
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 4 Issue 4

Fourth Quarter 1999

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jim Woodrow

WOW!!! By the time you receive this, we will have made it through Y2K and the new millenium is upon us. If no catastrophe occurred, what do we do with all the stockpiled food, water, and other supplies....the 30 pounds of rice, the 15 cans of chicken, the 25 flashlight batteries, etc.....Well, we will forget that for now and move on to the really important things like taking care of the environment and the one thing we all have common: "Lake Mitchell".

To lead us into the new century and to start the New Year out in the right way, I would like to once again quote the mission statement of the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Association: "To Preserve, Protect and Improve" Lake Mitchell and the Lake Mitchell community. To accomplish the H.O.B.O. mission in 2000 we shall concentrate our efforts in the areas discussed below:

Environment

Our first priority in the environmental area is to continue our efforts to monitor water in Lake Mitchell. We presently monitor seven sites on a monthly basis. I would like to increase that number by at least two more sites. By testing on the feeder creeks we can determine if we have any problem locations which are the sources of pollution. *We need volunteers.*

Establishing a clean-up day or a clean-up weekend where homeowners and boatowners get out and pick up trash and debris that has accumulated along the Lake's shore is a second priority. Problem areas need to be identified and

area residents need to work together to clean up the problem locations. Dates, times, locations, and disposal methods can be coordinated through your area representatives. *We need volunteers.*



Shoreline erosion is a third priority item for concern and attention. Sites where erosion takes place due to construction, wash from boat traffic, or natural run off should be identified. Solutions for addressing specific problems can be as simple as building setbacks or planting plants or grass. *We need volunteers.*

It is our responsibility as homeowners on the Lake and H.O.B.O. members to be aware of problems we may cause such as faulty septic tank systems, poor storage of gas and oil products, and improper disposal of trash and garbage. All of these are priorities and we should look at what we might do to make Lake Mitchell better. *We need volunteers.*

Community Development

The H.O.B.O. Association has divided the Lake into areas with Area Representatives identified for each area. Our goal for 2000 is to strengthen the ties within the neighborhoods. To accomplish this, our Area Reps will be communicating more directly with the residents in their area. We want to strive for 100% participation in H.O.B.O. We encourage area meetings and get-togethers to develop friendships for adults, young adults, and children in our community. *We need volunteers.*

For 2000 H.O.B.O. is actively seeking young adults who love the Lake to work with the organization. We would like to have activities for children so they can build friendships on the Lake. *We need volunteers.*

Other goals for 2000 include:

Develop a Lake e-mail listing to be included in the 2001 Lake telephone publication.

Develop a list of long-term improvements to the Lake.

Redefine an enhanced web page for Lake Mitchell and Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

We need volunteers

In closing, the main message for 2000 is: ***We need volunteers.*** In the New Year, **you** can make a difference. Please take the time to contact me, any officer, director, your area representative, or any of the committee chairmen. We will all welcome your input and presence.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

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 823-2308
4	Cargile North	Ann Till	755-0669
5	Cargile to Bird	Duey Kerper	755-2527 979-1845
6	Bird Creek	Carol Willie	280-1133
7	Bird to Walnut	Sue Abernathy	755-6848
8	Walnut SW	Cecil "Bo" Austin	280-0838
9	Walnut Creek Peninsula		
10	Cove and Mountain	Bill Knowles	755-2038
11	Mountain to Dam Area	Rick & Mary Hurst	755-4687
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	Fred Calloway	377-2333
13	Pennamotley	Sam Piccolo	377-4801
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Pat Croker	377-4528
15	Big Airplane to Dam	Mary Robbins	377-2475

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Area 1 by Gordon Beene

On entering Blue Creek, there appears what almost seems to be a golf-course fairway. Actually it is the front yards of several homes and these open spaces are creating a blue bird habitat along the shoreline.

Anchoring the area is the board and batten house belonging to Henry Publow, better known as "Pub". A drive lined with split rail and cedar fencing leads up to an out building of masonry construction. It is air conditioned, heated, and contains stainless steel workbenches. This is the home of Pub's pride and joy...a super stack outboard drag boat.

The drag boat is powered by a 2.15 liter offshore Mercury engine. It develops 262 horsepower; and to date, has been timed at 113 MPH, and will exceed 100 MPH in a quarter mile. Pub placed second in a race at Adale, Georgia and one of twenty-eight boats in his class at the world national race in Jasper, Tennessee. It is a fascinating sport and Pub says that two other people on Lake Mitchell own similar race boats.

Pub owns Dixie Tire and Rim in Clanton and has been a permanent Lake resident since 1988. He says Travis Chapman, former owner of Dixie Marine, influenced his interest in boat racing.

We of the H.O.B.O. organization recognize Henry Publow for his outstanding job in fund raising for H.O.B.O. projects and for his contribution to Blue Creek.

Area 4 by Ann Till

UPDATE on Cargile Water Project... - Alabama Power's approval to cross the Lake. is expected shortly after the first of the year. Construction should start around the first of March 2000 and be completed sometime in October 2000. Again, thanks to all who have contributed their time and resources to bring this project to a successful conclusion.

Area 12 by Fred Calloway

Greetings from the Calloways on Pennamotley Creek. Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2000. Can you believe how fast the seasons come and go? It's hard to decide which one is your favorite time of the year on beautiful Lake Mitchell. The spring and summer months are exciting with all the part-timers coming and going, the wild flowers and trees blooming on

the banks of the Lake, and the Lake is busy with all the fun things to do. Then comes fall with its seasonal colors, hunters getting ready for the hunting season while the deer and the turkey start finding places to hide. Of course, any season is the right season for a dedicated fisherman.

With winter comes the hustle and bustle of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years; and the promise that spring is not far behind. No matter what the season, there are always miracles of nature to be seen in and around the Lake and lots of things to do. So can you decide which is your favorite season?? I've decided...I like them all.

Now is the time for H.O.B.O. membership. H.O.B.O. needs YOU. You are the one who can make a difference in maintaining and keeping Lake Mitchell the beautiful place it is. We as H.O.B.O.'s would really like to see 100% membership all over the Lake, but I especially would like 100% membership in upper and lower Hatchet Creek. I know we can do this with just a little effort. A \$25. membership fee is so little to contribute for all the good it can do and has already done. Of course, if there are those who would like to make a larger donation, it will certainly be put to good use. Let's be the first area to have 100% membership for the year 2000.

Until next time, have a Good Year and GOOD FISHING.

AREA 13 by Sam Piccolo

Several members of H.O.B.O. spent an afternoon recently retrieving automobile tires that had been illegally dumped along Pennamotley Road. The tires were apparently dumped several years ago and were tangled in weed and vine growth until recently when the Alabama Electric Cooperative cleared their right of way under their lines.

The tires were retrieved by Bill Crocker, "Mac" McMillan and Sam Piccolo. In all, 65 tires were retrieved from the banks and within a stream which flows into Lake Mitchell. Most were filled with stagnant black water. The H.O.B.O. members recognized this situation was a definite health hazard adding pollution to the Lake, breeding mosquitoes, and could also entice others to use this location to dump rubbish and garbage. The County Commission and the Litter Control Officer have been contacted concerning the disposition of the tires.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLICITY:

Judy Murchison, Chairman

The local newspapers, Clanton Advertiser and the Coosa County News have been very gracious in publishing articles concerning the Lake and H.O.B.O. Subscriptions can be obtained by contacting Clanton Advertiser 1-205-755-5747 and Coosa County News 1-256-377-2525.

Websites of interest:

www.clantonadvertiser.com - Clanton Advertiser

www.auburn.edu/aww - Alabama Water Watch

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE	SEVEN SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	6.77
PH	6.5-8.2	7.59
Alkalinity	20+	64.31
Hardness	10-120	59.09

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.

HIGGINS FERRY PARK CHOSEN

By Renee Powers, Area 8

The Class of 2000 for Chilton Leadership has selected as their Community Service Project the improvement and beautification of Higgins Ferry Park. The following goals hope to be achieved: (1) uniform signs designating various areas in the park including a welcome sign (2) an information board for announcements (3) a park identification sign on the interstate (4) a seawall from the ramp to the pavilion (5) landscape planting of native plants on hillsides around the park (6) a children's playground (7) pavilion improvements of the electrical wiring, replacement of board and batten siding and the addition of

the banks of the Lake, and the Lake is busy with all the fun things to do. Then comes fall with its seasonal colors, hunters getting ready for the hunting season while the deer and the turkey start finding places to hide. Of course, any season is the right season for a dedicated fisherman.

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Railroad. (L&N Railroad 1850-1984) There were divisions used to transport from out of the way areas to the main L&N Line. Besides Inman's location...you would have found it in Shelby County, transporting coal from the mines the main line. The next land transaction is from S&N to L&N Railroad in 1874. I will skip a few years and names and give you a few of interest...in 1886 to DeBardeladen, in 1900 to Magnetic Ore Company, in 1903 to J.P. Morgan, in 1927 to Lake Mitchell Development Company, in 1939 to Cooper Lumber Company, in 1944 to T. M. Kicker and now you are up to speed with the Inman Family. I can only imagine the dreams and ideas of each individual buyer as it passed from one hand to another.

Now if you think this is where the interesting stories stop...wrong..I found one that Don knew about and I begin to look into its background. WOW!!! It seems there was a little church just in front of where Inman's sits today...it is no longer there because it is UNDER WATER! It was Old Salem Church and the names on the old headstones and the people buried there are synonymous with Chilton County surnames even today. You will find Anderson, Cagle, Calloway, Clackler, Driver, Fulmer, Glenn, Holley, Holmes, Jones, Nations, Robinson, and Taylor. Recognize any names?

Old Salem held an annual May singing every year. The singing was originally held at the old Pleasant Cherry Schoolhouse in May, 1886. It was located on the north side of Cargile Creek near Coosa River. The first song sung was "Amazing Grace". Some of the people attending this singing would walk a mile or so to the ferry on the Coosa side and then walk the mile up the creek to the schoolhouse. I'm sure they were grateful for the ride across on the House, Zinnamon, and Higgins Ferry. There were many ferries on the Coosa River such as The Morris, Johnson's, King's, Wyatt's, Knight's, Lewis's, Adam's, Smith's, Houses', Zinnamon's, and Higgins' Ferries. This annual singing was held for 14 years at Old Cherry Schoolhouse and proved to be quite an event.

In 1899 it was moved to Old Salem Church for the first time. The first singing was held May of 1900. Uncle "Till" T. L. Robinson was Chairman and held that position till his death in 1929. Then his older brother, Riley Robinson was elected and held it till he died in 1955. Imagine being chairman at the age of 100. Riley lived to be 105, giving him the title of oldest person in Chilton County.

Now don't think that the people making this walk to the Singing or to the River had a nice road as we do. Riley could tell of a time he and his father walked to Rocky

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Creek and had to walk home in the dark. They had to pass through cane breaks in the darkness and heard continuous howling from a pack of wolves which was not uncommon then. Imagine a time in the wild and woolly days of the 1800's when the Indians, panthers, bears and wolves outnumbered your cattle, hogs and sheep! I can only place myself in Riley's shoes...and imagine what the sound would do to the hair on the back of one's neck, not to mention the heart beat!!!

If you are familiar with a type of singing called Fa-Sol-La, you know how the sounds were in the air during those wonderful days. My great grandfather Walter Newton Jackson led this singing till his death.

In 1922 there would be a drastic change in the Old Salem Church...its history would come to an end. The building of Mitchell Dam started in 1921 and would change this area forever. The building of Lake Mitchell Dam would force Old Salem to disband, but the singing was moved to Providence Church and still goes on every 4th Sunday in May. This singing is one of the oldest in the State. The spot of Old Salem Church can be found under water, right in front of Inman's Camp. The old cemetery is still there but hidden, and scant remains of old tombstones dot the area behind Inman's Marina.

I hope this story has done for you what it did for me when it was first brought to my attention by Don Inman. It made me realize that there is not one inch of Lake Mitchell that doesn't have a wonder of history, an enjoyable present and a future worth conserving.

JELLYFISH?? FROG EGGS?? GAR EGGS?? OR WHAT?? By Don Inman

How often have we seen the gelatinous masses attached to various underwater structures, including weeds, and wondered, "Are these really frog eggs? gar eggs? jelly fish? or ????" Actually they are Bryozoan - Pectinatella magnifica one of at least 22 species found in the fresh water of North America.

By definition, Bryozoa means moss animals as they live and grow in colonies, forming moss-like masses of growth over the object to which they are attached. Each jelly or gelatinous mass is a colony of individual microscopic zooids (less than (1) m.m. in size) which collectively are called Bryozoan. The gelatinous portion is very extensive and is the non-living portion of the colony. Each colony may contain literally thousands of zooids.

6

As Bryzoans feed on plankton, zooplankton, algae, etc., we refer to these animals as filter feeders and can expect some degree of improved water quality. Our lake has another example of "nature's filters" – the mussel – a very important ecological animal. In closing, we want to add that Bryzoans are related to many other animals including coral and jellyfish. – Courtesy of Chris & Danette Hayden, Biologists @ Shelton State

If you have an article of interest, or an idea for one of our "reporters", please submit it to P. O. Box 1324, Clanton, Alabama 35046. Be sure and include your name. Next publication will be early April 2000.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

MARINE 9 EMERGENCY NUMBER

COOSA COUNTY:

1-205-755-1120

CHILTON COUNTY:

911

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Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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