
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 14 Issue 3 www.lakemitchellhobo.homestead.com **Third Quarter 2009**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Anita Lawson, anitalawson@bellsouth.net

The Lake Mitchell 2010 Calendar Photo Contest is complete. You can go online to: www.lakemitchellhobophotos.shutterfly.com to view all 271 photos submitted. We are so appreciative of Steve Miles, Cindy Wallingford, Jan Collier and Roxanne Martin for all their hard work making the 2010 calendar a success. The judging was very difficult. Some of the photos were excellent but were submitted in vertical format rather than horizontal; therefore they could not be selected.

The 2010 calendars should be ready in time to be available at the Saturday October 24 lake clean up. You can pre-order your calendar by calling or emailing your Area Representative or me. All our phone numbers are included in this newsletter or your H.O.B.O. phone book.

The profits from the calendar sales will support our 2010 Lake Mitchell Environmental Scholarship. The 2009 calendar sales enabled H.O.B.O. to present to one student a \$2,500 scholarship; plus we were able to present a \$50.00 savings bond to each of the remaining applicants. The judges had such a hard time deciding on just one winner. All of the applicants were very qualified.

The scholarship committee has a goal to present two scholarships in 2010. Your calendar orders or donations to the scholarship fund will help achieve this goal. Remember your friends and family that love to visit you at Lake Mitchell with the gift of a calendar and they can enjoy the views of Lake Mitchell all year long.

Fall clean up is Saturday, October 24 and begins at 8 a.m. at Higgins Ferry Launch. Hot dogs will be served at 12 Noon to participants. If you are interested in cleaning any areas during the time our water is down (October 2 through October 14), we can furnish you trash bags. Call your area representative or me to get the bags and we will also request the trash to be picked up from your pier. No personal/household trash can be accepted, shoreline trash only please.

The next and most exciting time will be the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. General Membership meeting scheduled for

Friday, November 20 at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at the Alabama Power Building on Highway 31 in Clanton.

We will be reviewing what your H.O.B.O. Officers, Board of Directors, and Area Representatives have been doing for you in 2009. We would like to hear from you what you would like us to accomplish in 2010. A drawing for prizes will be held at the end of the meeting. It is a great time to visit with your lake neighbors and another opportunity to purchase calendars.



AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 5 Sonny & Peggy Bullard
bullspad@bellsouth.net

Where did summer go? There has been lots of fun with friends and family at our place but it all ends too soon for us. When school starts back we consider summer over, although it is still hot and in the 90's on some days. I guess it is because everyone gets back into a routine again and have more schedules to meet, but the Bullards go through withdrawals when our

company slows down.

We are delighted and privileged to introduce you to an adorable newcomer to Lake Mitchell and Area 5. We met Lily Megyn Minor for the first time on July 4th at her grandparents', Larry & Nila Minor's lake home. She is a beautiful baby girl born to Michael and Terri Minor on June 10, 2009 weighing 7lb 8 oz. Her brothers Ben and Seth enjoyed boating and tubing while I (Peggy) had the pleasure of cuddling their sister for a while. I'm sure we will be seeing more of her at the lake and brothers Ben and Seth will soon be sharing their tubing time with little sister. Welcome Lily Megyn and congratulations to the whole family.

Our fall luncheon will be Oct 17th this year and it has finally rotated back to our home. Please mark your calendars and watch for your invitation with more info. We are looking forward to seeing all of you again.

Take it from folks who live here full time, the lake is a great place to be regardless of the weather or the time of the year. Be safe and ENJOY!

Sonny & Peggy

Area 9 Dale & Patty Vann rdvann@bellsouth.net

It has been a rather quiet and uneventful summer around Area 9. The water project is complete and the potholes in the road are repaired. Now what?? For you Area 9 people if you have any suggestions as to what needs to be done in our area to make it a better place, please let me know. By the way, we are getting a Verizon tower close to our area. If you have Verizon service you should see improvement. Also, it looks like we are getting underground wiring for our land lines. All this we did not have to ask for, nor did it cost us any money!

Area 10 Roxanne Martin roxymartin@mindspring.com

It is hard to believe that our summer is already over and we are now looking forward to fall. We are planning to have an Area 10 party in October and hope all of you can attend. It is a great time to meet your neighbors and catch up on the lake news.

The fall clean up is October 24th, it is another great place to meet new friends and visit with old friends. Put it on your calendar and plan to be there.

After a tree falling this spring causing extensive damage to their house, the Parker's are back in their home and enjoying the lake. Welcome back Doug and Jan!

Please remember to take fall and winter pictures for the 2011 Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Calendar. Remember the proceeds from the calendar are used to fund the Lake Mitchell Environmental Scholarship. You can place an order now for the 2010 Calendars that will be available at the fall clean up.

If we can be of assistance to you please give us a call or email us.

Area 14 Rose & Eric Green rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com

It's been another great summer here on the lake. Don't forget the fall clean up on October 24 and the annual meeting in November!

See you soon.

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson anitalawson@bellsouth.net

Area 15 has been busy enjoying all the lake we can. Remember, the fall and winter seasons are also enjoyable at the lake.

We want to welcome our newest neighbors, Cosby and Marsha Carmichael along with Robert and Judy O'Connor. They purchased the Freeland home in Little Airplane Slough. The Carmichaels live in Selma and the O'Connors live in Columbiana.

We want to send Sherry Letson and family our condolences on the passing of Bob Letson. He will be remembered by many on Lake Mitchell.

Our animal alert went out for Mark Lipham - his cat "Putter" came up missing one morning. I sent out the Area 15 email and thanks to alert neighbors Putter is back home; the Sullivan's called Mark the next morning. I guess Putter just went on a little vacation.

Let's remember: pay your dues. Water lowering begins Wednesday September 30. Call Alabama Power 205 755-4420 and ask for Rob Coyne to see if you will need a

permit for any work. Lake clean up is Saturday, October 24. Hope to see you all there!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Water Quality Report** Sam Piccolo, Chairman

sampiccolo@centurytel.net

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.4
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.87
Alkalinity	20+	55.5
Hardness	10 - 120	55.3

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 Dan Murchison danmurchison@gmail.com

We lake folks need to start thinking "SOLAR"! Having a healthy source of energy that is free and never ending plus doesn't pollute the environment-you can't do better than that. Kathy Mohun (Cargile Creek) sent me a web site about solar energy for roof tops that might appeal to a number of us lake residents.

The improvement in solar panels (with a 40% price reduction) makes this a more attractive alternative to power some of our energy needs. If enough lake residents are interested we might seek a group discount.

We could, at least, put a few solar panels on our boat houses and experiment with what we might power. Bo Warren has been checking on the possibility of powering some his energy needs for his new house with solar energy. I know several of us who are interested. You can call me at 205-755-0521 or email at danmurchison@gmail.com if you are interested in a discussion.

There is some good information on the following web site. <http://www.dailykos.com/storyonly/2009/9/6/778031/-good-news-on-Rooftop-solar-Biden-Beams>.

Fireworks Jim McCormick jmac51@bellsouth.net

I hope all who were able to attend enjoyed the fireworks over Lake Mitchell this year. Looking from my vantage point into the green and red lights of the boats, it appeared we had a large turnout.

There are many thanks to relay to all that helped. It begins with Bo Warren and Paul Minor who for years have loaned their work barges, which provides us with a much

needed 600 extra square feet of staging area. Then there are Sibley Reynolds, Graham Esdale, Rick, Jay, and Jason Griffith that actually position the mortars and wire each shell to ensure they go off in the right sequence and at the desired angle. Also, thanks to the Holletts for providing labor, and for off season storage for the hundreds of mortars we use each year.

I also am continually grateful to Chief Matt Griffin and the East Chilton Fire Department who keep us safe on land as well as on water with the fire boat during the show; as well as year round. Without the help of these and others whom I no doubt left out, the show just would not be the same.

I am looking for thoughts, comments, and suggestions for next year. Anything from what you like, or wish to see improved. Do you have any music recommendations? Let me hear from you at jmac51@bellsouth.net.

Thanks to all who made donations through Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. We look forward to 2010 which will be our 22ND year.

Our show made Youtube this year courtesy of Rick Smith of Cargile Creek. Tommy Robbins photographed the show from a mile away and his photos are terrific. Contact Tommy at Robbins Photography in Verbena to see his work, he is donating the proceeds from sales of this year's photos to H.O.B.O. Thank you Tommy and Rita!

Scholarship Steve Miles smiles2@bellsouth.net

Reprinted below are a few of the essays submitted by this year's scholarship applicants.

Pody Lane Cara Adams

The story of Pody Lane began at Lake Mitchell in 1951. That was the year Stanley Pody fell in love with the sport of fly fishing. Accompanied by his good friend and fishing buddy, Howard Camp, they traveled to "the river" and rented an old wooden boat from Elmer Hughes. The pair soon found their favorite fishing spots on the lake and fished their "honey holes" every chance they got. After a while fishing and camping became a part of life, so came the need for a private vessel. After obtaining employment with the Kimberly Clark Corporation, Stanly purchased a boat, an *Arkansas Traveler*, from Western Auto. The price? Two hundred dollars! He put a 5 horsepower motor on the boat and the legend was born!

Camping with family and friends on Mimosa Point lasted about nine years. One camping expedition lasted twenty-one days, Stan's entire vacation! Of course, feeding everyone was a top priority. Fried bream was a favorite and often on the menu. Doris and Elizabeth would go back and forth from home to the lake and gather what was ready in the garden. Once a friend brought four live chickens to kill and fry! Doris baked biscuits and cornbread in a Dutch oven, and they ate pretty "high on the hog". (Of course, everything always tastes better on the lake!)

Camping for that long required many other supplies, most of which were bought from Sears Roebuck. Sleeping bags, cots, air mattresses and a lantern were among the

necessities. The air mattresses were made of thick rubber, but kids were never allowed to play on them in the water. One of the strictest rules – take good care of the camping equipment!

During 1969 an exciting and wonderful thing happened. Several lots became available for lease. Stanley and Doris decided to lease the lot across from the point for half a year at the price of \$60.00. In addition, construction on the cabin began that year as well. The lease price nearly doubled the next year and cost \$150.00. The rate steadily increased over time and soon reached \$3500.00 per year. Finally in 2005 Hancock decided to sell the lakefront property. They bought the land and Pody Lane was established.

You're probably wondering why my essay includes this historical account of a small piece of real estate on Lake Mitchell. This place is a big part of my heritage. Stan and Doris Pody are my great grandparents. My family has celebrated birthdays, holidays and honeymoons here. It's where I learned to fish and swim and ski. It's also the place where I learned values, responsibility and respect: the value of hard work and the value of saving; responsibility for my actions and words; respect for nature and God's wonderful creation. It's where I learned how to treat others and be a friend, but most important it's where I learned how precious a supportive family is and how lucky we are to be blessed with each other and time on Pody Lane.

So it is with great honor and pride that I submit this essay to the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Scholarship Committee. Thank you for your time, your consideration, and for caring enough to help your neighbors!

Essay Abigail Dy

Ever since I can remember, I have always known what I want to be when I grow up. I have known all of my goals, my dreams – what I wanted to become. Those that know me used to say that it was my parents pushing me to strive harder than necessary to achieve the things for which I wished. And in a way, that is true. My parents are smart, and like every young child I wanted to be just like them. When it comes to my career choice you can say that my father was my inspiration. He worked extremely hard to get to the point in his life that he is at today, and I always hoped to be half as successful as he has been. But as time passed and I matured, I realized that it was I who would be my own driving force. I knew that my parents would support me on every step of my journey, but I had to be my own key motivation.

Throughout my school years I worked extremely hard to keep my grades up to the highest standards. Contrary to the belief of my peers, I did have to study and I spent an adequate amount of time doing so. However I did not limit myself solely to academics. I joined the band, was a member of the dance team, worked on the yearbook staff – I tried to not let anything hold me back. I was convinced that if I could be successful in various branches of my adolescent life, maybe that success would somehow find its way into my adult life. So aside from joining

every club the school offered, I tried to become as involved in my community and church as possible.

Then one day in high school everything changed. I realized that I had been living my life with the wrong mindset. It was not as though I regretted any of the choices I had previously made, because they had become the stepping stones to my future. But I suddenly felt as though I had taken in a brand new breath of fresh air – one unlike any I had ever taken before. I understood my whole life should not revolve around getting to that one goal in my life; it had to be about more. I had to slow down and start appreciating the things around me on a day-to-day basis. I had to find my true purpose in life. After all, there is more to life than good grades and big resumes. I decided to sit down and try to find out the reason I had always aspired to be a family physician. What was the drive behind the reaching of my goals? Finally I discovered the answer. I wanted to have the ability to help other people and make a positive impact on the world.

I participated in organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and Meals on Wheels. I wanted to be able to do my part to make the community a better place. Working with Habitat has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Though I am too young to do anything but paint, I loved every minute I was there. I could see how much the future homeowners appreciated what we were doing for them, and their gratitude and expressions overwhelmed me with the most heart-warming feelings. Experiences like those are the ones that life is really about. To work to better the environment is such an important thing for today. Society does not realize it, but once the beauty of our natural surroundings is gone it is something very difficult to get back. We must strive every day to preserve it to the best of our ability. The little things I can do in life to make an impact on the people in my community or environment are one of life's greatest gifts; they are the things that truly count. This was the answer that I had found: the reason for the extreme drive behind my dreams.

I want to be a family physician to be able to help people. To know that I have improved the health of a sick patient, to watch the smile on a child's face when I have made their "boo-boo go away, to see the relief on a young mother's face when I heal her baby: this is the career path I have chosen and the dream I have worked so hard to achieve. And with my past hard work and my determination, I hope to someday make that dream a reality. Also, with the grace of God, I will hopefully be able to take my practice further, and maybe one day I will be able to lend a helping hand to impoverished countries overseas that do not have the same valuable resources we do. But right now I am just doing what I can to improve the lives of the people in my community – even if it is just by giving a random passerby a smile; and to preserve the environment – though it may just be by recycling, picking up trash, and unplugging my electronic devices. So for the moment I am just taking this journey one step at a time.

BULLETIN BOARD

*Mark your calendar and plan to attend
our annual general membership meeting
on Nov 20, 6:30 p.m.
At the Alabama Power Company
Conference Center,
Hwy 31 in Clanton*

Excerpts pertaining to Coosa River from:

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Health issues 2009 Fish Consumption Advisories

Concern about protecting the public from possible exposure to mercury from eating fish led to the issuance of nine new fish consumption advisories for bodies of water in Alabama in the following counties: Barbour, Covington, Escambia, Greene, Russell and Shelby. Advisories for three other bodies of water also were modified.

All advisories previously issued using Food and Drug Administration guidelines remain in effect for 2009. The quality of water, based upon the levels of contaminants in fish from the waters in Alabama, generally continues improvements made in recent years.

The Alabama Department of Public Health annually updates fish consumption advisories based on data collected the preceding fall by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. ADEM collected samples of specific fish species from various bodies of water throughout the state during the fall of 2008. ADPH assessed the analytical results to determine whether any of the tested contaminants in the fish could give rise to potential human health effects.

Fish consumption advisories are issued for specific bodies of water and specific species taken from those areas. In reservoirs, advisories apply to waters as far as a boat can be taken upstream in a tributary, that is, to full pool elevations.

Beginning with the 2007 advisories, ADPH adopted a contaminant level for mercury in fish that would protect those who might consider eating more than one fish meal per week. The new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards are four times more protective than FDA levels previously used. New advisories are issued in terms of the number of meals a particular fish can safely be eaten in a given period of time, such as meals per week, meals per month or no consumption. A meal portion consists of 6 ounces of cooked fish or 8 ounces of raw fish. Other advisories have been updated to reflect the EPA consumption levels for mercury-contaminated fish. New consumption advisories were issued for the nine bodies of water, locations or species described here.

New Advisories for 2009

Lay Reservoir – Shelby County
 Approximately 1.5 mile downstream of U.S. Hwy 280
 bridge; vicinity of river mile 444
 Largemouth bass
 Contaminant – Mercury
 Consumption level - One meal per month
 Striped bass
 Contaminant – PCBs
 Consumption level - Do not consume
 Channel catfish
 Contaminant – Mercury
 Consumption level – Two meals per month

Fish were analyzed for up to 30 different materials or types of materials, including contaminants in the water (PCBs, including dioxins), pesticides (endosulfan, hexachlorobenzene, chlordane, lindane, dieldrin, endrin, DDT and its breakdown products and congeners, heptachlors, Mirex, chlorpyrifos and toxaphene), and heavy metals (arsenic, cadmium, mercury and selenium) to which the fish may have been exposed. In addition, fish were examined for body appearance, lipid content, age and weight.

Fish are good indicators of the health of a body of water. Some contaminants can bioaccumulate in fish. The contaminant could enter the food supply through either crustaceans or bottom feeding fish in a given area. These species would be eaten by larger or more aggressive species, thereby transferring the contaminant from the species consumed to the larger species.

The advice contained in this release and complete listings of the posted fish consumption advisories (<http://www.adph.org>) are offered as guidance to individuals who wish to eat fish they catch from various bodies of water throughout the state. No regulations ban the consumption of any of the fish caught within the state, nor is there a risk of an acute toxic episode that could result from consuming any of the fish containing the contaminants for which the state has conducted analyses. A “No Consumption Advisory” issued for any species is interpreted to mean that the fish sampled have been analyzed to show the presence of a contaminant in excess of advisory levels... Consumption of any fish of this type from a specific water body may place the consumer at risk for harm from the contaminant.

The intent of a “Limited Consumption Advisory” is for women of childbearing age, pregnant women and children (less than 15 years of age) to refrain from consumption of any fish indicated under this advisory. All other individuals should limit their consumption of the particular species to one meal per month.

PCBs are listed by EPA as "probable human carcinogens." This listing is used for chemicals that have been found to cause cancer in laboratory animals but have not been shown to cause cancer in humans. PCBs have also been associated with a skin disorder known as chloracne as well as changes in cholesterol and triglyceride levels in human blood.

Women of childbearing age and children should not consume any of these fish for which a Limited or No Consumption Advisory exists.

The following advisories, issued in previous years, remain in effect:

Subsequent sampling and analysis render the advisories in the meal per month format.

BODY OF WATER / PORTION / TYPE OF ADVISORY / CONTAMINANT

Choccolocco Creek – Calhoun, Talladega counties
 Entire length of creek from south of Oxford to Logan Martin Lake

Contaminant - PCBs

Do not consume any fish

In the vicinity of County Road 399 bridge

Spotted bass

Contaminant – Mercury

Consumption level – One meal per month

 Choccolocco Creek – Calhoun County

In the vicinity of Boiling Springs Road bridge crossing

Spotted bass

Contaminant – Mercury

Consumption level – Two meals per month

 Coosa River – Calhoun, St. Clair, Talladega counties

Between Neely Henry Dam and Riverside

Contaminant – PCBs

Limited consumption of catfish over 1 pound

 Coosa River – St. Clair, Talladega counties

Between Riverside and Logan Martin Dam

Contaminant – PCBs

Do not consume striped bass

 Coosa River – Chilton, Coosa, Shelby, St. Clair,

Talladega counties

Lay Lake between Logan Martin Dam and Lay Dam

Contaminant - PCBs

Do not consume striped bass

 Coosa River – St. Clair County

In upper Lay Reservoir approximately two miles

downstream of Logan Martin Dam and one- half mile

downstream from the Kelly Creek - Coosa River

confluence in the vicinity of Ratcliff/Elliott Island

Contaminant – PCBs

Limited consumption of spotted bass

Do not consume striped bass

Is Your Home Protected From Wildfire Disaster?

Submitted by Jim Woodrow, Area 2

The latest headlines in the news are homes being destroyed by wildfires in Oklahoma, Texas and South Carolina. The question is can it happen here in Alabama?

Yes it can, but you can do some things around your home to help protect your home from a wildfire.

CREATING A SURVIVABLE SPACE FOR YOUR HOME

A survivable space is an area of reduced fuels between your home and the untouched wildland. This provides enough distance between the home and a wildfire to ensure that the home can survive without extensive effort from either you or the fire department. One of the easiest ways to establish a survivable space is to use the zone concept. Zone 1 is the closest to your home and Zones 2 and 3 move progressively further away.

Zone 1: Establish a well-irrigated area around your home. In a low hazard area, it should extend a minimum of 30 feet from your home on all sides. As your hazard risk increases, an area of between 50 and 100 feet or more may be necessary, especially on any downhill sides of the lot. Planting should be limited to carefully spaced indigenous species.

Zone 2: Place low-growing plants, shrubs and carefully spaced trees in this area. Maintain a reduced amount of vegetation. Your irrigation system should also extend into this area. Trees should be at least 10 feet apart, and all dead or dying limbs should be trimmed. For trees taller than 18 feet, prune lower branches within six feet of the ground. No tree limbs should come within 10 feet of your home.

Zone 3: This furthest zone from your home is a slightly modified natural area. Thin selected trees and remove highly flammable vegetation such as dead or dying trees and shrubs.

So how far should Zones 2 and 3 extend? Well, that depends upon your risk and your property's boundaries.

For more information on protecting your home from a wildfire, call your local Alabama Forestry Commission Office or visit their website www.forestry.state.al.us, www.firewise.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Email any submissions to beckmau@earthlink.net and judymurchison@gmail.com for editing and inclusion.

Memorial Gifts

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.

AT&T cellular service Judy Murchison, Area 3

I have AT&T as my cell phone carrier and up until recently I could get coverage at the lake (even though I did have to walk outside and sometimes up a hill). Now we seem to have no coverage in the whole Verbena area.

I used to get a message saying something about Unicef requires a 1 or 0, but now we just don't have any coverage at all. Someone told me that AT&T probably bought "partnership coverage" from another cell tower which provided coverage at one time and now they don't. Jim Woodrow can come in my cabin (he has Verizon) and can talk at my kitchen table with his cell phone! I think AT&T needs to do a quality report to determine where they should put a tower so that those of us on the lake are able to get phone coverage. Perhaps if enough people call, we will get some results. I have been pleased with AT&T (old Cingular) until this issue. Now they tell me that the nearest tower is 10-25 miles from the lake!

Approximately two months ago our AT&T cell phone service became almost nil on Lake Mitchell and surrounding areas. It is NOT your phone. All our local service areas that were good now do not have service.

Many AT&T customers have had to change to Verizon in our area. Let AT&T know.

Please call AT&T at 1-800-331-0500 regarding service. If they get enough inquiries they may possibly upgrade service to this area.

Anita Lawson

"Heads up" Tommy Carpenter, Area 3

Fellow H.O.B.O.s, peak season is over and "weekend folks" like myself will be making fewer trips to Lake Mitchell. I would like to send a reminder to please secure your fishing, skiing, and boating equipment. Someone broke into my boathouse and stole 3 rods and reels from my boat sometime between Monday Sept. 7th and Friday Sept. 11th. The thief also took some lures that cannot be replaced very easily.

I would also remind people to secure their cabins. I think it is a shame that we have to deal with this. I have friends that fish year round and now they feel they have to haul their tackle to their cabin every night.

With the increase in burglaries seeming to be increasing everywhere, let's be "nosy neighbors" and look out for any suspicious activity. It could happen to any of us!

Good news for pet owners in Verbena and surrounding area.

We now have a veterinarian on Hwy 31 in Verbena. Jennifer Mobley, DVM has opened the Chestnut Creek Animal Hospital at 3885 US Highway 31 South. The phone number is (205) 755-9723, the email address is chestnutcreekah@hahoo.com. The clinic is located in the white metal building closest to the Verbena Post Office. Jennifer is a 1999 graduate of Auburn University. She worked in Montevallo for 10 years before opening the Verbena clinic specializing in small animals.

“Good Neighbor” postings

You now have an opportunity to give and take, or sell and buy with your lake neighbors. We are offering this opportunity to any current (annual dues paid) member of our organization. If you have an item to sell or give away, or are looking for an item, you may submit a written request to Becki McCallum at beckmau@earthlink.net. She will verify that you are a current member and reserve the right to edit the content. Any requests for publication need to be made by the newsletter deadline posted on the above calendar.

From Judy Murchison:

I am looking for old skis, preferably wooden, to use for a craft project. Please contact me at 755-0521 or judymurchison@gmail.com if you can help!

From Dick Pyburn:

FOR SALE: 1 HP Shallow Well Pump, new, still in box. Centrifugal, self priming, max flow 898 GPH, 5 gal rolled steel tank w/gauge, 72 PSI max. Max lift 164 ft, max suction depth 26 ft. \$75.00. Please call me at, 755-9404.

H.O.B.O. SPOTLIGHT

STARS ON COOSA RIVER by Sue Abernathy, Area 7

Twinkling early in the morning or at night, I watch what appear to be stars dancing on the Coosa River. The reflections of the sun and moon produce twinkling lights on the rippling river; it's beautiful and almost hypnotic. There was a night - early morning of November 12 -13, 1833, when all of Alabama was showered with a fantastic meteor shower that was, without doubt, an awesome

spectacle and fireworks show by Mother Nature. This was the night that "Stars Fell on Alabama". The event was a few years after the 3rd of March, 1817 when Alabama Territory was created from Mississippi Territory's division, and became the State of Alabama in December of 1819.

Not many of our ancestors were in this new state. Via stories handed down through family, we know of witnesses to the night that inspired a song, books and the phrase "Stars Fell on Alabama". William "Pap" Swindle and his bride of one year, Harriet Elizabeth (nee Busby) had recently married in October of 1832 in Tuscaloosa. They witnessed this glorious event and within the following year, a son named Elias was born. Descendants of this family now grace the banks of the Coosa River, on Lake Mitchell.

The stars that fell on Coosa River and Alabama in 1833 were actually "...thousands of luminous bodies shooting across the firmament in every direction...", "...a remarkable scene of natural grandeur..." quoting the Florence Gazette. They came from the constellation Leo, and by a scientist were given the Latin name Leonids. They were a prolific meteor shower associated with the comet Tempel-Tuttle. The earth moved through the particles left from passages of the comet, named for the men that discovered it in 1865 and 1866.

The newlyweds, William "Pap" Swindle and his wife, who witnessed the night "Stars Fell on Alabama", to this day continue to "sprinkle" "Stars" on Coosa River...in the way of descendants. They were the great great grandparents of Lake Mitchell's Own "Star", Elro Swindle. His subsequent "Stars" include son John Swindle and daughters Becki McCallum and Tad Henry and their families....still "twinkling" on the Coosa River. How wonderful it must be to be so rooted in Alabama's history!