathouses, docks and seawalls. Prior to beginning any maintenance, contact Alabama Power to obtain a no-fee permit for repairs.
2. Alabama Power also encourages shoreline structure owners to remove noncompliant structures and replace them with compliant structures, and upon doing so will be issued a no-fee permit (e.g. replace an enclosed boathouse with an open boathouse).
3. A permit to build any new shoreline structure will incur a one-time \$250 fee (e.g. new boathouse, new dock or new seawall). More than one activity may be authorized with a single permit.

The Alabama Power Shoreline Management Team strives to protect and enhance the scenic, recreational and environmental values of the reservoirs it manages. As part of its mission, Alabama Power Shoreline Management is dedicated to ensuring all of the structures along Lake Mitchell's shoreline comply with the shoreline management program developed by Alabama Power with the input of its local, state and federal regulatory partners.

Please call Alabama Power Shoreline Management Team Member Candy Hayes at 205-280-4476 to discuss your project/work and to obtain a permit prior to beginning any maintenance or construction.



Environmental Update

By Scott Phillip, Environmental Committee Chairman

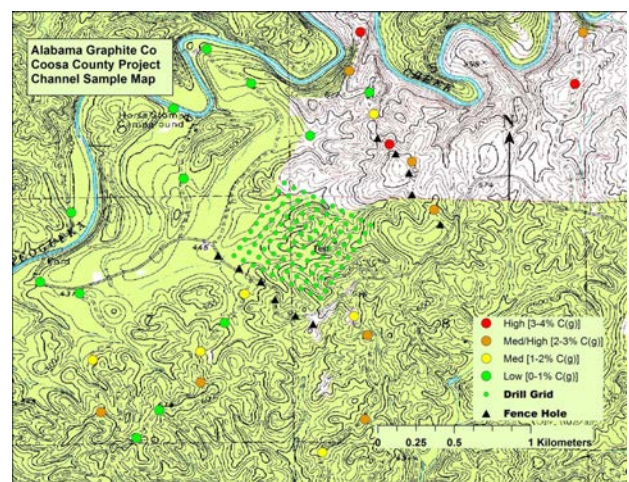
As spring has come, I want to provide an update of the recent activities of the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Environmental Committee. The Alabama Water Agencies Working Group and the Water Policy and Management Joint Legislative Committee proposed legislation in Montgomery to require a State water policy report be recommended by the end of 2013 so it can be considered for any required legislation in next year's legislative session. We will continue to track progress on water policy for the State and ensure our interests are communicated.

Additionally, we have worked since the beginning of the year with the Coosa River Basin Clean Water Partnership Group and the Riverkeeper to have Walnut Creek considered for funding to improve the water quality that enters our Lake. Thanks to many of you who took the time and trouble to submit nominations for Walnut Creek to the Alabama Clean Water Partnership. You were successful in getting Walnut Creek put near the top of the priority list. Hopefully this may result in future assistance for the cleanup and restoration of this important tributary into Lake Mitchell.

We also met with the Mayor of Clanton regarding Walnut Creek with H.O.B.O. President Lee Poe, Marie and Hugh Greene, Dan Murchison, Scott Phillips, and the Coosa Riverkeeper - Frank Chitwood - in attendance. This meeting was to learn more about the past flooding and dredging done on Walnut Creek by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to correct the flooding in the city of Clanton, but which appears to have contributed to some of the erosion issues along Walnut Creek. We also discussed with the Mayor some of the water pollution issues we have observed on Walnut Creek entering the Lake to try and enlist his support in preventing them in the future. We continue to seek support in improving the water that enters the lake from Walnut Creek.

And finally, we continue to monitor the planned graphite mine and facility in Coosa County. Alabama Graphite has completed their exploratory drilling and are now awaiting the results from the samples they collected. They expect these results at any time and this will allow them to determine the mineral reserves and financial viability of the project. They have not submitted permits at this time but we will continue to communicate with the Company to ensure they are aware of our concerns and interests. The company could provide a number of jobs in our area, which would be a positive. However, we in H.O.B.O. also want to ensure that any mining next to our beautiful lake will be done in an environmentally responsible manner that will not have negative impact upon our water quality and beautiful surroundings.

We hope everyone is having a wonderful spring!



Alabama Graphite Company Coosa County Project Channel Sample Map

Hiking Trails to Open Soon in Forever Wild Lands

Forever Wild will soon have about 11 miles of hiking trails open in their approximate 9000 acres of land in Coosa County. This property touches Hatchet Creek to the East and the main channel on the West, also going over Weogufka Creek.

The State Lands division of the Alabama Department of Conservation, along with members of the Alabama Hiking Trail Society, have been working on the trail system which should be ready by the end of May. It will be open to foot traffic only, no motorized vehicles or bicycles allowed. The trail is described as moderate to strenuous.

The trail system starts at the parking lot next to Double Bridges on Hatchet Creek and will terminate at a trailhead located at the intersection of Wildlife Management Association (WMA) Roads 153 and 128. The actual tread and blazing of the trail is complete, and work is underway to post directional signage along the trail, establishing the Western Trailhead parking lot, and designating the campsite sites for the trail. An official press release will be sent out announcing the Grand Opening of the trail system once complete.

Currently there is only one boat access point located at Double Bridges on Hatchet Creek. It may be possible to establish a location along Noneless Creek that may be accessible by boat as well.

If anyone is interested in volunteering to help establish or maintain the trails, or has any questions contact Doug Deaton at 334-353-9145 or via email at doug.deaton@dcnr.alabama.gov.

H.O.B.O. Scholarship

Applications are in and this year we have eight local high-school students competing for the H.O.B.O. Scholarship. Five students are from Coosa County and three are from Chilton. Interviews will be held in May, at which time the winner will be chosen

Each student must complete the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Scholarship application form, attach an official transcript of grades (9-12), include their GPA and ACT or SAT scores, and submit two letters of personal recommendation. Each must write an essay on what they consider to be the most important environmental issue and what they can do to make a difference regarding that issue. Applicants must take part in one of the lake clean ups or water monitor training.

Through Lake Mitchell calendar sales and your donations, we have already given four \$2,500 scholarships to help area students.



BOAT BUMPERS - I have four large red Alabama boat bumpers that are new in the box for sale. \$100. Call Anita Lawson at 205-960-5083

BEACH TOWELS - Get ready for summer. Lake Mitchell beach towels. \$15.00 each. Only available in navy blue with white letters and red with white letters. Red quantity-8 left. Blue quantity--8 left. To order contact Rose Green by email at rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com.

JET SKI - 2000 Kawasaki Jet Ski 1100 ZXI, two seater with trailer. Runs good. \$2,200.00. Call Lee Poe at 205-389-2480.

PIER SALE - You have heard of garage sales and yard sales. Well Rebecca Beaty and Anita Lawson are having their first annual Pier Sale in Area 15 on Saturday, June 15.

TV - Magnavox TV with DVD & VHS (old huh!) that would be great to have in a bedroom at the lake for kids to watch old movies. TV works fine. For a \$25.00 donation to H.O.B.O. it is yours. Contact Judy Murchison at 205-408-7445.

WATER SUPPLIES - Water system supplies - 2 holding tanks and 2 filter tanks. FREE. You come and get them. Also, ozone generator for water purification that was used for only six month. \$300. Email Rose Green at rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com or call 205-492-7151.

WANTED: PROPANE TANK - Used propane tank in good condition. If you have a tank that you would like to sell, please contact Judy Murchison at 205-408-7445.

If you have something you would like to buy, sell, or give away, advertise it for free in the H.O.B.O. newsletter. Submit your want ad information to Marie Greene at marieandhugh@gmail.com. The next issue of the newsletter will come out in July.

Fish Habitats Replenished

In February and again in March representatives from Alabama Power, Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, a division of the Alabama Department of Conservation, dropped hundreds of recycled Christmas trees into different areas of Lake Mitchell to provide new fish habitats.

Alabama Power environmental specialist Doug Powell said the purpose of dropping the recycled trees into the lake is to help provide cover for fish and enhance a nursery habitat for juvenile fish that will often burrow deep within the trees creating a home to hide inside.



The crews delivered the trees via boats, dropping them into water that was 12-15 feet deep. The March crew consisted of Rick Shrader, Bob Thornton, Jim Quinn, Bobby Hyde, Stan Holt, Keith Welch and Steve Miles from Lake Mitchell; Doug Powell, Mike Clelland, Daniel Hatchett, Kevin Bass and Danny Wright from Alabama Power; and Graves Lovell from ADCNR

The trees are bundled into groups of four and weighted down with three 12-inch concrete blocks with a piece of foam attached to the top of one of the trees to let fishermen know where the habitats are located.

Alabama Power started the recycling program with various lakes in Alabama in 1992 and at Lake Mitchell in 1996. Since the program began more than 56,000 Christmas trees have been recycled into Alabama lakes as fish habitats.

"When we place each bundle of trees in the lake, we record the coordinates with GPS of the different sites to keep track of where we have placed the trees," Powell said.

These coordinates can be found on the website www.alabamapower.com/community/lakes/ Click on *Fishing Information* in the left column.



Sonny Bullard, Lee Poe, Bob Thornton, Rick Miller and Hans Pierson were among the fish habitat project team.

Local Lake Hero

The Inspiring Story of a Pennamotley Hero – by James Hand

Twenty-five years ago, my friend Billy was talking to my younger son, Andrew, who was around five. Billy asked, "Andrew, who is your hero?" Andrew gave it serious thought and then announced his hero was Davy Crockett! Billy just nodded his head in sound agreement. The next day Billy came by our house with a gift for Andrew. When Billy had been a young boy growing up in Montgomery, he had met Davy Crockett (Fess Parker) and got an autographed baseball card of him. Billy had hunted down the old card and brought it to Andrew. Andrew still has the card today.

I was very proud of Andrew's answer. In a world where young people were saturated with cartoon and sports figures, he picked a hero who always looked out for others and always did what was right for his family, friends and community.

If someone had asked me in the past, "Who is your hero?" I'm not sure I could have given them an answer. But today I know a real hero from right here on Lake Mitchell, and I want to share this story with you.

Toby and Jamie Vinson have a house next to us in Pennamotley. One Saturday morning I was out walking and noticed Toby fishing. I always hate to ask Toby how he's doing fishing because he always does so much better than I do; in fact most times when we meet fishing he'll have pity on me and either offer to take me in his boat or "suggest" that I might have better luck using such and such lure. But that's Toby, just a good guy. We went through the usual - how is everyone.

Then he told me about his wife, Jamie.

Jamie is in the insurance business and does a lot of her work from home. One of her business acquaintances is a lady named Michelle who lives in Dallas, Texas. Jamie has talked with Michelle for several years but never met her face to face. Five years ago Jamie discovered that Michelle needed a kidney transplant. Out of this urgent need, Jamie nurtured a relationship with Michelle based on faith, hope, God and prayer.

Twenty-three people were evaluated as possible kidney donors. As each prospective donor was tested Jamie supported Michelle with prayer in the hope God would provide an acceptable match. No such donor was found. Upon hearing this, Jamie announced that she herself wanted to be tested as a kidney donor for Michelle. She proved to be a perfect match!

In my conversation with Toby, I learned that Jamie had flown to Dallas the prior week where she donated a kidney to Michelle. Toby said Jamie was already home and doing well and feeling great.

As I continued my walk, I was speechless from the information Toby had shared with me. I had a hard time grasping someone doing this for another person that she had never even met face to face.

That's when I ran into Jamie walking by herself down the dirt road. I asked how she was feeling and she said, "Great!" I told her I had talked to Toby and knew about what had happened in Dallas. Jamie looked down at the ground and did her best to down-play the whole thing. I told her I didn't know if I could ever be that unselfish. Jamie lifted her head up, looked me dead in the eyes and said, "Jim, it's a God thing!"

I knew when I saw her eyes it was, but I also knew I was looking into the eyes of a true hero!

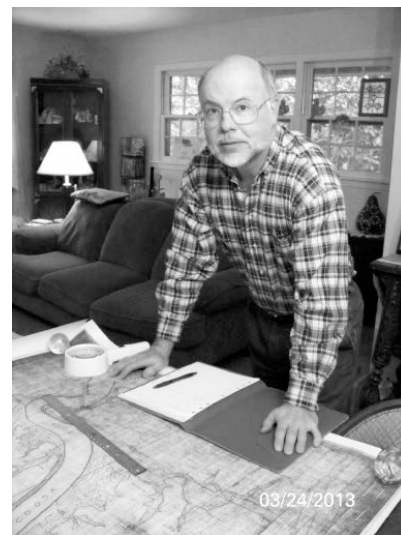
New H.O.B.O. Historian Is Gathering Your Stories

My name is Chip Gates and I am the new Lake Mitchell Historian. My wife, Jeanette, and I live in southern Jefferson County, but have a humble little lake cabin located at 54 County Road 555. In the front yard is the yet-to-become-famous bottle tree, presently known to the postal carrier, garbage folk, and the few who travel to the dead end of our little road. We are land-locked, somewhat straddling the line between Areas 1 and 2, but we are blessed to have relatives (both named DiGiorgio) behind us on a slough of Blue Creek, and in front on the lake proper. My wife's folks bought the cabin in the mid-50s, and then Jeanette purchased it in 2007 and our job of renovation commenced.

There was an old map of the lake on the living room wall and I soon noticed the notation of "underwater RR tr" near where our place is. Having a lifelong interest in trains, my curiosity was piqued. From talking to others in the area, I found out about the

former sawmill and the now submerged town of Rushton. I believe that part of the town was located on what is now a small island on the west side of the lake near the entrance to Blue Creek. Last summer I was paddling a kayak through a narrow and shallow pass between the island and the shoreline when I saw what appeared to be a stone foundation beneath me. My intention is to comb the island with a metal detector to see if I can find any artifacts to substantiate my belief.

George Jackins has already been a great help in furthering my quest for knowledge about the town. He graciously provided old maps of the river and tributaries (pre-Mitchell Dam) of which I had copies made, plus he obtained a copy of the book *"Putting*



Chip Gates studies old maps of the area.

Loafing Streams to Work".

As my interest in the history of Rushton began to grow, I started learning other little tidbits from some of our other neighbors further on down Co. Rd. 555. John Haley told me one of the houses on his property was a speakeasy during

Prohibition, and he lays claim to having the oldest boathouse on the lake. Another neighbor, Chan Aldridge, told of spending a night in one of the original logger's cabins near present-day Blue Creek Marina. Chan also talked about gold having been found way up in the hills beyond Blue Creek. I did find one old map on-line giving the name Rippatow Mines in this area in the 1920s.

As I heard these stories I realized that it would be good to capture this information so as to preserve it. As the historian for the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., I would like to serve as a conduit and repository by which other people can submit stories about their part of the lake. These stories can be about people, places, and/or events that helped shape the Lake as we know it today.

Anyone with stories or questions please feel free to contact me at gatesestate@bellsouth.net, by mail at Chip Gates, 3628 Dabney Drive, Vestavia, AL 35243-4621, or at 205-979-7656. We don't have an answering machine on our home phone, but you can leave me a message on my cell phone at 205-382-4591. Looking forward to hearing from you! Chip

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. 2013 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 \$15____ Memorial ____ 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:	Cell 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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 If you have already paid by the time this newsletter went to print, "M13" (for "Member-2013") should be next to your name on the mailing label of this newsletter. If you don't see "M13", 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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