



July 2019 Newsletter

The AGRED Foundation would like to thank the public for the support shown to the foundation and appreciation for the work that The AGRED Foundation continues to do maintaining Lake Erling for the benefit of the wildlife, habitat and community. Despite the opposition by a few who have temporarily prevented The AGRED Foundation from raising funds for maintenance of the lake, we have continued with our commitment and are proud of what has been accomplished since taking ownership of Lake Erling.

Earlier this year we were extremely concerned by the invasion of Giant Salvinia and were going to take steps to address this invasive species to the best of our ability. One of these steps was to lower the lake after the fish spawn and spray the Giant Salvinia (GS) with approved aquatic chemicals which the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) supplied. In recent weeks we have conducted several surveys and find that there is now much less GS on the lake. This is something all of us have found surprising given the invasive and resilient characteristics of this plant and we are searching for an explanation which hopefully we can determine in the future. Thoughts are that Lake Erling does have a huge watershed and with all the rain this spring and summer that much of the GS was flushed out. While this is a plausible explanation, it does not address the backwaters and slews where it's presence has been significantly diminished. Perhaps the slightly higher PH or acidity level which is naturally occurring for the Lake Erling water has an impact? This we do not know but hopefully we can determine why GS has significantly been reduced. As a result, The AGRED Foundation has decided not to implement a drawdown of the lake (originally planned a 4' draw down) until deemed necessary. We will try to keep the lake at pool stage so everyone can enjoy but we will be monitoring the situation closely in cooperation with AGFC.

After signing the Agreement between AGFC and The AGRED Foundation late October 2018 both organizations have been working very closely to improve Lake Erling with common goals and objectives. The AGRED Foundation would like to express its deep appreciation to The AGFC for the law enforcement

agents who are doing a GREAT job, biologists and senior management all of whom support these common goals and objectives. On July 17th The AGFC very kindly released approximately 72,000 Florida Bass into the lake. Thank you so much to all involved for making this happen; on behalf of The AGRED Foundation and most of the community we truly wish to express our deep gratitude and appreciation. Some photos taken during the release:





It has been brought to our attention that some of the boat channel markers (poles) that were driven into the lake bed are now swaying or have become loose. The cost to drive these poles was \$180 per

pole and they were driven in as far as possible which for the most part was 7' to 10' into the lake bed. We are awaiting the contractor to return to the lake so as to fix these problem poles and will drive in a few more, possibly 20 so as to fill in some gaps where they are spaced too far apart. Thanks to those in the community who brought this to our attention; your cooperation is much appreciated.

In addition to driving in the extra poles we will complete marking all the poles with reflective tape as well as solar red and green lights in strategic locations. We wish we could put these lights on all the poles however with the lake maintenance funding sources being restricted to donations we can and will only do these improvements as funding allows. Cost for each light is \$100 purchased from Lake Lite Solar Technology.

Additional maintenance will be done on the spillway and siphon pipes in the coming weeks and months. We will continue to keep The AGRED Park clean and appreciate the community help in keeping the trash in the dumpster. Continued mowing and spray of riprap are part of our ongoing maintenance to remain compliant with Arkansas Natural Resources Commission regulations. Should the public have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact our office at 318 210 0451