



**NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 29, 2015**

The AGRED Foundation has listened to many of your comments and concerns, and we continue to try and work to ensure that Lake Erling is financially self-sustaining, while accommodating and addressing these concerns. We have offered one final chance for lakefront property owners around the lake to take advantage of our *Introductory Rate* pricing.

**Introductory rate lakefront property owners will be able to continue at the introductory rate indefinitely, as long as payment is made by March 1, 2015. Please note that all property owners that pay after March 1, 2015, will be paying the double Standard rate! We would also like to remind you that all new construction can be at introductory rate pricing as long as a permit is obtained prior to construction.**

We would like to thank those understanding folks who came on board last year and participated in the proposed annual Lake Easement and Land Use Permit program. Your acceptance of this responsibility is much appreciated and contributes towards making Lake Erling financially self-sustaining which surely is something every person on this lake would want. Thank you. There are many who complain about the change The AGRED Foundation is bringing about however we have researched what some area lakes are charging for their annual maintenance fees. Our findings are below:

LAKE NAME	BOAT DECALS	DOCK PERMITS	OTHER	NOTES
Cypress Black Bayou	\$70 / year	\$250 min / per year	\$150 / year water access	\$200 / boat ramp Dimensions req.
Cross Lake	\$20 / year	\$500 min / per year	\$10 launch fees	\$200 / rip-rap 2x late pricing Dimensions req.
Lake Catherine/Hamilton	N/A	\$400 / year (private) 32-page application	\$550 / seawalls, boat ramps & concrete piers	

On October 13, 2014, Erin Buchanan with KTBS Channel 3 News did an interview with a couple that lives in Cypress Park. Through this interview, we learned that Cypress Black Bayou Recreation Area operates on a \$1.5 million budget, which is more than *ten times* that of Lake Erling, even though their water acreage is less than half of that of Lake Erling. The bulk of the funding comes from district property taxes, which brings in around \$900,000. Between \$100,000-125,000 comes directly from the landowners who live on the lake, who pay boathouse fees of \$250 a year, and a lease for their use of the water for \$150 a year. The remainder of the revenue comes from RV park fees collected. Boat stickers generate \$70,000-75,000 per year, and are dedicated to future spillway work.

Our annual pro-rated budget (over 5 years) is \$146,000. If everyone on the lake were to pay their annual Lake Easement and/or Land Use Permit fees, it would generate approximately \$81,000, or 55% of our budget. Furthermore, if we sold 1,000 boat decals, that would generate \$30,000, or 20.5% of our budget. Any and all funding for the lake comes directly from these easements, permits, and decals, **so please understand that your cooperation is pertinent to building the Lake Maintenance Account, which is used to fund Lake Erling maintenance only.** The Directors of The AGRED Foundation are not compensated from any funds raised.

We have recently established the above mentioned boat decal system for access onto Lake Erling (up to the 225' MSL) for all motorized boats. If you are a lakefront property owner, you will receive **one** decal free with your signed and paid 2015 Annual Lake Easement and/or Land Use Permit. Otherwise, these decals are \$35.00 each, and can be purchased at local convenience stores, sporting goods stores, bait shops, and marinas.

At this point, we have no way of knowing how many boats visit Lake Erling annually, and 1,000 decals to sell is a pretty optimistic guess. We implemented this decal program by popular demand from you, the public, and fellow landowners around the lake, and now some of you seem to be objecting...why? Mr. Eric Fletcher and Mr. Daniel Thomas, directors of AGRED, have stepped up to the plate and personally funded any other monies needed for