

# Lay Lake

Home Owners & Boat Owners Association



## Data Center Dangers

- Hyperscale data centers can be millions of square feet & consume more power and water than a medium-sized city
- Energy costs are passed on to consumers in billing area; increased bill can be 20% higher
- They hum continuously, can be heard for miles: noise pollution
- They belch carcinogens (air pollution/illness)
- They return warmed water to lakes/streams causing algae growth
- Buildings can cover 4 football fields, destroying pastures & cropland
- Offer about 100 jobs after construction; few locals are hired; high-paying tech jobs are done remotely from Silicone Valley
- Light pollution: they glow continuously.

We at Lay Lake Home Owners Boat Owners - HOB0 Association, a 501c(3), are just learning about this threat & are duty bound to protect this lake & its aquifer.

### HOB0 Youth Fish Advisor

“Grant Laney, a Fairview High School graduate from Cullman, and his fishing partner, **Mason Carden**, a Shelby County High School graduate, placed 8th in the ACA Collegiate Bass Open presented by Bass Pro Shops on Lake Dardanelle in Arkansas.

Grant is a sophomore and **Mason is a freshman at the University of Montevallo**. Their strong finish qualifies the duo for the ACA Collegiate Bass Championship, also presented by Bass Pro Shops, which will be held on Pickwick Lake in May.

Congrats to Grant and Mason on an outstanding performance and best of luck at the championship!”

This is from article in Cullman newspaper

**Mason Carden is our Youth Fish Advisor; we are SO proud of him!**

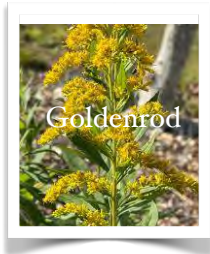
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# Goldenrod: yes!

Kim Kerr, Troy U-Montgomery



It is that time of year again. Autumn. Time for cooler temperatures, bonfires, and goldenrod. Many people associate goldenrod with seasonal allergies. However, that is pretty unlikely. Goldenrod is pollinated by insects and the pollen of goldenrod is heavy and sticky and is not carried very far away from the plant.

The culprit for those seasonal allergies is probably ragweed, which blooms at the same time as goldenrod and has very light pollen that is carried in the wind.

Goldenrod is a plant native to Alabama and was even the state flower until 1959, when it was replaced by a non-native plant, the camelia. Since goldenrod is a native plant, it **can be easily grown, requires less water than non-native plants and tends to be resistant to disease.** It is also an important food source in late summer and early fall for pollinators. Goldenrod provides nectar and pollen at a time when other flowers are no longer blooming. Goldenrod nectar is important for migrating monarch butterflies, and the seeds are a good food source for birds. Goldenrod has **deep roots** that help stabilize soil and prevent erosion.

# Eurasian Milfoil

Tim McLean, APC Resource Manager



Resource Mgr McLeans' team uses approved herbicides that don't hurt fish habitat

Eurasian Milfoil is a non-native plant that was brought here through the aquarium trade. It is native to Europe, Asia, and Africa. It was first identified in the United States in the 1940's and has become the most widespread aquatic submersed plant in the northern half of the United States. It was first located on Lay Lake more than a decade ago in Flipper Creek, north of the Coosa Pines golf course.

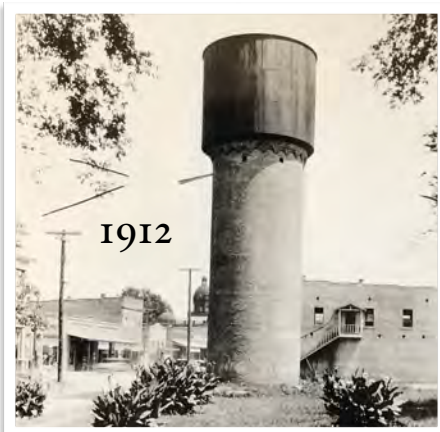
Eurasian milfoil is a submersed plant, that can grow stems 6 to 20 feet in length. The stems are whitish pink to reddish brown. The leaves are featherlike and can be up to 2 inches in length. The leaves grow in whorls of 4 usually. This plant can often be confused with Coontail. It spreads by fragmentation, both naturally and mechanically. The plant will branch at the surface and create dense surface mats if left untreated.

Since its introduction to Lay Lake, we have actively been seeking this plant out to keep it at a minimum. New EPA registered herbicides over the last several years has given the industry an edge with milfoil control. We are now able to selectively control milfoil species using minimal amounts of product. Any sightings of this plant should be reported to Alabama Power's aquatic plant management team.

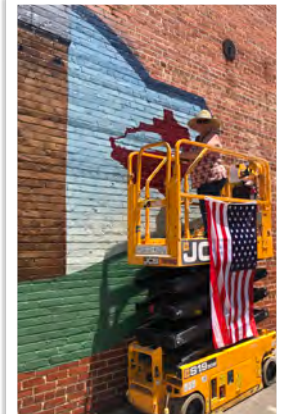
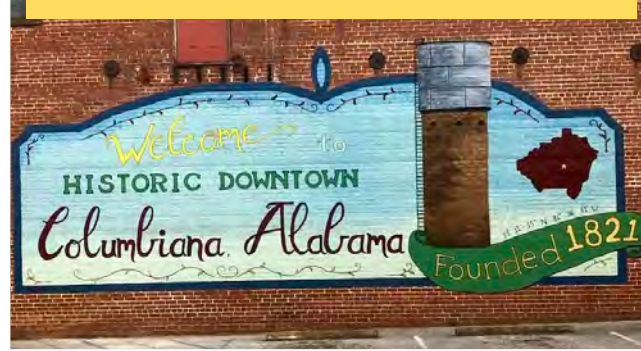


Kudos to LLBC, a 501 c(3), for raising \$51,500 to support Owens House w/their August 2025 Poker Run!

# Where do we get Shelby County water?



Rae Lynn Dodson paints historic mural



## Where does Shelby County water come from?

Columbiana Water: 5 wells (400' deep)/8 water tanks (4k customers)

Wilsonville: 1 well (100' deep), 1 tank, buys from Columbiana (850 customers)

Bethel on route 61: buys from Columbiana, 1472 customers

Shelby County Water serves Westover, Chelsea, Greystone, Mt Laurel, Highland Park, etc: they treat water pulled from Lay Lake/Coosa River. They may pull from a second spot; Am unable to contact them, voicemail is full.

The Columbiana Water Works supplies water to 4000+ customers in Columbiana and **rural/unincorporated** Shelby County. The Superintendent tests twice monthly for contaminants, including microplastics. He & team monitor 5 wells and store water in 8 tanks. (See Rae Lynn Dodson water tank mural on Columbiana Main Street by Blue Agave Restaurant). Thanks to efficient use of water tanks, wells are not pumped continuously. 400' deep wells draw water from our aquifer. This aquifer is monitored & is replenishing satisfactorily so far. The Superintendent says he will not give excess water to new heavy industry at expense of current customers.

Microplastics are everywhere and likely harm people, particularly older adults, making them vulnerable to heart disease and vascular dementia. Biologists recommend tap water over bottled water. An average liter of bottled water contains 240,000 tiny pieces of plastic, 90% of them extremely tiny nanoplastics. While tap water also contains microplastics, bottled water has more. A home-based water filtration is option: find filter with a NSF/ANSI 401 certification. When on the go, fill up a reusable stainless steel or glass bottle.