



The Tale Twister

Cullman Lions Club

August 25, 2025

Program

Lion Chris Robinson introduced our speaker tonight, Mr. Mike Mullaney, President of Goat Island Brewing. Mr. Mullaney is a 1980 graduate of Cullman High School. He is a well-known and appreciated local citizen, serving as the Burgermeister for the 2022 Cullman Oktoberfest



Lion President Delane Ray presents token of appreciation to our speaker, Mr. Mike Mullaney of Goat Island Brewery, along with Lion Chris Robinson

Mike said that the brewery all began before Cullman went “wet” with a group of serious home brewers. They participated in several Cullman Oktoberfests with establishing the Alabama Beer Craft Garden with breweries from all over Alabama. At some point as Cullman went ‘wet,’ he and his brewing friends knew of a pub opening up called the Blue Moose Café; they had helped them set up a single, one 31 gal. tank brewery system. But that café went under in about a year. So, four of them decided to start a brewery here in Cullman. Those men were Brad Glen (ex-cop), John Dean (insurance salesman, Gery Teichmiller (engineer in

Huntsville), and himself (environmental safety manager).

The brewery team called 2015 the lost year because they would just come home from their regular day jobs and work nights setting up the brewery (even their wives put in sweat equity). They converted a warehouse into a fully functional space with offices, a bar, production zone, taproom, and refrigerated storage. The brewery opened in 2016 with its 10-year anniversary in April 2026. It features large-scale brewing equipment visible to patrons, open and welcoming, family- and pet-friendly, with games like cornhole and Giant Jenga. Entertainment includes karaoke Thursdays, live music Fridays and Saturdays, and Sunday Singo Bingo. They also opened up a second facility called “The Goat at Cotton Creek” (opened March 19, 2025) at 417 Third Avenue SW, Suite 135. There is also an immediately adjacent restaurant called the Half-Shell Oyster House from which you can have food ordered and taken right to your table at the brewery. Located in the artsy downtown area, this brewery features a smaller pilot brewing system for experimental beers, an outdoor area for large events, and occasional acoustic performances. They sell beer by can and by keg in most all of Alabama and enclaves in Georgia and the Pan-handle of Florida.

The motto from Goat Island is “Don’t drink Baaaad Beer.” And they profess to only make good beer. Recognition of this includes multiple medals at Alabama Craft Beer competitions and national accolades like the GABF silver for Duck River Dunkel. Gery Teichmiller has given up the job of brewmaster to a one out of Washington state. Gery still works part time but is now making a single strawberry wine which is now on



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their menu. Some of their popular beers include Richter's Pilsner, Big Bridge IPA, Sipsey River Red, Duck River Dunkel, Strawberry Blond (made for Cullman's Strawberry Festival), October Fest Lager, Blood Orange, Goatopia IPA, and many others. They continue to innovate and experiment in their brewing. The Richter's Pilsner is brewed from a recipe discovered in the attic of William Frederick Richter, owner of a saloon back in the early days of Cullman. Mike revealed that his wife, by chance, is that great grand-daughter of that Mr. Richter.

Whether you're a craft beer fan, curious about local heritage, or simply looking for a fun place to unwind in a welcoming atmosphere, Goat Island Brewing offers a uniquely Cullman experience—one that's rich in history, flavor, and community spirit. Mr. Mulanney provided us with an interesting and entertaining presentation.



Other Business

Lion President Delane Ray read a thank-you note from Hope Horses for our Club's recent donation. They invited Lions to drop by for a tour. He said, too, that he has 8 tickets, table of 8, for the Agriplex's "Home to Harvest Dinner" on Sep. 18th at the Loft. He also said that he had 4 tickets, table of 4, to the "Little Pink Dress"

benefit dinner at Stone Bridge on October 7th (1st come, 1st served for both of these dinners).

Lion Howard Perry was back with us tonight and was able to drive himself here for the first time in several months. Lion Javon Daniel continues recovery and stabilization from heart related issues. Lion Ron Seybold developed pneumonia and had to be hospitalized and is struggling. Lion Mike Ponder is still at home recovering but has not seen much improvement lately; he has lost a total of 65 pounds since his hospitalization several months ago.

Lion President Delane Ray announced two new Lions, tonight, both first-named Brooke. First was new Lion Brooke Marks who has visited with us recently. (See photo, below.)



Lion Marks is head of nursing at Westminster and a former Leo at Cullman High School. She also related that she helped in caring for the late Lion Gary Murphree. She said his last words to her, before he died, were asking if she would be able to take him to work at our Fair again this year. Our second new Lion was Lion Brooke Windeknecht, who also worked at Westminster and is friends with Lion Marks. She is also a local lady and has 4 children. Both of these new Lions are eager to serve and asked where they could work at the Fair.



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New Lion
Brooke
Windeknecht

Lion Brad Mitchell gave us an update on plans for the Ag building during the Fair. He mentioned that, building on the success of the scarecrow competition, there will be two scarecrow categories: one will be for individuals, and one will be for groups such as other clubs, schools, organizations, and businesses – he even encouraged our speaker, Mr. Mullaney to get Goat Island Brewing to enter the contest. Lion Brad also had some concerns about crop entries being light because of rain at the wrong time and cooler weather for the Fair. He said he was considering having a category of a five-vegetable-display basket/bowl. And he was looking at having a category of painted pumpkins this year.



Lion
Brad
Mitchell

The next New Lions' Roundtable Discussions will be on September 22. The subjects will be Club meetings, Board of Directors, and Committees.

Lion Secretary Scott Starosta says there will be a BOD meeting on Sep. 8th, and to let him know if you want to put an item on the agenda for that.

See version 2 of Cullman Fair assignments on page 4, which only just added two new Lions to Concessions.

Upcoming Programs and Events

September 1: No meeting due to Labor Day.

September 8: TBD.

September 29: Work Night in preparation for Fair, upcoming the next week starting on Thursday, Oct. 9th.

October 4: Fair Parade.

October 9-18: Cullman County Fair.

Tale Twister Input

If you need something special or to report a correction in the *Tale Twister*, see Lions Carey Thompson or Don Smith at the meetings. Lion Carey can be reached at 256-739-0580 (H) or 256-426-3207 (C). Lion Don can be reached at 256-737-7433 (H) or 256-426-7722 C.

