



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Jesse Cunningham, President  
Lake Martin HOBOS  
256-825-0919  
[jesse@lakemartin.org](mailto:jesse@lakemartin.org)

**Lake Martin HOBOS Christmas Tree Recycling Program**

Once the last Christmas present is opened, it's time to give one final Christmas gift and your Christmas tree a second life. A live Christmas tree is a renewable, recyclable resource that allows you and your family to enjoy the noblest of holiday symbols and help the environment at the same time. The Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners (HOBOS) Association, Inc. in association with the Alabama Bass Federation, Alabama Power Company and Advanced Disposal are pleased to announce the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lake Martin HOBOS Christmas Tree Recycling program.

Jesse Cunningham, President of the Lake Martin HOBOS stated, "By recycling your Christmas tree it becomes environmentally friendly, thereby benefiting the lake's ecosystem through the creation of artificial fish reefs, rather than filling our landfills. These artificial reefs are important to a lakes ecosystem as they provide an area for the bottom of the food chain to develop. The algae and plankton that develop on the reefs are a source of food for baitfish and game fish. Also, many fish are attracted to the reefs as they provide an area for spawning and protective cover."

Each artificial reef will be comprised of 25 trees, with 5 trees placed upright, and 20 trees on the lakebed. The trees will be anchored approximately 4 feet below the current winter pool level and away from homeowner's docks and boat ramps. Al Redding, President of the Alabama Bass Federation stated, "We are hoping this year to establish over 20+ reefs spread over the lake from River North to Parker Creek.

Trees may be dropped off at the Lake Martin HOBOS recycling dumpsters located in Alexander City in front of Winn Dixie, in Dadeville at Piggly Wiggly and across the street from the Union Volunteer Fire and Rescue Headquarters on Highway 50 from December 26<sup>th</sup> until January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Before disposing of your live Christmas tree, please remember to remove all decorations, including hooks, wire, tinsel, and ornaments as well as wood and metal tree stands.

Bill Adcock, a HOBOS Board member and avid fisherman said, "By recycling the trees we are attempting not only to protect our environment for future generations, but benefit Lake Martin's ecosystem through creation of these artificial reefs." He further stated each reef should last about 5 to 7 years; but with the lake being over 44,000 acres it is important to make this an annual Lake Martin event to benefit the lake's fish population.

The GPS coordinates of all reefs will be uploaded to Google Maps, then made available on the HOBOS's website [www.lakemartin.org](http://www.lakemartin.org) for all volunteers to view and download. If you would like to volunteer to assist with this project, please contact Bill Adcock at 256-825-9059.

For more information on the Lake Martin HOBOS's Christmas Tree Recycling Program or the HOBOS organization, please contact Jesse Cunningham at 256-825-0919.

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**The Lake Martin HOBOS** mission is to work together with home owners, boat owners, local businesses, local, state and federal agencies and others to foster long term partnerships to preserve, protect and enhance the overall quality of life of all living things in and around Lake Martin – The Crown Jewel of the South, including, but not limited to, water levels and quality, shoreline preservation, fishing, wildlife, recreational activities and the safety of all boaters. Visit the organization's website at [www.lakemartin.org](http://www.lakemartin.org).