

Life on the Lakes

Information About Lakes Hamilton & Catherine

Attention Boaters!

There is nothing like getting out on the lake to relax, have fun, and enjoy friends and family..... unless the outing ends with a tragic boating accident. Too many horror stories are being told about someone out just having some fun being injured or even killed while boating.

“Approximately 700 recreational boaters will die this year due to boating mishaps. The vast majority of boating mishaps are caused by operator controllable factors and not by the boat, equipment, or environmental factors.”, according to the National Safe Boating Council.

Abide by these four principles of boating safety to protect you, your family, friends and other boaters:

1. Wearing life jackets saves lives
2. Boater education saves lives
3. Safe boats (safely designed, well maintained and properly equipped vessels) saves lives
4. Sober boating saves lives

For more information on boating and water safety visit the following sites:

www.watersafetycongress.org
www.safeboatingcouncil.org
www.boat-ed.com/
www.uscgboating.org



Summer, 2004

A History of the Lakes

The area near Hot Springs and Malvern was a virtual wilderness in the 1920s when Harvey Couch, the founder of Entergy, then known as Arkansas Light & Power, began to investigate his dream of building hydroelectric dams on the Ouachita River. This was also a part of his “Helping Build Arkansas” program designed to bring new industry and jobs to the state.

An engineering marvel in its day, Rempel Dam, named in honor of Army Col. H. L. Rempel, was completed in 1924 and formed a lake 11 miles long with 1,940 surface acres. Couch named the lake after his daughter, Catherine. The



Harvey Couch with family, business associates and friends at the base of Carpenter Dam before the lake was filled.

powerhouse at

the dam contains three vertical hydraulic turbine generators with a total rating of 9,300 kilowatts, a staggering amount of electricity in an era when entire towns were served by a single six kilowatt generator.

In 1932, Carpenter Dam was constructed on the headwaters above Lake Catherine. It was named after Flave Carpenter, the pioneer peace officer, who while searching for outlaws on the river, discovered the dam sites and recommended them to Couch. The resulting lake was 18.5 miles long and covered 7,200 acres. Couch named it Lake Hamilton in honor of his faithful attorney, C. Hamilton Moses, who assumed the presidency of AP&L following Couch’s death in 1941.

2004 Winter Drawdown Dates

Lake Hamilton: 5 Feet

Start November 6, 2004
End November 12, 2004

Lake Catherine: 3 Feet

Start November 6, 2004
End November 12, 2004



Shoreline Management

You may have heard that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued Entergy a new license in December, 2002 to operate Carpenter and Rempel Dams and manage the shorelines of the lakes those dams create, Lakes Catherine and Hamilton (also known as FERC Project 271). The terms of the new license went into effect in March 2003, and they require Entergy to maintain and, in some cases, increase the amount of oversight it exercises over how the shorelines of the lakes are managed.

Specifically, Entergy was required to develop a detailed Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). An SMP is a comprehensive plan to manage the multiple resources and uses of a project's shorelines in a manner that protects and enhances the scenic, recreational, and other environmental values of the project, as required by the license.

To determine the appropriate levels of oversight for different areas of the lakes, the FERC-approved SMP for Lakes Hamilton & Catherine identifies three Shoreline Management Classification designations: General Use, Limited Use and Resource Management. Designations recognize varying current uses and environmental sensitivities. Each Shoreline Management Classification specifies what types of facilities or activities may or may not be allowed along a particular shoreline segment.

If you are interested in additional information on Lakes Hamilton & Catherine Shoreline Management Plan, please contact us by telephone at 501-844-2148 or by email at bpharr@entergy.com.

Protecting The Lake's Valuable Shoreline Resource

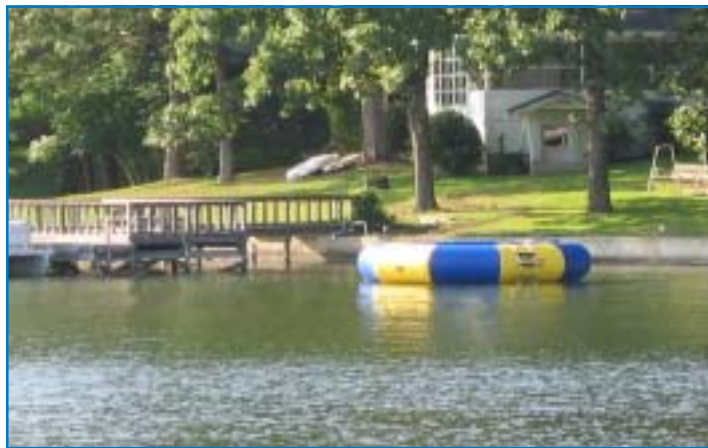
The shoreline and lake bed of Lakes Hamilton and Catherine are valuable natural resources. They provide a unique and beautiful environment not only for lakefront property owners to swim and enjoy but for fish and wildlife to live and survive. Undeveloped or protected shoreline is becoming scarce with the past trend of seawall development and shoreline disturbance. Entergy's SMP has classified certain segments of shoreline on both lakes as Limited Use due to sensitive fish spawning and nursery areas or due to the location of sensitive wetlands. On these shorelines, construction activity will be restricted.

In these areas, the vegetation on Entergy's shoreline lands is, generally, to be left undisturbed. Only riprap or bioengineering can be used for bank stabilization. New dredging or boat ramps will no longer be allowed along these shorelines.

Before doing any construction, clearing of vegetation or disturbance of the shoreline contact Entergy's Hydro Operations to determine if you are located in a "Limited Use" shoreline. Failure to do so may affect your ability to obtain a permit from Entergy for a desired shoreline facility or activity or result in revocation of an existing permit.

What Requires a Permit?

All shoreline facilities, structures and ground-disturbing activities on Entergy's Project 271 lands or water require a permit from Entergy prior to installation or placement.



Some of the most common types of facilities, structures and activities that require a permit include:

- Boat Docks • Piers • Landings • PWC Ramps/Docks • Decks • Walkways
- Boardwalks • Bridges • Inflatable Platforms/Trampolines • Mooring Buoys
- Steps • Boat Lifts (when outside the slip) • Seawalls • Riprap • Fill/Dredge
- Excavation • Roads • Regulatory Buoys • Heat/Air Exchange Piping
- Waterlines • Utility Facilities • Water Withdrawal

To learn more about Entergy's Shoreline Facility Permit Program and the requirements and specification for private facilities on Entergy's property, visit our web site at www.entergy.com/hydro or contact us at bpharr@entergy.com or 501-844-2148.



Lake Hamilton Marine Patrol Association

Garland County is the only county in the state that provides its citizens with a full-time marine patrol. The Marine Patrol enforces the state's boating laws and conducts searches and rescues on the waters of Garland County. A non-profit association has been set up to allow citizens to make donations for the purchase of new and better marine patrol boats and equipment for the Garland County Marine Patrol. Those making tax deductible donations of \$100 will receive a Silver Sticker for their boat, \$500 donation will get Gold Stickers and \$1000 donors will get Blue Stickers. So far the Association has raised almost \$50,000 towards a new \$70,000 28-foot Baja Intruder Police Boat with twin motors. The balance was provided from the Garland County Sheriff's Department Boating Safety Fund.

The new marine patrol boat was delivered in June, so keep your eyes open to see it. It is a true police boat and not just a converted recreational boat. Future donations will be used to replace a 20 year old patrol boat in 2005. Other benefits of joining the Association include an annual newsletter that will provide the latest information on boating laws, accident statistics and other useful information about boating on the lake. Association members will receive free towing to the nearest marina should your boat become disabled. There will also be an appreciation Bar-B-Que later this summer.

Everyone who boats and lives on the lake is encouraged to join and help make the lakes safer. You will make a friend in the Sheriff's Dept. and have greater opportunity to provide suggestions on enforcement and future boating laws and regulations. Contact Corporal Neil Parliament at the GCSO, 622-3660 or send your check to: Lake Hamilton Marine Patrol Association, 525 Ouachita, Hot Springs, 71901.

Entergy Provides Motor

Entergy's Hydro Operations Department provided funding for the two 250-horsepower boat motors needed for the new Sheriff's Marine Patrol Boat. Entergy has a long history of cooperation and assistance to the Garland County Sheriff's Marine Patrol. In fact, this is not the first boat motor they have purchased for the marine patrol.



"Entergy is proud of the work that this patrol is doing and we look forward to seeing this boat out on Lake Hamilton. Safety is a big issue at Entergy. We want everyone, our employees, our customers, and visitors to the lake, to be safe and we believe this patrol is a very big part of the improving safety record on Lake Hamilton," said Henry Jones, manager of Hydro Operations for Entergy.

Protect the Children....



Arkansas State Boating Law states:

- Children 12 years old and younger must wear a USCG-approved PFD securely fastened to their persons at all times while in any vessel. The only exception is if the child is within the enclosed area of a houseboat or cruiser, or within the area enclosed by railings on a party barge, cruiser or houseboat and the vessel is not underway.

To obtain a copy of Arkansas Boating Laws and Responsibility Handbook, call the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission (AGFC) at 1-501-223-6379 or view the AGFC's web site at www.agfc.com.

Boating Safety Education Required

Any person born on or after January 1, 1986 must attend a state-approved boating safety class to operate a boat or personal watercraft. You must be 14 years of age or older to operate a personal watercraft. The Garland County Sheriff's Department will be conducting free classes throughout the year. To find out class schedules, call 622-3660.

Boating Education:

By video...1-800-830-2268 - By internet... www.boat-ed.com/ar - In a classroom...1-501-223-6377

Federal and State Laws Prohibit the Removal of Artifacts from Entergy's FERC Project No. 271 Lands

The Hot Springs/Malvern area is rich in cultural history, and the new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) assigns Entergy a role in preserving that history for the benefit of future generations.

Much of our heritage involves the Americans who lived here before the first Europeans arrived. Both the Caddo and Quapaw Indians lived along the Ouachita River. In fact, archeological findings provide evidence that Indian tribes from other parts of the country came to visit this section of Arkansas.

Entergy's new license from FERC assigns responsibilities to Entergy for protecting historical properties, including archeological sites, within the project boundary. As a response to this license's requirement, Entergy must prohibit the collecting, digging and removal of artifacts from the lake bed or shoreline of Lakes Hamilton and Catherine.

There are both state and federal laws prohibiting the collection of artifacts from within the boundaries of the project.



Garbage in our lakes comes from many sources including street drains, yards, parking lots, beaches, streams, ditches, and people on the water. On the land or on the water, you can help clean up our lakes. The following are ways you can make a difference:

- Keep your cigarette butts off the ground and out of the lakes.
- When purchasing refreshments, choose recyclable containers (and recycle them) instead of styrofoam cups with plastic lids and straws.
- Take sandwiches and snacks from home in reusable containers rather than in plastic food bags.
- Put all trash in its place.
- If you run a waterfront business or live on the lake, maintain your garbage cans with lids and pick up debris before it gets in the water.
- Have a permanent onboard trash can in your boat. Use a bucket with a lid or other sturdy device.
- Help guests understand that on your boat, no trash is thrown overboard.
- Put empty cans back in your cooler for recycling.
- If your trash blows overboard, go back and get it, carefully using the opportunity as "crew-overboard" practice.
- Keep used monofilament line out of the lakes and streams.



New Residential Buoys Are No Longer Allowed on the Lakes

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the unauthorized placement of "5 m.p.h." and "no wake" buoys on Lake Hamilton. In response, the Garland County Quorum Court passed Ordinance No. 0-03-23 on August 11, 2003 transferring from the Sheriff's Office to Entergy the authority to issue permits for the placement of buoys on Lake Hamilton and the Garland County portions of Lake Catherine.

Buoy enforcement will remain the responsibility of the Garland County Sheriff's Office. This new ordinance specifies the qualifications for the permitting of both existing buoys and future buoys. Future buoy locations will be restricted to only commercial establishments, public launching ramps and public swimming areas.

There will be no future permitting of buoys adjacent to residential shoreline. Unpermitted buoys will be removed by the Garland County Sheriff's Department.

Please be aware that the ordinance places a \$200 fine per buoy on the installation of an unapproved or unpermitted buoy.

Did you Know....

- ♦ If your boat was designed with a motor kill switch, by law you must have the lanyard attached to you whenever the motor is running or you could receive a \$205 ticket.
- ♦ Personal Watercrafts may only be operated during the hours between one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.



Trash Bash 2004

Come Join Us
&
Help Clean Up our Lakes



Rain or Shine



Mark your calendar for September 18, 2004 and join us in a public cleanup day for Lakes Hamilton and Catherine and the Ouachita River below Rempel Dam. This event is coordinated by "Trash Bash Council, Inc.". Members of the Council include: Entergy, Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce, Malvern Chamber of Commerce, Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission, Garland County Sanitation, Hot Spring County Sanitation, City of Hot Springs Sanitation, City of Hot Springs Parks Department, Lake Catherine State Park, and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission.

This event will consist of a three-hour public clean-up effort (8 – 11 a.m.) of the shorelines of both Lakes Catherine and Hamilton. The clean-up event will be followed by an appreciation/award luncheon (11 a.m. – 2 p.m.) at the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission's Andrew Hulsey Fish Hatchery on Fish Hatchery Road off State Highway 290. The luncheon will include food and drinks, awards, prize drawings, live entertainment and environmental education booths. You are encouraged to bring the whole family and lawn chairs/blankets.



There will be five check-in stations on Lake Hamilton and five check-in stations on Lake Catherine where participants will register, obtain bags and dispose of the trash collected. Since the lake will not be drawn down during this time, participation in a boat is preferred. You should wear a life jacket and bring some type of tool to reach out from your boat to retrieve trash along the shore (i.e. fish net, rake or hoe). For those without boats, there will be areas at Lake Catherine State Park, Carpenter Dam Park, Hill Wheatley Park and Rempel Dam Park for walkers to clean up.

For more information you can call Julie Dickson with the Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission at 623-7871 or Bobby Pharr with Entergy at 501-844-2197.

Trash Bash Check-In Stations

Lake Hamilton

- Sunnybrook Landing
- Hulsey Fish Hatchery Boat Ramp
- Hill Wheatley Park
- 7 South Causeway
- Jess Gideon's Boat Ramp
(Treasure Isle Rd. & 270W. Bridge)

Lake Catherine

- Lake Catherine State Park Boat Ramp
- Rempel Dam Park
- Diamondhead Marina
- Lake Catherine Shoe Factory Boat Ramp
- Carpenter Dam Park

Ouachita River

- Ouachita River at the new Hot Spring County Park at Rockport



**BOATERS:
Protect
Yourself from
this
Silent Killer!**

*Carbon monoxide
is colorless, odorless
and tasteless and
mixes evenly with the
air.*

Carbon monoxide is a potentially deadly gas produced any time a carbon-based fuel, such as gasoline, propane, charcoal, or oil, burns. Sources on your boat include gasoline engines, generators, cooking ranges, and space and water heaters. Cold or poorly tuned engines produce more carbon monoxide than warm, properly tuned engines.

Carbon monoxide is colorless, odorless and tasteless and mixes evenly with the air. It enters your bloodstream through the lungs and displaces the oxygen your body needs. Early symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning - irritated eyes, headache, nausea, weakness, and dizziness - are often confused with seasickness or intoxication. *Prolonged exposure to low concentrations or very short exposure to high concentrations can lead to death.*

Each year, boaters are injured or killed by carbon monoxide. Most incidents occur on older boats and within the cabin or other enclosed areas. Exhaust leaks, the leading cause of death by carbon monoxide, can allow carbon monoxide to migrate throughout the boat and into enclosed areas. New areas of concern are the rear deck near the swim platform with the generator or engines running and teak surfing or dragging behind a slow moving boat. Regular maintenance and proper boat operation can reduce the risk of injury from carbon monoxide.

**Do you know of lakefront
property owners who are not
receiving this publication?**

Send their names and addresses to:
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