



How Are HOB.O. Dues Used?

We will start with the Lake Mitchell HOB.O.'s mission statement, which is to "Preserve. Protect. Improve." Our lake would not be what it is today if we did not diligently work to preserve, protect and improve our water quality.

WATER TESTING - We have an Environmental Committee that works with Alabama Power Company, Alabama Water Watch and other organizations to monitor what our water shed is filtering into our Lake. Your H.O.B.O. dues purchase the water testing kits and supplies that our water monitor volunteers use to regularly test the water at various points along our lake.

LAKE CLEANUP - We spend about \$800 per year on our semi-annual lake cleanup events where many volunteers comb the lake cleaning hundreds of pounds of litter and trash from our shores. After depositing the bags of debris, workers celebrate at Higgins Ferry Park with a picnic provided by your \$25.

SCHOLARSHIP - Your HOB.O. association is also civic minded. Each year we award two \$2000 scholarships to two local Coosa or Chilton County high school seniors. The HOB.O. Scholarship Committee accepts and reviews applications, works with school counselors and interviews each applicant to select the scholarship recipient.

WATER FESTIVAL - HOB.O. donates \$1000 each year to the county Water Festival. More than 600 children spend an entire day learning about the importance of protecting our valuable water sources. They do science experiments, water testing and other hands-on experiments to gain a better understanding of our impact on the environment and the delicate balance of our fresh water sources.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT - HOB.O. is also a dues-paying member of the Chamber of Commerce, and we make a donation to the local church in Clanton that allows us to use its facilities for H.O.B.O. board meetings.

POSTAGE - We spend about \$1000 annually to mail meeting notices, cleanup announcements and picnic invitations.

MEMBER DIRECTORY - Every two years we spend almost \$3000 to collect data, print and mail our lake resident telephone directories. These books are provided at no additional charge to H.O.B.O. members.

AREA EVENTS - Area Representatives have \$400 in the budget to use to communicate with their area homeowners and to host local parties or events for their area members.

PICNIC - We spend about \$500 to feed all members and families who attend the summer picnic held at Higgins Ferry boat launch.

FIREWORKS - The largest community events we support surround the Fourth of July. All can enjoy and any can participate in the two boat parades – the party boat parade in the morning and the ski boat parade in the afternoon. After the sun goes down, we all gather in Cargile Creek to enjoy the Lake Mitchell fireworks show. Your dues provide a portion of the cost of the fireworks. Many members also make a specific fireworks donation to help offset the cost of the show.

FIREBOAT - We have a unique form of protection provided by our fireboat, known as Marine 9, the designation given by the East Chilton County Fire and Rescue unit that mans the boat. I know of no other lake our size that can claim a boat this large, this fast, with as much on-board life-saving equipment. The boat was purchased in 1998 with proceeds from our dues, donations, yard sales, raffles and a skeet shoot. Since this time we have invested thousands of dollars in a defibrillator, pumper, a boathouse and fireboat maintenance.

And all of this for \$25!!!!!!.

The Lake Mitchell HOBO is a great value. Please make sure that you have paid your dues and encourage your neighbors to join as well. For every check we write, for every cause we support, we need to make sure our money is used wisely. You can have input into those decisions. Get involved in HOBO today. Contact any board member or your Area Representative to learn ways you can volunteer.