



## ***Ashley Lanier Wins 2015 HOBOScholarship***

*By Rebecca Beaty-Scholarship Committee Chairman*



The winner of the \$2500 2015 Lake Mitchell HOBOScholarship is Ashley Lanier. Ashley, a graduate of Chilton County High School, will attend Auburn University in Montgomery where she has been selected to be a cheerleader. She will major in accounting and plans to eventually become a CPA.

This year there were seven scholarship applicants. Four of the applicants were from Chilton County and three were from Coosa. All of the applicants were outstanding. Those who completed all of the requirements were given a \$50 gift card to Amazon to help with their college expenses.

This is the seventh year we have given a \$2,500 scholarship to a student in either Chilton or Coosa County. Brandon Merced, last year's winner, has successfully completed his first year at Auburn University and has been working as an intern in the Alabama senate with the Alabama law institute.

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

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

### ***Mark Your Calendars!***

Sunday, August 23, 2015: Area Representatives Meeting Lake Mitchell Marina 1:00 PM

Saturday, October 31, 2015: Fall Renew Our Rivers Clean-up Higgins Ferry 8:00 AM

Friday, November 13, 2015: Annual Meeting Alabama Power Building Clanton 6:00 PM

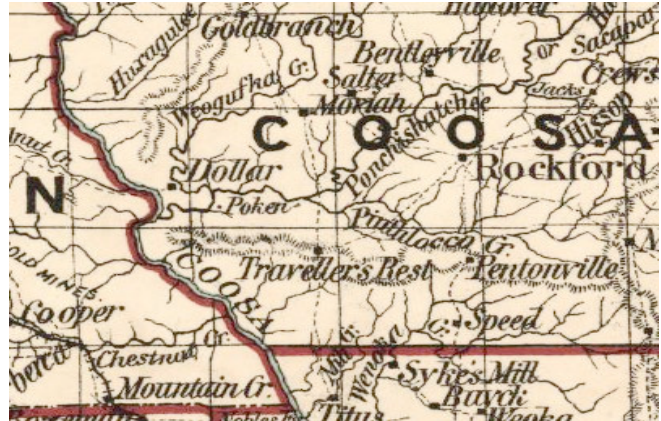
### ***Spring Renew Our Rivers Clean-Up Success***

84 hard-working volunteers, including seven student volunteers and two parents, collected 2,260 pounds of trash on April 11, marking another successful, productive, and enjoyable Lake Clean-Up day for Lake Mitchell residents and friends. All enjoyed beautiful weather.

## ***Ponchishatchee-It's All Creek to Me!***

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

Those of you who were young in the 1960's may have watched the Rocky and Bullwinkle Show on Saturday morning. Two recurring characters, Sherman and Mr. Peabody, would use their "Wayback Machine" to transport them to a distant time and place in history. Today we will utilize that same technology, step into the "Wayback Machine", and relive some of the earliest recorded history of our area.



Captain John Stuart, a loyalist militia captain in the service of the King, was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern District (of the not yet United States) in 1761. This District included South Carolina, Georgia, and lands that later became Alabama and Florida. Being a good supervisor, Stuart delegated some of his responsibility and subsequently tapped another loyalist, Mr. David Taitt, to make a survey of Upper and Lower Creek Indian villages and trading posts, with the goal of fixing their locations for mapping, and currying favor with the native peoples. At this time Britain had plenty of enemies, Spain and France to name a couple, plus some of the colonies in the New World were becoming more and more of a challenge to keep in line. So having the indigenous population on its side would certainly be an advantage.

Mr. Taitt set out from Pensacola on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 1772. With several pack horses, an interpreter, and a very small entourage, he made his way northeastward. In short order Taitt was in Tuckabatchie, a fair size Upper Creek village just below present day Tallassee, Alabama. After spending many days there, on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1772, he journeyed to Abicouchie. W. Stuart Harris' book ***Dead Towns Of Alabama*** has the spelling of this village Abikakutchee, and places it in Talladega County near present day Sylacauga, about 5 miles east of the Coosa River. It's doubtful Taitt took Hwy. 280 or 231 to get there, but apparently his horse and the Indian footpaths of the day served him well. The next day his journal reads that he travelled 30 miles SSE to Wakokays (or Wakokayi). If his compass direction is correct, it appears he is backtracking. Nevertheless, he says Wakokays is situated on a branch of a creek the Indians called **Ponchishatchee**. You know it better as *Hatchet Creek*. Taitt goes on to record "This Creek, which falls into the Coosa River about 18 miles South west of this, is about 60 feet broad in most places but not navigable, being full of Rocks and Shoals". Anyone who has travelled up Hatchet to see the lilies or gone kayaking further up can attest to that.

Taitt's next destination was Puckantallahassie or Pakan-Tallahassee. You may think we're going to Florida, but no, we're actually heading down Hatchet Creek toward the river. Taitt was delayed for a day because of heavy rain, but arrived on April 1<sup>st</sup>. This village, by his reckoning, is 14 miles southwest of Wakokays. He goes on in his journal to write the town is "on the west side of hatchet Creek", and "is within four miles of Coosa River." In Puckantallahassie Taitt "was met at the Traders house by four Old men", the rest having gone off to war against another tribe. Taitt decided to leave for the small village of Weoka, a twelve mile journey southeast by east. This pretty much jives with the location of the present day community by that name. For those not familiar with Coosa County, Weoka is roughly halfway between Rockford and Wetumpka just east of Hwy. 231, and due east of the communities of Buyck and Titus (see 1889 map). Taitt also added this: the road to Weoka was very good, except the

first four miles being very hilly. Any of our readers from Areas 13 thru 16 (Pennamotley and south to the dam) would undoubtedly concur, the “hilly” part being a bit of an understatement.

We must marvel at Taitt’s dedication and energy to travel the distances he did, and admire his ability to mediate with the Indians. But before we raise him to the level of sainthood, be aware that during the not-too-distant War of Independence he maintained his allegiance to the King and kept the Creeks loyal to the British.

At this point I should tell you that our journey back in time has been greatly aided by the lengthy and detailed journal that Mr. Taitt was directed to keep. If you are interested, this journal can be found in the public domain online under the title *Travels In The American Colonies*, published in 1916.

Leaving Taitt to his future, let’s return to Puckantallahassie or Pakan-Tallahassee. Taitt put this village four miles up Hatchet Creek from the Coosa River. Referring once again to Stuart Harris’ book *Dead Towns of Alabama*, we find a listing for Pakan Talahassi. There seems to be a bit of confusion here, as it describes the village as being on the south bank of *Walnut Creek*, but in Coosa County. I have not looked into this, but often a large county would later be divided into two or more smaller counties. Perhaps long ago what is now Chilton County was part of a larger Coosa county. Or maybe Harris got his counties, or creeks, mixed up.

A map by Baron De Crenay in 1733 reportedly shows Pakan-Tallahassee village on both sides of the Coosa River, near the confluence of Hatchett Creek. A French census of 1760 listed the town with a population of 50 warriors. Political correctness was obviously not in vogue back then. The village wasn’t a “for men only” club. Women, children and the elders also inhabited the village.

Many Indian villages moved from place to place, especially if destroyed by raids or floods, but they would often take their old village name with them. Without the benefit of a GPS or even a decent compass, it’s not surprising there would have been a discrepancy in locating the exact place where a village once stood. One thing is certain, though. Most, if not all, Creek Indian village sites located near the Coosa River are now under the lake. At first you might think that many a nice arrowhead has been covered by water, and you’d be right. When I was much younger, I listened attentively to anyone who talked of finding such artifacts, and they always seemed to be near rivers or streams. But the only place I ever did find arrowheads was on a hillside several miles outside of Gordo, AL, and it wasn’t close to water. The area was, however, rich in the type of stone the local Indians (Choctaws?) favored for making their projectile points. The quartz we have around the lake may have served the Creeks for the same purpose. If you have found any arrowheads at the lake, please share them with our readers. Send your photos to me at [gatesestate@bellsouth.net](mailto:gatesestate@bellsouth.net).

As we return to the present and step out of the “Wayback Machine”, I’ll leave you with this advice. As you walk around our beautiful lake this summer, keep one eye open for snakes, and the other for arrowheads. You never know what you might find. The latter, I hope. See you on Ponchishatchee Creek!

### **2016 HOBO Calendar Needs Your Pictures!**

Only ten weeks till time to submit the 2016 calendar to the printer and we only have about 20 pictures! Please send your pix to [Melissa.nannini@gmail.com](mailto:Melissa.nannini@gmail.com) now! Volunteers are needed to serve on our selection committee also. Let Melissa know if you would like to join the selection team. Calendars provide a monthly reminder of the beautiful Lake Mitchell views we all love. In addition, proceeds support our annual HOBO Scholarship Fund!

<b>AREA REPRESENTATIVES</b>			
<b>Area</b>	<b>Area Name</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Phone</b>
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	VACANT	
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	504-909-6990
9	Walnut. Creek Peninsula	Joel and Betty Elam Betty687@aol.com	205-807-9056 Betty 205-755-2775 Lake 205-991-3775 Home
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	Richard & Wendy Cruse wendycruse@gmail.com	205-253-8298
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Eric & Rose Green rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com	205-492-7151
15	Airplane/Finger to Big Y Slough	Tommy Carpenter rtcarmen@southernco.com	256-377-1046 205-586-1749
16	Big Y to Mitchell Dam	Nan & David Spivey davidaspivey@gmail.com nanspivey@gmail.com	256-377-1178 205-492-0375

## **Area Representative Reports:**

### *Area 1-Bobby Lewis*

Things are looking very active for the spring and summer for area 1 residents. It looks like the weather is finally warm and the water is feeling better, and we are all looking forward to the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.

There are currently at least 3 houses under construction in our area, with two nearing completion. There are a few houses for sale or recently sold, so we will be welcoming new neighbors to the area. Some of these are old neighbors with new houses being built.

Over the past several months, I have noted many more people who are taking advantage of the calm waters of Lake Mitchell and enjoying paddling, both on kayaks and stand up paddleboards. Both of these activities are very relaxing, giving you the ability to see flora and fauna up close. If you have an opportunity to give either a try, take advantage and enjoy. Both are good exercise for core and upper body muscles and good practice for balance, a trait which is extremely useful as we get older.

Our family looks forward to seeing many of you over the next few months. Enjoy and be safe.

### *Area 5 – Peggy and Sonny Bullard*

Welcome summer at last! Sonny and I have been in fishing competition for a while now and we can tell you that the fishing on Lake Mitchell has been good. I caught the most but he caught the biggest at 5.5. My largest was only 2.7. He just can't go home when I am ahead. "Smile"

There is much activity on the lake now so please be safe and watch out for each other this summer. Take time to get to know your lake neighbors. One way to do that is join HOBO and get involved. Sonny and I are getting older and one day will need to be replaced as Area Reps. We love what we do and all the people we have gotten to know because of our involvement in HOBO, but you younger people are the members of the future. Your involvement and input is welcome. Please contact us and work with a great bunch of people. You'll be glad you did!

*Enjoy your summer. Drop by or call anytime. Our door is always open to our lake neighbors.*

### *Area 6 – Leslie Miles*

News from Bird Creek! I want to welcome a new neighbor to our Bird Creek family.... Jim and Aimee Weaver from Birmingham, we got to meet them at River Church and they are so thrilled about being here and excited to join HOBO. If you haven't been to the Higgins Ferry Park lately, please go by and see the new piers and layout. I thought it would be a concern for River Church but actually it is working even better and looks so nice. I want to thank our own Troy and Tina Croker for the new sign at the park. It looks fabulous! They have been so generous and supportive to our lake. I will take a picture and post it next time. Everyone be safe and have a wonderful summer!

### *Area 7-Becki McCallum*

Hi all! We want to welcome a new neighbor to our area. Dick and Debbie DuFresne along with their son Blake have moved from Alaga Landing to County Rd 473. We welcome them and wish them many happy years as full-time residents here. We also have a new boathouse in our area which is a prelude to another transfer. Ronnie and Pat Robbins of Blue Creek have completed phase one of their anticipated building projects. We look forward to seeing what else will come later. David and Tracy Gossett are remodeling in anticipation of also becoming full-timers. Jake Sim is soon to be married to Kacey Davis, daughter of Phillip and Jan Davis (Area 1). We welcome the newlyweds as well.

Otherwise things are quiet in area 7. We look forward to the rest of summer!



### Area 8 - Beau Battaglia

I hope everyone is enjoying his or her summer so far. We have had good weather this summer and I know everyone wants to see that trend continue. I would like to announce that Area 8 has added new members! Please welcome Curry and Barbie Clements. Also I would like to say thanks to everyone who attended the picnic. I was not able to attend it but I heard it was a success. We are trying to get the water quality reevaluated in Walnut Creek hoping to upgrade from fish and wildlife to the swimming classification. I believe that's all the news from area 8. Everyone enjoys the rest of your summer and remember: Be Safe!

### Area 9 – Betty and Joel Elam

Summer is here and the lake is alive again. We had our first neighborhood get together Memorial Day weekend to renew our friendships and meet new neighbors. I would like to thank all the people that attended. We had thirty-six friends to attend and share thoughts and concerns about Walnut Cove Peninsula. However, most of our time was spent getting to know each other and enjoying the lake. Several neighbors talked about their histories on the lake which was very interesting. We want to thank Steve Miles, HOBO president, and his wife Leslie for joining our get-together. If you missed this meeting, we hope you will make others.

### Area 16 - Nan and David Spivey

Have you been to "The Cove" lately? Come and see the beautiful homes! We hope everyone is enjoying their time at the lake with family and friends. The Spivey's' son and daughter-in-law visited the first week in June before returning to Hawaii. Friends and family enjoyed the beauty of Lake Mitchell. If you see your neighbors out on their piers, stop in and say hello!

### **From our President:**



Hello everyone! This is a great time of the year to be on Lake Mitchell! River church has started back, great to see everyone on Sunday morning driving up on their boats to hear a wonderful sermon.

I would like to thank everyone who came to the HOBO picnic! We had a big turnout. The band was great and the food was awesome and the fellowship was wonderful.

We had Marine-9 sitting out on the dock and if you notice the new striping on the boat, that was compliments Troy and Tina Crocker and their company. Thank you very much! I would like to send a big "Thank You" to Jim and Johnnye McCormick! What a show you and your volunteers do on Lake Mitchell on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend every year! For all volunteers and HOBO members thank you for making this a beautiful place to live. Remember Lake Mitchell HOBO is on Facebook now! Check us out. Hope all of you have a wonderful summer on the lake!

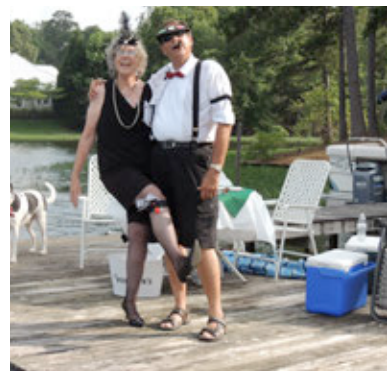
Be Safe!

Steve Miles

### **Lake Mitchell HOBO Poker Run Proceeds to benefit HOBO Scholarship**

By Peggy Bullard

A HOBO poker run was held Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> on Lake Mitchell from 4 P.M. until 7 P.M. The first event of this type but everyone had such a good time it may just become an annual event. The purpose was to raise money for the



scholarship fund. We give one scholarship of \$2500.00 to a qualifying student from Chilton or Coosa County each year. This is financed through donations and the sale of the calendars. When the scholarship committee and HOBO members decided they would like to give a second scholarship next year they began a discussion of how to raise the extra funds and came up with the poker run.

The run began and ended at Higgins Ferry where Nancy Piccolo, the Poker Host, registered each participant gave out packets to each with a map of the eight piers where the dealers were located. There was a sign off sheet in the packet and when the player drew a card the dealer would sign their name by the card on the player's list and sign the player's name on his sheet by that card. Once the player had picked up all eight cards they would return to Higgins Ferry and show the best 5 cards to the Poker Host, Nancy Piccolo to claim their prize.

The winner of the cash prize was Jordan Harper from Birmingham, a guest of the Crocker family here on the lake. Other prizes donated were dinner and dessert at Lake Mitchell Marina, dinners at San Marcos Restaurant, gift cards by Wall Mart, oil change by Baugh Ford, dinners at Three Amigos, gift certificates by Sam Piccolo and HOBO T-shirts.

Our dealers were Becki & Mau McCallum, Troy & Tina Crocker, Dan & Judy Murchison, John & Kathy Redd, Phil & Betsy Ward, Eric & Rose Green, Chuck & Carol Traetto and one couple who totally got in character for the event was Jim & Johnye Woodrow along with their dog. The dealers had as much fun as the players. Thanks to the scholarship committee Rebecca Beaty, Nancy Piccolo, Nan Spivey, Steve Miles, Carol Traetto, and workers Sam Piccolo and Lee Poe who worked hard to pull this event off.

Most of all we now have \$1,157.00 toward that second scholarship! Donations are always welcome and they are tax deductible. Earmark them for scholarship and mail to Lake Mitchell HOBO P.O. Box 1324 Clanton AL 35046.

### ***Current Water-testing Data***

*Sam Piccolo*

<b><i>Parameter</i></b>	<b><i>Acceptable Range</i></b>	<b><i>Seven-Site Average</i></b>
<b><i>Dissolved Oxygen</i></b>	<b><i>5-9</i></b>	<b><i>8.22</i></b>
<b><i>pH</i></b>	<b><i>6.5-8.2</i></b>	<b><i>7.26</i></b>
<b><i>Alkalinity</i></b>	<b><i>20+</i></b>	<b><i>57.64</i></b>

### ***Alabama Power Shoreline***

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. Permits for shoreline construction are good for one year, and the program's general policies are:

1. Alabama Power encourages shoreline structure owners to maintain the upkeep of existing boathouses, docks and seawalls. Prior to beginning any maintenance, contact Alabama Power to obtain a no-fee permit for repairs.
2. Alabama Power also encourages shoreline structure owners to remove noncompliant structures and replace them with compliant structures, and upon doing so will be issued a no-fee permit (e.g. replace an enclosed boathouse with an open boathouse).
3. A permit to build any new shoreline structure will incur a one-time \$250 fee (e.g. new boathouse, new dock or new seawall). More than one activity may be authorized with a single permit. Please call Alabama Power Shoreline Management Team Member Candy Hayes at 205-280-4476 to discuss your project/work and to obtain a permit prior to beginning any maintenance or construction

Lake Mitchell HOBO  
 PO Box 1324  
 Clanton, Alabama 35046  
**Change Service Requested**

U.S. Postage Paid  
 Permit 12  
 Birmingham, AL

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

<b>Annual Dues</b> Homeowner \$25.00	<b>Marine 9 - Donation</b> Maintenance & Operation \$	<b>Fireworks - Donation</b> Purchase of Fireworks \$	<b>Utility Boat - Donation</b> Maintenance & Operation \$
<b>Other Donation</b> 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