
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 10 Issue 2

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Second Quarter 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT Johnye Woodrow

Wow! Can you believe the year is half gone! I hope you all had a chance to enjoy the wonderful activities available on our lake during the 4th of July weekend. Jim and Tricia McCormick and their family have never disappointed us with their outstanding display of fireworks in Cargile Creek. It is the lake at its best. Neighbors come from all over the lake to watch the fireworks and listen to the music. The boats with their lights on are also an awesome sight.

The pontoon and speed boat parades are always great with the participants decorated in their patriotic best. It is truly a fun time for the whole lake. Since the parade permits do not allow for a lake-wide route, they cover only Higgins Ferry to Blue Creek (pontoons) and from Blue Creek to Higgins Ferry (speed boat). Next year, if you did not this year, make your plans to visit a friend or neighbor to enjoy this festivity. You will be glad you did!

Mark your calendars that the lake draw-down will begin October 12 and refilling will be complete by October 26. The water level will be at its lowest from the 14th through the 24th. This schedule gives us ten days to work on our shorelines. Be sure and leave a boat out if you want to be on the water during this period. Quite a few of us won't have enough water to let our boats down into the lake.

In connection with this, it is important that you call Alabama Power Company before you build or make major repairs near the shoreline. Beginning July 1, there is a one time charge of \$250.00 for building permits on currently vacant lots. The permit is good for the life of your ownership, and is transferable if your property is sold. Information regarding this fee, and the implementation of same, can be found in your Alabama Power Company newsletter, *Shoreline*, or by calling Bo Warren – 205-755-8959. I also have information on it that I will be glad to share.



Our fall clean-up is scheduled for November 5, following the lake draw-down. If you collect lake debris during the draw-down, you can put it in white bags on your pier and we will have boats available to pick it up on clean-up day. However, you will need to contact your Area Rep; Doug Martin, Clean-up Chairman; or myself. We will be glad to furnish you bags for your use that will help us identify pickups. (NOTE: NO HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE PLEASE.) You can also bring your shoreline debris to Higgins Ferry on November 5th. We will have a hot-dog lunch following. This is always a fun day despite the hard work!

For those of you in Area 12, take the time to call or go by to meet your new Area Rep, David McKeever. (His contact numbers are in the Area Rep section of this newsletter). You all have been without representation in H.O.B.O. for a long time, and we are very proud that David has volunteered his time and talents to represent your interests to H.O.B.O. Members of our Exploration Committee recently had the honor of spending time with David, and he is very knowledgeable about the history and background of Lake

Mitchell. We think you will find a conversation with him quite entertaining.

Big thanks go to Nancy Piccolo, Cee Jae Cooper and Peyton Cooper for their hard work putting together our annual picnic June 11. Bob Jones, George Jackins, and Sam Piccolo cooked the meat for us and it was delicious! Tom and Renee Powers hosted a "butt-pulling" party the night before the picnic. The weather was not as cooperative as most would have liked, but for those of us in attendance the overcast sky and cool breeze was "perfect" weather for a picnic! Everyone outdid themselves on their culinary contributions. This lake is full of good cooks. Better make your plans to attend next year! This year we had a new attendee – a HUGE mayfly hatch just before the picnic. We tried to take pictures, but the picture did not do justice to the number of mayflies on the side of the pavilion.

There was another celebration on the lake recently. The hard-working folks of Coosa County celebrated the

completion of Coosa 1 North at the home of Wallace and Nina Owens. The celebration was co-hosted by Nita & Jerry Lawson. Nita prepared all the food and refreshments as a way to say “thank you to all who helped”. They had good cause to celebrate. The road is wonderful!

I recently attended a fishing tournament weigh-in at Higgins Ferry. Dan Murchison, Environmental Committee Chairman, volunteered his time to guide the releases back to deep water. I am convinced that without Dan’s assistance many really nice fish would have been lost. As it was, there were only 3 dead fish from two tournaments. We cannot control or limit the fishing tournaments on the Lake, but we would like to come up with a plan to educate the sponsors and participants on how to preserve their catches for a healthy release, and how to release them successfully. Dan had several really good ideas. We are looking for ways to communicate these on a large scale....any ideas, let us know.

The PHOTO CONTEST is well under way. Go to the web page to view the entries and send your entry to Mac McMillan today.

Thanks to all of you who love and preserve Lake Mitchell.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 6 Connie Ellis, Bob Jennings

From Connie: We hope everyone is having a safe and fun summer! H.O.B.O. has sent phone books to all paid members, if you did not receive yours please call Bob or myself. Members can also purchase additional copies if needed.

From Bob: Area 6 is doing fine as always. We would like to welcome John & Genye Swindle to Area 6. We are glad to see James & Gale McManus back on lake after John’s serious accident. P.S. If anyone sees something very small skiing, it is only Mitch, Robert & Donna Jennings’ one year old son. He takes after his grandmother.

Area 9 Dale and Patty Vann

Dale and Patty hosted the second annual Memorial Day area gathering on Saturday, May 28th. We had discussion about several things: cleaning up the litter on County Road 264, having an active neighborhood watch, repairs on County Road 264, city and/or county water to the Walnut Creek area residents, and a fall BBQ. Mike Ford volunteered to contact the appropriate people and start the ball rolling on getting water to our area. A report will go to everyone once we get the specifics. Please remember to join H.O.B.O. if you have not already done so. We are much stronger acting as a group than as individuals.

Area 12 David & Kay McKeever

Hello Folks! Hope your spring was great, but bring on the summer! Things are looking up in area 12. We would like to welcome our seven new H.O.B.O. families, the Dupriests, Coxs, Johns, Gallups, Townleys, Walters and Pettys. These are great folks who love the lake and Little Joe’s Fish Camp.

Well, the best part of the first tropical storm of the season was the annual lake-wide picnic. We sure enjoyed meeting so many of you and look forward to meeting more as time goes by. Great food and great people, what could be better? See you on the lake! David & Kay - Little Joes Fish Camp

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	8.61
pH	6.5-8.2	7.49
Alkalinity	20+	44
Hardness	10-120	47.6

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

2005 Calendar of Events

July 15	6 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	APCO Clanton
Sept 10	9:30 a.m.	Area Rep meeting	APCO Clanton
Oct 7	6 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	APCO Clanton
Oct 12-26		Lake draw-down	
Nov 4	7 p.m.	Annual General Membership Meeting	APCO Clanton
Nov 5		Fall lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry

H.O.B.O. is your organization! Members are welcome at all meetings and functions.

Plan to Participate in Fall Lake Clean-up

November 5, Saturday at 8:00 a.m.

Your help is always needed! The lake draw-down will be a few weeks prior to this clean-up. Plan to get bags from your area rep to use in policing your shoreline prior to the clean-up (these are white bags with sponsor logos). If you can at least police the area where you live it would be a good deed. Let your area rep know you will have bags on your dock so they can be collected on clean-up day. All hands would be welcome in covering other areas of the lake. If you have a boat and would be willing to take 3-4 people with you to cover other areas, please be at the launch before 8:00 a.m. Those that do not have boats will be there to assist. Wear warm clothes and water boots, and bring some work gloves! H.O.B.O. has some "pick sticks" to sign out, but if you have a hook or net it would be helpful. Plan to drop off bags of debris at the launch at noon and stay for a hot dog lunch following.

H.O.B.O. Photo Contest Mac McMillan

Are you a budding photographer, a picture taker, or just a wannabe who likes to have fun with your camera recording the moments in your life? We are having a H.O.B.O. photo contest. We've received some excellent and interesting pictures that are displayed on the website. The categories we're considering are: (1) scenes, (2) events (action shots), and (3) people (children and animals). Possibly there will be prizes in each category and for different age groups; seniors (over 50), adults 14-50, and those 14 and below.

Please furnish your name, location of picture, category, date taken, and contact information. The photos will be posted as received. They will be identified only by location, date, and an identifying number; and will be protected from copying from the web page.

All photos must be taken at Lake Mitchell by H.O.B.O. members or their family during 2005 to be eligible. To submit photos, please mail them to Mac McMillan, 15 Wagner Dr, Rockford, Al, 35136.

Take a "shot", you could be a winner at the annual meeting.

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Lake Resident Survey

We are seeking input and information from long-time lake residents for future newsletters. We would like to hear from families who have been on the lake at least 25 years, and especially from those who have been here 40 or more years! If your family qualifies, please contact Judy Murchison at 755-0521, or Becki McCallum at 755-5334.

Lost and Found Items

Lost by the Robersons of Big Airplane Slough: a large Sea Doo sport tube. It was tied up in our boathouse during the fall storm. I hope it just came loose, washed down, and someone has it. If you hear of one that has turned up please let me know. Thank you so much, Andy and Denae Roberson

Found: a floating cooler washed up at the Murchisons pier in Cargile Creek. Call them to describe/claim at 755-0521.

Thanks for keeping our roads clean

A BIG THANK you to Peggy and Sonny Bullard (Area 5) for the work they did on picking up the trash on Co Rd 716, covering at least two miles. They did a fantastic job and we who live/drive on this road greatly appreciate their efforts. We can help them keep this road clean by carrying a trash bag in our cars and taking the time to stop and pick up the litter/trash that people thoughtlessly throw out as we see it on the road. Job well done Peggy and Sonny and hopefully it will awaken people to NOT LITTER.

Thank You for Coosa Road Project

Dear Members:

We would like everyone who worked on the County Road 1 North project to know how much we appreciate all the hard and diligent work done by the committee towards getting the road paved. This took a great deal of time and energy over the last two to three years. We would especially like to thank Anita and Jerry Lawson, Mary Robbins, Larry Hollar, and Sam Piccolo. Many would have thrown in the towel when faced with the delays due to weather and other obstacles that they overcame.

Also, the drive over the mountain is beautiful and our vehicles don't have red tires anymore. Again, we just wanted to express our gratitude to all in getting this project completed.

Sincerely, Sharon and Lamar Cole.

Phone Book Correction

Please note the advertisement on page 95 of your new phone directory for **Water Processing and Well Supply Inc.** a cell phone number is incorrectly listed. Al Chatham may be reached at (205) 567-9145.

Planning repairs and improvements?

Want to make some changes or upgrades to your lakefront property? All changes within Alabama Power Company property (5' elevation above "full pool", or 317' above sea level) must be approved.

Make sure you check with Alabama Power Representative Bo Warren - 755-8959.

More on shoreline permitting

The shoreline permit fee required by Alabama Power Company is scheduled to go into effect on **July 1, 2005**. This action applies to **new residential permits on vacant shoreline**, as well as commercial construction.

However, in recognition of the effective date of July 1, 2005 being in the summer when reservoirs are at, or near, full pool; and the Lake will not have it's semi-annual draw-down until October 12-26th, Alabama Power is **delaying** the permit fee requirements for persons desiring to do major reconstruction until **January 1, 2006**. This will allow people to inspect their facilities during the draw-down this fall, make a decision if they want to undertake a major reconstruction project, and **apply for a permit before** the new permit fee system goes into effect.

Alabama Power Company is in the process of developing guidelines for what constitutes light maintenance, heavy maintenance and major reconstruction to ensure the greatest degree of consistency across their system. This will give homeowners criteria by which they can evaluate their plans before they start a project.

Alabama Power Company will clarify information periodically during the process of implementing the shoreline permit fee system, and make adjustments to ensure that the program is being applied consistently. One such adjustment is that there will not be a fee to transfer a permit to a new owner.

We will endeavor to keep you informed by our newsletters, special mail-outs, or other means. However, be sure to read your newsletters from Alabama Power Company or visit their web-page for more up-to-date information.

Are you interested in volunteering?

Would you like to help improve Lake Mitchell? Would you like to meet more of your neighbors, make new friends, get involved in activities around Lake Mitchell? Have you recently retired, have extra time in your schedule? If the answer is yes, we urge you to volunteer and get involved in your Lake Mitchell Home Owner & Boat Owners (H.O.B.O.) Association. If you would like to assist your area representative, call them and offer to help. If one of the H.O.B.O. Committees might interest you, call the chairperson of the committee and volunteer. Only through a cooperative effort can we Preserve, Protect and Improve Lake Mitchell.

H.O.B.O. SPOTLIGHT

The Spotlight in this issue of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. shines brightly on Doug Powell of Alabama Power Company. Doug is employed as an Environmental Affairs Specialist with APCO and has been a true friend and inspiration to our Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. group as well as every other group on all of Alabama Power's reservoirs. Doug's personality is one filled with total job dedication, sincerity, love of our environment and love of people. Those qualities combined with a "can do" positive, enthusiastic, and helpful attitude makes for a very special person.

I don't know anyone who has ever called Doug for advice or help that hasn't gotten an immediate answer and all the assistance Doug could give.

Besides all of these reasons, Doug is just someone you immediately like and want to listen to. He has worked with Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. at all our litter cleanups and all the APCO Fish Enhancement events since the beginning some seven or eight years ago. At all of these events he has been the leader, director, and inspiration for each success. APCO is wise to recognize Doug's qualities and place him in such a key position to properly represent APCO to all our H.O.B.O. groups.

A **BIG "THANK YOU"** to Doug Powell for the many ways he has helped our lake associations and our environment.

Who are the H.O.B.O. Directors and what is their function?

The Board of Directors for Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. are your representatives in leading and directing the activities of this organization. They attend the four board meetings held each year. Past presidents are asked to serve on the board as well as a number of general members.

Your current Board of Directors is as follows:

Duncan Austin, Area 15

Terry Bates, Area 8

Lee Bendall, Area 9

Graham Esdale, Area 4

George Jackins, Area 5, Past President

Bob Jones, Area 5

Anita Lawson, Area 15

Mac McMillan, Area 13B

Dan Murchison, Area 3, Past President

Mary Sue Olson, Area 2

Sam Piccolo, Area 13B, Past President

Fred Rogers, Area 15

Carl Scott, Area 5

Carol Willie, Area 6

Jim Woodrow, Area 2, Past President

Skeeter Zuelzke, Area 2

We have a few new directors serving you and we would like to profile them here as a means of introduction.

Graham Esdale I was born in Birmingham, Alabama and grew up there, having attended Vestavia Hills High School and then Auburn University where I graduated with a B.S. degree in Marketing. After graduation, I worked for six years as a manufacturer's representative and then attended the University of Alabama, School of Law. After practicing in Birmingham for about six years, I moved to Montgomery to practice with the Beasley, Allen law firm. My practice areas are products liability and workplace injuries.

I am married to Leigh Ann (Hibbett) of Florence, Alabama. We have a daughter, Whitney Angelyn, who is thirteen and a son, Robert Graham III, three years old.

I first came to Lake Mitchell when I was about six years old. My grandparents and parents bought a place on Cargile Creek two doors up from Bo Warren's family. I spent most of my summers on the lake growing up. With Bo's energy and enthusiasm, a group of us were able to form the Lake Mitchell Ski Club in the early 1970's. In addition to the ski shows and social functions, many of us skied competitively around the southeast. My family still has our original house. However, with my parents, three brothers, two sisters and about a dozen nieces and nephews running around, it was getting a little crowded. Leigh, Whitney, Robert and I moved just down the creek a little ways to the Dobbins house. We enjoy coming to the lake and visiting with the rest of our family, and watching all the kids have fun together. The people of Lake Mitchell are truly like a big family - there is no other lake like it. We love Lake Mitchell.

Bob Jones I have owned the lake house since 1960 and have been living on the lake full time since 1999. I am formerly of Prattville where I was in the construction business. Today I am semi-retired, but currently have an apartment complex under construction with hopes of finishing it sometime this year.

I enjoy motorcycles and music. The last week of April and the first two weeks in May I spent touring California on my Harley with three other members of our club. It was a great place to visit, but I'm glad to be back in Alabama. I also love music and spend a lot of time playing Bluegrass Gospel with a local group in Clanton. I can't think of a better place to live than Lake Mitchell - I wish more people could live here year round.

Anita Lawson Jerry and I have been on Lake Mitchell for almost 30 years and have seen many changes. We have four grandchildren that enjoy our lake as much as we do. I don't know whether to consider Pelham or Lake Mitchell as our primary residence since we have both retired from full-time employment. I retired from the insurance industry after almost 40 years in the business. We enjoy the lake during all seasons.

Skeeter Zuelzke Lake Mitchell has been a large part of my life since summer of 1954. My family began as day campers at Blue Creek, eating dinner on the hill with Coosa cooking. Spring of 1955 my parents bought a cabin in Cargile Creek and this was where we spent our summers. I married Kathy in 1969 and she and I built our lake house here in 1977. This is where she and our children lived summers and I commuted to Selma. We have so many memories here - always people who became "family" come to mind. Our goal was to retire from Selma and live at Lake Mitchell. After a detour, we made this our home in 1995. Having raised our three children here, this always felt like home. We have been so blessed to be able to live and work where we love to be. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors of H.O.B.O. If I can ever be of any help, please call me.

*Editor's note: Please correct your new phone books to show **Skeeter Zuelzke** under the Directors on page 4. His phone number is 755-5056.*