
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 2 Issue 4

December 1997

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here are some of my thoughts and ideas. I would like your in-put, suggestions, and comments. Write me at 2635 Fargo Circle, Birmingham, AL 35226. Call me at 755 0521 or 823-2308.

1. SHORELINE RESTORATION –

I have books outlining how to restore and beautify shorelines. I believe there is much we can do to stop eroding banks by planting the right trees and bushes. In addition, we can award prizes and give recognition to residents who beautify and improve their waterfront. How is this best approached?

2. CONSTRUCTION SITE

EROSION – Construction erosion continues to be a problem on certain areas of our lake. Silt is very detrimental to aquatic life. It kills the small crawfish, willow fly larva, and many other small aquatic life. It also increases the mineral content of our streams and rivers. We need to encourage proper site construction conservation measures.

3. SEPTIC TANK LEAKAGE – There are many old leaking septic tanks which seep into our lake. Educating our residents on how to detect problems and correct this type pollution needs to be addressed.

4. What's coming down our streams into Lake Mitchell? We need volunteers in their areas to



do "Stream Walks". Pictures and videos would help us map out possible pollution or erosion sites. Would you volunteer?

5. The use of plastic oil cans and bottles as trout line floats is contributing a constant flow of oil into our water. What can we do to encourage the use of non-polluting materials for floats?

6. There are those who believe that the stocking of Hybrid Stripes in our lake is detrimental to other fish. Biologist tell me that this is not so – that Hybrids are fun to catch and good to eat. I have asked the Ala Fishery Assoc. for more info. What's your opinion?

7. Ala Power Co has tentatively agreed to help us purchase marker buoys where needed.

We need immediate input as to where buoys are needed. Please contact H. L. McMillan as to sites.

8. There is tons of information available on the internet concerning rivers and river problems. If you have a Web Site would you do some research for HOBO?

9. Guest speakers are available from ADEM, Ala Power, State Fishery Div., Forestry and other groups. Would you like speakers at our meetings? What subjects?

10. Our By-laws call for a change of officers and two Directors effective 10-1-98. If you are interested or know someone interested in

serving – please contact Jerry Kitchens, Bo Warren, or Duncan Austin.

11. Our neighbors above us on Lay Lake are looking for someone to help form an association. If you know someone – have them contact Dan Murchison.
12. Many of you expressed displeasure with the time and place of our general meetings. From your input the Memorial Day meeting has been changed to the same time as the picnic. The Picnic and the first general meeting of the summer season will be at 5:00 p.m. at Higgins Ferry Park. The place and date of the September meeting has not been determined.
13. If your lake home caught on fire or you had a medical emergency are there clear road signs and 911 addresses so that fire fighters or medics could find your house? What can be done?

RAFFLE WINNER

Fifteen year old Jeremy Smitherman from the Enterprise community was the proud winner of a *Weatherby Vanguard* 270 rifle. Aaron Little of Bird Creek and salesman at Stokes Chevrolet, donated the rifle to HOB0 to benefit the Fire/Rescue boat effort. Henry Publow, owner of Dixie Wheel and Tire, sold the most tickets and the winning ticket. Over \$3500 was raised. The Boat committee wishes to thank everyone who worked in this effort, especially the local businesses and the radio station.

FIRE/RESCUE BOAT 22% FUNDED

In less than eight weeks the Fire/Rescue boat fund stands at over \$16,000! Through the raffle and generous donations from lake residents and supporters the fund has already reached 22% of its \$75,000 goal. Construction of the boathouse at Higgins Ferry Park will begin during late winter. The boat will be on the lake by late summer. It should be fully equipped with the latest state-of-the-art equipment by next fall. Have you sent your donation? We need your help!

This project has already generated interest from all over Alabama and some other states. It will be the first such craft on Alabama waterways. This will be another good opportunity to show our class and what Chilton County has to offer in addition to its main purpose—to save lives and property.

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SKEET SHOOT PLANNED FOR SPRING

The Alabama Power Service Organization works with non-profit organizations to raise money for community projects. They have joined with the Fire/Rescue Committee to put on a skeet shoot in the early spring to benefit the boat fund. The best part is that they will match any funds raised! Watch for more details and information in the March newsletter. We encourage your participation.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE LAKE

Gary Buchanan

Lake Mitchell had its first fatal accident in several years this past September 18. According to statements from Jason Brown, he was giving his aunt, Debra Brown, a ride on the lake that afternoon after fishing most of the day. As they went up Hatchett Creek near the rope swing the boat made an abrupt turn which threw both Jason and Debra from the boat. The boat then circled around and struck them. The impact killed Debra and caused injuries to Jason's lower legs and feet. Jason was taken to UAB hospital where his injuries were treated. Contrary to rumors the steering did not break nor was there alcohol involved in the accident.

This should serve as a reminder that accidents can happen at any time. Winter and spring are good times to check safety equipment and replace anything that is defective. Also remember that any boat less than 24 feet in length with more than a 50 hp motor is required to have an emergency shut-off switch. This switch must be attached to the driver while the boat is in operation.

On a different subject, I now have a marine band radio in my patrol boat operating on channel 16. Those of you who have one in your boat can now use it to notify me of accidents, drunk drivers or any other problems you may have on the lake

PICNIC PLANS

The picnic will be combined with the first general meeting of the summer. The picnic will be at 5:00 p.m. at Higgins Ferry Park with the meeting following immediately. In case of rain the alternate date will be the same time and same place on June

27. We need volunteers and suggestions for the picnic. Please call Johnye Woodrow, Picnic Chairman, at home 425-9431, at the lake 755-0055, at work 663-4196. Some of the plans in the works include a "craziest chair" contest, craft show and sale, and the sale of nice golf type Lake Mitchell tee shirts to benefit the boat fund. Make plans to attend!

GOOD RESPONSE TO DECALS

Do you have HOB0 decals on all your vehicles? Many of you have ordered additional decals which lets us know it is a good program. Our goal is to get all vehicles identified. We must also become "nosy neighbors." However, this violates the purpose of a lake house retreat for many of us. We want it to be a place where we are able to "get away from everything and everybody." Unfortunately this helps the criminal. We need to at least recognize our neighbors. It is especially important for those of us who are full time residents to know our neighbors. Stop and be friendly just by making conversation with people you see in the area. Ask if they have gotten their decals yet. If they are legitimately in the area you will know it. If they are not this will give them warning that we are watching. We are in the process of obtaining neighborhood watch signs for all areas of the lake. We must all cooperate. We can reduce crime in our area!

Order additional decals at HOB0, P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046. Send \$1.00 for each decal. PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR ORDER.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Lake Mitchell HOB0 Water Watch Program monitors six water quality parameters – temperature, dissolved oxygen, ph, total alkalinity, total hardness, turbidity. The results are reported monthly to Alabama Water Watch Program, Fisheries Department at Auburn University. **Temperature** determines the density of the water, how much oxygen it can hold, and how quickly nutrients will be recycled through the system by decomposition. Like land organisms, aquatic animals need oxygen dissolved in water to live. A low **dissolved oxygen** level indicates a demand on the oxygen in the system. Pollutants such as inadequately treated sewage as well as decaying natural organic matter can cause low oxygen levels.

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The **ph** scale ranges from very acidic such as battery acid to very basic such as household lye. The midsection of the scale between 6.5 to 8.2 is optimal for most organisms. If a body of water has an abundance of buffering materials causing high **total alkalinity**, it is more stable and resistant to ph changes. When alkalinity is above 20mg/l there is a marked increase in nutrient utilization. **Hardness** refers primarily to the amount of calcium and magnesium, which enters the water mainly by leaching of rocks. Both minerals are essential to the development and growth of aquatic plants and animals.

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.7
PH	6.5-8.2	7.4
Alkalinity	20+	50.8
Hardness	10-120	50.0

Quarterly Report Average Water Quality

TWO NEW AREA REPS

Mary and Rick Hurst moved into the Lay Dam area and came looking for HOB0. There was a desperate need in that area and we welcomed them warmly. Jim Ray is moving out of state and resigned as rep in the Cargile to Bird area. Dewey Kerper has graciously agreed to accept this area.

Please use area name or the representative's name when communicating with us. We believe everyone is identified by area now thanks to the hard work of these area reps!

Area #	Area Name	Representative	Phone
1	Blue Creek	Gordon Beene	755-3934 879-4119
2	Blue to Cargile	Mary Olson	755-9561
3	Cargile South	Dan Murchison	755-0521
4	Cargile North	Tim Whatley	755-6021
5	Cargile to Bird	Dewey Kerper	755-2527 979-1845
6	Bird Creek	Robin Cagle Rick & Bunni Miller	755-7952 991-8998 280-0063
7	Bird to Walnut	Sue Abernathy John McKinney	755-6848 755-1262
8	Walnut SW	Cecil "Bo" Austin	280-0838

9	Walnut Creek Peninsula	Wayne Hardy	755-4858
10	Cove and Mountain	Wayne Caton	755-4622
11	Mountain to Dam Area	Rick & Mary Hurst	755-4687
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	Edsel Hughes	377-4728
13	Pennymotley	Sam Piccolo	377-4801
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Pat Croker	377-4528
15	Big Airplane to Dam	Duncan Austin	377-4447

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?
1998 DUES WERE DUE IN OCTOBER.

We have almost reached our goal of 288 members for 1998. We are very pleased that approximately one-fourth of the 1998 members are joining for the first time. However we are a little concerned that many of our members from last year have not renewed membership. It is so easy to let these things slip our minds. Please use the form below to send dues today. Notice that this same form may also be used to contribute to Fireworks and the

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Boat. Remember all contributions except fireworks are tax deductible.

Lake Mitchell HOBO

PO Box 1324
Clanton, AL 35046

Annual Dues Homeowner \$25.00	Annual Dues Supporter \$10.00	Fireworks Donation \$	Fireboat Donation \$
Name:			
Mailing Address:			
Lake 911 Address:			
Phone: Home		Lake	
Lake Area:			



Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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