

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 1

First Quarter 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Lee Poe Mr.LeePoe@yahoo.com



Hope everyone had a good Christmas and a happy New Year. We are now kicking off a new year and should have a lot in store.

The first event of the year will be the Fish Habitat Enhancement project with Alabama Power where Christmas trees will be placed in the lake for fish habitats. The plan is to work out of Higgins Ferry on February 3rd and 4th. The project will probably be finished on the 3rd but the 4th is there in case of bad weather or if there are enough trees that we don't finish on the 3rd.

New for this year we have a drop off point at Higgins Ferry for Christmas Trees. If you have not gotten rid of your real tree yet, bring it to Higgins Ferry and it will be used for fish habitat. Frank Atkins stated that people could place them on the bank, at the swimming area.

There will also be a second Fish Habitat project on the upper end of the lake on March 25th working out of the boat ramp right below Lay Dam on the Chilton side of the lake (the old Lavadas).

I am no longer the Area Rep for Area 8. We have a new Area Rep, Beau Battaglia. Beau owns Lake Mitchell Marina and lives in the apartment above the restaurant. I appreciate Beau taking the position and I am sure he will do a great job.

The county has installed a storm shelter at Higgins Ferry. This should be great for the campers and anyone out in a boat in the area of Higgins Ferry if a storm comes up. We may even have some meetings at the shelter.

We also have a new web site which we have needed for a while. I appreciate all the hard work put in to get it going. I know Marie Greene and Ken Kerttula have put a lot of time into it. Hope everyone will thank them the next time you see them. Marie always does a great job on this newsletter and has done a great job getting together the content for the site. I would also like to think Tim Dwyer for his assistance.

Hopefully we will get a few warm days to get on the water before spring.

Lee

Storm Shelter installed at Higgins Ferry Park

If anyone has been to Higgins Ferry lately you probably noticed the white storm shelter on the left as you drive into Higgins Ferry. The county is in the process of putting the shelters throughout the county and Higgins Ferry was one of the first locations to get one. The GPS address is 11019 County Road 28, Clanton, AL.



The prefabricated shelter or safe room was lifted and placed in the location by a crane and then anchored into place in December.

The shelter meets the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) standards and will seat roughly 100 people. Frank Atkins stated that the shelter has a bathroom and a generator in case power is lost.

Currently, Chilton County has seven storm shelters and plans to add 10 more so that each resident in the county is only a 5-minute drive from a shelter.



Time to Send 2014 Dues

Please send in your H.O.B.O. dues for 2014. Dues are still only \$25. You can find the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. Mail in the form along with your check to the address shown on the form. Check out the new H.O.B.O. website to see all of the ways that your \$25 is used. It is the best bargain anywhere!



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 205-612-2172
7	Bird to Walnut	Becki & Mau McCallum beckmau@gmail.com	205 755-5334
8	Walnut SW	Beau Battaglia beauredsox@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	VACANT	
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 4 – Joan Vickery

Below is a featured message from Greg Gibson, a resident of Area 4.

We do love to spend time in the outdoors doing all kinds of things. I think this is why we have loved our new home on beautiful lake Mitchell so much.

We absolutely enjoyed our first summer living here beyond our wildest dreams. We are currently preparing for our extended family Christmas get together at our house. We hosted last year shortly

after moving in and our family enjoyed the lake so much that it was unanimously decided to have it at our place again this year.

We participated as a family in lake cleanup this year and got to meet a lot of our neighbors and new friends. We got involved with that initially because our daughter Sami is applying for the HOBOS scholarship. After participating and seizing the opportunity to help keep our lake beautiful, we won't miss one in the future. We absolutely enjoyed spending time working with others who have a common love for this lake. Our son Bristol talked about how good of a time he had for weeks after the cleanup.

We have a lot going on and we are trying to work in some of our annual traditions. One such tradition is our "pumpkin shoot". We normally do this immediately after Halloween but this year Sami had surgery and was unable to participate so we put it off. She is also the Captain of the dance team at CCHS and has been very busy because of that. On top of these things she has just returned from a school trip to New York with the DECA organization (we are soooo glad she's home). Because of the tight schedules, we are into December and still no pumpkin shoot. We are hoping to make this happen this weekend. You should checkout photos on my Facebook page for years passed pumpkin shoots.

This summer Bristol and Sami both developed a real passion for watersports, mainly wakeboarding. Nowadays it's so tough to get kids up early on weekends but their desire to utilize the smooth early morning water made that happen on a regular basis. They have even talked of wanting wet suits to try and keep this going through the winter. We haven't gotten that brave yet though.

One thing that has been amazing to me about how our life has changed on the lake, is how time on the lake with friends and family draws you much closer together. If there were no other benefits of living on the lake, (even though there are countless reasons) this one thing would be enough to convince me that life on the lake is second to life nowhere else.

Thanks for the chance to tell you a little about what's going on with us.

Greg Gibson

.Area 5 – Peggy and Sonny Bullard

We say "hello" to a New Year and good bye to a year that has been filled with a lot of love, laughter and fun but not without its share of hardships, heartaches and sorrows. Sonny ended 2012 (2012 - not a misprint) with major surgery only to enter 2013 with a blood clot and pneumonia in the lung. Overcame these obstacles and had a fun filled summer. Just as we thought everything was well he had another life

threatening episode and more surgery in October. Therefore we have come to value each other and others more than ever before. As we all say "we love Lake Mitchell" but we have recently fallen in love with the people on Lake Mitchell. Many of you called, prayed, sent cards, emails and paid us a visit during Sonny's journey with life this past year.

One example of kindness was from two friends who called and offered to clean out the fallen trees and weeds around our bank while the water was down. The amazing thing is they did not know Sonny was in the hospital when they left the message on our phone that they wanted to do this and had no idea we could not do it ourselves. They made the offer with only one condition that we could not pay them. So we thank Durwood Brown and Ralph Atchison for their "good neighbor" deed. And just think they are not even from Area 5. We humbly thank each of you and realize what a special family we have acquired here on the lake. We often laugh and tell people we have three families...our blood family, our church family and our lake family.

This year our lake family lost another beloved member, Raymond Freeman. Our dear friend and neighbor completed his journey here on earth on October 25th. He and his wife Barbara were full time friends and neighbors since 2009 when they renovated their lake cabin into a lake home and became part of Area 5. In 2012 we spotlighted him and Barbara in our HOBBO article. Now we send our heart-felt condolences to his wife, children and grandchildren. Raymond is missed but still loved by all who knew him.

Our prayer in 2014 is that all of our lake friends and neighbors will come to know the Lord Jesus who has been our strength and joy through it all. We don't wish but pray your year will be blessed. Life is a joy even in hardships when you know him. We do not like winter and are excited to know spring will soon come.

God Bless and many thanks. *Sonny and Peggy*

Area 6 – Leslie Miles

It is with a heavy and sad heart that a beloved neighbor and friend Hans Joachim Pierson passed December 5th.

He and his wife Paula had been married for 45 years having 2 children and 4 grandchildren. He was a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church of Clanton.

Hans and Paula have lived here on Bird Creek for several years and very active with HOBBO. Paula used to be our area rep and Hans was always helping in anyway he could by participating at the lake clean up, going out with Alabama Power dispersing Christmas trees and assisting at the summer picnics.

So many of us felt honored to know Hans and his stewardship, friendship and sense of humor will be greatly missed!

Leslie Miles

Area 7 – Becki McCallum

Area 7 has an unsung hero! Our neighbor, Louie Bentley, has taken it upon himself to clean County Road 28. He regularly (at least once a week) patrols the road from Higgins Ferry Park for at least a mile towards town. He picks up all manner of trash, greatly improving the beauty of our ride home. We appreciate your efforts Louie, you are a "hero" to me! We all should pitch in and help him with this effort wherever and whenever possible. Wouldn't it be nice to have clean roads all around our lake? It is an ongoing project as unfortunately, there will always be those who either don't care how "trashy" they are or don't pay enough attention to their loose trash. Thank you Louie – for caring and for your work! *Becki*

Area 8 – Beau Battaglia

Beau Battaglia is the new Area Rep for Area 8.

My name is Beau Battaglia and I'm owner of Lake Mitchell Marina. I've been in this lake for 2 years and it's absolutely amazing. I'm still learning about our lake but it's becoming easy because of the friendly people. In the next few months I will be introducing myself to the people that don't know me who live in Area 8. If anyone that hasn't met me or has any concerns and questions about our area please feel free to contact me at (504) 909-6990 or beauredsox@yahoo.com.

I would like to say thanks to everyone who is involved in the HOBBO association. I understand the hard work that's put in year round to maintain a fun and safe lake to enjoy ourselves on. I'm glad to be given an opportunity to help guide Area 8. Also I would especially like to thank board members and area representatives whom are helping show me the duties and responsibilities for this position. My intentions are to do a great job and teach people in our area what our association is all about and the great things we do for this lake.

Area 9 – Dale and Patty Vann

Where did 2013 go? As I write this it is December 2, 2013 and I am looking out over Walnut Creek seeing all the leaves in my yard that need to be raked. It seems like it was just the other day when Patty and I were doing our annual spring cleaning.

Let me first say that the stealing of boat batteries is an ongoing problem. The best thing to do is take your battery out of your boat and store somewhere in your house. The Sheriff's Department is aware of the problem but these crooks are hard to catch. The main thing is to always report anything you have stolen.

Next, several of us met with the people from the Coosa River Clean Water Partnership (CRCWP). Walnut Creek is on their list of rivers and creeks that have contamination and need to be cleaned to an acceptable level. We were informed that Walnut Creek is classified by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) under the Fish and Wildlife (F&W) category, not as a Swimming and Recreation (S) waterway. A F&W rating does not require as high a standard for water quality as a Swimming rating. This means that the creek can be more polluted than if it were rated as a Swimming and Body Sport waterway. Therefore, no help from the ADEM or the EPA. We will keep pressure on the city of Clanton to correct the erosion problem as Walnut Creek flows through downtown Clanton. The resulting sediment that is flowing into the creek is settling out where the creek enters the lake. Several lake homeowners can no longer get their boats out of the boathouse due to sediment deposits. The people from CRCWP said they would support us on this project. More meetings are scheduled in 2014 with these people. Anyone that can attend please do so. We will keep everyone on Walnut Creek posted.

When spring lake clean-up gets here I would like to encourage more of the lake residence to attend. We especially need more pontoon boats to help collect trash. Everyone should plan to attend if you are an area rep...check your area and do a partial clean-up before you come to the Higgins Ferry at 8 AM.

If you have any questions please give me a call. Let's keep Lake Mitchell the cleanest lake on the Coosa system. Dale

Area 11 – Stan Holt

This time of the year it's very quiet on the North end of the Lake . Maybe one or two boats go by the house in a days time.

Seems that there's been more harvesting of timber (clear cutting) on this end of the lake than usual. Let me know if you see additional "run off-pollution " entering our lake.

Hope everyone has a great 2014. Stan

Area 12 – VACANT

If you are a resident in the upper Hatchet and Weogufka area and would be willing to serve as your HOB0 Area 12 Representative, please contact President Lee Poe.

Area 15 - Tommy Carpenter

It's hard to believe that summer has come and gone and the new year is upon us. Hope 2014 is a good year for us all. Tommy Carpenter

Area 16 - Anita Lawson

By the time you get this newsletter, the year 2013 will history. Hope you accomplished any goals for last year. We had the first lake draw-down on Lake Mitchell in 5 years. Hopefully everyone benefited and got lots of work done at this time. Drawdowns are normally scheduled in odd years, which would put the next one in 2015, if the past schedule is followed.

Keep a watch on your neighbors this winter. Keep me posted on any news for our readers. If you need any phone numbers for services in Coosa County, do not hesitate to call me. Most of the numbers are in your phone book.

Pay your dues - STILL only \$25.00 per year and this includes 1 phone book. Additional phone books can be purchased for \$5. Advertisements in the phone book help pay for its printing and distribution, so please use the services of the advertisers.

Anita

Fish Habitat Enhancement Dates Set

Make your plans to participate in the annual Fish Habitat Enhancement projects The first installment will be held on Feb. 3 (and Feb. 4., if needed) at Higgins Ferry. A spring installation at the north end of the lake is set for March 25th where workers will meet at the boat ramp just below Lay Dam on the Chilton side of the lake (the old Lavadas).

Volunteers will bundle recycled Christmas trees, load the bundles on boats and then sink the bundles at various locations around the lake. The trees then



attract fish to use them as habitats.

The exact GPS location of each bundle that is installed will be recorded so that

fisherman can find the spots.



Why Recycle?

By Dan Murchison

It is amazing what we throw away that we could recycle. I have thrown something in the regular garbage, then thought about it and gone back, gotten it out, rinsed it, and put it in recycle. We just need to make recycling an automatic habit.

Excuses for NOT recycling:

- Recycling takes too much time!
- It isn't cost effective!
- We don't have garbage service here!
- I would have to separate bottles and cans!

But you CAN recycle, and it isn't really all that hard.

If you would put two trash cans in your kitchen - one for food garbage and one for recycle items, then it is easy to separate. Line each container with a garbage bag and rinse the cans before placing them in the recycle..

We might need to push Clanton and Rockford to provide recycle pick-up if you can't find a place to take your recycle but we can do it! Just remember, space exploration has taught us that shipping cost from another planet for our natural resources is out of reach. We are stuck here with one green planet to live on.

Our children, grandchildren, and all of mankind's existence depend on the natural resources found on planet earth. The one big thing that we can do for mankind while we are here is preserve these natural resources for our descendants. Lets all do our part. RECYCLE - It's the right thing to do.



Environmental Update

by Scott Phillip, Environmental Chairman

The New Year has begun and our State Legislature has reconvened in Montgomery. We know that the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group has submitted their report to Governor Bentley fulfilling their charge to recommend an action plan and timeline for implementing a statewide water management plan. The recommended plan was due to the Governor last December on the 1st. We will let you know of the content and impact it may have on us and our Lake as it becomes available.

As we approach spring, we want to pass on that now is an excellent time to work in your yards to ensure that runoff and erosion issues are identified while the vegetation is down. This allows you to find areas on your property that may have issues and correct them before spring returns us to a lush green.

And finally, for those of you that may be interested, the Alabama Clean Water Partnership will hold their 9th Annual Watershed Conference on February 19th in Montgomery at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center at 201 Tallapoosa Street. The Conference will be from 9:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. and will cost \$79 to attend. For more information you can contact Allison Jenkins at (205) 266-6285 or by email at coordinator@cleanwaterpartnership.org

You can also find more information at: <http://www.cleanwaterpartnership.org/events/?eventID=331&date=02/19/2014>

PARAMETER	O.K. RANGE	CURRENT QTR	LAST QTR
Dissolved O2	5 - 9	6.02	6.67
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.53	7.58
Alkalinity	20+	69	60.55
Hardness	10 - 120	50	46.11

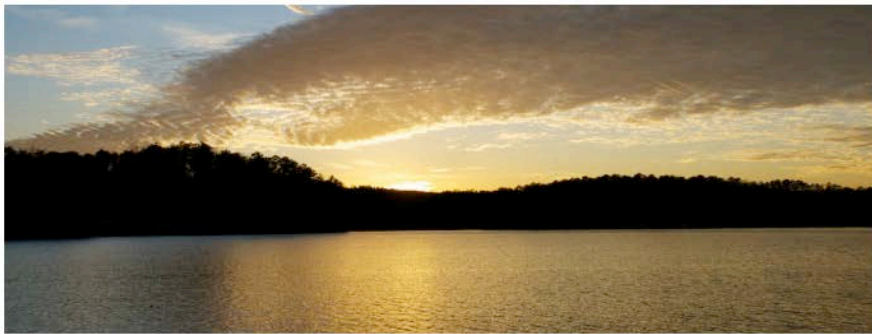
Water Quality Report

H.O.B.O. Launches New Website – lakemitchellhobo.org

H.O.B.O. is excited to announce the launch of its new website. The new site has a wealth of information and resources related to Lake Mitchell and our Home Owners and Boat Owners Association.. It includes an Overview of H.O.B.O., a Calendar of Events, By-Laws, Archive of Newsletters, List of Officers, Description of HOB0-sponsored Programs and Events, Alabama Power Permit Requirements, a Membership Application Form, and so much more. You can even submit your photos online to be included in the Photo Gallery.

Lake Mitchell HOB0

HOME ABOUT ACTIVITIES PHOTO GALLERY GENERAL INFO CALENDAR JOIN OFFICERS MORE...



About Lake Mitchell HOB0

The Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association (HOB0) was founded in 1996 by concerned and dedicated residents of Lake Mitchell. It is an organization open to all property owners on Lake Mitchell with the stated mission to PRESERVE, PROTECT and IMPROVE the quality of life in and around the lake. This includes all of the native land and aquatic animals and plants, as well as the humans who enjoy life on Lake Mitchell. HOB0 promotes safety on the lake, improving fisheries and recreational facilities, environmental stewardship, and local community involvement.



Mission

- Preserve
- Protect
- Improve

Services

- Lake Cleanups
- Lake Mitchell Phone Directory
- Annual Picnic
- Fourth of July Fireworks
- Marine 9 Fire and Rescue Boat
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Photo Calendar
- High School Scholarship
- Water Festival for 600 Local Fourth Graders

[Download HOB0 Bylaws](#)

Send in your feedback about the new H.O.B.O. website

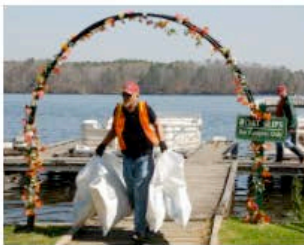
Go online today to lakemitchellhobo.org and explore! Then let us know what you think by submitting your comments on the *Contact H.O.B.O.* page. We would like to hear your ideas for other information that you would like to have added to the website.

Lake Mitchell HOB0

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Lake Mitchell HOB0 Activities



"Renew Our Rivers" Lake Cleanups

Twice a year HOB0 and Alabama Power sponsor a lake clean-up event. Participants meet at Higgins Ferry Public Pavilion early on a Saturday morning and then leave in teams by boat to fan out across the lake collecting trash from the water. Since the beginning of this program we have removed tons of bottles, cups, trash, appliances, and other debris from the lake.

[MORE](#)



Marine 9 Fire and Rescue Boat

HOB0 originally purchased and maintains the Marine 9 Fire and Rescue Boat. The fireboat is operated by the East Chilton Volunteer Fire Department and is available to respond to fire emergencies along the lake shore.

[MORE](#)



Fourth of July Fireworks

The Fourth of July on Lake Mitchell is always a special time. At nine o'clock everyone gathers by boat in Cargile Creek to form a floating flotilla. As patriotic music rings out, viewers are treated to a spectacular fireworks show above the lake.

Thefts and Prevention Tips

by Chip Gates

I spent nearly 27 years in municipal law enforcement, and though the scenery was somewhat different, one thing is the same; the actions of a few bad folks can ruin your day. The very nature of lake property works against the owners, as many homes and boats are used only on weekends or less. The isolation of many houses means you seldom see a law enforcement officer unless they have been summoned. Couple that with the possibility the criminal(s) may come by water and it complicates things for us and law enforcement alike. In order to try to tip the scales back in favor of the property owner, I would like to offer some observations and other tips that may help to prevent such crimes in the future.

Criminal activity such as burglary and theft can be broken down into three categories with regard to occurrence. These are 1) pre-event, 2) the actual commission of the crime, and 3) post-event. The first of these is where you, the property owner, can have the greatest impact.

Before a burglar or thief visits your property, there are several things you can do to either lessen the likelihood you will be targeted, or make it harder for the thief to get rid of what they took. First, mark your property well. This begins with your house, or, more specifically, at the beginning of your driveway. Make sure your house number is prominently displayed, preferably with reflective numbers. If there is more than one house off of a common drive, get with your neighbors and post all the house numbers (names too, if possible) at the beginning. Then repeat the number with an arrow at your particular drive. Imagine a "worse case" scenario, where *any* first responder, be it a firefighter, EMT, or deputy, is trying to find your house, at night, and in the rain. Don't trust that their GPS is accurate. If you haven't already done so, also think about posting your address (with road name /number) on your boathouse so that it is visible from the water. While you're in the sign-posting mode, consider putting up an alarm company sign (whether you have an alarm or not) or something like "Beware of Dog" at your drive entrance. Anything to make a would-be criminal think twice. On your entrance doors or somewhere nearby, post an index card with emergency contact numbers. You might preface it with **(In case of alarm, notify ...)**. Put your address at the top, then list 911 or the sheriff's department number first, followed by your contact numbers.

Cover the card with cellophane tape or get it laminated to help keep it from weathering. Be sure to update it, should any numbers change. Remember, anything you can do to make your property less inviting or show that you have taken steps to protect yourself is good.

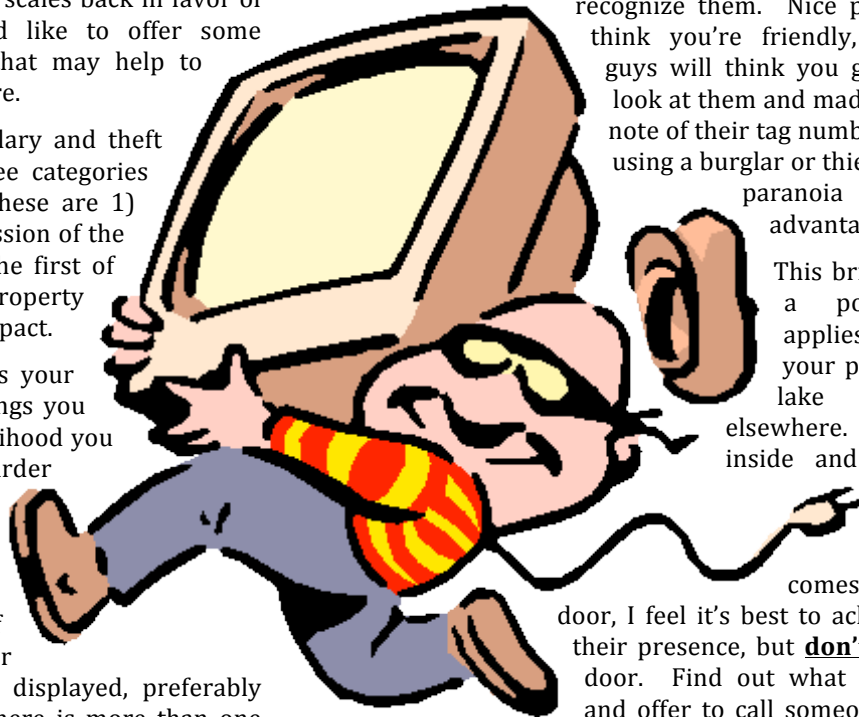
Motion lights are always good because thieves don't like light. A light coming on at night always gives the bad guy pause to wonder, even when no vehicle is in the drive, if someone is inside. Thieves tend to avoid confrontation, and they don't want to be noticed.

During the day when you are out in your yard and a strange vehicle passes by, wave, especially if you *don't* recognize them. Nice people will think you're friendly, and bad guys will think you got a good look at them and made a mental note of their tag number. This is using a burglar or thief's natural paranoia to your advantage.

This brings me to a point that applies both to your place at the lake and elsewhere. If you are inside and someone you don't know comes to your

door, I feel it's best to acknowledge their presence, but **don't** open the door. Find out what they want and offer to call someone (911 is

always a good standby) to help. Be prepared for this and have a plan. If you are alone, call out as if to someone else and say "Someone's at the door". If a phone isn't handy, excuse yourself to "get food off the stove" or whatever. Most of us want to be a good neighbor and helpful to those in distress, and the best way to do this is by being safe. Unless it is a bona fide obvious emergency, i.e.: someone's injured or being attacked, stay inside and wait for help. The point is this: in the rare event someone is considering breaking into your home, letting them know you are there may preclude them from trying to carry out their deed and you having a face-to-face with them. Generally when contact is established, if they are up to no good, the person or persons may offer to do odd jobs, cut trees, sell magazines, etc. They will usually be more than happy to leave when you tell them you are not interested. Note their physical and clothing description and any vehicle you see. Also note their demeanor. If they seem nervous, definitely call law



enforcement to have them checked out. Every situation will be different, and people may or may not be who they claim to be. One of the biggest mistakes people make is not responding to their sixth sense, their gut feeling that something isn't right. It's best to err on the side of caution, rather than risk being caught in a bad situation.

Back to the matter of motion lights, don't overlook having them down by the water. If you have occasion to be out on the water after dark, think how nice it would be to come back to your dock or slip and have the lights come on. Most motion lights can be adjusted so the sensor "looks" one way and the lights point in another direction. This way you are not blinded upon your approach, but your slip is well lit as you pull up. Think in terms of Paul Revere, "one if by land, two if by sea (or lake)", so if someone of ill intent approaches by water, imagine how a couple of hundred watts of light would extend a welcome to them.

Game cameras, sufficiently out of reach, can be a deterrent in daytime if conspicuously mounted, and, at night, can provide a silent witness to whatever takes place. Depending on where they are mounted, they can also be a good source of interest, seeing what creatures may be visiting while you are gone or asleep.

Much of what we buy nowadays has a serial number associated with it. However, most of these serial numbers are on a label that is easily removed or defaced. So just keeping a list of what you have by make, model and serial number (always a good idea) may not be enough to recover something that is stolen. When it comes to marking your personal property, there are several options. Be consistent so that if something is taken, you can say without question how it was marked. Large, prominent markings are a sure turn-off for thieves. Conversely, small markings in out-of-the-way places may not do much to discourage a thief, but, if undetected, do help to provide evidence of the crime of Receiving Stolen Property. Without other evidence or witnesses, burglary or theft of property is often difficult to prove, but having something in your possession that was listed as being stolen is a sure fire way to go to jail.

One of the best ways to mark things is with an electric engraver. These hand-held gadgets usually have a vibrating carbide tip and can be used on many surfaces and objects. Consider what you want to engrave on your tools, batteries and other valuables. What I use is my driver's license (DL) number followed by **AL**. In the remote case that someone steals my DL number, they're only going to find a boring driver history. But what this number can do is immediately give a law enforcement officer a unique number that also tells him or her who they should be dealing with and where they live. Information that your average thief isn't privy to. I like to use a

permanent marker to put my last name conspicuously on something, and then engrave the unique identifier in an out-of-the-way place. This gives the thief something to work on removing and hopefully they won't look elsewhere for a secondary mark.

Another option is to put a small name/address label somewhere not easily seen. Outdoor/garden power equipment often has a plastic case that can be removed and a label placed inside. If you don't want to go to this trouble, considered cleaning off a spot on the case, shaft, handle, etc., and apply your label. Put a piece of cellophane tape over it to protect it, then cover or wrap it in duct tape or electrical tape as if you're making a repair or holding a cable in place. After a few uses, the tape will have enough grunge on it that most folks would not think twice about looking underneath it.

If you happen to see what appears to be a crime in progress, your best course of action is to be a good witness. First call 911 and try to be put in touch with the law enforcement dispatcher that will be handling the call. You will be asked to stay on the line and initially will be asked a lot of questions such as address, suspect description(s), vehicle description, etc.. If you are not prompted, as soon as there is a lull, and especially if you are outside or in a vehicle, offer *your* physical, clothing, and vehicle (if applicable) description. This can be *very* important if you look or are dressed anything like the suspect(s). Continue to stay on the line and let the dispatcher know when you see the first responding unit. The deputy or officer may still be trying to pinpoint the exact location, and it helps them to know they are close. Depending on the nature of the call, they may or may not approach you first. Just continue to stay in a safe location and await further instructions.

Hopefully few of you will find yourself in this position, but if you do become a victim of theft, by all means report it to your local law enforcement agency. If you lose a battery, and your neighbors find out their blower and chain saw are missing, granted it would not be worth it to submit an insurance claim for anything under your deductible. But law enforcement cannot address a problem about which they have no knowledge. And when you do replace an item that was stolen, be sure to mark it with your own unique identifier. Savvy thieves know you didn't have that power tool as a paperweight. I won't call them smart, but determined thieves will know that in a few weeks there's a good chance you will have replaced what they took. So let your neighbors know what happened, and be extra vigilant should the bad guys decide to come back for round 2.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.
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Change Service Requested

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. 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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 Please submit your 2014 dues as soon as possible.