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# The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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Volume 12 Issue 1

First Quarter 2007

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT Doug Martin

Winter has closed its door and we find ourselves in the middle of spring already. By the time this newsletter reaches you the spring cleanup will have taken place. There were 10 top sites which were given significance. The vegetation die down for the winter reveals many piles of litter which can't be seen in the summer/fall months. We will have made a significant dent in those piles with the support of so many of you. We will also have had much fun in doing so. Just in case you missed out on participating in one of the most rewarding events H.O.B.O. sponsors, remember the fall event will not be far away.

There are many things happening in and around our lake community. There are many signs that reveal a vibrant and active community moving forward and drawing closer together. The following reveals just a few of those signs. There is a group of homeowners on the Coosa side working together to bring water to their respective areas. There is a similar group working closely on several fronts in Chilton County to bring potable drinking water to two existing communities on the lake. There is a group of individuals banded together to make the Lake Mitchell community become a more integral part of the Clanton/Chilton County community by participating for the first time in the Peach Festival Parade this June. There is a group of individuals working on the possibility of Lake Mitchell border lands being placed in land trusts to prevent overgrowth. A group of homeowners worked together over the winter to beautify Goat Island in Cargile Creek. A group of people agreed to form an education committee for H.O.B.O. These folks and their efforts over the next several years will be of great value to adults and children alike in enriching our lake experience, enriching our community experience and integrating us into the larger community of Chilton and Coosa Counties.

The benefits of our lake community coming together are impressive. These people and many more volunteers are signs we are growing, working together, making positive

changes both now and paying forward to the future. There will be many events this spring and summer which allow established homeowners and new homeowners to come together in a spirit of a shared lake experience. I invite you to participate in those valuable common events. If

you are not involved, join the many people mentioned above and 'look to the future' of Lake Mitchell.

Lastly, please remember the water flowing past our front doors is our common bond. The water supports life and ecosystems which are in many ways dependent upon our stewardship. By being vigilant in protecting our waterway from gasoline products, as well as chemicals such as herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers we will go a long way in supporting those ecosystems. While we can place great stresses on those systems with irresponsible actions, we can also co-exist with a small amount of diligence. See you on the water.



## AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

### Area 9 Dale & Patty Vann

By the time you receive this newsletter the dogwoods will be blooming and the cold weather replaced by spring time.

First let me introduce our new neighbors:

Scott and Minette Loveless

Brad and Connie Sherrod

Let me remind everyone about our annual Memorial Day area get-together at Dale and Patty Vann's place. Please make plans to attend Saturday May 26 from 9 – 11 a.m. It is a 'get to know your neighbors' and open discussion for 'whatever'. And yes, getting county water for our area will be on the agenda. We will hopefully by then have some positive results about his project. It is getting close. Jim Neely has been in contact with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) asking for help to find out why Walnut Creek gets so muddy even when we have very little rain. If any of you have questions or things you would like to see done to

make our area a better place please call me. I hope to see everyone Saturday, May 26.

**Area 10** Roxanne & Doug Martin

Springtime has arrived and summer is just around the corner. Thanks to our neighbors that have joined H.O.B.O. this year, Area 10 has more participants in H.O.B.O. than ever before. As the lake gets busy, please be mindful of other boaters and homeowner's piers. *Please Be Courteous.*

Doug and I have a new addition to our family; our daughter Monica gave us our first granddaughter in November. We hope that you guys will stop by and visit with us while you are out cruising the lake.

The county water project is still moving forward with the group working with the county and homeowners to gather information and possible funds to make our dream of county water a reality. We appreciate all the work that has been done.

We anticipate having a spring get together in April for Area 10, plans will be announced. We look forward to seeing everyone back on the lake. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

**Area 15** Anita & Jerry Lawson

Summer is fast approaching. Dogwoods are blooming. Our new neighbors Mark & Brenda Sullivan have taken over their home now, also Laythe and Frances Sykes, as well as Greg Tossey are new to Lake Mitchell.

Lake Mitchell Water is working hard to get our city water supply in. If you need any information on this project, please do not hesitate to call me or Matt Turpin with your questions. The price can only go up as costs go up.

We lost one of our dearest neighbors recently, Mary Robbins. She played a big part in H.O.B.O. until her illness would not let her. I know most of you saw her fishing as this was her passion, as well as tending her flowers, and arts and crafts. Honestly, there was not much Mary did not enjoy about life. She was either building a rock wall, sewing, helping Tommy and Rita with photography, cooking, or fishing. Always busy.

I bet she will be as busy in heaven as she was on earth. We will miss her.

See you this summer.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Water Quality Report** Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O <sub>2</sub>	5-9	8.98
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.63
Alkalinity	20+	43.42
Hardness	10 - 120	48.95

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.

**Fireworks Committee** Jim McCormick

**FIREWORKS SHOW JULY 3, 9:00 PM!**

Wow! I can't believe it either. This will be our 20<sup>th</sup> year celebrating Independence Day at the lake with our fireworks show. Cargile Creek will get BRIGHT and LOUD once again. This year we will celebrate on Tuesday July 3, at 9:00 pm.

Every year we strive to improve on the previous year and this show promises to be the best yet. We have filed for approval with ATF as well as with the State Fire Marshall's office for the required permits. These should be approved soon and we will then place our orders for the fireworks. Most of the shell selections have been made but there will be some fine tuning as we get closer. This year you will see fireworks from Germany, France, China, Japan and good ole USA.

Once again the music can be heard over our large sound system as well as the simulcast on the radio at 96.9 FM.

Please be careful coming and going Tuesday night. There are usually a lot of boats in a small area so be considerate. Also don't get too close to the shooting site. For one reason, the view isn't as good and two, you may get shot!

**Marine 9 Report** Terry Bates

Due to a problem with a propeller, Marine 9 was out of service from March 15 through March 19.

Springtime is here and a lot of us are outside cleaning, raking leaves, and just enjoying the warmer weather. I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to be safe if you're planning any outdoor burning of leaves, limbs,

etc. Make sure you clean the area around the burn pile and keep a water hose ready in case you need it, and never burn on a windy day. Late afternoons are usually the best time to burn but make sure you wet the embers down the following morning. Completely soak all ashes and embers before you leave them unattended. We've had an excellent fire safety record on the lake and I'm sure everyone wants to keep it that way. Enjoy springtime, and please be safe.

## **BULLETIN BOARD**

### **2007 Calendar of Events**

H.O.B.O. is your organization! Members are welcome at all meetings and social functions. Annual membership dues in H.O.B.O. are \$25.00 per family, payable each January. See the back page of this newsletter for the applicable form.

May 18	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC Clanton
June 2	4 p.m.	Annual Picnic	Higgins Ferry
June 3	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	location TBA
July 3	9 p.m.	Fireworks	Cargile Creek
July 4	10 a.m.	Pontoon boat parade	Higgins Ferry
	2 p.m.	Speed boat parade	Blue Creek
Aug 17	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC Clanton
Oct 19	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC Clanton
TBA	8 a.m.	Fall lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Nov 16	7 p.m.	Annual General Membership meeting	TBA

### **New phone books are being printed now**

The newest edition of our Lake Mitchell Directory is ready for distribution! Each paid member household will receive one free copy. After initial distribution extra copies for paid members will be available for \$5.00 per book. If you are not yet a member and desire a directory, please be sure to fill out the form on the back of this newsletter to join and reserve your copy.

*A BIG "thank you" to Kristi Austin (daughter of Jan & Duncan Austin - Area 15) for all her hard work getting the new 2007-2008 phone books ready. She does an outstanding job!*

### **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.

### **River Church resumes Memorial Day**

### *Shall We Gather at the River – Hymn 202*

Our unique River Church season begins Memorial Day Sunday and continues through Labor Day Sunday each year. The service is sponsored by First United Methodist Church of Clanton. They go to great effort to bring equipment and personnel to provide a meaningful time of worship throughout the summer months. You may come by boat or by car to Higgins Ferry launch. Tie up at the pier or bring your lawn chair and come to John Trobaugh Pavillion to join us. All are welcome regardless of denomination, come as you are and bring your weekend guests.

One further note, an article referring to our River Church can be found in the April 2007 issue of *Southern Living* magazine.

### **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](mailto:gugga4@bellsouth.net). As an alternative you may contact Jim Woodrow at 663-4196 or 755-0055, [ajwking@aol.com](mailto:ajwking@aol.com).

### **Memorial Gifts**

*In memory of* Mary Robbins *from* 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](mailto:beckmau@earthlink.net) and [gugga4@bellsouth.net](mailto:gugga4@bellsouth.net) for editing and inclusion.*

Submitted by Tommy Robbins

### **THE FISH ARE MUCH SAFER NOW.**

In case you have not heard, MARY ROBBINS passed away on February 22, 2007. Mary had battled long and

hard with emphysema, COPD and osteoporosis. Mary and Charles purchased their lot on Lake Mitchell in 1969 and my, how things have changed since then. Mary is one more of the generation that has gone on to fish in that beautiful pond in Heaven, along with her husband CHARLES ROBBINS, friends DUCK THOMPSON, JAMES SPIGNER, LUKE CRANFORD, FRANK WHITFIELD and (BLACK) MARY PRYER, as they called her. I would bet you that these seven people collectively caught more fish out of Lake Mitchell than any other seven, past or future. They really enjoyed the old days on the lake. Mary has surely gone on to Heaven and the manner of her passing was truly a miraculous blessing. Tommy Robbins is writing a letter describing the event that should be ready around April 1, 2007. You may contact him at 205 755-6887 or [verbenapecanco@bellsouth.net](mailto:verbenapecanco@bellsouth.net) for a copy. He also would like to tell the story at a future H.O.B.O. meeting.

Mary will be missed for many reasons. Her garden may have deteriorated in recent years due to declining health, but now her absence of touch will be most evident. The lake just won't be the same without her riding her favorite fishing holes. She shared the locations with others though! We will miss her very much.

Donations are still being accepted for a memorial for Mary to be placed beside Charlie's flagpole.

May God continue to bless Lake Mitchell.

### **JIM WOODROW ELECTED PRESIDENT**

A resident of Lake Mitchell, Jim Woodrow of Area 2 has been elected as the new president of *Alabama Water Watch Association*. This is yet another example of our community caring and working with others toward a better environment.

### **H.O.B.O. Spotlight**

#### **Meet our new area representatives!**

##### *Area 5 Sonny and Peggy Bullard*

We are excited to be the new area reps and hope we can all get to know one another better this year. We will start by telling you a little about ourselves and our family. Peggy and I have been married 44 years and have two children and a dog named Venus. Our eldest, Teresa and her husband Roger have given us 3 wonderful grandchildren; Courtney 18, Erin 16, and Austin 14. They have lived in Romania, New York and we are happy to report they now live 3 hours away in Pensacola. Well, except for Courtney who is a freshman at Lee University in Cleveland Tennessee. She is there on a tennis scholarship but she is still just three hours away in a different direction. Our son David and his wife Cindy are in Poughkeepsie, New York where David is a pastor and

Cindy a secretary. Our dog Venus is a liver and white pointer that we call V for short. She is enjoying growing old with us at beautiful Lake Mitchell. Before retiring we lived in Hueytown for 32 years where I worked for US Steel as a heavy equipment mechanic. Peg worked as a marketing assistant/secretary at Southern Ductile Casting Company in Bessemer and retired from there after fifteen years.

We purchased our cinder block cabin in 1985 which was only 600 square feet but we didn't care; we were happy to be here. Later in 1999 we had the cabin pushed down and built the home we now live in with the hope of retiring to this beautiful spot some day, which we did in 2001.

We look forward to meeting all of you in our area and if we can be of any service please feel free to drop by our place, give us a call at 205-755-9514 or email to [bullspad@bellsouth.net](mailto:bullspad@bellsouth.net). Send us news from you, your family or friends that you may want included in the H.O.B.O. news letter. Don't forget to send in your membership dues of \$25.00 for 2007 to receive your 2007-2008 phonebook. Be blessed and safe in 2007.

##### *Area 1 Blue Creek Chip and Leslie Durham*

We moved to the Blue Creek area in March of 2006, having purchased Steve Corum's home. We are full time residents of Lake Mitchell. Leslie's father is former Marine Policeman Bill Attaway, and moving back home to Chilton County and Lake Mitchell has always been a high priority for her. She is an Environmental Engineer with the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Office of Water Resources in Montgomery. I am an attorney and work in a specialty practice devoted to nursing home planning, Medicaid and Medicare in Prattville, Alabama. We are members of Clanton First United Methodist Church. We spend our fun time on the water with our West Highland Terrier, Maggie.

There have been many changes in the Blue Creek area since we moved in a year ago. The development of the Alaga Lodge property continues, so we see lots of heavy equipment and large fires as they clear and divide the lots. There is also a lot more boat traffic in our small area now with people coming to look at lots for sale. Bo Warren has recently closed the camp ground at Blue Creek Marina and has hauled away all the old campers and busses. The newly cleared and cleaned up area is now for sale and looks so much better it will probably go quickly.

We really enjoy living on the water and look forward to many years here.

Chip and Leslie Durham  
215 County Road 551  
Verbena, Alabama 36091  
(205) 755-0084

*Area 14 Rose and Eric Green*

Eric and I purchased our place in 1999 and we moved in full time in 2001. We relocated for about 17months to rebuild after the tornado of November 2004. We have had to completely rebuild 'Margaritaville' and we plan to finish by May of 2007, by working our way to the water and fixing the boathouse. We are very glad to be back!

Both of us work for CVS pharmacy, Eric for 10years and myself for 18years. Eric is currently in the Centreville store and I am in Montevallo. We have been married for over eight years and love living here. Eric has family Texas, and New Mexico; my family is in Birmingham and Atlanta. They all love to visit and enjoy our lake. Our friends ask us why we live so far away from everything and we tell them they just have to come out and see the lake for themselves. When they get here and see the sunrises and sunsets, and hear the boats go by on the water and hear the waves break on the shore line they then understand and want to move here themselves!

I am really looking forward to being the rep for area 14 and meeting lots of new people on the lake. Now that we're back on the lake we really feel like we are back home. Please stop by and say hello, we love to meet new friends anytime. There is no better joy than meeting and making new friends on the water!

*Area 16 Big Y Slough Robert & Sonja Keeton*

Robert Keeton and two partners own a manufacturing rep company in Atlanta. He has been in this business for 28 years. Robert is from Birmingham and graduated from Jacksonville State University. His hobbies include hunting and fishing.

Sonja Keeton is the Controller and Director of Taxation at Harbert Management Corporation. She has worked at Harbert for almost 20 years. She graduated from the University of South Alabama and enjoys reading and walking.

Robert and Sonja have two children, Jordan and Adam. They have one grandchild (Ben) and one on the way (Ella Grace). They also have two Golden Retrievers (Kimber and Matty Earl).

They look forward to completing their home in The Cove and meeting everyone on Lake Mitchell.

*Area 1 The Ridge Lynn Myrick*

Wayne and Lynn Myrick discovered Lake Mitchell a little over five years ago. Fell in love with it and bought a lot in the Blue Creek area called The Ridge as soon as they were available. Four years ago they started building their permanent home and now live on the lake full time and love it. Wayne and Lynn both grew up in the Birmingham area. Wayne is from the Oak Grove area and Lynn is from Fairfield. They have a daughter Amanda, and a son Donald and his wife Ivey. They're looking forward to being grandparents in September when Donald and Ivey will have their first child. Wayne is in the commercial building business, primarily building churches. The email address in the new phone book needs to be corrected to [lmvrick@mandgassociates](mailto:lmvrick@mandgassociates). Call or email Lynn with questions, suggestions, or changes in your area.



