
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 5 Issue 1

First Quarter 2000

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jim Woodrow

There are several items of interest related to activities in and around Lake Mitchell.

Higgins Ferry Park

As mentioned in the December Lake Mitchell HOBBO Newsletter, the Chilton Leadership Class of 2000 adopted Higgins Ferry Park as their community service project. On April 1, a workday at the park was held. Activities during the day included beautification and construction. Native plants were collected from individuals and sites around the county early Saturday morning and were brought to Higgins Ferry for planting in the natural areas identified during the planning stage of the project. Flowerbeds were constructed around the bathhouse and pavilion using lawn timbers. Topsoil was placed in the beds and plants were added. A parking area at the pavilion was outlined with lawn timbers also. Joe Hubbard, general contractor, coordinated efforts for renovating the pavilion. New electrical wiring had been installed and a ceiling of stained plywood was being installed Saturday. Donald Giles, park ranger, worked very hard to keep workers and park visitors from getting in each other's way during the day. The children's play area has been partially completed and handrails have been installed. New signs have been strategically placed within the park. They look good.

Through the efforts of the Chilton Leadership Class and all those who participated in the workday, the park area has been improved and enhanced for our use. Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. would like to give all a big "Thank

You" for this effort to improve our community and improve the quality of life in Chilton County.



On Sunday May 28, 2000 (1st Sunday for River Church) immediately after the services, a ceremony will be conducted to celebrate the beautification and renovation of Higgins Ferry Park and to dedicate the pavilion to Reverend John Trobaugh. Please plan to attend.

Water Negotiations

There has been no agreement reached in the negotiations between Alabama and Georgia as to water allocations for the Coos River System. The time for additional negotiations has all but run out. It appears likely that the issue will end up in the judicial system for resolution. Water quantity and water quality are the issues which cannot be determined.

Re-licensing Activity

The operating license for the hydroelectric generating facilities along the Coosa River System are up for renewal within the next five to seven years. The Lake Mitchell HOBBO Association as a stakeholder on the Coosa System has a responsibility to educate and inform its members about license renewal program activities and to actively participate in discussions and plans related to the program. Be alert for articles in the Newsletter, which shall keep you informed of activities in this area.

Lake Clean-up Day – April 29

Meet at Higgins Ferry Park

9:00 AM

Bags, Gloves, T-shirts to be furnished by Alabama Power Co.

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	755-4887
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	Charlie & Mary Robbins	377-2475

Area 4 by Ann Till

UPDATE on Cargile Water Project... - Bids will open on April 20th and the contract will be awarded April 27th. Actual construction should begin around the latter part of May.

Area 10 by Bill Knowles

A WAKE UP CALL from Cove Branch. Mother Nature plans a beautiful spring for Lake Mitchell. As caretakers we are planning our annual clean up day. Hopefully, we will have more participation this year than last year. Last year, three men and three ladies in our area picked up 39 bags of bottles, tires, and the rear end of a four-wheeler etc. We also had a lot of fun and laughter in the days work. Please plan to do your share this year. We look forward to having our lake free from all garbage. I know this may sound like a dream, but that is what life is made of. The clean up date is April 29th. Please make your plans to help this year. Call me if you have any questions...

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

AREA 15 by Charlie Robbins

We want to welcome Tom & Kelly Brown who have two small children to our area. Tom and Kelly bought Dot Dixon's place on the River. Welcome also to Dorman & Frances Robinson and Jack and Judy Poole.

As most of us knew, Dot Dixon, a long time resident of Lake Mitchell has sold her property and moved to Tennessee. Dot was on the lake for over 30 years. Due to health reason, she felt it best to move closer to her children. We wish her well. I know I speak for all of us that knew "Miss Dot", we will miss you.

No new problems on our side of the Lake that I am aware of except we need to clean up our river banks. Clean up will be April 29th. If you can, please lend a helping hand in getting the work done. For more information, please call me 256-377-2475 or 205-755-0172

Don't forget to pay your dues.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Lake Mitchell HOBO
PO Box 1324
Clanton, AL 35046

January 1, 2000 – December 31, 2000.

Annual dues Homeowner \$25.00	Other	Firework Donation \$	Marine 9 Donation \$
Name:			
Mailing Address:			
911 Address:			
E-mail Address:			
Phone: Home		Lake	
Lake Area:			

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLICITY:

Judy Murchison, Chairman

The telephone directories will be published for the year 2001. This is a large project. Please review your information in the current publication for accuracy. Please let me know of any name changes, mailing address changes, or telephone number changes as soon as possible. Also, we would like to include e-mail addresses in our 2001 directory.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE	SEVEN SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	8.65
PH	6.5-8.2	7.46
Alkalinity	20+	49.04
Hardness	10-120	47.61

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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Johnye Woodrow, Chairman

We have been given a **challenge**. If the finance committee can raise \$5,000 during the month of April, to be applied to equipment for Marine 9 (Fire/Rescue Boat), we will be given a total of \$5500 comprised of an individual contribution with corporate matching funds. There are some provisions to this challenge – we must collect the donations by April 30th, and the donations must be separate from dues.

We are making a special appeal to our businessowners on the lake. Please remember this vital project when

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

making your corporate budgets. You will be hearing from a member of our committee in the near future.

However, any donation received on a separate check indicating “challenge” will count toward our goal. Please make your checks payable to Lake Mitchell HOBO to receive the benefit of tax deduction, and mail to P. O. Box 1324, Clanton, Alabama 35046. Thank you for your help in meeting this challenge.

As you will recall, the funds needed to equip Marine 9 to that of a standard EMS vehicle exceeded \$14,000. This one time gift of \$5500 will go a long way toward finalizing this project.

Let's meet and exceed this challenge!!!

Beyond the month of April, we are looking toward grant monies, political contributions, corporate contributions, and volunteer individual donations for future funding of major projects such as Marine 9. I know there are lot of individuals on our lake who have knowledge that would be beneficial to this committee. Please call me if you would like to volunteer your time and or knowledge.

BULLETIN BOARD:

A BIG thank you to Bo Warren, Area 6, for the donation of Welcome to Lake Mitchell Signs that feature H.O.B.O. The signs are located on Higgins Ferry Road and the intersection of Highway 24 and 59

H.O.B.O.'s annual covered dish picnic will be held June 3rd at Higgins Ferry Park. You will be receiving more information closer to that date.

Free Fish Habitat Enhancement Maps can be obtained free of charge by writing Habitat Enhancement Maps, Alabama Power Company, P. O. Box 160, Montgomery, Alabama 36101. Remember to include your mailing address and specify which lake(s) habitat map you are interested in receiving

Alabama Power offers outage Alert for \$3.00 per month. This service will automatically notify Alabama Power if power is interrupted to your home. Call Alabama Power Representative Delores Montez toll free to sign up 1-877-357-4008. Dimontez@southernco.com.

HIGGINS FERRY PARK UPDATE

By Renee Powers, Area 8

The Chilton Leadership Class of 2000 is well underway on their Community Service Project of the improvement and beautification of Higgins Ferry Park. The H.O.B.O. Association donated money toward the expenses of the uniform signs for the park. These signs designate various areas in the Park including a WELCOME sign. Several H.O.B.O. members volunteered their time, skills, and money.

Cathy Zuelzke, Area 2, did the landscape design for the Park. Upon completion, a list of all those individuals and businesses who donated financially with materials or services will be recognized. Their names will be posted on the new INFORMATION BOARD at the Park. The approximate cost of the project is \$20,000.00 with the use of volunteer labor. The project will be completed by the first of May. Anyone wanting more information, or to volunteer their support may contact one of the following facilitators: Doris Jones 205-7555794, Mark Nolan 205-280-0536 Renee Powers 205-755-0889 and Ann Wilson 205-646-2787. This dream will soon be a reality for all of us.

Ribbon-cutting will be Sunday, May 28th following River Church.

RIVER CHURCH by Carol Willie, Area 6

Memorial Day weekend has traditionally signaled the beginning of summer on the lake. The Lake Mitchell community has added to this rich tradition for the past 32 years with its unique River Church services.

In 1967, Johnnie Doyle Trobaugh was assigned as Pastor of the First United Methodist Church, Clanton, Alabama. Shortly after his arrival, Johnnie suffered a bad attack of "Lake Fever" and he fell in love with Lake Mitchell. A spot on a quiet back road caught his eye. It was in a slough, it had a cabin and a boat landing, it belonged to a member of his church and it was for sale. After some astute ministerial maneuvering and haggling, he and his wife Annella purchased the property. The Trobaughs began spending their "off-time" at the Lake. In a short while the very popular "Precher John" or Just plain "Johnnie" to most of us, really had his finger on the pulse of the lake community.

That summer, the Trobaughs hosted a week-end Youth Retreat at the Lake House. The youth liked the surroundings so much they suggested the church begin a

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lakeside Worship Service. Such things were unheard of around Clanton, but Johnnie gave it a whirl. The youth printed fliers and went up and down the river in boats, handing out fliers to lake residents and nailing them up at nearby bait & tackle places. The first service was held in 1967 with 80 people in attendance.

Weekly services continued at the Trobaugh's lakeside home until the pavilion was opened and it was decided to move the services to the new location where there would be more room for boats and worshippers.

Through the far sighted efforts of Johnnie Trobaugh and because of his continuing interest in this novel type of worship, the Lakeside services are held each summer from memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. It has become a tradition for those who live at the lake or who come for week-end outings, to join as fellow Christians, (regardless of denomination) and to sing "Let Us Gather at the River".

Of course, this kind of success could not be possible each year without the loyal support of volunteers. Each year this unique service draws more and more worshippers and maintains an unbelievable record of never being rained out. The service has been featured on national television, CNN and ESPN, as well as local Birmingham stations. Unless Johnnie is sick or on a mission trip, he is always there, shepherding his river flock.

Please join us Sunday May 28 at 8:30 a.m. for services. We will have a short program after the services to honor Brother Trobaugh..

COOSA RIVER BASIN CLEAN WATER

By Dan Murchison

This partnership is being formed by EPA, ADEM, and private environmental engineers to restore and protect the Coosa River Basin in accordance with the goals of the Clean Water Act. Lake associations, and other key stakeholders are meeting to formulate the plan. The public is invited. Please call me for more information.

BLUE CREEK MARINA By Sue Abernathy Area 7

In 1958 Edward "Ed" Warren, Jr. and his charming wife Laura (Kirtley) Warren's dream came true...to buy their own place on Lake Mitchell. They bought and built on Cargile Creek. They kept their home in Birmingham, Al, but of course they came down as often as possible. They brought along their two children, Dale (Warren)

Gilmore, wife of Randal Jackson Gilmore and a Valentine's Day gift to Ed and Laura in 1947. The next gift for Ed and Laura Warren came on Dec 14, 1949, a bouncing baby boy whom they named Edward Warren III. Being the 4th in a line of Edwards, he was given the nickname "Bo". Few people on the Lake will not recognize the name Bo Warren. There was Edward Warren, Edward Warren, Sr, Edward Warren, Jr. "Ed" and Edward Warren, III "Bo". It might be a toss up as to which of these Warrens loved the Coosa River the most, but undoubtedly Bo's desires to connect to beautiful Lake Mitchell are evident by building a home on Bird Creek and buying Blue Creek Marina in 1979. It is located at 1151 County Road 654 in Verbena, Chilton County, AL 36091. Bo and his wife Gale Warren spend many enjoyable times here, as well as their children. Gale is a psychologist in Birmingham. Bo wears many hats!!! He works with Alabama Power Company, owns Lake Mitchell Realty, and along with his parents has quite a history on the Lake. Bo and his parents helped start Lakeside Worship Services with Johnnie Trobaugh. Bo founded and was president of Lake Mitchell Ski Club; fun times for Bo!!! Ask him about Lake Mitchell's version of "The Polar Bear Club"! This is when they decided to use the theme "first to ski in 73" and hit the icy waters of Cargile Creek....ONE MINUTE AFTER MIDNIGHT, JANUARY 1, 1973!! This "crazy-sounding" caper and feat was even recognized by the American Water Ski Association. Bo still plays an important role in the community and serves as a Director of Lake Mitchell HOBBO Association. His contributions to the community are just too numerous to list but we are grateful for his many good deeds.

Now for Blue Creek's "Weekend Warriors"...Ed and Laura Warren leave home in Birmingham to come home for the weekend to Blue Creek Marina. This gives Bo time to catch up on things he needs to do. Ed runs the Marina and entertains its many patrons. My first visit there was quite an experience. I went to the Marina as the ole lady that I am and left with the lightened heart of a 10 year old little girl! Ed and Laura are as nice as can be and you leave feeling like part of the family.

There are so many ways that Ed entertains you at Blue Creek Marina, you have to like one of 'em! The place is covered in whimsical signs, games, and articles of interest. There is the "Invisible UFO Spring"...ask management for a demonstration and detailed story..."Spring is yours for \$5", or so the sign says.

There is the "genuine" 24 carat solid gold nugget found at Old Blue Creek Place Mine...valued at \$27,000.00 and

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

located below a sign that reads "Please do not steal. BAD PEOPLE STEAL". There are also souvenirs, relics and games. I played one game...*Pull the Stick Out of the Coke Bottle* and win a 3 day trip to the Town of Rushton, Alabama. I played this game and won...but declined my prize when I learned that Rushton was an old town that no longer exists...above water anyway!!! It was located at the mouth of Blue Creek. Ed pulled another good 'en on an unsuspecting victim...ME! Ha ha; what a laugh we all had. Paying one of his regular visits to the Marina was Lloyd Nutter who says he is from "Nutter's Point, Al". He owns Verbena Auto and Boat Service in Verbena, Alabama. He is also one who was enticed by the charms and magnetism of the Lake. He once lived in West Virginia and started fishing here in 1950....then a trip in 1959 became a permanent thing...he stayed, making Chilton County home. Lloyd is very entertaining and has a few tricks up his sleeve....visit him and ask for a "Ticket to Heaven"; I brought one home! He enjoys games as much as Ed and Laura.

On a more serious note, Ed Warren is a wonderful poet. You can view one of his poems in Vol.4, Issue 4 of the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. newsletter. It is called "Morning on the River". Another he wrote is in his head and was never put on paper. He recited it to me and I want to share it with everyone; I loved this untitled work. You MUST have Ed recite this to you...he does it with such heart and soul. I encouraged Ed to give this a title and write lots and lots more! I am giving it a temporary title: *POEM BY THE BLUE CREEK POET*

I HAVE A BOOK OF POEMS
IN WHICH I READ AT TIMES;
IT'S A SIMPLE LITTLE BOOK
FULL OF SIMPLE LITTLE RHYMES.
IT TELLS ABOUT THE WARS
AND ABOUT THE DEATH OF KINGS,
AND THEN IT GOES STILL FURTHER
ABOUT SOME CONSEQUENTIAL 'THINGS'.
IT TELLS HOW ONCE A ROSE LEAF FELL
AND WRUNG FROM ME A CRY.
THAT'S WHAT I CALL CONSEQUENTIAL,
BUT I CANNOT TELL YOU WHY

I will end Part I of Blue Creek Marina with these words...be sure to visit Blue Creek Marina and if you are there on a weekend...don't leave without a hug from Ed and his sweet wife Laura Warren. It will make your day.

.....

A LIFE WAS SAVED

East Chilton Volunteer Fire and Rescue responded to a call to Higgins Ferry Park March 25th. A 60 year old fisherman suffered a major heart attack. The quick response of East Chilton Volunteer Fire and Rescue has been attributed to saving his life. We need to continue to work with them to provide the best equipment available to service our Lake Community. Thank you East Chilton, we appreciate you

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 July 2000.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

P. O. Box 1324

Clanton, Alabama 35046

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The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.**MARINE 9 EMERGENCY NUMBER**

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CHILTON COUNTY:

911

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