
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 12 Issue 2

Second Quarter 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT Doug Martin

Where's the water?

Summer is upon us and seems to be one of the most unique summers ever witnessed on the lake. The drought in Alabama has affected the lake as never before. Alabama Power Company is required to release minimum amounts of water to meet compliance with their FERC license for navigational and other purposes downstream of Lake Mitchell and other lakes. They have applied to the Army Corps of Engineers to modify that flow in the event of continuation of the drought. Along with the record low water levels the need for some safe boating practices becomes more important. While Lake Mitchell is a relatively deep water lake compared with some parts of Lay or Jordan, there will still be stumps and underwater rock ledges exposed which are not typically seen. It would be prudent to watch depth meters when traveling in unfamiliar parts of the lake. Skiing/wake boarding and tubing activities can still be done at current levels but are better kept to the middle of the lake.

Our lake levels may be falling, but our spirits and involvement are rising. Lake Mitchell homeowners are continuing to become more involved in community activities. The annual picnic on June 2nd was a great success. There were many new volunteers organizing and participating. I would like to thank Rose Green for her leadership on the social committee and production of a great event. By the time this letter reaches everyone there will have been the first H.O.B.O. float in the Chilton Peach Parade in Clanton. Alabama Power Company provided many items for the Peach Parade Float Committee to throw from the pontoon boat in the parade, along with other items purchased by the committee. I would like to thank Hugh Greene for arranging the provision of a pontoon boat, and Tad Henry along with others on the committee for their planning, participation, work and time in bringing the Lake Mitchell community into a more active role in the civic life of Clanton and

Chilton County. I hope many of you had previously heard about our participation and were able to attend the parade on June 30th. As you see people who serve on the H.O.B.O. committees, please join me in thanking them for their efforts.



We have received suggestions from some requesting H.O.B.O. communicate with you through email about important events which may be occurring acutely. The recent water drawdown by Alabama Power Company is one example. H.O.B.O. probably has email addresses for around 60-70% of its membership, though some may be outdated. Better communication with H.O.B.O. membership appears a worthwhile effort. If data conversion is possible, an attempt will be made to accomplish this.

Marine 9 operating use during these record low levels is currently being addressed. Additional cabling is being added to the boat lift allowing the boat to be launched with water down approximately 4 feet. Should water levels continue to drop other ideas have been discussed and might provide operations. I would like to address some pertinent issues with Marine 9. There currently are 8-10 staff members of Marine 9 to draw upon for emergency use. On some occasions due to vacations, jobs, school schedule, sick time or family time there may be no one available. We would like to seek lake residents/homeowners who have an interest in volunteering their services to train and serve on Marine 9. Training takes up to 2-3 months to complete and there is a minimum age of 18. Adding 3-4 staff members would lessen the chance of there being no coverage. Please remember Marine 9 staffers are volunteers, which is the case as well with East Chilton Fire Department. Coverage, unfortunately, can be from zero to full staff at varying times. Our support, both monetary and personal, can be crucial to adequate operations. Please consider your available time and interest and participate if you feel the call. Let me or Terry Bates know of your interest and you will be put in contact with the appropriate persons. My number is 205-755-0863.

The editors of this publication would like to join Doug in thanking all who donate to and participate in various civic interests. Your involvement is the lifeblood of our community, both locally and in the wider scope. "No man is an island" – a thriving community requires all of us!

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 5 Sonny & Peggy Bullard

Memorial Day weekend was a great time with our children and grandchildren and some of their friends. With 6 teenagers here we had a very busy but fun time. We hope you had just as much fun and a safe weekend as well.

We had a wonderful time at our first Area 5 gathering on June 16th with 22 people in attendance. There are some interesting characters in our group; one being Raymond Freeman who told us that at one time he was the only person on Lake Mitchell who could ski backwards, and had preformed in some ski shows on this very lake. Get to know Raymond and his wife Barbara and hear the whole story. Bob Straka said he could ski backwards as well but it wasn't intentional. Go Bob! Everyone had a great time getting to know each other and we hope that those who were unable to attend will be able to join us in the early fall when we plan to get together again.

Congratulations to Carl and Katy Scott's twin granddaughters, Deanna and Adrienne Marshall who graduated from Kingwood Christian School. Deanna played starting guard on the girl's varsity basketball team and on February 16th they won the AISA 2A State Championship in Montgomery at Huntingdon. Way to go Deanna and all the team members who made the win possible.

Peg and I cleaned about a mile and a half of County Road 472 a few years ago collecting 27 bags of trash. The Scott's have now joined us in stopping to pick up trash when we see it along the roadway. County Road 472 is used by all of Area 5 and we would like to encourage each of you to take pride in keeping our roads clean. One way you can help is to encourage all your friends and family who visit to refrain from tossing their trash as they travel to and from the lake. We ask your help in keeping both the lake and the roads trash free. It looks impossible but with everyone's help it can be done. Let's work together to keep it beautiful on the way in to our lovely lake homes.

If you are not sure you paid your 2007 membership dues check the address label on this newsletter. There should be a "M07" by your name if your dues have been recorded. It is good to check the label even if you have paid to verify that H.O.B.O. received your check and has credited you as a member.

May you all have a blessed and beautiful summer!

Reprinted from "Alabama Litter Laws"

Who litters our roads and countrysides? According to a 31 state survey conducted by the Institute of Applied Research:

½ of litter is deliberate and ½ is caused by materials being "accidentally" lost from vehicles.

Males do 72% of deliberate littering and are responsible for 96% of accidental littering.

69% of deliberate litterers were accompanied by one or more people.

60% of deliberate littering is done by pedestrians and 40% by motorists.

One mile of highway contains approximately 16,000 pieces of litter!

Let's continue the positive impact we have through the "Renew Our Rivers" program to effect our roads as well.

We can all make sure our trash cans are secure and any car trash stays put until we get to a proper trash receptacle.

Area 9 Dale & Patty Vann

We had our annual get together at the Vann's home on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. There was a very good turnout (about 40 people) and everyone had a good time. The main discussion was around the latest information on getting county water. At that point there was not a clear answer as to getting or not getting water. I can say as of today it looks very promising that this project is going our way. By the time you read this I believe the water project will be a done deal. Keep your fingers crossed.

We have an opportunity to start a neighborhood watch in our area. This will take several volunteers to get this started. I will keep you posted. Please remember as you drive to and from your place on County Road 264 not to litter. Thanks.

Area 10 Roxanne & Doug Martin

Well, it looks like our area is going to receive County Water, YEAH! Cove Branch had an 80% participant rate in the project. Thanks to all who assisted in this major accomplishment. Area homeowners as an expression of appreciation could thank the following Chilton County Commissioners who voted in favor of the project with the approval of \$100,000 in assistance, plus the funds we contributed; Chairperson Mr. Alan Akin, Mr. Joe Headley, Mr. Allen Caton and Mr. Tim Mims.

Just want to remind everyone to be extra careful with the water levels down. We welcome a new family into Area 10, Darrell and Cindy Vice, who bought Howard and Golda Thomas' house. In April we had our Area 10 gathering, we had a very good crowd and a lot of fun. It is a great way to get to know your lake neighbors better.

Thanks for all who attended and we hope to have another event in the fall. We are sorry to report that we had a death in our area, Louise Mims passed away this month. Our sympathy goes to her family. Have a safe summer and we will see you on the lake.

Area 14 Eric & Rose Green

Special thanks to all who attended the annual picnic and thanks for all the good food! Special thanks also to Richville Fire Department for cooking the meat again this year.

Some residents had a great idea while sampling the good food; let's put a H.O.B.O. cookbook together! Please send recipes to H.O.B.O., P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046, attn: recipes; or email them to rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com. Please keep in mind that no one really likes to COOK anything too difficult or with too many ingredients! We are looking for easy but tasty recipes: appetizers, dips, salads, side dishes, meats, fish, desserts, casseroles, snacks, breakfast, lunch or dinner, refreshing drinks – or anything for anytime! Please submit anything you'd like to. The more we have, the more you have to choose from!

Just a reminder as you visit the lake, please be careful on these roads. Some homeowners have children and pets who are occasionally out for walks, please watch for them and drive slower.

For Area 14 - good news, water is coming! We are also trying to get Wildlife Road paved and trying to get some of the smaller roads better maintained. Anyone interested in helping pave Wildlife Road can contact Margie Hunt at ADTAH@bellsouth.net or Rose Green area 14 rep 205-492-7151, rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com.

There is a special phone number for Coosa County residents to call for emergencies. This number goes directly to Chilton County 911 for the fire and rescue boat. It is also located on the back page of every newsletter. Please have a safe and fun summer.

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson

The water (or lack of) is our main concern at this time. The power company has had to lower our lake due to the drought. There is no end in sight unless we get lots of rain and then more. Let's all keep an eye out for our neighbors.

There is also a 'no burn' restriction out due to the drought. Campers on Pebble Beach had a big fire that reignited after they left. Thanks to Richville Volunteer Fire Department, they contained it with a fire break. Again, watch out for your neighbors.

There are more boats on our lake than ever. Please practice safety. Watch your wake when in residential sloughs. Big wakes destroy our shoreline as well as damage boats tied up to piers.

We ate fried catfish at Lake Mitchell Marina recently. William and Deanna McMinn can serve up delicious dishes. Try their desserts! Don't forget River Church every Sunday at 8:30 AM at Higgins Ferry.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	8.53
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.94
Alkalinity	20+	51.8
Hardness	10 - 120	50.8

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.

Environmental Committee Dan Murchison, chairman

The Changing Face of Lake Mitchell

New homes, new subdivisions, higher taxes, less trees, more silt and erosion, more threats to endangered species – the change from river “camp” community towards full-time home community – it's happening on most of the reservoir lakes in Alabama.

Can we preserve the river atmosphere that most of us sought when we bought our lake homes? Good question, the answer probably lies between no, maybe, or somewhat. A lot depends on correcting our mistakes from the past and learning more about how to protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment we love so much. It was suggested at a recent H.O.B.O. area representatives meeting that H.O.B.O. establish a “yard of the month” award. We all agreed that it is a great idea, but what criteria should dictate the award? Our thinking was that the award should be based on how successfully the natural environment was preserved and how well the home blended into the natural flora and fit the river landscape. And yes, this calls for a change in thinking and

construction planning. The question is can we make these changes in time?

Aquatic Weed Problems

To facilitate handling the problems of invasive weeds which occur more frequently during droughts and low water level conditions, you can send an email picture from a digital camera to my email address at gugga4@bellsouth.net. I will then forward the pictures for quick identification to Alabama Power. This will expedite getting a more prompt answer to determine if your weed is a problem or not. Alabama Power has a new Environmental Officer in charge of Aquatic Weed Control, Jason Carlee, who prefers one person handling this matter for Lake Mitchell rather than receiving numerous calls from different lake residents. If you prefer not to handle in this manner you can call the 1-800 Lakes 11 number and go through the general process of trying to locate someone to handle your problem. Dan Murchison, Environmental Committee Chairman 205-755-0521 or 205-823-2308.

BULLETIN BOARD

October 13 is Lake Mitchell Fall Cleanup

The fall cleanup will be held at Higgins Ferry Park on Saturday, October 13 from 8:00 a.m. until noon.

It will be followed by a picnic lunch provided by our wonderful Social Committee. There will be free t-shirts for participants and even more rewarding fun. There are no Alabama or Auburn home games on this Saturday, so no excuses are acceptable. We need you!

Please contact Larry Waldron at (205) 987-7217, or Doug Martin (205) 755-0863 for more information.

How do you know you are a member?

Your newsletter mailing label will have an "M" and the digits "07" if we have received your dues for the 2007 calendar year. The first line also contains a digit(s) representing the area where you reside on the lake. Use this digit to determine who to contact as your area rep. We value your membership yearly! Your dues help support projects sponsored by the organization and every little bit helps. Thank you for your continued support.

911 Boathouse Signs

We have a supplier for the green on white address identification signs for use on your boathouses and piers. These are a significant aid to Marine 9 in case of emergency. The cost of the sign is \$9.00. If you would like to have it mailed directly to you rather than coordinate pickup from your area representative, the cost of mailing is an additional \$3.00 per sign. If you do not

have one and would like to order, please contact Judy Murchison at 755-0521, or in Birmingham at 823-2308. Her email is gugga4@bellsouth.net. As an alternative you may contact Jim Woodrow at 663-4196 or 755-0055, ajwking@aol.com.

Memorial Gifts

<i>In memory of</i>	<i>from</i>
Mary Robbins	Fred & Judy Rogers
Bo Austin	Dan & Judy Murchison

The Lake Mitchell Memorial Fund is available for gifts in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Please send your contributions to our post office box and note your check accordingly. The intent is to set aside these funds until there is a sufficient amount to fund special projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This section has been added to our regular format to announce human interest items such as births, deaths, weddings, etc. If you have an announcement to submit please email the notice to beckmau@earthlink.net and gugga4@bellsouth.net for editing and inclusion.

Recent deaths in our lake community include Sam Carter of Area 7 (his cabin was just south of Higgins Ferry Launch). Mr. Carter passed away on May 5, 2007. He is survived by his wife Pat and family. His son Tom and family are now the owners of their lake cabin.

Lake Mitchell recently lost a strong supporter. Bo Austin, Area 8 - Walnut Creek, lost his battle with cancer and is now active above helping God make Heaven a better place. Wherever Bo was located and whatever he was doing, he wanted it to be the best. To say the least, Bo was a man of action and as an early member of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. he was active as an Area Representative, Water Monitor, and a key member of the Fire/Rescue Boat Committee. New people on the lake today enjoy Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. as an ongoing organization, but it was people like Bo Austin that helped get the organization off the ground and moving in a positive direction.

No matter what the activity (cleanups, Christmas tree drills, etc.) Bo was present and full of energy to get the job done. Bo operated by the philosophy "that if it was worth doing, it was worth doing right". Looking back I think one of his key contributions was his service along with his wife Carolyn on the Fire/Rescue Boat Committee. Again, for the people new on the lake, the big yellow Fire/Rescue Boat is a normal lake fixture. In the early formative days of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. the Fire/Rescue Boat was a contentious issue at times. It helped that Wayne Hardy (fire boat was his idea) and Bo Austin were friends and hard driving forces to get a Fire/Rescue Boat on Lake Mitchell. There were many issues concerning type of boat, size of boat, equipment on

boat, operation of boat, housing of boat, etc. Jim Woodrow as President of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. had the opportunity to guide the Fire/Rescue Boat Committee through the many hoops to solve the many issues regarding the boat, and Bo Austin in his calm positive manner was right there with him every step of the way. Bo Austin is no longer with us but his legacy lives on.

In Area 8 we recently also lost John Wright, and in Area 10, Louise Mims passed away.

Another involved and active former lake resident relishes hearing from lake friends. For those that know Gordon Beene, formerly of Area 1, he can be contacted care of Kirkwood by the River, 3605 Ratliff Rd, Birmingham, AL 35210.

Phone book corrections

We have some changes you may want to note in your new phone books:

Mac McMillan: email address on pg 11 should be caddywompus@earthlink.net

Myrick, Lynn & Wayne - the email address should read @mgandassociates (pages 7 & 58)

Ray, Jim & Sandra – his email address is jray@hughes.net, and hers is saray@hughes.net.

Traetto, Chuck & Carol - the address should be 25 Philip Court (page 74)

Waldron, Larry & Nancy - the email address should be (pages 9 & 75) nwaldron@bellsouth.net.

Magnets

Several years ago H.O.B.O. made up some refrigerator type magnets for the people on the Coosa side of our lake showing the number to call of the Fire/Rescue Boat. We asked that they be placed on your refrigerator/boat house or somewhere that would be visible to you and your family in case of an emergency.

There have been a lot of changes of ownership on the lake and we are considering the need to place a new order. Please let your area representative know if you need one.

Fish Habitat coordinates for trees placed Feb 2007

32.83941960, -86.45309442, 001
 32.84004815, -86.45374339, 002
 32.85185356, -86.45721354, 003
 32.85195199, -86.45722255, 004
 32.83910910, -86.41393132, 005
 32.85601044, -86.44033149, 006

32.85290605, -86.46200865, 007
 32.86034127, -86.41566189, 008
 32.85763832, -86.44380164, 009
 32.86607248, -86.44633439, 010

Personal Water Craft Fun, Responsibility and Safety

If you own a PWC, more commonly known as a Sea-Doo, Waverunner, etc, you are among a large number of people enjoying such craft on our lakes. Unfortunately, it is painfully obvious that many users either do not know or have not thought about how their use impacts residents and shorelines. Before you jump to the conclusion that I am a joy killer or “fuddy-duddy”, I will say that I have enjoyed rides on such craft even though I am not an owner of one. Like many people, we live in a slough. At times it seems our particular slough has been designated as the “practice track” for such craft. I don’t intend to preach a sermon here, but please let me point out some actions which are annoying to many and possibly even dangerous or harmful to property. If you are within 50 feet of ANY shoreline, please consider the consequences of operating your PWC (**or boats for that matter**) at anything other than idle speed:

- 1) A wake along a shoreline which does not have a house is most likely a habitat for many of the waterfowl which inhabit our lake. In particular, the Blue Heron and other similar birds frequent these areas. We all know they are somewhat skittish even if a slow moving pontoon boat gets too close. It is just common sense that a high speed pass of anything frightens them and, if repeated, will eventually drive them from the area. In addition, it unnecessarily erodes the shoreline of these areas.
- 2) A wake along a shoreline which does have a house erodes the property owner’s shoreline if they do not have a seawall; and if they do, you can bet that it is doing at least slow but sure damage to the seawall, creating wave action which either erodes the wall itself, or erodes the base of the wall causing eventual failure or collapse, and increases maintenance requirements. Some lakes have established “no wake” laws within 50 or 100 feet of shore, and this was done primarily because boaters did not respect either the environment or property owner’s concerns.
- 3) PWCs make noise – lots of noise, which is especially annoying early or late in the day. Most lake residents and visitors love especially the tranquility provided by a respite by the water. When that is disturbed, particularly by repeated passes or “donuts”, one tends to lose one’s sense of humor - even to the notion that they wish the law would allow them to consider such craft a “clay pigeon” which should become target practice!

So, what to do? It's easy. Please take your PWC out into open water and cut up all you want to! Have fun, wear it out! On your way out and back in, just slow it down a bit and do your part to help save our environment and our peace of mind. My guess is that all residents will thank you as much as I will. I'm sure our local herons and ducks will thank you as well!

As reprinted from "Alabama Boating Laws and Regulations" under "Personal Watercraft-section 4":

*A personal watercraft shall at all times be operated on the waters of this state **in a reasonable and prudent manner. Maneuvers which endanger life, limb, or property, or create a public nuisance, including, but not limited to the following:***

Weaving through congested traffic at high speed.

Following closely behind within the wake of a vessel towing a person or persons on water skis, surfboard, or other sports device.

Jumping the wake of another vessel traveling in the same direction in close proximity to the vessel.

Cutting between a boat and the person or persons being towed by that boat.

Crossing at right angles in close proximity to the stern of another vessel, or when visibility around the other vessel is obstructed.

Steering a personal watercraft toward any object or person in the water and turning sharply at close range so as to spray the object or person.

H.O.B.O. Spotlight

Lillian Estelle Caton- Bates

*Born, Oct. 10, 1902
Died, May 18, 1993*

Growing up in Providence Community I was always very close to my Grandmother **Ma Bates**. I can remember her reminding me to be nice to people and they will do the same to you. Well believe me, she knew what she was talking about and she practiced what she preached.

Ma Bates as I can testify was the center of attention with everyone she came in contact with. Being the proprietor of a small country store on the Higgins Ferry road East of Clanton she met and entertained locals and outsiders alike. Her customer friendly attitude actually began many years prior while she was a waitress in Clanton at the City Grill Restaurant.

Clanton being 6 miles from her home place on the old Powell Road, she would walk to town each day, put in her 8 hours waiting on tables, and return home in the evening.

Some days maybe a ride would come by, but most days it was just another long walk home. This was about the years 1943-54. Her husband Dee Bates died in 1938 leaving her a widow with 5 children. If I remember her story correctly she worked at the City Grill for about 11 years and 9 months, except for 15 days. She had an old saying "*they're boring with a big auger*" that meant that they were doing well and steadily getting with it. From time to time I catch myself saying the same thing.

I remember well **Ma** being a very hard and dedicated worker. In 1959 my daddy Earl Bates leased an old store building down in the forks of the road, gave it the name Bates Grocery and put **Ma Bates** in charge. The rest is history... she usually opened around 5 am and closed about 10 pm. With the friendliest personality in Chilton County, standing about 5'1" and 100 pounds, and always cracking jokes, **Ma Bates** was now *the stop* on the Higgins Ferry Road. When you entered the store the fun would begin, **Ma** was always ready! There is no telling how much talk and laughter was left in that old building when we moved up the road. **Ma** was so happy about moving into a new store building that even she was repeating the ole saying about "*boring with a big auger*". From 1968 through-out the 70's and 80's **Ma** continued to run the business until she retired at the young age of nearly 83. After her retirement, **Ma** returned to her old home place down at the end of Powell Road where it all began about 1920.

Still today I like to use **Ma Bates** as a character reference and to remind people that I'm her grandson because it always opens the doors for someone to say- Hey! Let me tell you what I heard her tell a feller one time... **Ma Bates** was a friend to everybody and never did she refuse to help families in need. I know personally that she helped so many families who just didn't have it and had no way to pay it back. That didn't matter to her, she didn't do it to get repaid, she did out of Love and because she was **Ma Bates**. Today we still love **Ma** just as we always did. Although three of her children have passed on, two are still living and they are doing quite well at 80 plus. Many times I remind myself just how fortunate I was to have been so close to **Ma** and to have witnessed her handle herself against many men that challenged her grounds. On May 18th 1993 **Ma Bates** was laid to rest at Providence Baptist Church-II beside her husband Dee Bates.

*We Love Ma Bates
Family*

article was written by James Earl Bates Clanton, AL. 2007
Ma Bates Grocery- 6360 Lake Mitchell Road