

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 3

www.lakemitchelhobo.org

Third Quarter 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Lee Poe Mr.LeePoe@yahoo.com



Hope everyone is having a great summer here on Lake Mitchell. As I am writing this we have just finished the Lake Mitchell Fourth of July activities. The pontoon and speed boat parades were colorful, festive spectacles and the weather was perfect for the fireworks on Saturday evening. In June we gathered for the annual H.O.B.O. picnic at Higgins Ferry. I think everyone enjoyed hearing the band play and a few folks even got up and danced. Summertime is fun time at Lake Mitchell!

I was recently given an article from Outdoor Alabama stating that the hiking trail is now open in the Forever Wild land in Coosa County. There are two trail heads -- one they call the East Trailhead and the other is the West Trailhead. The East Trailhead is on the north side of the bridge crossing Hatchet Creek on Coosa County Road 29. The West Trailhead is on WMA Road 153. The article states that their vision is to connect the trail to Flagg Mountain. They also want to connect Flagg Mountain to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Hopefully, their vision will become a reality. For more information go to alabamaforeverwild.com and hikealabama.org.

Hope everyone has a fun and safe summer.

Lee

Water Quality Report

PARAMETER	O.K. RANGE	CURRENT QTR	LAST QTR
Dissolved O2	5 - 10	7.99	6.02
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.39	7.53
Alkalinity	20+	51.67	51.47
Hardness	10 - 120	42.22	41.18

New Park Manager Hired for Higgins Ferry

Jacob Sim is the new Park Manager for Higgins Ferry, replacing the retiring Frank Atkinson. Sim has a Bachelor of Science degree in parks and recreation and an associate's degree in natural resource technology from Lake Superior State University.



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 October.

SAILBOAT for Sale:

2008 Hobie Bravo Sailboat bought from dealer in June, 2009.

Excellent condition. Only \$2200. Located at The Ridge at the entrance to Blue Creek.

Contact Richard Pyburn at 755-9404



Please Pay Your 2014 Dues

We are still trying to meet our membership goals for 2014. If you haven't submitted your dues for 2014, please complete the form on the back page of the newsletter and send in your \$25 today.

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	Dan Murchison DanMurchison@gmail.com	205-408-7445
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 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

Area 5 – Peggy and Sonny Bullard

Summer will be well underway when you get this newsletter. Sonny and I have had a busy time with our grandchildren from Florida and also our adopted grands from Ethiopia who live in Delaware. We were delighted to meet them for the first time in April and spend fourteen days with them at their home in Delaware. Since that time our whole family got together in Pensacola and shared some beach time. As I type this our Delaware bunch are on their way for a visit with us here on the lake. Dani and Nati have learned to swim but have only been in a pool and the

ocean. They are in for a big difference in lake water where you can't see the bottom and is at least 12 foot deep at our pier plus there are no walls around the lake. Hopefully they will learn to love it as much as their Dad and Mom do. We are anxious to take them boat riding and tubing. The things we take for granted they have never even dreamed of before. Seeing the excitement as they learn and experience new things in America is such a delight and joy for us. Sorry! Grandparents do get carried away. To be continued after they have visited and experienced this great place.

On the 4th of July the Bullard's were honored to host a group from Wellspring for Women located in Marbury Alabama. Ed & Valeta Bush began the ministry to women in 1984. They had a vision to be a "lighthouse" guiding weary storm-tossed souls out of dangerous water into the safe harbor of Christ. We have known this couple and witnessed the success rate of their mission since the inception of the ministry. The group of nine young women had a blast experiencing the boat parades, swimming, tubing and boating. Their squeals and laughter were such a blessing for us. Ed said hearing the laughter of "their girls" as he and Valeta call them was worth millions. These young ladies are being restored to wholeness as a result of prayer and counseling and we were blessed to share this beautiful place with them. It truly was a "Happy" Fourth for us and them.

Good news for Area 5. We are having a brunch on July 19TH and hope you will be able to join us from 10 to noon. Bob and Patsy Straka have offered their lovely place for this occasion. They are just down from us on the main river. We just want you to come and meet and greet one another before the summer is over. Good food and sweet fellowship is good medicine. Hope to see you there. (EDITOR'S NOTE – This event may be history by the time you receive this newsletter. We hope it was a big success!)

If you have news you would like to share please let us hear from you. Drop by, email or call us. We really do like to hear from our people. *Sonny and Peggy*

Area 6 – Leslie Miles

Things have been quiet here on Bird Creek but you can't help but notice the increased activity now that summer is in full swing, I love it! The water has cleared and the temp is perfect to get in and enjoy, but do watch out for snakes! I killed one on our pier and Steve killed one in the water. Hopefully that's the last one we see.

I want to thank all the volunteers that made the H.O.B.O. picnic such a great success!!! A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make it possible and it was so enjoyable; great fellowship, great food, and for

those who were not able to attend... you missed me clogging to some fun music!

I have to end with sad news... a dear, long time resident of Bird Creek just recently passed. Tom Comer was an electrician and loved living here on the lake. I remember him doing work for my father as he did for many others. He will be greatly missed and from the Bird Creek family we express our sympathy to his wife Dottie and to all his family.

Be safe and enjoy this beautiful lake of ours! *Leslie Miles*

Area 8 - Beau Battaglia

Summer is back and underway. Let the good times roll. As we all know this time of the year is when the most people visit our lake. I'm glad to announce I've seen a lot of new faces this year. I've met some visitors to our lake that absolutely loved their time while they were here. Hopefully this trend continues.

In our area a lot of construction is still going on. People are building new piers and fixing older ones. It's great to see everyone keeping up their places so that they look good.

Also Lake Mitchell Marina is open and doing good so far this year. Thanks to everyone who supports us so that we have a place to enjoy ourselves. I hope everyone is well. The weather has been terrific and we hope that continues to be the case. Enjoy yourself and be careful. *Beau Battaglia*

Area 9 - Dale and Patty Vann

Dale and Patty hosted their annual Memorial Day get together for all of Area 9. It was very informative as Scott Phillips attended as the guest speaker. Scott was there to educate everyone about the water conditions on Walnut Creek and Lake Mitchell in general. For those who were not able to attend, Marie Greene sent an email summary of Scott's presentation.

Peggy and Sonny Bullard were there to take pictures to be sent to Clanton Advertiser.

It was a great turnout and a good time was had by all.

Dale

Area 15 - Tommy Carpenter

It was great to get back on the lake Memorial Day. Some of our friends in Area 3 invited us to their BBQ. It was a good day even though even though I was wishing my father could have enjoyed the hospitality and great food with us. He had been having heart problems and passed away on April 28th. He loved Lake Mitchell and was a darn good fisherman. I will miss him badly.

This time of year I always like to include a reminder about safety on the water. Always check out your equipment before you hit the river. Make sure you

have the proper safety devices especially a life jacket for everyone on your boat. According to U. S. Coast Guard statistics up to 80 percent of drowning victims were not wearing a life jacket! I have gotten in the habit of carrying my cell phone which has some "help" numbers programmed in. Let someone know the approximate area on the lake you plan to travel and an approximate time you plan on returning.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer on the lake!

Be safe. *Tommy Carpenter*

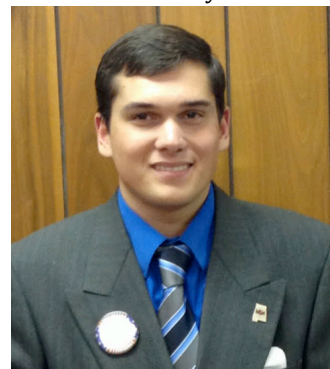
2014 H.O.B.O. Scholarship Winner

The winner of the 2014 Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O./[[Scholarship for \$2,500 is Brandon Merced from Coosa Central High School. Brandon was elected class president, won this year's DAR Good Citizen Award, writes a weekly column for Coosa County News, and is running for a position on the Coosa County Board of Education. He will attend Auburn in the fall where he plans to major in Political Science.

Brandon came to the H.O.B.O. Picnic on June 7th. There he was able to meet and talk with many of our members.

This year there were 14 scholarship applicants. That is more than ever before. All of the applicants were outstanding. Those who completed all of the requirements were given a \$45 gift card to Amazon to help with their college expenses.

This is the sixth year we have given a scholarship of \$2,500 to a student in either Chilton or Coosa County.



Ashley Leonard, last year's winner, was present at Coosa Central's Award's Night when Brandon was presented his scholarship. She reported that she had made all A's and one B

(3.8 GPA), and was still excited about becoming a neonatal nurse. Her father extended his appreciation for the assistance our scholarship has provided.

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

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

Fourth of July Weekend at Lake Mitchell



Parades, Fireworks and Fun



Annual H.O.B.O. Picnic

(Photos by Peggy Bullard)



June 7 at Higgins Ferry Pavilion



H.O.B.O. Area 9 Gathers for Annual Memorial Weekend Get-Together

(This article is taken from Peggy Bullard's article published in the Clanton Advertiser. All photos are by Peggy Bullard.)

Dale and Patty Vann, H.O.B.O. Area Representatives for Area 9 – Walnut Creek Peninsula, host an annual event for homeowners in their area on Memorial Day weekend. Their family and neighbors in Walnut Creek have been getting together for about 10 years now on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

This is a perfect way for lake neighbors to get acquainted since many do not live here full time. Dale said they have not only built a relationship among the people on the Walnut Creek peninsula but they have accomplished many community projects by meeting and working together.

They have been successful in getting their road paved and in getting county water. At one meeting a neighbor simply mentioned, "Is there any way we can get water in here—I'm really tired of pumping water and trying to filter it?"

Dale and others jumped on this project and began meeting and contacting those who could help make this a reality. It took about two years, but it was finally accomplished.

Scott Phillips, chairman of the environmental committee for H.O.B.O., came to speak to this year's gathering about lake sediments and aquatic plants and how to identify the invasive ones and report them.

Dale still says the camaraderie among the neighbors is the greatest accomplishment of all.

Joel Elam said he appreciates these meetings as they keep everyone informed about what is happening around the lake. He said there is something about being on the water that is therapeutic.

Others at the gathering echoed this same statement. Many of the 20 families that were represented said they enjoy the meetings because it is such a great way to get to know their lake neighbors.

H.O.B.O. has divided the lake into 16 areas, with a representative over each one. Many other representatives have had meetings like Dale and Patty Vann. Sam and Nancy Piccolo, on the Coosa side, have met with their neighbors for many years and developed many long-term friendships. Bringing



water to their area and getting the road paved were two of their accomplishments as well.

With the leadership of Area Reps, much has been accomplished around the entire lake. We are proud to be a part of this great group of people who work together for a common cause.

Get to know your Area Rep and get to know your neighbors in your H.O.B.O. area. Working together is a great way to accomplish common goals for your area while making friends.



All Things Higgins

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

As a country we recently marked the 70th anniversary of D-Day. Many of the allied soldiers that landed on French soil that day did so by means of a Higgins boat. The designer of that craft, Andrew Higgins, started in the lumber business and gradually moved into boatbuilding. Eventually the Higgins Boat, with its wooden sides and shallow draft, was capable of moving men and material (even a Jeep) at modest speeds and depositing them on an often hostile shore. Though thousands were built, few survive today.

Closer to home, there was another "Higgins" boat. It used to ply the waters between Chilton and Coosa Counties. Who owned and operated it, what could it carry, where did it depart from and where did it land on the opposite shore? Granted, we have a boat launch and park bearing the name Higgins, but it seems little is known about the ferry itself. Its terminus on the Coosa County side is unclear, and there is even some question whether it left the Chilton County side where the present-day boat launch is that bears its name. I throw out these questions in the hope that someone can help fill in some of the gaps before such knowledge is lost forever. You never know who might see this story and have the answers. Fortunately, where such things as ferry boats and landings may not have been well documented, people usually are. Enter Mrs. Amy Moon of Dacula, Georgia.

Amy contacted me after seeing the article about the Higgins Family Cemetery on the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. website. Her husband, Bob Moon, is a direct descendant of Benjamin Franklin (B.F.) Higgins and Josephine Smith. Amy has assumed the mantle of family genealogist and historian, and graciously provided a wealth of information about the Higgins family. While there are no direct references to the ferry, perhaps this story will bring us closer to the answers we seek. What follows is some of the history of a family once prominent in the area of what later became the southern part of Lake Mitchell.

Most of the Higgins/Smith genealogy has been done by Higgins cousins. In the 1870 and 1880 census records, the place where BF Higgins lived was called Travelers Rest. Travellers Rest appeared on many early 20th century maps. If you drew a line between Rockford and Verbena, and started on the Coosa county side of the river heading east, you would encounter Schley, Travellers Rest, and Salter, before eventually arriving at Rockford. Except for Rockford, none of these places exist on current maps.

Here's a rundown of family names to help you see how they are related:

Benjamin Franklin Higgins Sr. (1841-1911) and Josephine Smith Higgins (They are buried in the Higgins cemetery).

B.F. Higgins Jr. (1872-196?) and Annie White Higgins (they are buried in Samaria Cemetery in Clanton). They had 4 children; Inez, Robert Flemon Sr., Joseph, and Maury. Their daughter Inez married Milton Smith. Robert Flemon Sr. married Milton Smith's sister Mayme Clifford Smith. So, a brother and sister married a sister and brother.



Benjamin Franklin Higgins Jr and his wife. This is the son of the BF Higgins and Josephine buried in the Higgins Cemetery.

Inez Higgins and Milton Smith had two daughters, Annie and Frances. Frances is Bob Moon's grandmother. Her married name is Ford. Her daughter Barbara, who married a Moon, is Bob's mother.

Lastly, Robert Flemon Higgins Sr. and Mayme Smith's son was Robert (Bob) Flemon Higgins Jr. (the one whose ashes were scattered on the cemetery). His wife Barbara Higgins currently lives in Macon, Georgia. Frances (Amy's husband's grandmother) and Bob Higgins Jr were double first cousins.

Recently Amy and Bob Moon attended a family gathering with Bob's grandmother Frances, now age 90. (Remember that Frances is the granddaughter of B. F. Higgins Jr.) Frances grew up in Clanton and Amy asked her about the ferry landing on the Chilton County side. She said that Lake Mitchell Road was once Higgins Ferry Road but that the ferry landing was not at the end of that road. If you went to the end of the road, it was off to the right, but she wasn't sure how far. She said the name Slocum came to mind. Amy thinks Slocum referred to a place, from the way her grandmother said it. Does this name ring a bell with anyone?

That brings us to the end of this part of the Higgins family story. With any luck, someone will read this article and provide us some insight to the ferry itself.

And I don't want to neglect our friends at the northern end of the lake. As recently as 1975, the County Road 55 bridge was completed. This, in turn, caused the Mims Ferry to be discontinued. Is there anyone out there with knowledge of that operation who would like to share it? Contact me at gatesestate@bellsouth.net

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. PRSRT STD
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Clanton, Alabama 35046

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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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M14 should appear next to your name on the mailing label of this newsletter if you have already paid your 2014 dues.