Carpenter Dam

Life on the Lakes

Information on Lake Hamilton & Lake Catherine

Is Your Dock Secure?

Can your dock withstand the high flows that occur on the lakes during heavy rains? Several docks were damaged or set adrift during the heavy rains of January. One floating dock broke loose from its anchor poles and traveled several miles downstream on Lake Catherine. These inadequately secured docks can cause personal property damage and safety hazards for which the dock owners are responsible.

Many areas, such as below Carpenter Dam on Lake Catherine and in the narrow creeks like the Little Mazarn and Big Mazarn on Lake Hamilton, can experience quickly rising waters and very fast flows. Such conditions can potentially damage improperly maintained docks and other shoreline facilities. Entergy’s guidelines require all shoreline facilities to be built in accordance with the Southern Building Code and appropriate federal, state and local codes. All facilities are required to be maintained and securely anchored to withstand the water conditions they may experience.

If you are concerned whether or not your facility is in adequate condition or properly secured, Entergy recommends you call a qualified dock contractor or engineer familiar with your area of the lake to inspect your facility.

Entergy’s Debris Removal Policy

When the lake levels are raised, lowered or when heavy rains occur, debris is picked up off the shoreline and floats away. Debris collects on the water surface and goes whichever way the winds blow. It is not uncommon for this debris to blow into a cove creating an eyesore for lakefront property owners. This condition is usually temporary because the leaves and woody debris will either drift away or become saturated and fall to the lake bottom.

Entergy is often asked to clean this natural debris from the lake. It is not Entergy’s policy to remove naturally occurring debris but we will help remove man-made debris such as adrift broken docks, large boards, barrels, etc. Items such as leaves, grass clippings, dead animals and general trash are primarily an effect of the extensive shoreline development and recreational use of the lakes and pose little hazard to the general public. Though these types of debris are not considered public hazards, Entergy works with community cleanup projects and encourages property owners to clean up this type of debris.

Lakefront property owners are reminded that Entergy owns the lakebed and its ownership extends beyond the edge of the water. Activities that may disturb the lakebed or shoreline are restricted and require written authorization from Entergy, as well from certain governmental agencies. Lakefront property owners are cautioned not to disturb the lakebed or shoreline without proper authorization to avoid potential civil actions and regulatory penalties.

Cash for Trash Bash!

Trash Bash Council Inc., in cooperation with the Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission, is presenting: “Cash for Trash Bash”

What is it?
Cash for Trash Bash is an innovative program that links a great environmental initiative and an opportunity to raise funds for your organization.

Why be a part of this project?
• Earn cash for your organization: $5 per full bag of trash from the lake (up to $200 per registered organization).
• Earn volunteer hours for your organization members. (Great to put on scholarship applications.)
• Earn recognition in the newspaper for your organization.
• Obtain additional sponsorship from others (e.g. “ten cents a bag” from friends, neighbors and family.)

When?
Saturday, March 3, 2007. The lakes will still be drawn down to allow improved access and ease in cleaning up the shoreline.

How?
Call 501-623-7871 as soon as possible to obtain information on registering.

Spring 2007

Trash Bash Council Inc., in cooperation with the Hot Springs/Garland County Beautification Commission, is presenting: “Cash for Trash Bash”

What is it?
Cash for Trash Bash is an innovative program that links a great environmental initiative and an opportunity to raise funds for your organization.

Why be a part of this project?
• Earn cash for your organization: $5 per full bag of trash from the lake (up to $200 per registered organization).
• Earn volunteer hours for your organization members. (Great to put on scholarship applications.)
• Earn recognition in the newspaper for your organization.
• Obtain additional sponsorship from others (e.g. “ten cents a bag” from friends, neighbors and family.)

When?
Saturday, March 3, 2007. The lakes will still be drawn down to allow improved access and ease in cleaning up the shoreline.

How?
Call 501-623-7871 as soon as possible to obtain information on registering.

Cash for Trash Bash!
Refill Timed to Collect Walleye Eggs

The timing of this year’s refill of lakes Hamilton and Catherine is intended to help the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission collect walleye eggs below Carpenter Dam. Commission biologists predict that walleye eggs will be ready for harvest as early as March 11. The biologists need the water to be back to its normal springtime levels for their fish collecting operations. The collected walleye are then transported to Andrew Hulsey State Fish Hatchery on Lake Hamilton where their eggs are harvested. This is where a large percentage of the 2 million walleye fry are raised to stock walleye in lakes across Arkansas. You can learn more about the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and fish management at www.agfc.com.

Both lakes will rise approximately nine inches per day beginning March 7 and ending on March 10 when both lakes will be at their normal springtime levels. Lakefront property owners should take precautions as always when the lakes begin to rise. Precautions include removing construction debris or leaf piles from the lakebed, securing boats to withstand higher water, and returning floating docks to their permitted locations.

Entergy anticipates that the 2007/8 drawdown will be 5 feet or more below normal next fall for both lakes Hamilton and Catherine. For more information concerning the annual drawdown, information on vegetation management strategies, or to obtain information on the permitting of docks and seawalls, see our Web page at www.entergy.com/hydro or call Entergy’s Hydro Operations office at 501-844-2148.