
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT Doug Martin

The fall is upon us and time has taught our family it is the most cherished of all the seasons. The noise from water activities is lessened and we can begin to hear the leaves fall once again. Reflection on the summer events brings warm thoughts. Spending more quality time with friends over an open fire will bring treasured memories for years to come. Those are a few of the personal rewards many can enjoy from the time spent on our community of Lake Mitchell.

Organizationally, Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. continues to grow with approximately 455 members for this year. Please encourage your non-member friends and neighbors to join and participate. Our organization is only as strong as its membership support and presence extends. Signs we are alive and well are as follows: a successful spring cleanup, June annual picnic with large numbers, June H.O.B.O. pontoon in the Peach Parade, July's largest fireworks display with good attendance despite record low water levels and a midweek holiday.

It is difficult to discuss our community without touching upon environmental news, events and information which affect us all. Spring's drought revealed unprecedented early summer low water levels. The continued drought with the large evaporation rate during the month of August is yielding record low water levels for September and October. We can only hope for the best in terms of rainfall for the winter and next year.

Our home ownership on Lake Mitchell is the primary indicator of our desire to participate in nature and its surroundings. It can appear overwhelming that there is anything a single person can do to affect the larger events. The following are just some of the very small things we can do as individuals to make less of an imprint on the very nature we so cherish:

- Take a few moments to educate our children and/or grandchildren on the fragility of the environment. Train them



by words and example to become good stewards of the resources under our control.

- Offer a donation to your local school to assist a group of children in making a field trip to places like Alabama Power Company's 'Water Course' in Clanton.
- Organize a canoe trip on our streams and rivers with assistance from local canoe clubs. Attending teacher's can provide educational materials.
- Fill and pour gasoline canisters in secure areas where open water and ground water will not be affected.
- When filling boats in open water place rags under boat fill ports to catch overflows. Placement of rags in on-board plastic bags for proper disposal is important as well. Marinas can provide catch rags at convenient locations to assist boaters during filling operations.
- Selective and/or discreet use of cleaning products around open water.
- Read a book on environmentally friendly landscaping and give to a friend to read and pass along.

You may have other ideas which you would like to share with H.O.B.O. membership. Please forward those ideas in writing and perhaps we could make a special section in the newsletter on the best of the ideas.

Ralph Waldo Emerson in his book 'Nature' once wrote, "A nobler want of man is served by nature, namely, the love of Beauty". Each of us, in our own way, has sought the love of Beauty on Lake Mitchell. The responsibility of preserving that Beauty is a small price to pay.

See you on the lake.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 3 Dan & Judy Murchison

Hello friends in Area 3. Just a little note to remind you, if you don't find an "M" beside your name on this newsletter - your dues have not been received. We would love to see Area 3 have 100% membership. Send your \$25.00 made out to Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. to P. O. Box 1324, Clanton, Al 35046 and support your association. H.O.B.O. is trying hard to Preserve, Protect and Improve our lake.

Our new President Doug Martin from the Cove Branch area is doing an outstanding job of bringing new ideas and new people into working for the betterment of our lake. I don't think I have talked to a single new active member that hasn't told us how much they are enjoying themselves, as well as how good they feel about their contribution as active members of H.O.B.O.

Area 5 Sonny & Peggy Bullard

This summer has been "short" and very hot therefore I'm sure most of you are ready for fall. Our friends and family have enjoyed the lake regardless of the water level and heat. We hope all of you have had a safe and fun-filled summer as well.

We are proud to report that Larry Minor is doing great after his kidney transplant in July. We talked with him on September 13 and he had just returned from his check up with a great report. The young man who gave his kidney to Larry is doing great as well and we give God all the praise.

Work on county road 472 has been going on for some weeks now and we were told that it would be paved soon. We are not going to jump up and down until we see the black stuff go down, but hope it will happen soon. You may be able to hear us shout for joy all the way to your place when it happens. Just keep your ears open.

Please remember to let us know if you have a change of address, phone number or email so that we don't lose contact with you. On occasion we will send info about the lake or lake projects to those in our area and if you haven't received any emails from us it only means we don't have your address. We promise no junk mail will be sent from us to you, only information that could be of value to you. Our email is bullspad@bellsouth.net. Our phone number is 205-755-9514.

Our fall lake clean up will be October 13th and we hope that Area 5 will be well represented. It isn't all work, we have time for food and fellowship as well; so ladies and gents even if you can't clean come and support those who do. Hope to see you there and have a GREAT FALL YA'LL!

Area 9 Dale & Patty Vann

As chicken little would say "the water is coming, the water is coming". I can't say exactly when but the county has started clearing the right of way to start digging for the

pipe. It's on the way. Maybe by the next newsletter I can give you more specific information on this project. Did you notice on Channel 6 News that Logan Martin and Smith Lake were down to winter pool on this Labor Day? And guess who's lake water was at almost normal...Lake Mitchell.

I hope all of you had a great summer and now it's the time of the year I like; coming to the lake, watching the leaves turn to their fall colors and watching college football on the tube. What a way to spend a weekend!

For those who have not heard, Wayne Maddox passed away. Wayne and Doris had their place on Lake Mitchell since the early 70's. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Maddox family.

Area 10 Roxanne & Doug Martin

Summer is over and I hope all of you had a great one. We added several new residents in our area, Pate and Mickey Latham, Cindy and Darrell Vice, and Judy and Danny Stevens; we welcome them to Lake Mitchell.

We will be having our Fall Area Party soon, watch the mail for your invitation. These gatherings are a great opportunity to meet your neighbors on the lake. I hope our lake is back to full pool by the time you read this; it has been a summer for the record books. Now it is time to move on to football, school, beautiful leaves, holidays and **most** important cooler temperatures (I hope!). If I can be of any assistance to any of you please don't hesitate to contact me at home 755-0863, or by email roxymartin@mindspring.com.

Area 14 Eric & Rose Green

"WATCH OUT!" How many times have you said that as you were driving along county road 1 and came upon a cement or a semi truck carrying a large load of supplies and flying down the middle of the road? There is a lot more traffic on this road due to the new subdivisions being developed in the area. Please look for oncoming traffic as you travel along these roads. In most cases these drivers have never been down these roads before and don't always drive slowly. Please be extra careful and observe the speed limits in hopes to avoid any collisions.

On a personal note, I would like to say **"THANK YOU"** to H.O.B.O. and all of our friends and family of the lake community for all of the flowers, thoughts and prayers that were sent to me. So many of you reached out to help in my time of need. I truly believe that without all of your support I would not have made it through such a serious surgery and recovered so quickly. My heartfelt thanks again, Rose Green.

Also from Area 14:

Area 14 Wildlife and Bluff Roads Paving Fund:

Apparent lack of interest in this project has been very surprising and disappointing with only six families out of 43 contacted having contributed a sum of \$5,500 to date. However, the deadline to raise the remaining \$24,500, and to have these roads considered for paving in 2008 has been extended until December 1, 2007. The receipt of pledged contributions would bring the total to about \$10,000, but the goal cannot be met without participation from almost everyone who accesses their property from these roads.

Without further hesitation, please make your check payable to "Wildlife and Bluff Roads Paving" and mail to:

Margie Hunt
 1515 Valley View Circle
 Birmingham, AL 35209
 205-879-5916
tomormargie@bellsouth.net

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson

I know the question is - when are we getting water? The hold up is the City of Rockford. They have not been able to obtain permits needed from the state. At this point, the drawings submitted by an engineer have to be redrawn to the state's specifications. This is in process. As soon as the permits are obtained the bid process will begin. The pipe has been purchased by Bill Spratlin as well as the City of Rockford. Bill Spratlin was required to put in a tower and this process has begun. So it seems work has progressed on our end and we will meet in the middle.

I need to have a couple of "lookouts" that will advise me of any illnesses, deaths, moves, and other happenings in our area. I need someone in slough 9 and also on the main river to help me out. You could just email me info. Any volunteers?

Lake clean up is October 13. If you would like to participate but will not be there on the 13th, I can supply you with bags now and you could fill them with lake trash (no personal) and place them on your pier or our pier prior to that Saturday. Just call me.

Area 15 wants to be the "best" neighborhood on the lake. Watch out for your neighbors. Be sure your boat house sign is in place. If you need one, do not hesitate to call me. Also if you need a refrigerator magnet with the Fire/Rescue Boat number - call me. We cannot just call 911 as this goes to the Sheriff of Coosa County and not directly to the Fire/Rescue Boat.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman

| PARAMETER | ACCEPTABLE RANGE | SIX SITE AVERAGE |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Dissolved O ₂ | 5-9 | 7.6 |
| pH | 6.5 - 8.2 | 8.57 |

| | | |
|------------|----------|-------|
| Alkalinity | 20+ | 73.26 |
| Hardness | 10 - 120 | 66.96 |

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

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.

| | | | |
|--------|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Oct 19 | 6:30 p.m. | Board of Directors meeting | FUMC Clanton |
| Oct 13 | 8 a.m. | Fall lake clean-up | Higgins Ferry |
| Nov 16 | 7 p.m. | Annual General Membership meeting | APCOConf Cntr |

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 H.O.B.O. 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 please plan to attend. We need you! Please contact Larry Waldron at (205) 987-7217, or Doug Martin (205) 755-0863 for more information.

Make plans to attend Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting for the organization will be held on Friday evening, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Alabama Power Company Conference Center, Highway 31 in Clanton. Please make plans to attend. It is a great opportunity to meet others of our lake community, be updated about current issues, and ask questions. If you have a particular concern or question, please contact Doug Martin by email to inquire about the agenda. dougmart@mindspring.com

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.

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 Jim Woodrow at 663-4196 or 755-0055. His email is ajwking@aol.com. As an alternative you may contact Judy Murchison at 755-0521, or in Birmingham at 823-2308, gugga4@bellsouth.net.

Memorial Gifts

In memory of _____ from _____

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.

There were no contributions received this quarter.

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

Chilton County Leadership Class 2007-2008

Chilton County Leadership is a program organized under the guidance of the Chilton County Chamber of Commerce and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. A class conducted every other year strives to develop leadership potential within Chilton County. The class offers participants a learning experience in areas such as county history, local industry, county educational structure, the county judicial system, and develops the ability to work together through a class project benefiting the county.

The class of 2007-2008 has four members with ties to Lake Mitchell. All are H.O.B.O. members and three are Lake residents. As an organization we take pride in the fact that our members are active in civic affairs. We want to thank Becki McCallum (Area 7), Lisa Owen (Area 7), Steve Miles (Area 6), and Tom Powers (Area 8) for being in the current class.

Previous H.O.B.O. participants in Chilton Leadership include Renee Powers, Dan Murchison and Jim Woodrow. They continue to be active in both H.O.B.O. and Chilton County.

Please don't bring carp to Lake Mitchell

You may have read reports in your local paper about bighead carp and silver carp. These non-native fish can pose a threat to our indigenous water species. Please be careful to not spread these fish or their eggs to our lake. Don't use baitfish from other lakes, and wash off your boat after leaving any body of water.

As reported in a recent newspaper:

The state is asking Alabama fishermen to watch for a couple of non-native fish species that threaten to dominate the fish populations of streams and lakes in this state. Most of all, fishermen are being asked to be careful not to spread the species from lake to lake.

The bighead carp and silver carp are two fish species that have caused major problems after spreading within the lakes and rivers of the Mississippi River region in the central United States. They are both now in Alabama. These fish compete with mussels, fry and even some adult fish for food.

Bighead carp, which can grow to 100 pounds, are already found in several places. The world-record bighead carp was taken by a bow fisherman on Lake Guntersville. Others have been found elsewhere on the Tennessee River, the Alabama River and the Tallapoosa River.

The silver carp, a native of China, was introduced into the United States in the 1970s as a way to control algae growth in municipal wastewater treatment facilities. This fish can quickly grow to weigh 50 pounds or more. The silver carp has been documented in the Black Warrior and Tallapoosa rivers and Yates Reservoir.

These fish can grow very large very quickly and have been noted to cause boating accidents by their size.

Fishery biologists believe the two carp species have spread so quickly from lake to lake thanks to fishermen catching baitfish with throw nets and transporting those fish to other lakes.

That's what the state Department of Conservation worries about. Alabama fishery biologists are urging fishermen not to capture baitfish from one body of water and transport them to another. That is a common practice in this state, especially among stripe fishermen who often capture baitfish on the Tennessee River (where the bighead carp has been found) and take them to Smith Lake.

State fishery biologists also urge fishermen to kill all baitfish and dispose of them properly, and not return them to the lake alive.

Any fisherman catching either kind of these carp in Alabama is urged to note the exact location of the catch and call 1-334-242-3471. Specimens will be used to confirm sightings, so anglers should freeze fish in a sealed plastic bag.

4th of July Fireworks Show Dan Murchison

Jim McCormick - you did it again. Every year we say this is the best one ever, but you improved it again this year! With our drought conditions (water down) and "no burn"

orders posted it was doubtful for a while whether you would even be able to do it. After polling the Board of Directors for H.O.B.O. and getting an overwhelming yes vote - it was on.

This year was just super! My only problem is I'm exhausted at the end from standing at attention, saluting, singing, crying and remembering all the sacrifices made by so many for the freedoms we enjoy.

Thanks to you, your family and your many friends who put the show together. We H.O.B.O.'s sincerely appreciate all your efforts and expenditures you so generously give for our 4th of July celebration of our great country's independence. What wonderful memories the McCormick Family and friends have given to our lake!

H.O.B.O. Spotlight

We have no spotlight this quarter. Please submit articles or suggestions of a person to feature to Becki McCallum beckmau@earthlink.net, or Judy Murchison gugga4@bellsouth.net.