

Life on the Lakes

Information about Lakes Hamilton & Catherine

Recreational Opportunities



Accessible Fishing Pier at the City of Hot Springs' Sunnybrook Landing with Carpenter Dam in background

Entergy Arkansas, Inc. is proud of the fact that its two hydro-electric project lakes on the Ouachita River, Lake Hamilton and Lake Catherine, have helped transform the area around Hot Springs National Park into one of mid-America's favorite vacation/retirement areas. Entergy encourages public use of its two beautiful lakes, which were created under guidelines established by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

These two lakes, in conjunction with Lake Ouachita, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineer impoundment on the Ouachita River, have given the area its nickname of the "Tri-Lakes Region."

With over 254 miles of shoreline, lakes Hamilton and Catherine are nestled in the Ouachita Mountains, offering an abundance of recreational opportunities. The lakes are also the home of many well-known attractions such as Garvan Woodland Gardens, Entergy Park, Hulsey Fish Hatchery and Lake Catherine State Park.

Boating

Seasonal opportunities on the lakes include swimming, fishing, tubing, wake boarding, water skiing, tour boat rides and just relaxing boat rides viewing beautiful homes, undeveloped islands, and secluded coves. The lakes have six public non-fee boat ramps and numerous private marinas and fee-use ramps where you can rent a boat, or launch your own, for an enjoyable day on the lake. Many of the public parks have accessible fishing piers where you can try your hand at catching that big one or just stroll down one of the many nature trails enjoying the fauna of this area. In addition, the City of Hot Springs' Hill Wheatley Park on Lake Hamilton and Lake Catherine State Park have public non-fee swimming beaches for splashing around or fun in the sun.

Fishing

Entergy cooperates in a fisheries management program for both lakes with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. It is a cooperative relationship that began in 1939 when the company donated 135 acres alongside Lake Hamilton for the Andrew Hulsey Fish Hatchery & Public Boat Ramp. The hatchery has more than 90 acres of ponds that contribute some three million fingerlings annually to improve sports fishing. It is one of the most successful state-of-the-art sport fish hatchery in the nation. Also at the fish hatchery is a public boat launch, pavilion, accessible fishing pier and a fishing tournament building.



Waterfall at Lake Catherine State Park's (Photo compliments of Daniel Valovich)

Nature

In addition to being a magnet for fishermen and water sports enthusiasts, the Tri-Lakes Region is popular base camp for day hikes and overnight camping where you can study and photograph nature in the rugged Ouachita Mountains. Garvan Woodlands Gardens is a 210-acre botanical garden that has become one of Hot Springs' most visited attractions, as well as a popular learning facility for horticulture, environmental science and landscape design. The gardens are located on 4 ½ miles of Lake Hamilton shoreline on a woodland peninsula with over five miles of trails through majestic botanical landscapes.

Continued on Page 5

Summer, 2014

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THE POWER OF PEOPLE™

Shoreline Permitting

Guideline Clarifications

Roofs over decks – Previously our guidelines stated that only boat stalls and the fingers/head walkway associated with it are allowed to be covered by a roof. A different section of the guidelines then told you that fingers and head walkways are limited to six feet in width. To clarify that only six feet of decking is allowed under a roof, we have now added the six-foot restriction to the section addressing roofs, so that you do not have to look at multiple sections for this information.

Roof extensions – Many rules and restrictions on facility size and placement are reviewed when permitting a dock; and the overall size of the dock and stall length are important parts of the review. Guidelines state a boat is not to extend more than three feet outside the stall that is housing it, but many times boats are found to extend well beyond the designated stall area. This prompts owners to install roof extensions or fabric awnings to cover the full length of their boat. These extensions change the overall footprint of the dock and also change the size of the vessel that can be accommodated within the facility. To ensure compliance, roof extensions need to be permitted by our office prior to installation. If the addition of the roof extension does not compromise any of our regulations on facility size and placement, we will be glad to permit the modification.

Multiple lots owned by one entity – Adjacent lots owned by an individual or entity for the purpose of a single-family residence will continue to be treated as one tract of land and will be held to the restriction of no more than two boat stalls and two PWC, no matter the length of shoreline involved. If the adjacent property has a separate dwelling on it with its own 9-1-1 address and driveway (may share a driveway with a legal easement), it will then be considered as a separate residence and each property will be evaluated independently from each other for facility permit requests.

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New Guidelines

Trampolines – Please note that all trampolines/jump pads are required to be permitted prior to placing them on the lakes. Last summer we received complaints on trampolines creating navigational problems. Historically, we have been permitting trampolines using the same regulations as swim docks. After reviewing the public safety concerns, we recognized that trampolines were being moved to deeper water. This led us to research the manufacturers' recommendations to learn what is required for use of trampolines/jump pads. Most manufactures say placement in at least 10 feet of water is generally required for safe use.



This has caused us to make some new regulations concerning the placement and permitting of these facilities. **Due to safety concerns, if there is not enough water, per the manufacturer's specifications, to support the placement of a trampoline/jump pad within 55 feet of the shoreline or ¼ distance across the cove (whichever is less) then it will need to be removed from the lake (even if previously permitted).** If you purchase or use a trampoline where the manufacturer requires less than 10 feet of water for its use, we will take that into consideration when permitting it along your shoreline.

Submersible Pumps – After a drowning on one of their lakes attributed to an electrocution caused from a sump pump, the Corp of Engineers has banned the presence of sump pumps on all of the lakes in several of their districts. They found that the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) determined that none of the manufacturers recommend the use of a sump pump in an open-water situation where swimming is allowed.



Entergy agrees that the potential for injury or death is greatly increased by the presence of sump pumps. Therefore, we are also banning them on lakes Hamilton and Catherine. **If you currently use a sump pump to draw water from the lake, you need to immediately disconnect its power source and remove it.** Please note that the use of a shoreline pump is still permitted for water withdrawal.

Fabric – We recognize there are some permitted grandfathered structures that are enclosed facilities (meaning that have rigid and/or solid walls). Since the early 90s this type of enclosure is no longer allowed; this includes solid fabric/tarp walls. Entergy understands the desire to reduce the amount of sun exposure that a boat gets, but to improve navigational views, we are requiring the removal of solid fabric walls. **We will allow the installation of a semi-transparent material to be added to one side of a dock so long as the material is not judged to create a navigational hazard.** We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

In addition, we have noticed an increase in the number of full-coverage fabric boat enclosures. These may be permitted on a case by case basis. Please visit our website at www.entergy.com/hydro to learn more about the regulations concerning these types of covers.

Storage – **Vertical storage lockers are no longer allowed to be installed on facilities.** Henceforth only horizontal chest style lockers that are no taller than 2.5 feet, occupying no more than 30 sq. ft., and are located on the shoreline side of the dock will be allowed. The recommended maximum size is 10 feet wide x 2.5 feet tall x 3 feet deep.



GCSO Ordinance Enforcement: "Address Signage" & "Regulatory Buoys"

Garland County is urging lakefront property owners to ensure that they comply with two ordinances relating to address signage and regulatory buoys.

1) Ordinance 0-95-32, passed in 1995, requires street addresses to be posted on the lakefront side of all lakefront properties. These addresses help emergency responders on the lake. They should be reflective numbers and letters at least three inches in height, facing the lake. They can be attached to your dock, seawall or in the yard near the shoreline and visible by boat.



2) Ordinance No. 0-03-30, passed in 2003, disallowed buoys except for locations associated with commercial establishments, public launching ramps and public swimming areas. Only a few private buoys were allowed to remain under specific conditions. The sheriff's office has seen an increase in the installation of unauthorized buoys and will be stepping up their enforcement of the ordinance, which includes removal and potential fines.



If you have put a buoy on the lake without a permit from Entergy, you should immediately remove it from the lake. If you have a permitted buoy, ensure that you have followed all the conditions of the permit, including having your name, address and phone number on the buoy. Also, be sure that it is in the permitted location. If you have questions concerning your permit, please contact Entergy hydro operations.

"Trash Bash" & "Cash for Trash"

Helping to Keep our

Lakes & Community Clean



The Trash Bash council organizes two annual cleanup events. Trash Bash is in the fall and Cash for Trash in late February or early March. Two different events with one purpose: remove litter from the lakes and surrounding areas.

The Trash Bash Council reported that the 2013 Trash Bash clean-up event held September 21 collected 16,320 lbs. of trash. This was an increase of 25% from the previous year. In addition, more than 450 volunteers helped with the event. According to a Keep Arkansas Beautiful representative, Trash Bash is the largest registered clean-up event in Arkansas.

Cash for Trash takes place annually before the lakes are refilled. This year we had seven teams participate at the March 2 event:

- Lake Pointe Church Youth Group
- Piney Baptist Church
- Spa City Bass Club
- Hot Spring County Fire Fighters
- Hot Springs High School ROTC
- Oaklawn Methodist Church Youth Group
- Arkansas Hawg Hunters

The council would like to thank all the volunteers and sponsors who continue to help make these events successful, keeping our lakes and community clean. In addition, the Trash Bash Council would like to say a special thank-you to the Morris Best family & friends for making a donation honoring his memory. Mr. Best was a good steward of Lake Hamilton.

If you would like to help plan, organize, and participate on one of the committees for this year's upcoming events, the next meeting of the Trash Bash Council is Wednesday, June 4 at 10 a.m. at the Transportation Depot in Hot Springs.



Safety

Slow It Down; You're Creating a Monster!

"Open it up and let's go." Ever heard this while boating? Today's boats are faster than yesterday's, and bigger boats and personal watercrafts are becoming more popular. A boat's wake can be dangerous to other boats, swimmers and personal property such as boat docks.

Arkansas state boating law states that "no person ...

1. Shall operate a motor boat upon the waters of this state within one hundred feet (100') of a designated recreation area, dock, pier, raft, float, anchored boat, dam, intake structure, or other obstruction (bridges, bank, etc.) at a speed exceeding five (5) miles per hour, unless a contrary speed limit shall have been established in the designated area.

2. Shall operate a boat upon the waters of this state at a rate of speed that creates a hazardous wash or wake upon approaching or passing vessels.



3. Shall operate any motor-boat or vessel or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane, or similar device in a reckless or negligent manner that endangers the life, limb, or property of any person."

When boating,
have fun, but be safe
and
be courteous!



Want the Latest Lake News?

Go to www.entergy.com/hydro and subscribe to our Email Listserv. We use this service to share important information concerning lake related information such as: safety related issues, permitting information, drawdown and refill schedules, generation plans, emergency weather related drawdowns, policy changes and other time sensitive information.

Going out at Night? Flip the Switch!

Taking a run up the lake at night can sure be enjoyable.

Better fishing, fewer boats, and the stars bring folks out on the lakes at night.

Before departing for a night cruise, check to be sure that your navigational lights are operating properly, and turn them on before taking off.



Flip the switch!
It could save your life.

Dock Lighting Reminder

Not all lights are good. Some can give boaters and other lakefront property owners a headache or, worse, cause a deadly boating accident.

To improve boating safety, our permitting guideline for dock lighting states:

"Only low-watt yellow-colored lighting that does not create a hazard to boaters is allowed on any type of facilities (this includes boardwalks, decks, piers, swim docks and boat docks). All lights are to be pointed downward and shielded to prevent visibility of the bulb within 50' of the lake side of the facility. Motion-activated lighting is preferred. Two-inch-diameter blue reflectors placed at 10-foot intervals along the dock's sides are recommended. Red, green or white lights shall not be used as they could be confused as navigational lights."



Preparedness

Emergency Preparedness

What to do...

...if you notice a problem at a dam – call 911. Local authorities know who to contact when there are concerns with the local dams on the Ouachita River.

...if you notice a river/lake is unexpectedly high and rising on a clear day – immediately head for higher ground and call 911 to report the situation.

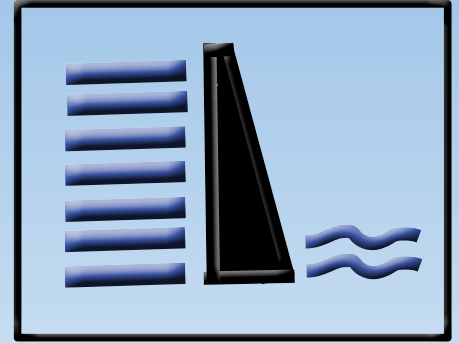
...if a road is covered with water – remember that floodwaters are deceptive. As the old saying goes, “Turn around, don’t drown.” Roadways can become compromised by floods and these weak spots are not always visible. Avoid flooded areas if you can.

...if your car stalls in a flooded area – abandon it as soon as possible. Floodwaters can rise rapidly and sweep a car - and its occupants - away.

...if a flood traps you in your house – move to the second floor and, if necessary, to the roof. Take warm clothing, a flashlight and portable radio with you. Then wait for help; don’t try to swim to safety. Rescue teams will be looking for you.

...if you receive a reverse 911 call – first, take it seriously. Next, listen carefully and follow all of the instructions from the phone call. If it is to warn you of a flood, it may tell you to stay in your home or head to higher ground immediately. Do so as quickly as possible.

Entergy Arkansas Inc. monitors Carpenter and Rempel dams 24/7, but if you notice an unusual situation concerning the lake levels or the dams, call 911 to report it. Thanks to FEMA publication 593-237B (9/90) for information used in this article.



Recreational Opportunities.... continued from page 1

Another destination for enjoying nature is a 30-acre peninsula on the east end of Lake Hamilton that is now Entergy Park. Entergy donated the land to the City of Hot Springs in 2003. The design concept for the park was built around the idea that recreation and nature can coexist. This jewel of Lake Hamilton was the recipient of the National Recreation and Park Association’s 2011 award for Outstanding Park & Facility Design Class II. It features 2.5 miles of hiking trails, fishing piers, playgrounds, pond, waterfall and pavilions overlooking Lake Hamilton and Carpenter Dam.



Camping

Lake Catherine State Park has complete camping facilities, including free boat docks and launching ramps, boat rental, guided hikes, nature programs, swimming beach, playground, picnic tables, grills, drinking water, restrooms and showers. Campsites are available to suit all tastes from the backpacker to the nomadic RV enthusiast.

In addition to public campgrounds, there are several private parks and camps on both lakes with tent and RV sites.

Other

Other activities offered on the lakes include boat rentals, zip lines, riverboat dinner cruises, amphibious vehicle tours, lakeshore dining and fishing guide services.

For more information on the above, you can visit:

www.arkansas.com/places-to-go/lakes-rivers/lake.aspx?id=18;

www.arkansasstateparks.com/lakecatherine/

www.hotspingschamber.com/visitor/index.asp





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Help Us With Our Mailing List

Please contact Entergy Arkansas, at
 844-2148 or send an e-mail to
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 with any corrections.

What Requires a Permit?

All shoreline facilities, structures and ground-disturbing activities on Entergy Arkansas, Inc. Project 271 lands or water require a permit from Entergy Arkansas 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
- ✓ Decks
- ✓ Walkways
- ✓ Boardwalks
- ✓ Bridges
- ✓ Boat Ramps
- ✓ Steps
- ✓ Seawalls
- ✓ Riprap
- ✓ Fill/dredge
- ✓ Excavation
- ✓ Roads
- ✓ Waterlines
- ✓ Buoys
- ✓ Utility facilities
- ✓ Water withdrawal
- ✓ Heat/Air exchange piping
- ✓ Inflatable platforms/trampolines
- ✓ Boat lifts (when outside the slip)



Any changes to the footprint, roof line, support structure or change in the size of an existing facility requires a new application/permit.

To learn more about Entergy Arkansas' shoreline facility permit program and the requirements and specifications for private facilities on Entergy Arkansas' property, visit our web site at www.entergy.com/hydro or contact us at (501) 844-2148.

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

Send their names and addresses & emails to:

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