Volume 18 Issue 3 Third Quarter 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Lee Poe Mr.LeePoe@yahoo.com



Summer is now here and it is good to see a lot of people out enjoying the lake. If you missed the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. annual picnic you missed a good time. This year we had a band "Home

Remedy" at the picnic and everyone enjoyed hearing them perform. East Chilton Fire Department also had Marine 9 at the picnic and gave demonstration rides to those in attendance who wanted to go. The boat is now being well maintained and in good operating condition. We appreciate all the volunteers with East Chilton who put in a lot of hard work maintaining and training for emergencies on the lake.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the 4th of July festivities will be history. The pontoon boat parade and the speed boat parade are always colorful and fun for those in the parades as well as those who watch from the shore. The highlight of the Independence Day celebration is always the fireworks in Cargile Creek, which was held on Friday night, July 5th this year. Hope everyone enjoyed these events and continues to spend some time out on the lake with family and friends..

Lee

Water Quality Report

Jim Woodrow, Water Testing Chairman

PARAMETER	O.K. RANGE	CURRENT QTR	LAST QTR
Dissolved O2	5 - 9	8.65	9.06
рН	6.5 - 8.2	7.33	7.47
Alkalinity	20+	47.22	75.33
Hardness	10 - 120	43.33	60.00

H.O.B.O. Memorial

Susan Orr donated \$50 to the Lake Mitchell Memorial Fund in memory of her husband John Orr III

Words from a Past President

By Dan Murchison

On August 14th, 2013, the six Presidents of The Coosa River Lake Associations will all serve on a panel to discuss ideas on how these associations can



communicate, share ideas, and help solve problems with environmental issues from Weiss Lake, Neely Henry Lake, Lake Logan Martin, Lay Lake, Lake Mitchell, and Lake Jordan. This should be the beginning of a good communication chain that can feed important information back to lake residents living along the entire length of the Coosa River via lake web sites, newsletters, and other publications. In addition, Government organizations such as EPA, ADEM, NRCS, Alabama Game and Fish, Forestry, Corps of Engineers and others will be asked to supply important updates to these Lake Associations through this communication link.

On another topic, the Coosa River and particularly Lake Mitchell is blessed with the largest boat population I have seen in my 35 years on Lake Mitchell. While this is not all a bad thing, the boat wakes in Cargile Creek have been devastating to my boathouse and sea walls. Two boards were torn off my boathouse, and the waves washing and beating my poor sea wall have been awful.

Please be mindful of your speed and wake, and be a courteous boat driver.

Dan Murchison, Area 3, 205-408-7445

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Area 1 - Bobby Lewis

Not much new going on in Area 1 since the last newsletter. There has been a little new building activity in the area and I will try to update all on new residents next time.

Some residents in our area have concerns about boating safety in the area, especially the narrow passage into the Blue Creek Marina area. This area is quite narrow and new boathouses have been built on the Northern shore. We wish for all to pay attention to speed in this area so residents can enjoy the lake with safety and minimal damage from boat wakes.

Several residents from the Ridge area let me know about their activity with the last lake cleanup. Instead of going up all the way to Higgins Ferry to get started, they stayed on the south end of the lake and took the trash to Higgins Ferry at the end of the effort. This makes a lot of sense since much of the clean up effort remains in the central part of the lake. It saves travel time and helps with local cleanup since boats rarely travel all the way to the south end of the lake. If there is enough interest for the fall clean up, I will be glad to help organize this, and strongly encourage all to participate in this very useful lake activity. Bobby and Cynthia Lewis

Area 3 - Kim Trimble

Area 3 has been busy with many residents finishing cleanup after the storms in late March. My friend and Southern meteorological legend James Spann says it appears that straight-line winds were the culprit that damaged many of the same homes that were struck in the EF-2 tornado of late November 2004. Fortunately most of the damage was minor and there were no injuries in our area.

For the last 18 months I have been watching a family of American bald eagles feed and fly around Cargile Creek, the two parents and two eaglets are usually seen early in the morning or close to dusk as a group, with regular sightings of a parent on their own on various days. They like to fish in our creek and then take their prey to a tree over on the island and enjoy their fresh catch. The Alabama Department of Wildlife Conservation is sending an agent here soon to pinpoint exactly where the nests are located along the Lake Mitchell area and to ensure the continued growth of this amazing bird.

Summer is in full swing and that means many of us are enjoying time in and around the water. Remember to be a good neighbor and observe a no-wake zone near fishing boats, piers, boathouses and shorelines, especially those floating style piers that are appearing with more regularity here on Lake Mitchell. Last summer I watched a ski boat pass within two feet of ours at full throttle, snapping a retaining line and the driver never looked back.

Don't forget that this fall Alabama Power will be doing a drawdown across Lake Mitchell in order for homeowners to do any needed work on their property, so go ahead an apply for your permits now!

Everyone have a safe summer. Kim Trimble

Area 4 – Joan Vickery

Lost pet leads to new acquaintances.

A few weeks ago our ever-alert dog, Buddy, greeted a stranger at our door. There stood Greg Gibson with flier in hand, looking for his family's little pup. It turned out that Greg and his son Bristol had been searching for their pet for several hours and decided to hit the road in hope of finding her. If you have ever tried this, and we have, you can understand how stressful and exhausting this can be. It happens quite often that we find all sorts of animals strolling down our driveway; dogs, cats, peacocks, ducks and geese to name a few. That's how we ended up with our dog Buddy.

In the Gibson's case we had seen their dog and knew the couple that had found her. Greg was ecstatic because this little ball of fur is his wife's baby. The story ended happily with the Gibsons reunited with their pet and we made a new friend.

Greg and his wife Donna and their two children Sami, age 17, and Bristol age 13, are fairly new full-time lake residents. Greg stated that they had been coming to Mitchell for years and are so excited to finally call it home. He said, "We absolutely can't wait" for the July fireworks. I know he will not be disappointed as we have an awesome show. Also, they are the proud owners of a new Tige Z3 wake board boat, so we will be watching for all the new moves I'm sure the children will be learning.

Life on the lake can be challenging and stressful for pet owners when their beloved friends decide to go exploring. We have been fortunate in many ways to have wonderful neighbors who love animals and who watch out for each other's pets.

While writing this it occurred to me that it would be a good idea to establish a hotline with readily available numbers and email addresses to send out an S.O.S. when a pet strays. I think my next project is to put this together for Area 4.

Have a great summer and keep your pets safe. Joan

Area 5 - Peggy and Sonny Bullard

It is summer at last! Sonny has been busy getting motors up and running around the lake including ours. We had our first big crowd here over Memorial Day. Our granddaughter and friends came from Thursday till Monday evening. We had 10 adults, two rug rats (children) and 2 dogs still in puppy stage. At first the pups were not so sure about the big bank and deep water but it didn't take them long to figure out there was fun to be had down on that dock. What a way to start our summer.



Sonny and I are thankful to be able to share this beautiful lake with family, friends and dogs.

We enjoyed the H.O.B.O. picnic this year. There were so many new faces and a large crowd. The music by a group called *Home Remedy* that Dan

Murchison contracted added some spice to the food, fun and fellowship. Area 5 was well represented but would have enjoyed seeing more of you.

Remember to give thanks to God for blessing each of us with places on this beautiful lake. Have a safe and fun summer. *Sonny and Peggy*

Area 6 – Leslie Miles

Happy summer to all, hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather and having fun.

I know that most everyone here has experienced the fantastic fireworks that Jim McCormick brings to us every year and how it has been such a great tradition on this lake. I also want to acknowledge Adam King, our very own Bird Creek resident, for doing the same. He has been providing a tremendous firework show for years in memory of his father Norman King and with very little financial support. Also if you have had the opportunity to be here on Christmas Day and you see Santa skiing in full attire, beard and all; that is Adam as well. He brings such fun and tradition to us all and I want to thank him and his family for all that they have done to make our area special!

Also a reminder for anyone who needs a permit for repairs this fall, it's time to get it now. I have noticed several permits on boathouses in our area and kudos to the ones getting head start. *Leslie Miles*

Area 9 - Dale and Patty Vann

By the time you read this it will be July and that means the summer heat is upon us. That is why we have a lake house and boats...to enjoy our time at Lake Mitchell and take a dip in the lake.

Area 9 had our annual get-together Saturday before Memorial Day at our lake house. We had another good turn out, and for the ones that were not able to make the meeting, we hope you will be able to come next year. We had some interesting discussions pertaining to Lake Mitchell, especially Area 9.

The majority of concern is with the water quality in both Walnut Creek and the main river side. The main river is getting polluted from Yellow Leak Creek while Walnut Creek is being polluted by several possible sources. We are currently working to solve this

problem on Walnut Creek...stay tuned for more information as we plan to have another Area 9 meeting soon with special guest to bring us up to date on the issues and possible solutions. If you have any questions regarding this you can contact me.

The Sim's place, now almost finished being remodeled, is looking good and I know they are anxious to move in.

The Lake Mitchell annual picnic was a lot of fun with a good turnout. There was plenty of food and good BBQ. You do not know what you are missing if you did not come.

If anyone knows of any news that needs to be reported concerning Area 9, please let me know so we can address it in the Newsletter.

Have a fun and safe summer! Dale and Patty Vann

Area 14 - Rose and Eric Green

Hope everyone is having a great summer. Please remember to be safe on the water.

If you have an aquatic weed problem call 1-800-lakes-11 and report it to Alabama Power. Leave a detailed message, your location, name, and phone number so Alabama Power can make arrangements to spray the invasive plants. It does take a few weeks after it has been sprayed for the weeds to die off.

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

It was great to get back on the lake Memorial Day. However, my weekend was bitter sweet when I learned that Howard Bunn, owner of M&H Grocery had passed away. I always enjoyed talking to Howard when I would stop and buy bait and gas at his store on Hwy 59. The family had a memorial service and gave me a copy of his obituary when I got the news. Howard was born in Six Mile Alabama in 1937. He was the oldest of five children. Howard left home at the age of 15 and got a job in New Orleans, Louisiana. He served in the Navy and later worked on the Apollo program. He had a degree in accounting but he did not like office life and began driving a truck. He loved traveling the open road but he stopped for a while and worked in real estate and insurance. Howard once took me down to his place he was building on Blue Creek. Nice guy and I will miss him. My condolences go to Howard's family and friends.

On another note, we had a safety misstep on the lake Memorial Day. One of our boats ran out gas and we had to tow it in. There were several contributing factors and some lessons learned. Even though I keep my old motor, my new boat is larger and therefore uses more gas. I also found that gauges on the new tanks are not very reliable. Lessons learned: 1) Fill tanks up and check regularly. Do not trust gauges, lift tanks and observe gas levels. 2) Always have a cell phone on board that works in the area of lake you travel too and a list of "help" numbers. 3) Let people know where you're going and approximate time you plan to return. I think I have heard this referred to as a float plan.

I also have grown children and relatives that borrow my boats from time to time. I am working a checklist as a reminder of the items listed above and important items such as knowing where the registration papers are, lifejackets for everyone on board, navigation lights, paddles, etc.

Hope these tips might be useful to others. Be safe. *Tommy Carpenter*

Area 16 - Anita Lawson

It seems the summer is really here! Swimming, boating, wake boarding, and all the rest of the fun activities.

I do not have any news to report on Area 16.

Area 15 had a "Pier Sale" on Saturday June 15. We had lots of lookers but few buyers. Be sure and go to Verbena Pecan/Photography and see the TV trays or tables with your favorite school or picture of your choice. Neat idea for gifts. Libby had them displayed at the pier sale.

Be safe this summer and have fun. Anita



BOAT DETAILING - Kelly's Boat Detailing Service. Located at Alaga Landing (near Blue Creek Marina). Offering oxidation removal, waxing, carpet replacement, vinyl restoration, floor replacement and more... Contact Kelly at (912) 604-3274

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

DOG CRATE: Dog crate for sale. \$15 – Galvanized metal, 30" L x 23' W x 24 H " Call Rebecca Beaty - Cell (205-305-7597) Lake (256-377-4587)

Water to Be Lowered This Fall.

Apply Now for Your Shoreline Construction Permits

Alabama Power will lower the lake level by about three feet from October 1 to October 17.

If you have plans to do any maintenance or construction along the shoreline while the water is down, you need to obtain a permit from Alabama Power. Contact the Alabama Power Lower Coosa Shoreline Management Office in Clanton at 205-755-4420.

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.

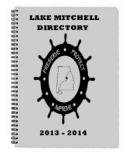
The program's general policies are:

- 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 nofee 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.

2013-2014 Lake Phone Directories

By now all paid-up H.O.B.O. members should have received your new phone directory. If you did not receive your copy, contact Jim Woodrow at ajwking@aol.com or 205-425-9431. If you have not paid your



\$25 H.O.B.O. membership dues for 2013, send them in today and you will be mailed a directory

The directory includes contact information for all lake residents including physical addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Please verify that your information is correct. Notify Jim Woodrow at ajwking@aol.com or 205-425-9431 about any changes that need to be made.

In addition to the alphabetical listing of all residents, you will find a listing of H.O.B.O. members by area. Check to make sure that your name is correctly listed in your area.

Bottle Cap Artist

Congratulations to Cargile Creek's own Donna DiGiorgio. The Birmingham News article on June 19th is a nice tribute to Donna who recycles bottle caps and



other metal products and makes new treasures of our recycled junk. Not only is this encouragement for all of us to do our recycle part of keeping our environment clean, but she makes a hobby out of it. We are proud to have Donna and her family on Lake Mitchell and all they do to make Lake Mitchell a great place.

Blue Creek Marina and Gift Shop

Kimberly Jordan is running the show this summer at Blue Creek Marina, selling bait, ice, ice cream, drinks, and snacks in addition to gas. (The house specialty is "Blue Creek Heat" boiled peanuts.) A new service that is being offered at Blue Creek Marina this year is boat cleaning and detailing.

But the exciting news at Blue Creek Marina is the new gift shop, which has many unique and interesting items such as customized vintage signs, metal wall sculptures and lake maps. Kim says, "H.O.B.O. members can 'LIKE' us on Face Book to see all the new items that are arriving on a weekly basis. Gift certificates are also available."

If you haven't been there recently, Kimberly and owner Bo Warren invite you to stop by soon and check out everything that Blue Creek Marina has to offer.

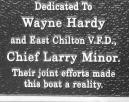
Live Music and the Marine 9 Fireboat Liven the Annual H.O.B.O. Picnic

On June 8 lake residents gathered at the Higgins Ferry Pavilion for the Annual H.O.B.O. Picnic. In addition to the usual abundance of wonderful food, folks this year enjoyed the extra treat of live music by the country/bluegrass group *Home Remedy.* Also the Chilton County Fire and Rescue boat known as Marine 9 was on hand giving rides and demonstrations.



















Journey Back in Time

by Chip Gates, H.O.B.O. Historian

With regards to history, some people, places or events may have long-lasting national or even international significance. Then there are items with a more local flavor. Lastly, there are those things that only a few or just one may find noteworthy. Scott Moorer falls into this last category for me.

Scott was the first H.O.B.O. member to respond to my request for historical information about Lake Mitchell. His first letter told of an abandoned gold mine, and the

old Higgins family cemetery. In follow-up correspondence, Scott kindly provided a map to these sites, both in Coosa Being exceedingly County. well prepared with information, all that was left to do was to go have a look-see. So on a fine May day, Jeanette and I headed east across the Hwy. 22 bridge and turned left on Coosa County Rd. 121. Following Scott's map, we arrived at the intersection that leads to the new Eagle Point subdivision. We parked here

and disembarked. After entering the wood line, we soon found ourselves wishing for a couple of mountain goats to hang onto.

After scrambling down the hill, there was the mine entrance, right where Scott said it would be, which was great as there were no obvious paths or trails leading to it. Basically, the mine tunnel led straight into the side of the hill. The walls and ceiling appeared to be in good shape, and about 60 or so feet in with a good flashlight a "back" wall was discernible. Alas, there was no way to see what, if anything, branched off from this seeming dead end. Over the years, dirt and leaves had washed down from above the mine entrance, forming a natural dam. Water was backed up behind it to an unknown depth, but was still flowing out and into the woods. Using a shovel I'd brought along, I excavated a trench to help the water escape. After about 45 minutes, the water inside the mine had dropped about 8 inches. Even though I could now see ground in front of the back wall, it was still too deep to enter. Note to self: In addition to goats, next time bring raft, or wait until dry season.

Back in the truck, we continued down 121 towards our next destination, the Higgins family cemetery. We turned left onto Lakeview Road, and opted to see where Scott's place was first. It was there we ran into Mark Sullivan, whose home is on Mattress Slough. Mark kindly shared some of his family's history on the

lake. We then backtracked a short distance, turning up Poinciana. A few hundred feet off Lakeview, the road bends to the right. There, on the left, was an old dirt road heading uphill. Following this on foot for a couple of hundred yards we came to a "T". Taking the left part of the "T", we were almost at once at the cemetery. Surrounded by a low chain link fence, the grounds were somewhat overgrown. Scott had mentioned he thought a scout troop had been maintaining the site, but there was no evidence of recent work. There appeared to be approximately 15 or so graves, most from the 1800's and on into the early 1900's. At the entrance was a memorial stone to

Robert Flemon Higgins Jr. Robert, born in 1925, was the caretaker of the cemetery, apparently until his death in 2007. The marker notes his ashes were cast upon the grounds there in 2008.

As is often the case in older cemeteries, sadly there were headstones of infants, some nameless, as they apparently died at birth. Those that made it past childhood lived relatively long lives, such as B.F. Higgins (1841-1911), and

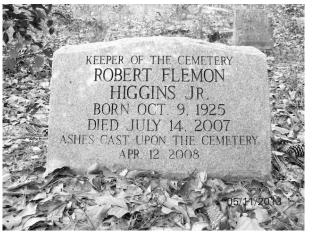
his wife Josephine (1848-1913). I'm sure many folks are familiar with the public boat launch where the abandoned Higgins Ferry used to cross the river. But some may not be aware that there was a Smith's Ferry that crossed where Cargile Creek flowed into the Coosa River. On the east side of the river the ferry landed about where Lakeview Road is, and tied in with the old Coosa County Road 1. So it was interesting to find a grave marker with the name Harriett Jones Smith (1844-1888) in the Higgins Cemetery. Coincidence?

Please keep your stories coming in. I'm presently collecting notes on how various sloughs and points got their names (Turner Point, Airplane Slough, etc.), but I'm open for anything. Surely *something* of interest must have happened at the northern end of the lake.

Have a Safe & Great Summer!

Chip

Send your history stories to Chip Gates at gatesestate@bellsouth.net or by mail to Chip Gates, 3628 Dabney Drive, Vestavia, AL 35243-4621.



Scholarship Committee Essay

In May 2013 we awarded our fifth Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. \$2,500 Scholarship. Every year our committee has the privilege of interviewing and getting to know some of the top students in Chilton and Coosa Counties. Of the five scholarships awarded, three have gone to students in Chilton County and two have gone to students in Coosa County.

As part of the application the students are asked to submit a one-page essay on the following topic:

"What is the most important environmental issue that relates to you, and what can you do to make a difference regarding this issue?"

This year the Committee wanted to share one of the essays. This essay is by Heather Posey who recently graduated from Isabella High School. She will be attending Auburn University in Montgomery.



Important Environmental Issues Essay by Heather Posey

One of the many environmental issues is water quality. Water quality is very

important to me because there is only about one percent of the water that is safe to drink and many places in the world are not able to get to that one percent of clean water. Bacteria and dissolved oxygen are big factors when you are testing water quality.

Bacteria are one of the many things that pollute our water sources. Bacteria can enter into the water by point source and nonpoint sources. Clear cutting is a big factor for local streams where I live. E-coli is the main type of bacteria that is found in one local stream that I have helped test. There is a kit to test for e-coli in your water system. Bacteria are very harmful if they enter into your body from water especially e-coli.

Dissolved oxygen is another thing you can test for. A dissolved test is to measure the amount of gaseous oxygen dissolved in an aqueous solution. If the dissolved oxygen is low, fish will stay at the bottom rather than the top. If the dissolved oxygen is high, the fish will be at the top of the body of water. If the dissolved oxygen level gets too low the fish will die which also depletes our source of food from fish. If it is hot, then most likely the dissolved oxygen is low. So according to temperature, the dissolved oxygen will be based on the temperature.

Water quality tests are an easy to check on the bacteria and dissolved oxygen in the water. I have done several water quality tests myself with a local program I am in to keep a check on these things. When I was testing, we noticed that most of the bacteria getting into the water were from either clear cutting or pesticides.

As you can tell, water quality is something that is very important to me. Being able to test the water myself and to see the results from those tests is something that has shown me that we need to take care of our water supplies. Bacteria are dangerous when it comes to drinking water. Dissolved oxygen has an effect on the fish we eat. So we need to keep a check on the water supplies in surrounding areas. A lot of people do not realize the small amount of clean fresh water that we have left on this earth.

2013 H.O.B.O. Scholarship Winner

The winner of the 2013 Lake Mitchell \$2,500 H.O.B.O. Scholarship is Ashley Leonard from Coosa Central High School.

Ashley lives in Kellyton with her mother and father. She has been active in organizations at her school



and has enjoyed volunteering at the Wetumpka Nursing Home, Department of Human Resources, Auburn football games and her church.

She plans to pursue a degree in nursing, and has gotten a head start by beginning her studies at UAB this summer.

Thanks to all of you who have helped support our scholarship by participating in our photo contests to create our Lake Mitchell calendars, by purchasing those calendars, and through donations.

This project provides a way of being good neighbors to those who live in the counties that border the beautiful lake we share. Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. 2013 Membership Application

Annual Dues	Marine 9 - Donation		Fireworks - Donation			Utility Boat - Donation		
Homeowner	Maintenance & Operation		Purchase of Fireworks		Maintenance & Operation			
\$25.00	\$		\$			\$	•	
Other Donation								
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Detach and mail completed form along with your check to: Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., PO Box 1324, Clanton, Al 35046

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.