



FILIA, P.O. Box 135, Aitkin, MN 56431 • FILIALake@gmail.com • FarmIslandLake.org

FILIA annual meeting June 17 from 9-11:00 AM

The FILIA annual meeting is June 17 from 9-11:00 AM at Hazelton Town Hall. Hazelton Town Hall is on Hwy 169, 2 miles south of Tame Fish Lake Rd / Hwy 11.



The speaker will be Kyle Fredrickson, AIS Coordinator for Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). He plans to discuss Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and forestry/land management. AIS includes things like early detection training, moving/selling boat lifts and docks (moving AIS with equipment) and volunteer inspectors. Forestry/ Land management includes yard tree health, maintaining or promoting native deep-rooted plants to protect shoreline against erosion.

Invasive species are plant and animal species that are not native to Minnesota and cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. Minnesota's natural resources are threatened by a number of invasive species such as zebra mussels, starry stonewort, Eurasian watermilfoil, common buckthorn, and emerald ash borer. Invasive species can occur on land or in the water. The FILIA board members work with the DNR to help prevent the spread and promote the management of invasive species.

Get the Lead Out

Get the Lead Out is an educational program with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency working to protect and restore the population of common loons and wildlife in Minnesota by reducing their exposure to lead-based fishing tackle. To learn more about Get the Lead Out, visit <https://lakeadmin.org/get-the-lead-out/>.

At the annual meeting there will be a box to drop off lead tackle and a package with information on the program, decals and about 80 lead free samples. Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LeadOutMN/>

Boat Parade is July 1st !



Membership Update

Current and past membership lists are on our website. For this year, an application is attached and is included at the bottom of this newsletter and is available online on [our website](#).

66 paid members!



-1/3 of paid members used the online payment method on [our website](#) to pay their dues and contribute toward the AIS fund.

- A large membership base provides us with a strong voice when it comes to the affairs involving lakeshore ownership, including grant applications, government, county and local agency activities.

- FILIA is a non-profit organization.

Tame Fish Lake Rd. Road Construction



Aitkin County will do major construction on Tame Fish Lake Rd. from June 1 through end of October 2023. They plan to have the road open all the time, with single lane closures and delays. The exception being when they work on the Ripple River culvert, they will need to close the road. They will add wider shoulders, re-pave the road and add

west-bound turn lanes by the south public access and Hwy 77W. They have already cut down a bunch of trees on both sides of the road.

- The FILIA Board Members, to fulfill our mission of stewardship for Farm Island Lake, strive to maintain good communications and collaborative efforts with lake association members, Aitkin County and state agencies. To name a few - the DNR, Aitkin Area Fisheries, Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Invasive Species Specialist, etc.
- When government, local agency and county information is included we are serving as the messenger to keep you informed of their activities concerning Farm Island Lake.
- The FILIA board members act in good faith as volunteers and assume no responsibility for the boat parade or any other FILIA activity.

“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.”
-John Muir



Fishing Opener
May 13

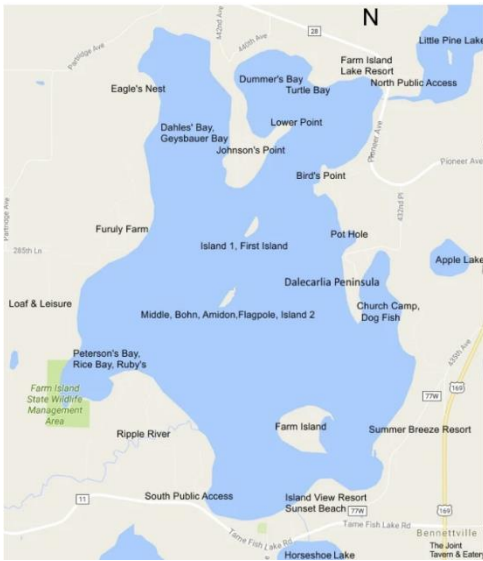
4 STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT OUR LAKES

This is a special place where plants, wildlife, fish, and people are neighbors.

- Give wildlife space**
Stay at least 200 ft away from wildlife, nests, and marked breeding areas.
Close encounters can disrupt activities like resting, breeding, and finding food.
- Keep the shoreline natural**
Leave logs and submerged vegetation in place. Keep shoreline vegetation intact.
Driftwood, downed trees, and plants provide habitat for fish and wildlife, hold soil in place, and filter pollutants and excess nutrients that fuel algae.
- Observe no-wake zones**
Slow to no-wake within 200 ft of the shoreline and wildlife.
Wakes can cause erosion, disturb animals, and damage vegetation.
- Prevent the spread of invasive species**
Before leaving the water access, clean, drain, and dry all gear.
Invasive species can overtake native plants and animals, creating ecosystem imbalances.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Click on the map for a link to the printable map on your website. FarmIslandLake.org



**As of April 30, the lake is at least 60% frozen.
Ice may be out by the end of next week.**

Farm Island Lake AIS Information Brochure

**“WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER
FARM ISLAND LAKE”**

Find the brochure at
<https://www.farmislandlake.org/copy-of-score-your-shore-1>

Come to the annual meeting June 17 from 9-11:00 AM to get the glossy print of the FIL AIS Information Brochure!

DNR reminds public to not prune, cut oaks spring through July

Pruning or cutting oaks puts them at risk of oak wilt

Despite a cool and snowy spring, oak trees will soon be at risk of oak wilt infection. Oak wilt is an invasive fungal disease that kills all of Minnesota’s oak species. Not pruning or cutting oaks from April through July is the easiest way to prevent the spread, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. In addition to following pruning guidelines, campers, cabin owners, visitors, and hunters are cautioned not to move infected firewood. Moving oak firewood can spread oak wilt over long distances.

For more details on oak wilt prevention and how best to deal with infected trees and wood, visit the [DNR’s oak wilt management page](http://mndnr.gov/treecare/forest_health/oakwilt/management.html) (mndnr.gov/treecare/forest_health/oakwilt/management.html).



No mowing in May - Help the pollinators AND the Lake!

No Mow May is part of an international movement to encourage homeowners to **postpone cutting their grass in spring**. Proponents say that leaving grass unshorn helps pollinators such as bees thrive during the crucial post-winter period, when they are coming out of hibernation.

Suspending mowing allows flowering plants that grow in the grass — such as clovers and dandelions — to bloom, which provides pollinators and their offspring with nectar and pollen. In addition, taller grass can give shelter to bees and butterflies.

For the lake, the bees, and wildlife - It's extremely important to avoid pesticides and insecticides. Chemicals are harmful for all local wildlife and a death sentence for nearby bees. Instead of spraying undesirable plants it's best to pull them out. This will prevent chemicals from entering the lake and will help bees and wildlife thrive.

Boating and Fishing Regulations

It's never too late, or too early, to remind folks that the DNR Boating and Fishing Regulations are on our website under Useful Info:

<https://www.farmislandlake.org/useful-links> and are also listed on the DNR website.



Note: When government, local agency and county information is included we are serving as the messenger to keep you informed of their activities concerning Farm Island Lake.

The **911 Blue Sign Number**, which is your address number, is used by **emergency responders** to locate your property. If you are in an association you need your own number to be placed by your individual house, so you can be quickly located. To order, contact the Aitkin County Highway Department 218-927-3741. The \$45 fee covers the double-sided sign, hardware, and 8-foot post. You will be notified when to pick it up.



In an emergency, be able to give detailed directions on how to reach you. Write it down, and post it so everyone at your house can see it.

Minnesota law requires water recreationists to:

- **Clean watercraft of all aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.**
- **Drain** all water by removing drain plugs and keeping them out during transport.
- **Dispose** of unwanted bait in the trash and dispose of bait water.
- **Dry** docks, lifts, swim rafts and other equipment for at least 21 days before placing equipment into another water body.

For more information on the Minnesota law, which holds true whether or not a lake is listed as infested – go to this online link. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html>

Be sure to inform your visitors and neighbors of this important Minnesota regulation, which is also important and necessary to keep our lake clean and free of invasive species.

DNR List of Permitted Lake Service Providers

Lake service providers who install and remove docks and lifts for hire are required by the DNR to be trained and have a permit. Use the link below and select Aitkin and Crow Wing or other county for a list of permitted lake service providers. The list appears at bottom of the web

page. https://webapps11.dnr.state.mn.us/aquatic_invasive_species_training/lake_service_provider_permits/public_website_list. This link and information is also on your FILIA website on the Useful Info page.

The list of permitted lake service providers is made available for the convenience of the public only. Farm Island Lake Improvement Association, The State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources neither endorse the services listed nor accept any liability arising from the use of the services listed.

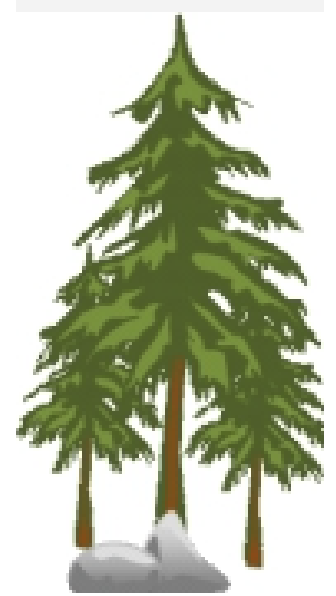
MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Farm Island Lake Improvement Association (FILIA) is to:

- 1) Promote the safety and common good of its members and the surrounding Farm Island Lake (FIL) community.
- 2) Improve and preserve the quality of the land and water in the Farm Island Lake area for its members, the community and future generations.

Some examples of how we strive to meet our mission are:

- Work with MN DNR, ACLARA and Aitkin Soil and Water Department on Invasive Species Prevention, which includes efforts to monitor public accesses.
- Provide opportunities (FIL Boat Parade, annual meeting, AIS updates, etc.) for members to get to know each other. This will foster a safer community setting.
- Provide an opportunity for members to provide feedback to the DNR on issues such as walleye slot limits, invasive species and boat access.
- Provide members feedback on safety issues from the Aitkin Sheriff Department.
- Loon nesting program.
- Water quality monitoring.
- Lake weed control.
- Improve walleye spawning area.



Two loons were by the river April 13. They didn't have much open water at that time. Since then, we've been hearing their calls!



Loon Watch



Loon Nesting Platforms

As part of a collaborative venture with the MN DNR, the FILIA board members elected to build two ANPs – Artificial Nesting Platforms.

Once the ice is out, they will be placed in the lake, with the hope that loons will build their nests in the platforms.

This sign is located at both public accesses, requesting that people maintain at least a 100-yard distance from Loon Nesting Platforms.

The DNR provides the monies towards the cost of supplies. Denise and Dennis Noling and Scott Scheele have built the platforms. Thank you!

2023 Calendar of FILIA Events

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| *Spring Board Meeting | Saturday, May 6, 8:00 am | The Joint Tavern & Eatery |
| Annual Association Meeting | Saturday, June 17, 9-11:00 am | Hazelton Town Hall |
| 4th of July Boat Parade | Saturday, July 1, Noon | FIL South Public Access |
| *Fall Board Meeting | Saturday, Sept 2, 8:00 am | The Joint Tavern & Eatery |

Hazelton Town Hall is located on Hwy 169, a few miles south of Tame Fish Lake Rd.

*Only board members attend the Board Meetings.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Dennis Kraimer President | Denise Noling..... Secretary | Mike Harrington |
| Gordon Vetsch V.P. | Cindy Chuhanic | Stan Barnes |
| Cheryl McDonough ... Treasurer | Bill Haroldson | Scott Scheele |

Contact board members: FILIALake@gmail.com

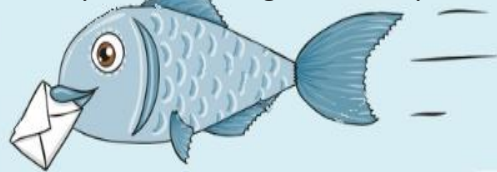
FILIA Website

There is a lot of information on the FILIA website. This site map includes the links to the various pages on the website. FarmIslandLake.org

Site Map

- [Home](#) Mission statement, printable map of Farm Island Lake, description
- [Membership](#) Members lists, application form
- [Pay Dues](#) Pay yearly membership dues online with credit card
- [Newsletters/Lake Info](#) Current and past newsletters, Gillnet Survey Results
- [Contact/Calendar](#) List of Board of Directors, Shore Captains, Meeting dates
 - [Local Events](#)
- [Administrative](#) Financial reports, current and past
 - [Meeting Minutes](#)
 - [FILIA Bylaws](#)
- [Aquatic Invasive Species](#)
 - [Score Your Shore](#)
 - [How to identify zebra mussels](#)
 - [Living with zebra mussels](#)
 - [How to combat swimmer's itch](#)
- [Useful Info](#) Aitkin County contacts, etc.
 - [Boating & Fishing Regulations](#)
 - [DNR Permitted Lake Service Providers](#)

Be sure we have your email addresses to ensure receipt of newsletters and email updates throughout the year.



Be Well. Be safe. Have fun!

Sincerely,
Cheryl McDonough
FILIA Treasurer
filialake@gmail.com

Your comments are welcome.

FILIA
PO Box 135
Aitkin, MN 56431

FarmIslandLake.org

Clean In Clean Out

When boating or fishing in Minnesota, protect your waters by following state aquatic invasive species laws.

1. **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.

2. **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) *and* drain bilge, live well and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. **Keep drain plugs out** and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/q_and_a_drain_plug_law_20110609.pdf

3. **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

KNOW THE LAW: You may not...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Spray, rinse, dry — Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters:

- **Spray** with high-pressure water
- **Rinse** with very hot water*
- **Dry** for at least 5 days

Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.

Transport fish on ice — be prepared, bring a cooler.

* These water temperatures will kill zebra mussels and some other AIS: 120°F for at least 2 minutes; or 140°F for at least 10 seconds

Report suspicious infestations

If you suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, take a photo and note the location, or save a specimen and report it to a local [DNR invasive species contact](#).

More information at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/preventspread_watercraft.html

To print just this page for your application, in your Print Settings at the Pages input prompt, type in 8.

FILIA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

FarmIslandLake.org

BECOME A MEMBER AND HELP PRESERVE AND ENHANCE FARM ISLAND LAKE

Dues are **\$25.00** a year per property owner from January to December.

You can pay online at your FILIA website, or bring this form to the annual meeting, or mail it to:

Farm Island Lake Improvement Association (or FILIA)

Date: _____

PO Box 135

Aitkin, MN 56431

Name _____

Home Address _____

No need to write your home address if your correct address is on your check.

Lake Address _____

Phone-best year-round contact phone(s) _____

Email-best year-round contact email(s) _____

Your email addresses will be used to send you newsletters and other FILIA news. It will not be sold or shared.

Additional money for the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund \$ _____