



In an effort to keep you updated with Farm Island Lake Improvement Association (FILIA) happenings, association members will periodically receive emails with pertinent information. At the end of last year, we had 205 members. A membership application form can be found on our website, and is also included with this mailing. Dues are \$25 a year.



Annual Meeting Speakers

- Scott Lucas, the MPCA Watershed Project Manager for the Upper Mississippi/Brainerd, specializing in erosion control and storm water
- Phil Hunsicker - AIS Prevention Planner with the DNR

The annual meeting is held on Saturday, June 17, 9:00am at Hazelton Town Hall.

The speaker begins shortly after 9:00 am.

Plan to attend the FILIA Annual Meeting, held on the 3rd Saturday of June

Anyone interested in news-worthy updates and in the welfare and preservation of Farm Island Lake is invited to attend the annual June meeting. Meeting time is from 9:00am – 11:00am at Hazelton Town Hall. You do not have to be a member to attend. You can sign up to be a member at the meeting. We have guest speakers who cover information pertinent to lake owners. We are always looking for new ideas for speakers.

Other activities, to name just a few: walleye re-stocking updates (when available), attendees can discuss concerns and happenings around the lake, there is a vote for board association member when a board member's term is expired, ACLARA updates, AIS updates, water clarity, etc.

Guest speakers present at the start of the meeting. Coffee and pastries are provided. This is a great time to meet your neighbors and get more involved with the lake.

Newsletters will NOT be mailed via Post Office

In an effort to conserve money and paper, we will not be mailing (via Post Office) a membership application. Please print the attached application, or if your current address and email and phone number has already been submitted, you do not have to send in the application along with your \$25 dues check.

If you do not print the member application, and if you need to update your contact information or are not sure your information is correct, please email your contact information to FILIALake@gmail.com, or write your email address on the check and be sure name and address is on the check.

Please forward this newsletter to other lake property owners if they are not receiving it. If you do not have an email please call Cheryl McDonough (FILIA Treasurer) at 218-851-7026 to arrange to have an application mailed to you. Or attend the June 17 meeting.

We would like to receive around 205 paid members, as we did last year, without spending the \$455 it cost to mail the membership application.

The application is [available on the website](#) and is included in each emailed newsletter, including this one.



Minnesota Fishing Facts

Click here for the complete article from the **DNR** website

<http://news.dnr.state.mn.us/2017/04/03/minnesota-fishing-facts-4/#more-19198>

April 3, 2017

Anglers and waters

- There are about 1.4 million licensed anglers in Minnesota.
- About 500,000 people are expected to fish on Minnesota's opening day of the walleye and northern pike season, Saturday, May 14.
- Minnesota has 11,842 lakes, 5,500 of which are considered fishing lakes. There are over 18,000 miles of fishable rivers and streams, including 3,800 miles of trout streams.
- Average annual expenditure per angler in Minnesota is about \$1,500. ¹
- Although not every kind of fish lives everywhere, 162 species of fish can be found in Minnesota waters.

Participation and the economy

- Fishing contributes \$2.4 billion to the state's economy in direct retail sales, ranking Minnesota third in the nation for angler expenditures. ¹
- Fishing supports nearly 35,500 Minnesota jobs. ²
- Minnesota ranks second in resident fishing participation at 32 percent, second only to Alaska. ¹

Who goes fishing?

- Most resident anglers are from urban areas. However, a higher percentage of people living in rural Minnesota fish compared to the percentage of people living in urban areas who fish. ¹
- Males account for 65 percent of fishing license holders. Females account for 35 percent.

Fishing habits

- Significantly more time is spent fishing on lakes than on rivers and streams. ¹
- The average Minnesota angler spends 15 days fishing each year. ¹
- Walleye are the most sought-after fish in Minnesota, followed by northern pike and muskie combined, then panfish, bass, crappie and trout. ¹

Visit the [LicenseDollarsAtWork](#) page for more information about how the DNR spends fishing license dollars, and select a fisheries area to find local information.

¹ 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, (U.S. and Minnesota reports) U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

² [Sportfishing in America](#), January 2013, produced by Southwick and Associates.



News from the DNR

Annual Walleye Stocking

The DNR officially changed back to **annual** stocking of walleye fry. They will continue to electro fish in the fall to check status of the fry stocking.

Curly Leaf Survey

The DNR AIS Specialist from Brainerd, Tim Plouffe, said they will do another curly-leaf pondweed survey this year.

Mille Lacs Lake Walleye

DNR announces on Mille Lacs Lake walleye fishing will be catch-and-release in 2017. Mille Lacs Lake will be closed from July 7 – 27 for walleye fishing. Click [here to read the full article](#) in the Aitkin Independent Age, which was published March 29, 2017.

The local DNR contact is:

Rick Bruesewitz

Aitkin Area Fisheries Supervisor

1200 Minnesota Ave South

Aitkin, MN 56431

218-429-3037

Rick.Bruesewitz@state.mn.us<mailto:Rick.Bruesewitz@state.mn.us>

Note: When government, local agencies, school districts, and county information is included it is meant to serve only as the messenger to keep everyone in the FILIA email network informed.

Ice Damage to Shoreline Property

Property owners occasionally return to their cabins in the spring only to discover they are dealing with property damage caused by a phenomenon called "ice heaving" or "ice jacking". This powerful natural force forms a feature along the shoreline known as an "**ice ridge**". The result may include significant damage to retaining walls, docks and boat lifts, and sometimes even to the cabin itself.

The question arises ... **Is an Aitkin County permit required to remove or grade soil material (ice ridge) pushed up by ice action onto my shoreline?**

The short answer is... **It depends on the size of the project, and it would be much better to call Aitkin County Environmental Services/Planning and Zoning at 218-927-7342.**

Shore Captains are Farm Island Lake residents who have volunteered to help provide other lake users and residents with lake related information by:

- Welcoming new residents and making them aware of lake issues (e.g. Invasive Species controls) and opportunities.
- Helping disseminate late breaking news (e.g. no-wake order in 2012 due to high water).
- Providing input to the FILIA board on issues and opportunities based on feedback from their area.

SHORE CAPTAINS

Lewann Sotnak	Northwest Shore	olsotnak@gmail.com
Randy Feltmann	Southwest Shore	RFFeltmann@gmail.com
John Pierson	Johnson Point	gerald.pierson@gmail.com
Dick Rees	Island	reesMinneapolis@aol.com
Gordon Vetsch	Dahle Bay	gordonvetsch@gmail.com
John Dahle	Northwest Shore	johndahle@yahoo.com
Karilyn & Paul Lew Martinsen	South Shore	pkmartinsen@gmail.com
Lowell Larson	Dummer Bay	landcl Larson@centurylink.net
Sharon Mattison	West Shore	mattfam78@comcast.net
Karen Ulstad	West Shore	karen.ulstad@wilder.org
Cindy & Tom Scott	South Shore	cydnilea@yahoo.com



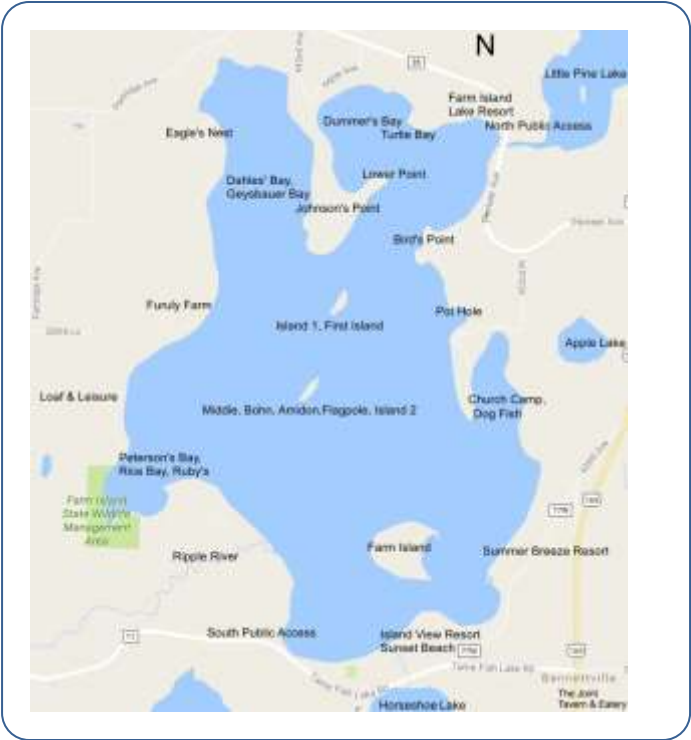
Please be mindful of your pets. Before heading out for a fun-filled day on the lake verify that your dog won't bark while you are gone. Be sure your pet has water and food if you'll be gone for any length of time. As a courtesy and for safety, do not let your pet wander unattended. Your neighbors and your pet will appreciate the thoughtfulness.



AIS 2016 Summary

As reported by Steve Hughes, AIS Coordinator, the hours that inspectors were stationed at the Farm Island Lake accesses in 2016 were 1,019.48 hours. The 2016 agreement between Aitkin County and Farm Island listed 864 hours that were to be funded at a 90% (county) and 10% (Farm Island) rate for the inspector costs. 864 hours X \$18.00/hour = \$15,552. The lake's share 10% would be \$1,555.20. That invoice was paid this April 2017.

Bay names and other often mentioned lake locations have been identified on this map. We are working on adding more information, and making corrections. This map is also posted on your [FILIA website](#) in a more printable format, with the most up-to-date information.



Ice out date: April 5, 2017

Click here for the MNDNR map showing Minnesota Ice Out Dates.
http://dnr.state.mn.us/ice_out/index.html?year=2016



Paid association members, in recognition of their support, are posted on the [FILIA website](#) and periodically are listed in this newsletter. 32 people have already mailed in their dues and more are coming. The FILIA mailing address is at the end of this newsletter.

Membership dues for year 2017 are accepted through end of the year; for record keeping purposes, the earlier the better.

A membership application form can be found on our [website](#), and is also included with this mailing. Dues are \$25 a year and are welcome any time.



THERE HAVE BEEN SOME INQUIRIES ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER BEING USED FOR ADVERTISING AND ABOUT USING OUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION.

FILIA DOES NOT ADVERTISE AND WILL NOT SELL OUR MEMBERS' CONTACT INFORMATION.

Blue Fire Number



The **Blue Fire Number**, which is your address number, is used by **emergency responders** to locate your property. This could save your life or property. If you are in an association you need your own number, placed by your individual house, so you can quickly be located. To order, contact the Aitkin County Highway Department 218-927-3741.

GPS doesn't work well in our area. 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.

Damage or break-ins should be reported to the Sherriff immediately

Aitkin County Sheriff
218-927-7435 Or 911

DNR Information Center
651-296-6157

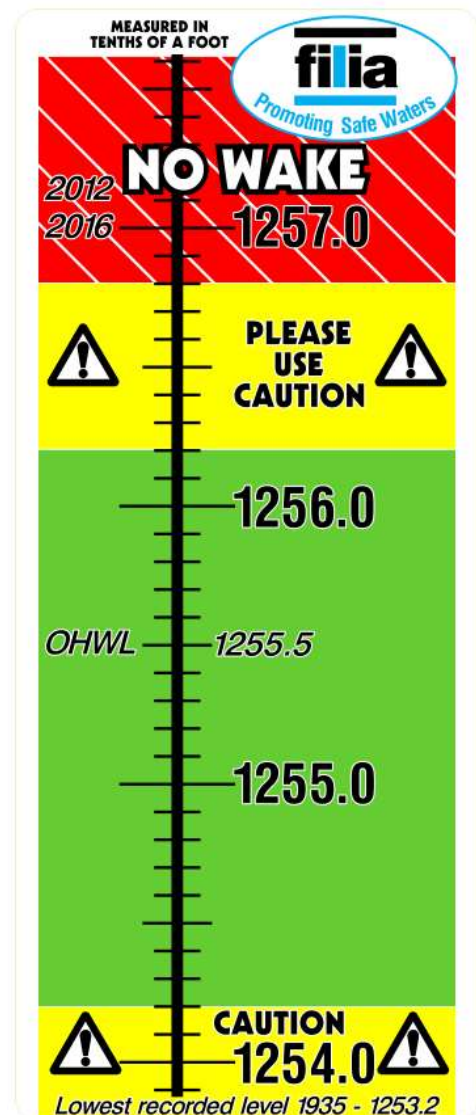
OHWL Sign

A new Lake Level sign will be placed by the Little Pine Lake culvert. Look for it after the water warms, and the lake level recedes a bit.

OHWL stands for Ordinary High Water Level. The DNR's definition is: the ordinary high water level is an elevation delineating the highest water level that has been maintained for a sufficient period of time to leave evidence upon the landscape, commonly the point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to predominantly terrestrial.

Click here for the complete definition as stated by the DNR.

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/surfacewater_section/hydrographics/ohw.html



Scott Turner, the sheriff of Aitkin County, submitted the following Spring Lake Season greetings.

SCOTT A. TURNER
SHERIFF OF AITKIN COUNTY

217 Second Street NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

218-927-2138 Emergency 911
Sheriff Fax 218-927-7359 / Dispatch Fax 218-927-6887
TOLL FREE 1-888-900-2138

Lake Season

Greetings to all Farm Island Lake residents! It is a privilege to share some ideas with all of you and in return I hope to hear from some of you about how we can work together to make life around the lake more enjoyable for all.

Despite the recent cold weather, the calendar officially says, "Spring." We have enjoyed some warm days, the ice is off the lake and the lake buoys are out.]

While the buoys are out, be mindful of the possibility that new hazards may appear due to the work of Mother Nature. As always, if you observe something that you think should be marked, or if you have any other lake concerns, please give us a call. Boats are already present on the water – at the same time the water will still be quite cold. While we encourage life jackets (personal floatation devices) at all times, no time is more important to wear one than when the water is cold. Take a moment to put that life jacket on and keep yourself safe.

Spring is also a time when we start thinking about **stewardship**. Not just stewardship of the land, air and water, but also of our role in our neighborhoods. As the weather gets nice, people will want to have their lake home windows open to enjoy the gentle breeze off of the lake. And while you may enjoy staying up late and listening to loud music – your neighbor may not. In this context, please be mindful of how your activities – operating your personal watercraft or ATV, letting your pets run astray, or activities both on and off of the lake may be affecting others in your neighborhood.

We strive for a conflict-free and crime-free summer for all neighborhoods and encourage everyone to help us in that process. So everyone – enjoy the great natural resource just outside your door Safely and Conflict-Free!

FILIA Mission Statement

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

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

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

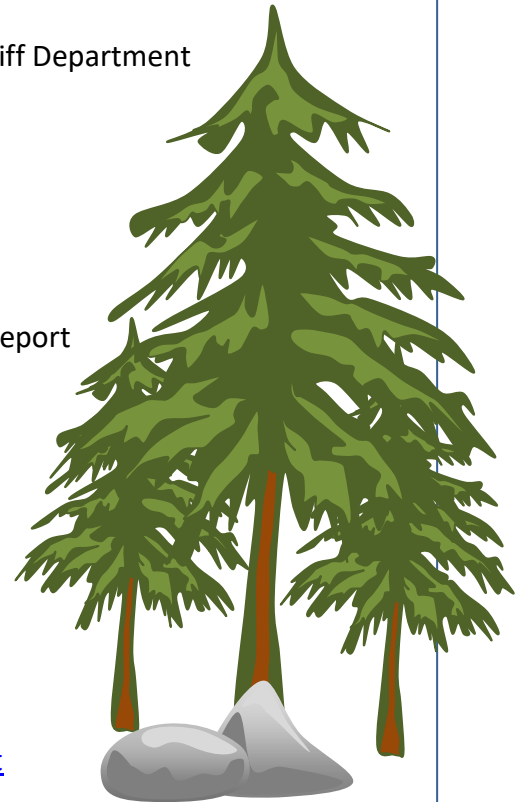
- Work with DNR, ACLARA and Aitkin Soil and Water Department on Invasive Species Prevention, includes efforts to monitor public accesses
- Provide opportunities (Farm Island Lake Boat Parade, annual meeting, AIS updates, etc.) for members to get to know each other. This will foster a safer community setting.
- Improve boating safety via the lake buoys
- Provide an opportunity for members to give 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

The FILIA [website](#) contains useful information – to name just a few:

- * 2015 Aitkin County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Risk Assessment Report
- * [FILIA Membership Application Form](#)
- * Contact information - Board of Directors and Shore Captains
- * Previous Newsletters and other reports
- * Contact information for
 - Aitkin County Government
 - MN DNR
 - Aitkin County Sheriff
 - Minnesota Waters home page

Check it out at www.minnesotawaters.org/farmislandlakeimprovement

Among other activities, we have been working closely with the DNR, ACLARA, Aitkin County Soil & Water, etc. to help prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) infestation



Here is the FILIA 2016 End of Year Financial Report, which is also on our website.

FILIA Financial Reports

REVENUE		Year End 2016	
REVENUE	ACTUAL	%	
Membership Dues	5,050	75%	
AIS Fund/General Lake Fund	1,620	24%	
Interest	32	0%	
TOTALS	\$6,702		

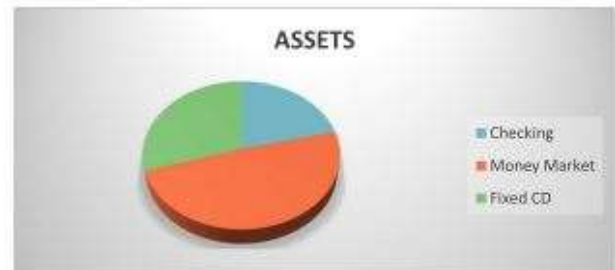
Year End December 31, 2016



EXPENSES		Year End 2016	
EXPENSES	ACTUAL	%	
GL Insurance	305	7%	
2015 AIS Inspection	2,903	69%	
Dues Paid	295	7%	
Meetings	116	3%	
Mass Mailing	456	11%	
Rentals	160	4%	
TOTALS	\$4,235		



ASSETS		Year End 2016	
ASSETS	ACTUAL	%	
Checking	8,818	21%	
Money Market	20,345	49%	
Fixed CD	12,358	30%	
Petty Cash	35	0%	
TOTALS	\$41,556		



FIRST LOON SIGHTING - APRIL 4TH

FILIA Board Members

Jim Hausauer	President	jhausauer@hotmail.com
Bill Haroldson	V.P.	wmbill100@gmail.com
Cindy Chuhanic	Secretary	cchuhani@yahoo.com
Cheryl McDonough	Treasurer	cherylmcdonough@gmail.com
Julie Anderson		andersjka@aol.com
Dennis Kraimer		dkkraimer@hotmail.com
Gordon Vetsch		gordonvetsch@gmail.com
Greg Anderson		farmislandlake@yahoo.com
Patrick Holder		Patrick_holder@hotmail.com

2017 Calendar of Events

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

Hazelton Town Hall is located on east side of US Hwy 169, a few miles south of Tame Fish Lake Rd.
**Only board members attend the Board Meetings.*

Members can email the board at any time and we will try to address your questions in a timely matter. The best way to contact us is with the FiliaLake@gmail.com email address.

Have fun this summer!

Sincerely,

Cindy Chuhanic

FILIA Secretary

Your questions and comments are welcome.

FILIA

PO Box 135

Aitkin, MN 56431

FiliaLake@gmail.com

<http://minnesotawaters.org/farmislandlakeimp>