The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 5 Issue 2

Second Quarter 2000

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jim Woodrow

Lake Mitchell Clean-up

What a great success!! On April 29, 2000 approximately 80 people, both members of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. and other concerned citizens, met at Higgins Ferry Park and with the help of Alabama Power personnel spread out across the lake to pick up trash and debris from the water and around the shoreline.

Approximately fifteen boats plus two Alabama Power Company barges were manned during the day for the clean-up. The clean-up started at 8:00 AM and lasted until about 2:00 PM.

Crews worked areas that had been predetermined. Areas identified were the sloughs across from Higgins Ferry Park, inlets across from the mouth of Cargile Creek and Sloughs near Mitchell Dam. Other shoreline areas North of Higgins Ferry Park were also cleaned.

As the day progressed the bags of trash began to pile up behind the pavilion at the park. When

the day was over an estimated 200 to 300 bags of trash were accumulated. The collection consisted of plastic bottles, styrofoam, lumber, other plastic and paper products, tires, pieces of a boat and T. V. sets.

Around 2:00 PM as the clean-up began to wind down participants returned to Higgins Ferry Park, where H.O.B.O. provided a lunch of hot dogs, chips and drinks.

The event made an impact on everyone who participated as well as the Lake Mitchell environment. For the environment, a lot of trash and debris was removed. For the people who participated, everyone

realized that even though a large amount of trash was removed, there is still a big job to do before the lake shoreline could be considered clean. A lot was learned from this effort.

During lunch, participants discussed the possibility of conducting a fall clean-up. If plans are finalized word will be spread through the newsletter, area representatives, or a H.O.B.O. mailout.

Thanks again to all who participated —— <u>Great Job!!!!</u>



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	George Jackins	755-0567
			822-2282
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	Kathy & Pete Peerson	280-7750
	1 Cililouta		870-3358
10	Cove and Mountain	Bill Knowles	755-2038
11	Mountain to Dam Area	Rick & Mary Hurst	755-4687
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufica	Fred Calloway	377-2333
13	Pennamotiey	Sam Piccolo	377-4801
14	Hatchet to Big Airlpane	Pat Croker	377-4528
15	Big Airplane to Dam	Chartie & Mary Robbins	377-2475

Area 4 by Ann Till

UPDATE on Cargile Water Project...

The latest information is that the second round of bids were opened on 6/28 and awarded 6/29. If all goes well construction should begin around the end of July. A new route for running the water lines has been determined. The water will come in from the North, down County Road 28 and 472. This will eliminate having to cross under Cargile Creek.

For everyone concerned about their contributions toward the project, the money is still under our control at Regions Bank. Interest is being earned and will be redistributed to you when the account is closed.

Thanks for being patient...

Area 5

Meet George Jackins, new Area Rep for Area 5

George is an engineer living in Hoover, but his heart is at Lake Mitchell. The Jackins Cottage, first occupied by the family on the 4th of July 1976, is located behind Goat Island on the North side of Cargile Creek. The cottage was totally renovated last year to accommodate a growing family – grand children. His wife, Donna Leigh, is an artist and she has added some unique touches to this fun place. Daughter and son-in-law, Lindsey and Russ Allison, are also H.O.B.O. members. They reside in Indian Springs. Son Rolly and his wife Molly live in Homewood, and son Dean and his wife Leah, live in Roswell, Georgia. All are frequent visitors to the Lake. Of course, the most important visitors are Kelsey and Leigh Allison and Will and Wesley Jackins.

The high point of the "new" cottage is a huge screen porch full of rocking chairs waiting for you to come and sit. Don't hesitate to stop by and let George know what is on your mind. He is interested in helping you keep Lake Mitchell the most wonderful place on earth.

Home phone:

205-822-2282

Lake phone:

205-755-0567

Office phone:

205-985-9090

E-mail:

gjackins@aol.com

Area 9

Meet Kathy Peerson, new Area Rep for Area
9

Kathy and Pete have lived in the Birmingham area all of their lives. Pete is a marine pipeline contractor and Kathy works in the office of Crestline Elementary School. The have three sons, Lee, a C.P.A. with Price Waterhouse Corporation, Robert, an industrial design major working in Greensboro N.C. designing boats, and Frank, a senior at Ole Miss majoring in advertising.

In addition to their many activities, they also raise and train Boykin Spaniels.

Home phone:

205-870-3356

Lake phone:

205-280-7750

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE	SEVEN SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.95
PH	6.5-8.2	7.58
Alkalinity	20+	37.5
Hardness	10-120	40.0

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 attainity, 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 ealcium 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

CONGRATULATIONS, Lake Residents, Business Owners!!!! We met the challenge!!! We received a gift of \$2750. toward the purchase of EMS equipment for Marine 9 from an individual on the Lake and have received confirmation of matching funds from his corporation.

East Chilton Fire & Rescue is in the process of purchasing the highest priority items.

Taking the matching funds into consideration, we will be able to donate \$10,970 toward the purchase of the much-needed equipment.

However, this still leaves us slightly short of reaching our goal of purchasing 100% of the items shown on the equipment-request list; and funding the operations for year 2000. Please continue to keep LMHOBO, Marine 9 in your charitable contribution budget.

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. :Please indicate Marine 9 on your check.

Again THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Alert - Water Hyacinth Jim Woodrow/Mac McMillian

A floating water plant was found in Lake Mitchell early May of this year. It was detected near Big Airplane Slough on the west (Coosa County) side of the Lake. Investigation on the Internet (search on Aquatic Plants) helped identify the plant as water hyacinth.

Water hyacinths vary in size. The plants in Lake Mitchell are individual plants approximately six to eight inches tall and were floating in individuals segments approximately eight to ten inches in diameter.

The technical name for water hyacinth is eichhornia crassipes. The leaves are glossy, rounded, and leathery and are attached to spongy, and sometimes, inflated stalks. Roots of the plant are dark and feathery. It produces lavender to pinkish flowers. Water hyacinth is termed as an invasive plant; and until a few years ago, was a major problem in Florida. The plant is native to South America and was introduced into Florida in the 1880s. Growth rate can be extremely high. – doubling in size in as little as 12 days.

You can help control this plant by removing individual floating segments from the lake or if large concentrations are detected grouped together (50 to 100 plants) Alabama Power Company can be contacted to spray them. Call 1-800-Lakes 11 (1-800-525-3711), option 2 and leave a message indicating the location and details plus a phone number where you may be contacted if questions arise.

MARINE 9-HOMEOWNER SIGNS:

By: Jim Woodrow

Have you noticed the signs on the boathouses on Walnut Peninsula? The signs identify the homeowners 911 address for use by East Chilton County Volunteer Fire & Rescue personnel when operating Marine 9. When the Marine 9 program was planned and implemented by the Lake Mitchell Fire & Rescue Committee of H.O.B.O., this method was chosen as a means of locating homes on the Chilton County side of Lake Mitchell.

The Coosa County side of the Lake has no 911 system and because there is no 911 system, there is no positive method of designating home sites. On Tuesday June 7th,

meeting was held with East Chilton County Volunteer Fire & Rescue to establish a plan for Coosa County.

The plan developed for Coosa County will involve assigning numbers to all sloughs starting at Mitchell Dam and moving North. The land areas between the sloughs shall also be numbered. By using the slough number or land number plus an address or lot number, a positive location for each house may be established.

Your area representative will be kept advised as to the progress of this endeavor. If you have any questions, please contact them, or myself. 205-425-9431.

Carolyn & Wayne Hardy furnished signs for the Walnut Peninsula Area (H.O.B.O. Area # 9). They deserve a big "Thank You".

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR COOSA COUNTY RESIDENTS By Mac McMillan

As you know, H.O.B.O. has established an emergency number for Lake residents in Coosa County. Recently, some have encountered problems when calling the number.

A letter was sent to all Rockford exchange customers from GTE. Effective 6/2/2000, you were offered 3 options (Basic, Community Plus and Premium). If you did not select one, you were automatically transitioned to a flatrate local service (which was actually a 4th option).

If you responded to the letter, DO NOT DIAL 1. If you did not respond to the letter, continue to dial 1. However, in an emergency, if one doesn't work, try the other.

BULLETIN BOARD:

Thank you to Jim and Tricia McCormick for another wonderful fire works display for the 4th of July celebration. The music and fire works are great. Everyone looks forward to this event each year, and you have never disappointed us.

Thanks also go to Geraldine Nelson , Bo Warren and Sibley Reynolds for organizing the boat parades on the 4^{th} of July. It is an annual event and open to all that wish to participate.

We welcome David McGill, our new water patrol officer.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

HIGGINS FERRY PARK—WOW!!! It looks great! If you have not visited the Park since Chilton Leadership Class of 2000 did their renovations, you have really missed a treat. Donald Giles, Park Ranger is available at 205-755-5952 if you are interested in using this facility. There are 20 R.V. sites with full hook-up that rent for \$15 per night, or \$300 per month. There are also tent sites available for \$5 per night Swimming hours are 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.. The pavilion is available for \$25 per day.

H.O.B.O. Board of Directors meeting will be held the first Thursday in September in the Clanton Room of Alabama Power in Clanton. These meetings are open to any member of H.O.B.O.

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 October 2000.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

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:						
2		T				
Phone: Home Lake						
Lake Area:						

BLUE CREEK MARINA Part II

Did you ever wonder what went on at the area where Blue Creek Marina stands many years ago? Let's take a step back in time and see. Our story takes place in the 1930s on the banks of the Coosa River by Blue Creek at a fishing camp bustling with activity. It was owned by Charles E

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(Charlie) Gulledge born 10/16/1881 and his wife Annie Lee born 1895. As we approach, no doubt we would find Malachi (Mallie) Gulledge lolling around outside. He was Charlie's brother who stayed there. Looking around you will see many campsites and boats to let. Some, such as Morris Popwell had their own boat and kept it in storage at the fishing camp. His boat was powered by a 22 HP Evinrude. At this site, we may find Richard McKinney helping him work on the motor or running around. Mr. McKinney worked 7 days a week. We might even find his son Johnny tagging along. Johnny and his wife Sue are residents here on the Lake.

A large building is standing there and many patrons are going in and out; now we've learned it not only has electricity, but one of the first telephones in the county! Let's go inside "Gulledge's" place. We walk in to find locals enjoying life and escaping the toils of everyday tasks. There is dancing going on in the dance hall section of the large building, dining on the best food in Chilton County, and in some large rooms are parties attended by renown citizens from near and far. That great food is being prepared by the sweet black lady in the kitchen named Bertha. Johnny McKinney declares she cooked the best food he has ever eaten. It is admitted that Gulledge's had a little drinking going on, though not legal, was done discreetly.

Waiting outside by his car was a law enforcement officer called "Quick Check:. Because of the times, he didn't go inside, but would drive many to the spot to dance and party. His real name is Howard Goodwin Jr. He is retired from Chilton County now and enjoys a phone call now and then since he is wheel chair bound. Ask "Quick Check" about his ashcakes some day. He confirms that the activities at Gulledge's were decent as did Johnny. But they were nothing to compare to a nightchub located near Barrett's Camp on Fixaco Branch of Weogufka Creek.

Another of the Gulledges in Verbena was Francis Asbury Gulledge, a very prominent man who opened a business in Verbena as early as 1876. He owned land near where Mitchell Dam is located today. He died in 1935, the same year that lots for sale by owner, C. E. Gulledge of Verbena appeared. I found this in the courthouse records dated June 1, 1935. Verbena was once known as Summerfield. Since a town near Selma already had this name, it was changed to Verbena. The wild flower verbena grows abundant in the area. Many people from Montgomery sought refuge here from yellow fever. Soon there were enough people to form the town.

Another of Verbena's outstanding citizens, Capt. Jefferson Faulkner was related to the Gulledge family. He was a Baptist minister and editor of The Southern Planter from Montgomery, Alabama. He and cohorts chartered the Missionary Baptist Association of Alabama. His son, Jefferson Falkner donated land for a retirement home for Confederate soldiers and their wives in 1903. It is know as the "Old Alabama Soldier's Home", or Mountain Creek Confederate Soldier's Home".

From Chilton County Courthouse records, it appears that Charlie Gulledge deeded the property to Federal Farm Mortgage Corp on Nov 28, 1940. The property passed through other hands ending up with William L. Etrux Howton and his wife Carolyn. They sold it to Edward Warren III, the current owner in 1980. Blue Creek Marina was incorporated September 9, 1992.

Watch for the next issue of H.O.B.O. newsletter for some golden tales. There's still gold in "them thar hills" and Blue Creek on the Coosa River.

Special thanks to Ed Warren II, Ed Warren III, John & Sue McKinney, Don Inman, Ms. Howard Gulledge; Mr Howard Goodwin, Jr.; Mrs Louise Moore Sims; for granting interviews and thanks for the many articles made available to me for research.

MARINE 9 REPORT By Michael Minor ECVFR

Marine 9 has answered three calls to date this summer. June 5, we responded to a brush fire in Coosa County. The fire was extinguished with Marine 9 equipment. June 6, we responded to a rekindle of the June 5 fire. July 4 we investigated a fire in Coosa County that was reported by the Marine Police. The fire was out of reach of Marine 9 personnel/equipment; however, it was not endangering any structures.

Marine 9 has been visible on the lake, especially on weekends and holidays, training new personnel and having a presence during peak use of the lake. Marine 9, along with 3 land units from East Chilton Vol. Fire & Rescue stood by during the 4th of July fireworks show in Cargile Creek.

H.O.B.O. continues to solicit funds to further equip Marine 9 for your protection and safety. To date, an automated external defibrillator has been purchased and placed on the boat. A generator has been placed in the boathouse to operate the hoists in the event of a power failure. Other equipment is being ordered to enhance the

Advanced Life Support unit.

fire fighting capabilities as well as having it equipped to

meet the standards of the Ala Dept of Public Health as an

With H.O.B.O.'s continued support, E.C.V.F.R. will

continue to provide Lake Mitchell with the level of fire/rescue service that was agreed on in 1997. We count it

a privilege to be part of such a great lake community. If you have questions or comments to help better the

fire/rescue service on the Lake, please contact us at 205-755-8200 - East Chilton Volunteer Fire & Rescue.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

MARINE 9 EMERGENCY NUMBER

COOSA COUNTY:

205-755-1120

1-205-755-1120

CHILTON COUNTY:

911

Please keep these numbers accessible.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

P. O. Box 1324

Clanton, Alabama 35046

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