
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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www.lakemitchellhobo.homestead.com

First Quarter 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT Johnye Woodrow

I have always felt that all of our strengths are also our weaknesses. Our good points can also be considered our bad points; it just depends on your perspective. We have some changes occurring in our H.O.B.O. administration that are good from the standpoint that change is a good thing - it brings more people into the mix, new viewpoints, new energy, new ideas - just generally a good thing. **But** with that change, comes the downside of losing the expertise of a good and faithful friend and supporter of H.O.B.O. and the expectation and comfort of continuity.

Mac McMillan, Area 13B, retired from the webmaster position as of April 1, 2006 due to a change in internet service in his area. Mac retired from South Central Bell in 1987 as District Manager of Equipment Engineering after 36 years of service. He purchased his lake home in 1987 and made it his permanent home in 1990. Mac enjoys boating, photography, and people. He has a unique wall in his home - when you visit, you write your name on the wall. It goes without saying that wall is either full, or very close to being full. E-mails from Mac are for the most part on the lighter side and fun to receive.

Mac has produced a photograph CD of Lake Mitchell. The photography contest in 2005 was his idea and he managed it from the beginning concept to the awards. It was a lot of fun for those who participated, and provided a beautiful slide show for our annual meeting last November. Mac has been a strong supporter of H.O.B.O. since the beginning and has volunteered his time as a sitting member of the Board of Directors since 1995. When web pages and the internet were in their infancy, Mac volunteered to manage a web page for the organization. Over the years, he has developed this web page into something we are all proud of. Mac is always at the lake clean-ups, picnics, and ready to volunteer his time and talents wherever needed.



The good news is that Mac will continue to be active in the organization, but wants to find a replacement for the webmaster position. It is with sadness that I accept his decision, and appeal to our membership for someone who is interested in maintaining a first class web page for H.O.B.O. The only requirements are that you love Lake Mitchell, enjoy the people, are willing to work closely with the Board of Directors and the Officers, and willing to volunteer time and talents. Please take a few minutes to visit our web page at www.homestead.lakemitchell.com and go to the visitor's page to write your own note of thanks to Mac.

There are many things that set us apart from all of the other lake homeowners associations - the web page, our resident phone book, Marine 9, welcome bags, picnic, utility boat - but most of all, our residents make the difference. I consider replacing people in our various positions to be one of the biggest challenges of my presidency because the people that are in place are great at what they do. If you are interested in working with us on this important function, please give me a call - (205) 663-4196 or at any of my contact

numbers or email listed in our phone book.

We are hosting a water safety course for the young people on our lake (no age limit) on June 3, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. The Alabama Marine Police will be providing the materials and the session will be taught by our own marine policeman, Brad Harrison. The materials that I have reviewed are fun, interesting and informative. Bring your youngsters. It will be a great way for them to meet friends on the lake and learn how to be safe on the water. Following the safety course, we will have our annual picnic for all lake residents. Bring a covered dish. H.O.B.O. will provide barbeque, paper products, and tea.

By the time you get this newsletter, our spring clean-up will have been held. We will report the tonnage in a later edition of the newsletter. Doug Martin, First Vice President of H.O.B.O., and his wife Roxanne (Area 10) do an outstanding job on these clean-ups. They identify

trash-laden sites prior to the date and provide GPS coordinates of same to the volunteers.

We have named our clean-up boat UB-1 H.O.B.O. (for Utility Barge 1). Doug Powell and his group at Alabama Power Company donated two signs for the boat with the "Renew our Rivers" logo and our name. We look quite "spiffy". Thanks so much to Doug Powell, Larry Browning, and all of the employees of Alabama Power Company, as well as to Fox 6 for making the public aware of how litter hurts and helping us keep our lake beautiful.

Membership applications are on the last page of this newsletter. If "M06" does not appear by your name we have not yet received your 2006 dues. Please join H.O.B.O.; we are only as good as our supporters and volunteers. Your views and comments are always welcome.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 2 Jim & Johnye Woodrow

At Last! County Road 547 will be paved. Construction is slated to begin in the next few weeks. Mary Sue Olson, our original Area 2 Representative, current H.O.B.O. Director and liaison to the Chilton County Commission deserves a HUGE thank you.

Mary Sue has been working diligently on this project for the past eight years. She has gone through five County Engineers, three Chilton County Commissions, and countless commission meetings. Mary Sue met each obstacle as a challenge and persevered through all to a successful conclusion.

We also owe a big thank you to Genesis Pittman, George & Marie DiGiorgio, Tom & Marion McWilliams, Charles DeCalle, and Alaga Lodge. They all granted right of ways and deeds to make the paving possible.

Thank you to Mary Sue and all of the others who worked tirelessly for our community.

Area 3 Dan and Judy Murchison

Hello to all residents of Area 3. Now that the weather is getting pretty we hope we will be seeing more of you. Alert! We're sorry to report that three families had break-ins during the month of February. Most of the things taken were electronic items - TV's, VCR's, DVD's, tools, shop vacs, etc. - items that might be easily sold or pawned. We're all going to have to be "nosey neighbors". Watch the going and coming of cars/trucks to your neighbor's homes. If you see something that is not the usual, call and ask if they have sent someone down. Take down descriptions of cars/trucks that you are not familiar with. H.O.B.O. has engravers that you may borrow to engrave your property with an identification number just in case the bad guys do come to your house. Remember we also have "Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O." stickers for your cars, boats, etc. The stickers help to identify you as a resident. Call us if you need stickers. Call us also if you

would like to hear some other good ideas other residents have put into use to protect their homes and property.

Area 6 Connie Ellis, Bob Jennings

Spring is upon us and nature is bringing us a beautiful changing landscape. It is so nice to be able to get on our boats and enjoy our lake and visiting our neighbors. John and Genye Swindle are building their beautiful retirement home on Bird Creek, if you have been on the lake this winter you may have seen their progress. We would like to welcome our old friends Mike and Brenda Langston back to Lake Mitchell and Bird Creek. New lake residents Joe and Paula Pierson have moved to Bird Creek from Birmingham. Joe and Paula have two children and recently had their first grandchild. They purchased the Paden's home who are presently building a new place at the mouth of Cargile Creek.

Aubrey would chastise me if I didn't mention our first grandson. He has already visited here and said he is looking forward to fishing, skiing and swimming!

Bob Jennings and I are always available for any comments or suggestions. We take a lot of pride in our "Bird Creek Neighborhood" and welcome any ideas as to how we can improve our area.

Area 9 Dale and Patty Vann

Let me bring you up to date on getting county water to our area. Charlie Ireland, attorney and resident of Area 9, is working on our behalf with the attorney of the Chilton County Water Board. By the time you get this newsletter you may have received a letter from Mike Ford with the updated information as to what will be required of each of us to get county water. If not, look for this letter to arrive very soon.

Mike Ford has drawn a map of Area 9 with everyone's resident location. If you would like a copy, please contact Mike at meforddmd@aol.com, (205)668-1305.

Please remember to pay your H.O.B.O. dues. By now you should have received a reminder from me. H.O.B.O. membership is important to Lake Mitchell and we need your support.

Patty and I plan to have our 3rd annual Memorial weekend get together on Saturday, May 27th. Mark your calendar; you'll receive a reminder later. It looks like we should have some interesting things to discuss.

Area 14 Betsy and Phil Ward

It has been a long and tedious task rebuilding after the tornado of 2004, and we are glad to have many of our neighbors back. Joe and Laura Curtis and Steve and Charlotte DeLoach have recently moved into their new homes. Eric and Rose Green expect to be moved into their new home in May. Welcome back neighbors. We also welcome a new member to our area; James William Alston (Will) born September 7th. Congratulations to the proud parents, Jay and Kecia Alston.

I want to mention again that we on the Coosa County side have access to a landfill located near Rockford, as well as garbage pickup service. Please take advantage of these

services, and let your workers know that we do not appreciate littering. We all need to help keep our roadways and waterways clean. May all our lake residents enjoy a glorious spring season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	9.45
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.42
Alkalinity	20+	44.76
Hardness	10 - 120	49.52

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.

Clean-up Committee Doug Martin, Chairman

On April 1 our spring clean-up turned up a large volume of trash. We do not have the total poundage as yet, but it looked as though it will be equal to or greater than other clean-ups. We also had a good crowd having fun at the picnic lunch afterward. Doug Powell of Alabama Power Company was the eager beaver once again and made all our efforts more productive.

Johnye Woodrow announced the maiden voyage of our new (old) utility boat. A large group used it to gather previously spotted trash and along the way helped a stranded motorist back to their dock. The boat became a Good Samaritan vessel along with trash cleanup! We give credit to Sonny Bullard for all the work he did making the boat a mechanical success.

I would like to thank all who participate in making our clean-ups such a success. We are having positive results toward making Lake Mitchell a better place to live and play. Not only do lake residents realize the results, but any boater/visitor to Lake Mitchell can see the beautiful resource available for enjoyment. See you on the lake this summer.

Some of the trash collected from our lake April 1, 2006.

More Clean-up Notes Jim Woodrow

Lake Mitchell residents came together on 04/01/06 for the semi-annual "Renew Our Rivers" clean-up. The event started at 8:00 a.m. and by noon large quantities of trash and debris had been removed from the river.

With the help of Alabama Power Company personnel and homeowner volunteers the clean-up was a success. We

appreciate Glenda Strength of the Chilton County Commission for working with us during the day. As a part of the activities Alabama Power Company representative Doug Powell presented H.O.B.O. President Johnye Woodrow with two signs which will be attached to the Lake Mitchell Utility Boat.

UB1-HOBO Makes its Debut Jim Woodrow

The Lake Mitchell Utility Boat (UB1-HOBO) was put in service on 04/01/06. The boat's first activity was to rescue a stranded homeowner whose boat had malfunctioned on the way to Higgins Ferry Park for the lake clean-up. Assistance was provided to tow the homeowner and his boat back to his home.

After the rescue the utility boat and crew resumed clean-up duties and worked in the Hatchett Creek area, where bottles, old coolers, buckets and tires were removed from the river and river bank.

Environmental Report Dan Murchison, Chairman

Two growth issues are being discussed and addressed by Alabama Power Company and lake associations across the state. As demand goes up and availability of lake property decreases, likewise the lake's exposure to condos and large house boats increase. Large house boats and condos could greatly increase the strain of waste management in our water environment and could also greatly increase the number of boat slips. My own "very personal" opinion is that until we address population growth and illegal immigration these types of problems will continue to escalate.

On another note, we all need to remember as we do our "spring cleaning" to protect our air quality by not burning any treated or creosote wood or any other illegal objects that would give off hazardous fumes. Our neighbors will be very appreciative.

Soil erosion from construction sites continues to damage our water quality. Loose soil washing into our lake destroys fish eggs and smothers microorganisms which help keep our water clean. We continue to have land owners hire contractors who know little about erosion effects or don't care enough about the effects to our lake.

All new and old building sites should leave a minimum 25 foot buffer of trees and shrubs along the water's edge. In addition, the Alabama Power Company shoreline management plan calls for the use of silt fences, hay bales and rock to keep soil out of the lake. Landowners have the final responsibility to see that their contractors follow these guidelines.

I have asked Alabama Power Company to host a training session for builders, contractors, lake residents and others to educate and train all of us as to how we can better protect our lake from this problem. Call 205-755-0521 or email me (danmurch@bellsouth.net) if you would like to attend such a meeting.

In the meantime you can watch for and report any building site causing erosion into our lake, and take pictures if possible.

Marine 9 Terry Bates

Summer is just around the corner and the lake will get busy again. We've been blessed in the last few years with few or no serious accidents on the lake. I wish it would stay this way but it probably won't. The odds will catch up with us one day. We can improve our chances by continuing to obey the laws and just use good common sense when we operate our boats or watercraft. BE SAFE ON THE WATER!

We had fire boat operation training on April 1st and will train several times during the summer. We continue our training to be ready for an emergency with several people who can drive and operate the equipment on the boat. Two of our new volunteers who trained on April 1st are lake residents at least part time, Brad Owen and Brian Maddox. We are encouraged by the number of younger men and women who have joined the fire department in the last year. They are the future of the department and Marine 9, and we welcome them. We hope you don't need us this year, but if you do we'll do our best to protect lives and property.

BULLETIN BOARD**2006 Calendar of Events**

June 3	4 p.m.	Annual lake-wide picnic	Higgins Ferry
June 23	6 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	APCO Clanton
July 3	9 p.m.	Fireworks	Cargile Creek
July 4	9:30 a.m.	Pontoon boat parade	Higgins Ferry
July 4	1:30 p.m.	Ski boat parade	Blue Creek
Aug 13	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	TBA
Sept 22	6 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	APCO Clanton
TBA		Fall lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Oct 20	6 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	APCO Clanton
Nov 17	7 p.m.	Annual General Membership meeting	APCO Clanton

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

Please note

Fireworks this year will be July 3rd at 9:00 p.m. in Cargile Creek. The pontoon boat parade will gather at Higgins Ferry at 9:30 and leave at 10:00 a.m. on July 4th. Decorate your boats with flags and patriotic colors and come join the display. Herbert Shaw and Geraldine Nelson are coordinating this parade. For information call home 755-5012 or lake 755-6017. The Speed Boat Parade will gather at 1:30 at Blue Creek Marina and leave at 2:00 p.m. Again show your spirit and decorate your boat. Sibley Reynolds coordinates this parade. Call Blue Creek with questions, 755-1198.

Update on Minooka Park Mary Sue Olson

Minooka Park should soon be open for public use. The opening date is to be announced by the Chilton County Commission. Several of the buildings and pavilions are near completion. The fishing piers are complete and the

lake has been stocked with fish. The walking trail around the lake is complete.

A national OHV (Off Highway Vehicles) organization is holding a conference near Birmingham and will ride the trails at Minooka as a promotional event. States as far away as Hawaii will be represented. They will also do some volunteer work while playing there. Cheaha Riders have been "spring cleaning" the trails for this event. We now have 255 acres in the park and the commission is negotiating to buy another 119 acres to be purchased with grant monies.

The word Minooka is from the language of the Potawatomi Indians. It means high hills, good land, happy place, and contentment. This describes the site of Minooka very well. The vision for Minooka Park continues to be to develop it as a wilderness park with multi-use trails, picnic areas, fishing piers and a walking trail around the lake that will accommodate the physically challenged. A training center is near completion and will be used to teach and train OHV riders in safety. The work at Minooka is proceeding with this vision in mind and with the utmost care in protecting the site environmentally.

Found floating in the lake

A nice cushion from possibly a pontoon boat washed up on the pier of Danny Bates in Area 3. Phone 205-755-6727 if you have lost one.

Interested in volunteering?

Calling all scrap bookers! We are looking for a volunteer to compile bi-annual records of H.O.B.O. activities. Please call Judy Murchison at 755-0521 or 823-2308 if you are willing to handle this activity. Archival items generally include pictures and newspaper articles relating to our H.O.B.O. activities and members.

Memorial Gifts

Two gifts have been received for the Memorial Fund in memory of Bonnie Corder; one from Janice Hull, as well as one from Dan and Judy Murchison. Thank you for remembering your friend and neighbor in a special way.

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.

Sad News – Recent losses of friends on Lake Mitchell

Judy Murchison

Area 3 Bonnie Corder

Bonnie Corder, resident of Area 3 lost her battle with cancer two days after Christmas 2005.

Since the year H.O.B.O. was formed, Bonnie was the first person each year in our area to join the H.O.B.O. organization. She had already joined for 2006 when she died. Bonnie loved her lake home and supported H.O.B.O. in every way. She also had strong feelings

about giving back to her community. Bonnie, a teacher for twenty years, was one of the first persons the Chamber of Commerce had enrolled in their mentoring program. She started with two students, then a third, and then she was mentoring the entire family. She taught the basics but took her mentoring students beyond that. Bonnie made sure they learned about their community and how to **give back**. They volunteered at nursing homes, senior centers, the Humane Society, and they always participated in DHR's Foster Kids for Christmas. She was truly an inspiration to all who knew her. In February The Chamber of Commerce recognized her with the COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD, a well deserved award. Her legacy will go forward through the difference she made in the children's lives she touched. We will surely miss her here on Lake Mitchell.

Area 5 Kenneth McGee

Kenneth McGee of Maplesville, Al lost his battle with cancer on March 10th at his home.

Kenneth and Bobbie were very active in the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Association during the years they were here on

the lake. Bobbie was always at the clean-ups and lake-wide picnics helping put out food and clean up. Many will remember them riding in their pontoon boat with their dog D.J. and stopping at your pier to visit. Kenneth and Bobbie sold their last cabin here on the lake (up behind Lake Mitchell Marina) just last year. The cabin they had for many years in Area 5 was sold a while back. The McGee's were special people to all of us in H.O.B.O. who were fortunate to know them and work with them some ten years ago. We send our heartfelt sympathy to Bobbie, their four daughters, grandchildren, and his brothers and sisters.

A Celebrity in our midst

The movie that our own Grayson Russell has a part in will open at the theaters everywhere on August 4, 2006. It is a NASCAR based comedy starring Will Farrell. We will all enjoy seeing him make his acting debut!