

Life ON THE Lakes

INFORMATION ABOUT LAKES
HAMILTON AND CATHERINE



New Ordinance Requires Both House Number & Street Name

Did you know that Garland County has had an ordinance requiring you to post your street address on the lakeside of your property since 1995?

Ordinance 0-95-32 required that all lakefront property owners' street address be posted on the lake side of all lakefront properties. .

We understand. . .1995 was a long time ago, and it is hard to keep up with all the rules and regulations - especially one 21 years old. On top of that, many of our lakefront property owners are not full-time residents. That's why we remind you periodically through Life on the Lakes.

Unfortunately, even with the reminders, compliance with this ordinance was significantly lacking. So much so, in fact, that in May of this year, after a combined effort of emergency responders and Entergy Arkansas, lawmakers passed a new enhanced ordinance. The new ordinance requires you to post both your house number and street name on your docks or shoreline.

Why is the water-side posting important? Because now when you call 911, responders will be sent by both land and water, and it is difficult to tell from the water what a property's street address is, possibly causing a crucial delay during an emergency.

Let's help each other comply with this new enhanced ordinance and get our addresses posted ASAP. Requirements are to post a reflective sign on your dock with the numbers a minimum of three inches in height and letters a minimum of two inches in height. If you don't have a dock, the address should be posted on your shoreline. The sign should be displayed at a height, and with an unobstructed view, so it can be seen by law enforcement officers patrolling from the lake.



You're Responsible...

To Obtain a Permit: For new construction or activity, relocation or significant alterations, changing the footprint, roof line or support structure of existing facilities requires the approval of Entergy Arkansas. These "facilities" must be brought into compliance with all current Entergy regulations, specifications and requirements before a permit is issued.

To Comply With Your Permit: Your facility must conform to the location, specifications and all other conditions of your permit, in addition to any specifications, requirements and/or conditions that Entergy Arkansas may determine to be appropriate subsequent to permitting of your facility.

To Secure Your Facilities: Loose flotation material and loose or derelict facilities present a serious hazard to water recreation. Flotation must be securely attached and the facility properly anchored and secured at all times.

To Maintain Your Facilities: It is the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure that the facility is properly maintained and when it is constructed, modified or replaced, that the waste material is disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner, including ensuring that all electrical components of your facilities is in compliance with all applicable electrical codes as well as other federal, state and local codes.

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2016

Have You Missed Us?

It's been a busy year, and we're working hard to get caught up with some things like the Life on the Lakes newsletter. We have added several new staff members at Entergy hydro this year, so we've been busy learning new jobs while doing our old jobs prior to filling some vacancies. In the middle of it all, our phone system was hit by lightning and was out of commission for three weeks and our weekly email listserve message got lost to a computer glitch. All that to say we're sorry that the annual edition of the Life on the Lakes is hitting your mailbox in December!

Thank you for bearing with us. We're finished shuffling, for now, and are ready to refocus on staying in better touch with you.



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, we recently revised our permitting guideline for dock lighting. It now 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.
- Red, green or white lights shall not be used as they could be confused as navigational lights.
- Like submersible pumps, underwater lighting has the potential to introduce electricity into the water and is banned on both lakes Catherine & Hamilton.

What to Do about Debris in the Lake?

Storms this year washed a great deal of loose natural debris into the lakes, both in the channels and against the shorelines. We get lots of questions about what to do about this debris. Here are the answers:

In many cases, ignore it and it will go away. Naturally occurring debris – logs, trees, mats of tangled sticks, etc. - are part of the cycle of nature and will generally take care of itself. Floating debris either sinks or flows downstream and passes through the dams.

However, what about the debris that doesn't sink or float downstream? Some of this needs to be disposed of, but whose job is that? The short answer is: It's everybody's job. But there is a longer answer:

Entergy Arkansas, Inc. owns and operates Carpenter and Rempel Dams and the related shorelines and lakebeds. So, it's reasonable to ask what Entergy Arkansas' responsibilities are for debris removal. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, by whose authority Entergy Arkansas operates the hydroelectric project, says, essentially, that the company's responsibility is limited to hazards associated with the hydroelectric generation facilities themselves, and that hazards elsewhere in the lakes would be better left to "local entities and law enforcement agencies." Arkansas law regarding recreational land, similarly, absolves Entergy Arkansas -- and other owners of property available to the public for recreational purposes -- from responsibility for removing naturally occurring potential safety hazards from their property.

So, though we are not legally obligated to keep the shoreline and lakes free of debris, Entergy – as a good neighbor - will help lakefront property owners dispose of logs if they are at least 10 inches in diameter or are over 20 feet long. However, the logs must be moved to a boat ramp that can be accessed by wheeled equipment so they can be loaded onto a dump truck.

Another source for the removal/relocation of floating logs is the Auxiliary Coast Guard. If floating logs are causing a navigational hazard in the main channel, the Auxiliary Coast Guard will help relocate floating logs to a boat ramp for disposal.

Another option for ridding your shoreline of debris is to remove it yourself or hire a contractor to do so.

That covers natural debris. However, docks, pieces of docks, boats and such are another matter. These things sometimes get dislodged in a storm and float downstream. First, please do what you can to prevent this from happening. Ensure that your facilities are in good condition and are stable and secure. That said, when notified, Entergy does help remove runaway property. Please contact Entergy hydro at 501-844-2101 to report loose manmade debris.

On a final note, it is still illegal to dispose of yard waste (leaves, limbs, grass clippings) in the lake or on the lakebed or to burn yard waste or debris on the lakebed. Incidents of these types will be reported to the local authorities. Thank you for helping us keep the area lakes clean and enjoyable for us all.



Aquatic Vegetation: A Boon or a Bust?

by Brett Hobbs, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission Supervisor Fisheries Management - District 8

Lake Hamilton lakefront property owners will be familiar with a variety of aquatic plants growing and often prospering along seawalls and around boat docks. Aquatic plants are a normal part of the Lake Hamilton ecosystem. There are multiple benefits from aquatic plants both emergent (growing beyond the water surface) and submersed (below water).

As a fisheries biologist, I often find myself "preaching" the benefits aquatic plants provide to our fisheries. These aquatic plants harbor invertebrates (small aquatic insects) that provide a food supply for young sport fish species including: largemouth bass, spotted (Kentucky) bass, crappie, walleye, bluegill, redear sunfish, and longear sunfish. Another noteworthy benefit of the plants is nursery cover. Young fish are able to hide and escape predators among the vegetation, thus allowing time to grow beyond the vulnerable first months of life.

Entergy and AGFC get phone calls and emails every year with folks wanting "weeds" gone from the lake near their property. Before assuming all aquatic plant growth in the lake around your property needs to be removed and eradicated, please consider the needs of our fisheries.



What's Being Done About Pesky Plants?

by Brett Hobbs, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission Supervisor Fisheries Management - District 8



The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission in Hot Springs annually partners with Entergy to evaluate the extent of aquatic plant coverage on Lake Hamilton during the late summer period. Entergy evaluates the same sites each year to gauge change, and we check during the time of peak growth, which is late summer. This information helps Entergy determine the extent of its annual winter drawdown.

While drawdowns can expose aquatic vegetation along the shoreline to both drying and freezing, which helps, sometimes this method of vegetation control needs a helping hand.

Since 1996 the AGFC has stocked grass carp (a.k.a. white amur) four times into Lake Hamilton to help reduce aquatic plant coverage. These sterile

grass carp, raised locally at the Hulsey Fish Hatchery, are used in lakes and ponds nationwide as a natural vegetation control method and can be considered an effective vegetation control method for several years. This periodic stocking has been done at the request of Entergy and will occur during years when lake-wide aquatic plant coverage has been increasing beyond the control of the annual drawdowns.

While grass carp are great at reducing coverage of many aquatic plant species, they will not eat just anything. They don't care for several of the plants that grow in the lakes, including water willow, Eurasian watermilfoil, water lilies, cattails, alligatorweed, smartweed, and spatterdock. Over the next few years keep your eye out for the latest batch of grass carp as they eat their way through nuisance vegetation in Lake Hamilton.

How Many Hippos were Removed from the Lakes this Year?

Would you believe it if we told you THREE... And it only took three hours to do so. Well... three hippos... if you compared the amount of trash removed during this year's Trash Bash events to the weight of a hippo. Over 700 volunteers gathered this year from all over central Arkansas to help clean up the shorelines and area roads to lakes Catherine, Hamilton and the Ouachita River.



This year marked the 17th year these events were held in Garland and Hot Spring County.

Over 4 TONS of litter and man-made debris was removed.

The event is the LARGEST clean-up registered with Keep Arkansas Beautiful.

Nine check stations were used - four on Lake Hamilton, four on Lake Catherine and one at the White Water Park in Malvern.

These events are organized by the Trash Bash Council whose members are made up from local businesses, state, city and county government, and concerned private citizens.

The fall event's after party at Garvan Woodland Gardens includes volunteer t-shirts, a free lunch (BBQ provided by Smokin' In Style) and a chance to win one of the many donated prizes.

For more information on these yearly events, you can check out the Council's website: www.arkansastrashbash.org. If you would like to join the council, or donate toward this clean-up effort, please contact the Council's Chair Clint Coleman at clcoleman@agfc.state.ar.us.



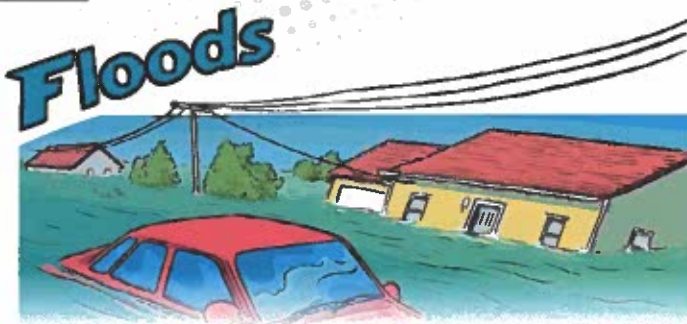
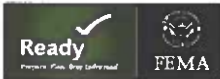
Entergy Hydro would like to congratulate Bobby Pharr on his retirement earlier this year. Bobby had been with Entergy hydro since the 90s and was instrumental in multitudes of initiatives through the years.

With that change came several more:

David Batson is the new Lakes Manager (Bobby's old job), and Kimberly Bogart is the new Lakes & Property Coordinator (replacing David). Gary Bettis was hired to fill Kimberly's former position. Some of you will recognize Gary's name. He is a native of Hot Springs and a graduate of Lakeside. Gary is glad for the opportunity to be back home and work in the community he loves.

Another new addition to our staff is Denise Potts. Denise has been helping hydro part-time for a couple of years, and we were able to bring her on full-time this fall as the new Hydro admin. Denise brings a lot of experience to our team as she has previously served several roles for Garland County Department of Environmental Services (recently renamed the Garland County Inspections Department).

Rounding out our team is Ted Smethers who continues to provide valuable experience in dam safety, security and water management. You'll recognize Ted's name as the hydro staffer who sends out our weekly emails about how much water we're releasing from the dams.



Flooding happens during heavy rains, when rivers overflow, when ocean waves come onshore, when snow melts too fast, or when dams or levees break. This is the most common natural-weather event. Flooding may be only a few inches of water, or it may cover a house to the rooftop. Floods that happen very quickly are called flash floods.

Am I at risk?

Floods can occur in every single U.S. state. Some floods develop slowly, and some can build in just a few minutes. People who live in low-lying areas – near water or behind a levee or dam – are at even greater risk.

Did you know?

Flooding can change familiar places, like walkways, roads and fields. Avoid walking through water. It might be deeper than you think!



FACT CHECK

1. Which of the following does NOT cause a flood?
 - a. Tropical storms and hurricanes
 - b. Spring thaw and melting snow
 - c. New construction
 - d. None – they can all cause floods
2. True or False? 1 foot of water is enough to make most cars float.
3. True or False? 6 inches of moving water can sweep you off your feet.

ANSWERS
(1) d.
(2) True!
(3) True. Stay away from moving water!



For more facts and info on floods visit
<http://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/floods>
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/floods/>

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 Rammel 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.

FLOODING? BE SAFE!

Turn Around Don't Drown





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 Malvern, Arkansas 72104

PRSR STD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 LITTLE ROCK, AR
 PERMIT NO. 2437

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

- Boat docks
- Piers
- Landings
- PWC ramps/lifts
- 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.energy.com/hydro or contact us at (501) 844-2101.

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

Send their names, addresses & emails to:

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Please contact Entergy Arkansas, at 501-844-2101 or send an e-mail to dpotts1@energy.com with any corrections.