

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Volume 18 Issue 4

Fourth Quarter 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Lee Poe Mr.LeePoe@yahoo.com



Hope everyone had a safe and fun summer despite all the rain. It is always sad to see summer end (with the exception of grass-cutting ending.)

In August, I was able to attend the Clean Water Partnership conference in Pell City. The presidents of the lake associations for Weiss Lake, Henry Neely, Logan Martin, Lay Lake, and Jordan were also at the conference. All the H.O.B.O. presidents of these lakes have decided to have a meeting in order to learn what the other associations are doing. There may be some joint projects that we could work on that could benefit us all.

The *Renew our Rivers* cleanup will be Saturday, November 2 at Higgins Ferry starting at 8:00 AM. We always fill up a dump truck, and removing a large dump truck full of trash from our lake twice a year makes a big difference. This much trash could not be removed without the help from everyone volunteering. Make your plans to participate this year. We need your help in keeping our lake clean.

The H.O.B.O. Annual Meeting will be Friday, November 15 at the Alabama Power Company Water Course building in Clanton. Wes Anderson from Alabama Power will be our guest speaker. He will give us information on invasive aquatic plants that could threaten our lake. Some hydrilla and milfoil were found on Lay Lake this year and treated. He will tell us how to identify these plants and what to do if we see them on the lake. We want to keep them out of Lake Mitchell. The water lettuce or water hyacinth has also been bad this year with all the rain. These are the little floating plants you see all over the lake.

Hope to see everyone at the upcoming events.

Lee

Scholarship Committee Report-

The Scholarship Committee has been busy contacting the schools in Chilton and Coosa Counties to inform students of the H.O.B.O. Scholarship that will be awarded in the spring. To apply, a student must be a

senior in good standing with at least a B average, and planning to attend an Alabama college in the fall of 2014. The student must submit an application form, participate at one or more Lake Mitchell Clean-ups, write an essay, and be interviewed by members of the Committee.

With the help and support through donations and Lake Mitchell calendar sales, we have given five students a scholarship in the amount of \$2,500.00 each. Thanks to all of you for your support of the scholarship.

If you know of a student who is interested in applying, please contact Rebecca Beaty at rebecca.beaty@gmail.com, or call (205) 305-7597. I will get the application forms and information to you or to the student.

2013-2014 Lake Phone Directories

By now all paid-up H.O.B.O. members should have received your new lake directory. If you have not paid your H.O.B.O. membership dues, send in your \$25 today along with your request that copy of the directory be mailed to you.

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.

Water Quality Report

Jim Woodrow, Water Testing Chairman

PARAMETER	O.K. RANGE	CURRENT QTR	LAST QTR
Dissolved O2	5 - 9	6.67	8.65
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.58	7.33
Alkalinity	20+	60.55	47.22
Hardness	10 - 120	46.11	43.33

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 sampiccolo62@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

.Area 5 –Peggy and Sonny Bullard

Summer is gone and saying goodbye was hard to do for us.

We regret to report that our area had to say goodbye to John C (Bill) Lewis. Bill lived full time on the lake and loved it here. Even while battling poor health for several years he stayed on at the lake with the help of a caretaker. Our heart felt prayers go out to all his family.

We also said goodbye to two families who sold their places this year. Ken and Maxine Williams sold to Tom and Michelle Ozbirn, and Donald and Angie Wittich sold Donald and Janice Kirpatrick. We welcome the Ozbirn and Kirpatrick families to Lake Mitchell and hope they love and enjoy it as much as we do.

We have had much company this year and loved it. Blessed and busy are two words that best describe our summer. The Memorial Day gang returned for Labor Day complete with Roxie and Olive the two dogs. I think they would move to Lake Mitchell if their owners would allow it.



Labor Day weekend we had some of the lettuce looking weeds wash into our weed beds on both sides of the boat house. Sonny and I pulled out four tall kitchen bags of them. Alabama Power airboats had been out just a couple of weeks before and checked around our area and found nothing at that time. Sonny and I spotted something floating in the middle of the lake early one morning and when we went down later we discovered it had washed into our weed beds. According to George Carr it started showing up back in July with all the rains. The Coosa



River in Gadsden Alabama was at flood stage and thus the plants washed down the line and have been seen as far as Lake Jordan. If you should see any around your place call Alabama Power and they will spray, or do as we did and get it out of the water. Since it is an aquatic plant it will die if placed on land.

The Annual Meeting will be November 15 and hope many of you will try to make it to this fun and informative meeting. Stay safe and warm this winter and we hope to see you right back here come spring.

Sonny and Peggy

Area 6 – Leslie Miles

I have good and sad news to report from our area. It's always better to start with the good news.

The good news is that Bo and Gail Warren's twin granddaughters were baptized at the last River Church service on Labor Day weekend. Of all the years we have been attending River Church, this was the first time to witness such a special occasion. It was fabulous, not only celebrating the baptism but seeing the boats from all over the lake coming together to say goodbye for the season and wish everyone well!

We would like to introduce our new neighbors - Troy and Tina Croker and Bill and Angie Broadwell. They have demonstrated such a love for the lake and the people here. We had an area 6 party at the marina in September, and they came to meet their new neighbors. It was great! We had such a grand time. You can't beat having a party where you don't cook or clean, and it helped the marina folks as well.

The sad news is that our area has lost some loved ones. George and Betty Roy lost their eldest daughter to cancer, and Phillip Brown lost his sister to COPD. Both of these families have been a part of Bird Creek for years and wonderful neighbors. Please keep them in your prayers!.

Leslie Miles

Area 7 – Becki McCallum

(See Becki's article on Page 5 entitled *Loving Lake Living is a Family Affair*.)

Area 9 – Dale and Patty Vann

The photo below was taken by 13-year-old Wesson Thornell, grandson of Mike and Kitty Thornell who own the house at the mouth of Walnut Creek. Kitty's parents built the home more than 50 years ago. Wesson captured this picture of a fisherman in the fog while visiting his grandparents on Memorial Day.

*Area 15 - Tommy Carpenter*

It's hard to believe that summer has come and gone and it's well into football season already. I hope everyone enjoyed the lake as much as we did. The July 4th weekend was "sort of" wet but our fireworks committee did a great job to put on the show and they were great. Thanks Jim and crew!

My article last year at this time was about locking down your belongings especially if you are a weekender. Now it is more important than ever because we have thieves doing their cowardly deeds again. You can't stop them but we can watch out for each other. It seems they are targeting boat batteries and gasoline. I made a stencil and painted my initials on batteries, etc. It may not stop them but it makes it a little more difficult to fence and maybe help get the thugs caught. I also put up some more security lights. Someone in my area spotted a truck riding around and stopped them. The guy said he was "just looking for cabins to buy". We ran his DOT numbers and guess what the report said? "Inactive"! Yeah right!

Enjoy the fall and leaves changing on the lake. I finally spotted the eagle a couple folks told me about in Finger Slough. Beautiful bird! *Tommy Carpenter*

Area 16 - Anita Lawson

The "tourists" have left the building (per Elvis). Our lake is so quiet for the winter. Be so aware of the people that like to take our property. The best defense is a motion light and a "deer camera". I think if you had a LOUD speaker attached to the motion light that would play something like God Bless America as loud as you can - thieves would leave ASAP.

If you need anything during this winter, give us a call. If Jerry and I are not down, we will know who is - We are neighbors.

Hopefully everyone benefited from the lowering of the water. This has not happened in about 5 years. We are so lucky that our lake is one of the few that maintains consistent water level all year.

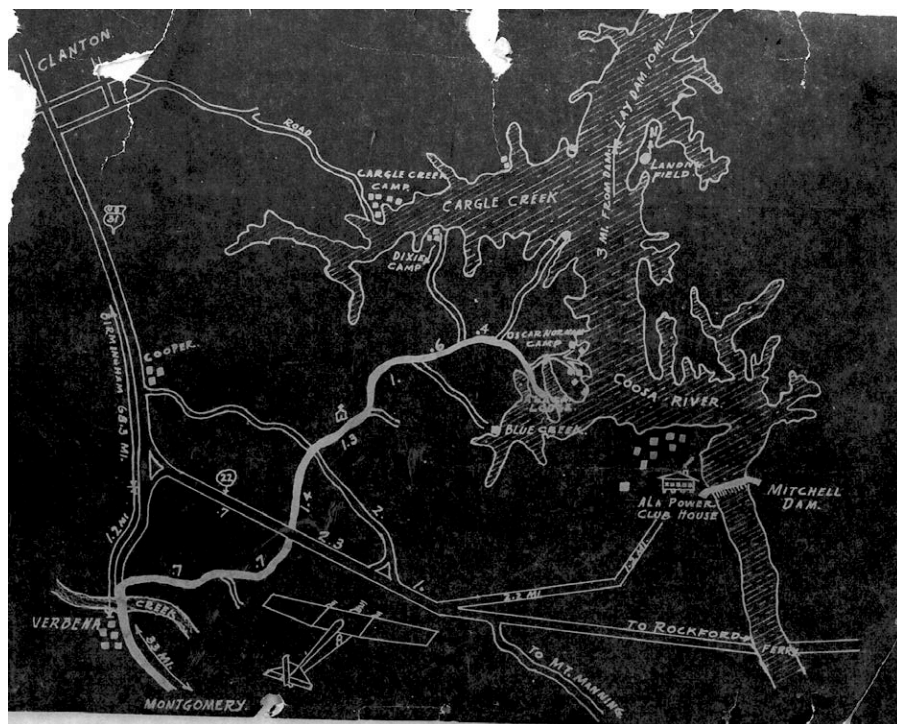
Our 2014 Lake Mitchell Calendars should be printed by now. Please call me to place your order. The profits support our H.O.B.O. Scholarship to a Chilton or Coosa County senior. The previous scholarship winners have been so appreciative of our support. You can call me with your orders and I will deliver or have mailed to you.

Anita

Lake Historian Analyzes Old Map

by Chip Gates

Please forgive me if I seem to be fixated on maps, but it's rather difficult to get first-hand accounts of the ways things were 70+ years ago. I have looked at several maps of our lovely lake and it doesn't take long to realize there are inconsistencies between some of them, especially in place names and site locations.



That said, let me tell you about one map in particular.

This map measures roughly 7 & 1/2" by 10", is on very dark blue paper, with white outlines and lettering. There is no legend or scale associated with the map, but the representation of the lake from just below the dam, to just below Hatchet Creek, appears to be fairly accurate. The northern-most portion of the lake before the map cuts off appears to be Bird Creek, though there is no label to indicate this. The few roads, distances given, and other nomenclature are hand written, and very neatly at that. The 10" dimension runs from left to right, with South at the bottom. The left side is torn, but a 4-street Clanton is shown in the NW corner, and a 5-structure Verbena is in the southwest corner.

One of the first things of interest in the bottom right (SE) corner is where Hwy. 22 crosses the river. Or would, as the map shows "FERRY". I checked online and then received confirmation from a nice ALDOT employee that the Hwy. 22 bridge was completed in 1958. So the map obviously predates that. Adjacent to Mitchell Dam is a nice drawing of a raised building with smoke coming from the chimney labeled "ALA

POWER CLUB HOUSE", and above that are 8 little squares that apparently represent cabins.

Moving north, and most likely the reason for this particular map, you'll find ALAGA LODGE. I believe this was the intended destination because, of the ten or so roads shown on the map, those leading from Hwy. 31 in Verbena, including present-day County Roads 59, 542, and 547, have been darkened in.

Distances between crossroads along C.R. 59 are given, but coming up Hwy. 31 from the south of Verbena is "33 M" and there the map cuts off. So 33 miles below Verbena and definitely "back in the day" some intrepid explorers must have headed north for a big time at the Lake.

Still on the Chilton County side of the lake and just above Alaga is a riverfront location called "OSCAR NORMAN CAMP". The printing is a little fuzzy on the last name but my wife and I both came to the conclusion this is what it said. Continuing northward, and located about where G.R.A.C.E.S. Marina is you find "DIXIE CAMP". Across Cargle Creek (the map's spelling) from Dixie and a little to the west is "CARGLE CREEK CAMP". There are several cabins(?) illustrated here as well as a road that leads almost straight to Clanton.

Our last item of note from this piece of history takes us across the lake from the mouth of Cargle Creek. On a narrow elongated strip of land, the northern-most part jutting out into the entrance to Big Airplane Slough, is a North arrow and the label "LANDING FIELD". Not wanting to spoil the surprise, I neglected to mention at the bottom center of the map is a representation of an old Ford Tri-motor airplane, and it's apparently winging its way north to this strip. According to Shan Paden, whose place is at the southwest point of Cargle (Cargile) Creek and the river, this field was used during WWII for practicing take-offs and landings. Now this is just supposition, but my guess is this was probably no more than a grass field with no facilities, with the planes coming up from their base in Montgomery. If anyone has any knowledge about this, or would like me to send them a copy of the map, shoot me an email to gatesestate@bellsouth.net

As always, I welcome your input. I'm still looking for stories on how some of our sloughs got their names. Anything you have along these lines would be greatly appreciated.

Loving Lake Living is a Family Affair

by Becki McCallum

Sharing the love of Lake Mitchell has become a family affair for many residents of Area 7. It all began many years ago by multiple families in our area.

I'll start with the Bentleys. Louie's grandfather began their family love of the lake back at the beginning of our lake history. Lake Mitchell was formed by damming the Coosa back in 1923 and at that time the Upchurch family established a "camp" near Higgins Ferry which remains in the family today. In recent years Louie and Nancy decided to move here permanently and bought an additional property close by with a full-time home. Just recently the family has expanded their "compound" with their son Ben's purchase of a vacation home next to the "camp". They can all gather comfortably; parents, children, and grandchildren to share making memories well into the future.

The next "family affair" in this area involves the Brown family. Quite some time ago two Brown siblings established vacation homes close to the mouth of Bird Creek. The Winfred Brown and JoAnn Johnston families spent many a day on the lake. Today son Durwood and daughter Carolyn now have full-time residences here, as well as cousins Joan, John and Len retaining secondary homes in this area. The extended family has enjoyed decades of vacations on Lake Mitchell and developed a deep love of this place in the process.



Our family began the "migration" to Lake Mitchell in 1985. During the summer of that year Becki & Mau began renting property on the lower end of our lake. Some years later sister Tad with husband Tom bought their first property on the lake and we bought our weekend home in this area. We decided to move here full-time and build our retirement home in 2001. Tad & Tom migrated close to the mouth of Bird Creek, brother John settled near them in his retirement home, and dad built and relocated next door to us. Just recently uncle and aunt Linda and Jim have purchased

a home close by at the mouth of Walnut Creek. For many years now our extended family has held annual reunions here and enjoyed relaxing by the water. Truly the family affair is spreading.



The final multiples in our area involve the Owen family. John grew up on this lake vacationing in this very area. Some years ago he and Lisa also relocated here and built a permanent home. Since then son Brad has also built a home in our area with plans for



daughter Kelly to do the same. Lisa also has an aunt and uncle on Bird Creek extending the family connections.

In Area 7 many of us have come to appreciate the immense peace and beauty of Lake Mitchell and spread that love to other family members. It truly is a great blessing to share our lives in such a wondrous place.

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

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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"/>	
Home 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.