

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 3 Issue 2

June 1998

FROM THE PRESIDENT

HOB0 is active in causing many good things to happen on Lake Mitchell. The Fire/Rescue Boat Committee has the boathouse completed. The fish weigh-in and aerator structure for bass tournaments will soon be constructed. The membership committee is working on a lake phone directory for the entire lake which will be available for all members. Johnye Woodrow and the Picnic Committee did a fabulous job with our annual picnic. Our water monitors will soon be trained in soil erosion and wetland protection. Our security committee is obtaining neighborhood watch signs and is forming better communication with our sheriffs. Our membership is at an all time high. The budget is stable.

So what's the problem? Construction on the lake is at an all time high and erosion/silt from construction sites and dirt roads threaten our aquatic life. Each creek entrance to Lake Mitchell is a miniature wetland where small fish, minnows and all sorts of aquatic creatures are born and reared. If we allow silt to smother these creatures we severely damage our fish population and other wildlife. So what can you do? Read and learn about wetlands and erosion. Seek advice before you start construction - it is free. Call the RC&D soil and water department in Clanton at 755-5101 - ext. 202 and talk with Ben Gary. If you have an area where silt is running into the lake, stop it with rock, hay and plants. Be a watch dog - report erosion problems to Alabama Power representative, Bo Warren, at 755-8959 or call Alabama Environmental

Watchdog line at 1-800-982-4364. Silt is not just dirt. It is dirt plus what attaches to dirt such as pesticides, bacteria, PCB's etc. We all have a responsibility to keep Lake Mitchell clean and beautiful.



FISH TISSUE REPORT

The fish tissue report just completed by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management in their testing of Lake Mitchell is summarized in these words: "Concentrations of PCB's continue to exceed the FDA guideline of 2.0 parts per million in samples of bass, crappie and catfish in Upper Lay Reservoir. Lower Lay, Mitchell and Jordan reservoirs also had elevated levels of PCB's in individual fish, but the contamination does not appear to be as severe." The Alabama Department of Public Health did not issue a fish consumption advisory for Lake Mitchell or Lake Jordan. You may get the entire advisory from the State Health Department. Contact Brian Hughes, 334-206-5973. You may contact Dan Murchison at 755-0521 or 823-2308 and he will review the complete ADEM report and the Health Department advisory.

ATTEND RIVER CHURCH!

River Church is a wonderful non-denominational service provided by Clanton First Methodist Church especially for people on the lake. As usual it runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day. In keeping with the relaxed atmosphere on the lake come as you are. The service begins at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday Stay for Family Time with coffee and donuts at 9:00 - 9:30.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE	SEVEN SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.7
pH	6.5-8.2	7.5
Alkalinity	20+	39
Hardness	10-120	47

Quarterly Report Average Water Quality

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. 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.

JULY 4 FIREWORKS

We all enjoy the fireworks display in Cargile Creek each year. This has been an event offered by Jim McCormick for the last several years. Although he requests no compensation for the show, many of us contribute. It seems he in turn just makes the show bigger and better. It is not too late to contribute to this years show. Use the blank on the back of this newsletter.

DEATHS

Bill Randle (Cargile Creek)
Johnny Shook (Inman's Camp)

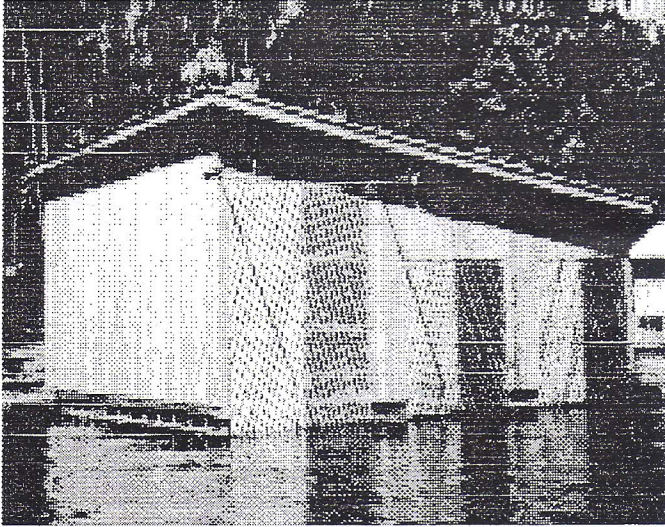
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AREA REPRESENTATIVES

All area representatives on the Chilton County side of the lake are in the process of obtaining complete 911 addresses for each homeowner in their areas. You can call 755-0911 for this information if you do not know it. If you have not been contacted by your area rep please call and give this important information to them. Coosa County homeowners do not have the 911 service. We are in the process of formulating a system for you. Many of us never think of the fact that we could have a real emergency and that we may need help in a hurry. **Please** do not put this off!

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	Joe Till	755-0669
5	Cargile to Bird	Duey Kerper	755-2527 979-1845
6	Bird Creek	Robin Cagle	755-7952
7	Bird to Walnut	Sue Abemathy	755-6848
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	Pennamotley	Sam Piccolo	377-4801
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Pat Croker	377-4528
15	Big Airplane to Dam	Duncan Austin	377-4447

PHASE 1 COMPLETE



The Boathouse which will house the Lake Mitchell Fire/Rescue boat at Higgins Ferry Park has been completed. The Chilton County Commission joined with HOB0 to construct the boathouse. Paul Minor was the low bidder and builder. The structure will house the Fire/Rescue boat as well as the Marine Police and the Park Ranger boats.

Lake Mitchell has had a death and a serious injury since this project began. The recent accidents and boating deaths on other Alabama lakes have added to the urgency to complete this project. (Lake Mitchell is the leader among all other Alabama lakes in realizing the need and initiating a plan for lake rescue.) The second phase is the boat. It will be a specially built and fitted 10' x 24' pontoon. The approximate cost will be \$30,000 for the boat. Financing Phase 2 is over 50% complete. With the help of the people and businesses of Chilton County and especially the lake community the boat should be on the lake by the end of September. The area fire departments have already started on-water rescue training.

Equipping the boat will be phase 3. The approximate cost will be \$25,000. The boat will carry the same equipment as a regular rescue truck and that of a regular fire truck. In addition there will be special equipment for water rescue. It will respond to calls over the entire lake. They still need

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your help. Send your tax deductible donation today. Use the blank on the back page.

THIS AND THAT

-In the near future HOB0 is planning two projects which will require input from you. If you do not want your name, address or phone number in a Lake Mitchell Directory you must notify us in writing by July 31. To make finding houses on the lake by Fire/Rescue easier, we plan to post neat uniform signs on all boathouses or piers at no cost to you. If you do not want your street and road numbers posted you must notify us in writing by July 31.

-It has been suggested the newsletter include death announcements of lake homeowners. If you wish such an announcement to be included call 755-4858. Some people have expressed an interest in making memorial contributions to River Church or to the Fire/Rescue Project..

-Chilton County road number signs can be obtained in many cases simply by calling Mr. Seay, County Engineer, at 755-0530. The county policy is to place these signs only at the beginning of the road and not at every intersection.

-Are you interested in receiving local newspapers? **THE COOSA COUNTY NEWS**, P. O. Box 99, Rockford 35136. \$24 per year. **CHILTON COUNTY NEWS**, P. O. Box 189, Clanton 35046. \$17.50 per year. **THE CLANTON ADVERTISER**, P. O. Box 1379 Clanton, 35046. \$54 per year. **THE MULE TRADER** (free individual advertising) 45¢ Available at local businesses.

-A few tickets for a chance to win the new 1998 Chevrolet S10 truck are still available. Call Aaron Little at Stokes Chevrolet.

-We still need sponsors as well as prizes for the Skeet Shoot. Contact Angela Taylor at 755-2646 if you can help.

ACCIDENT REPORTS

Gary Buchanan

The summer is sailing right along and so far things have gone well on Lake Mitchell. The same cannot be said for some other areas of the state. In June there were three boating related deaths, two on Logan Martin and one on Lake Eufaula. These accidents happened under ordinary circumstances. The night accident on Logan Martin involved a pontoon and a bass boat, both properly equipped and lit. The bass boat decided to move and as he throttled up the bow of his boat blocked his view. This prevented him from seeing the pontoon. The collision fatally injured two people. The Eufaula accident was between two personal watercraft (PWC). A mother and daughter were on separate PWC in single file. The daughter, caught off guard, collided with her mom killing the mom. The reason for relating these tragedies is that they could happen to anyone anywhere. It is a mistake to think only "drunks" are involved in accidents. It is also a mistake to think you are safe because the people in a boat or PWC near you are friends or family. How can accidents be avoided? Maintain a proper lookout and keep a good distance between vessels. Being mindful of these things helps keep Lake Mitchell one of the safest lakes in the state.



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

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1998 GOAL ACHIEVED

The 1998 budget was based upon a goal of 288 members. This goal was achieved during June. Thank you for your support! It is not too late, however, to send 1998 dues if you have not joined. There are so many worthy projects yet to be accomplished

Lake Mitchell HOB0
PO Box 1324
Clanton, AL 35046

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

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