



Spring 2015

Newsletter

Mission Statement

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

- 1)** Promote the safety and common good of the Farm Island Lake 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:

- Provide support for the Aitkin Fire Department and the South Aitkin First Responders emergency assistance program
- Work with DNR on Invasive Species Prevention, includes efforts to monitor public accesses
- Provide opportunities (Farm Island Lake Boat Parade, semiannual meetings, 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
- Improve walleye spawning area
- Milfoil and other lake weed control
- Water quality monitoring

Visit our web site for up-to-date information and contact information.

www.minnesotawaters.org/farmislandlakeimprovement

**Upcoming Events:
Meeting Saturday June 20th, 2015 @ 9:00am
Hazelton Township Hall**

The hall is located 3 miles south of the Farm Island Store, gray building on the left side of road. Coffee and treats will be served. There will be door prizes but you must be present to win and have paid your \$25 dues for this year.

- Our speaker for the Spring meeting will be Sheriff Deputy Dan Asmus who is in charge of the Boat and Water Patrol. Deputy Asmus took over this position last October and will be able to answer your questions about the rules of the lake.
- Our speaker for the 2014 Fall meeting was Jeff Haberkorn, Attorney who discussed real estate issues, wills, trusts, etc.
- When completing your dues form ***please include your email*** address so we can add it to our list. This makes it easier to notify lake owners of information that happens between newsletters. ***In August 2014*** I started sending the newsletter out by email to save money. If you do not have email access please let me know and I will make sure that you receive a copy of the newsletter.
- Please remember to clean off your props, trailers and check the rest of the boat for critters that came along for the ride, empty live wells and bait containers when moving between lakes. Remind your guests also.
- Aitkin County Grant for Aquatic Invasive Species Activities was submitted and approved for \$14,515.20. This is a 20% matching grant and we will be required to pay \$2,903.04. Our Lake Association would cover the 20% match grant using “in-kind” volunteers and the balance of funds from our lake association treasury.
- 18 Inspectors have been hired through a Job Fair hiring and AIS required education class was completed. 3 decontamination units are being purchased from a company in Motley. The two stationary units will be at Willey’s Marine in McGregor and FIRM in Aitkin. The portable will be used extensively around Aitkin Country north area of Mille Lacs Lake.
- Several board members have been attending the ACLARA meetings and Bill Haroldson has some information about no-wake and high water issues. Ask Bill if you have additional questions, comments.
- Fall and Spring road clean-up: Please contact Jim Hausauer if you can help.

Updates:

- If you are new to the lake, ***WELCOME!*** If you have a new neighbor please let them know about our meetings and let them know that they are held on the 3rd Saturday of June and 3rd Saturday in August at 9:00 am at the Hazelton Township bldg. on Hwy. 169.
- We now have ‘Shore Captains’ and they are around the lake and will try and keep your neighborhoods updated on a more one-on-one focus of the things that are happening around your neighborhood. I have enclosed the website for the shore captains. Could use a few more volunteers.
<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/group/filia/shore-captains>
- The 4th of July boat parade will held on Saturday July 4th at noon at the south end landing; Thank you to Lori and Lisa Long for heading up the parade for the past few years - they have decided that someone else should have the honor. If you are interested in being the lead of the parade, please talk to a board member.

- Membership is still down, We currently only have 178 members. Please spread the word, we need all the members we can get to qualify for some of the grants that are available for lake improvement. Some require over 70% membership of property owners. Thanks for all the hard work!
- F.I.L.I.A will donate \$500.00 to the **Aitkin South First Responders** this year. We rotate every year between Fire, Water Safety, and First Responders. It was voted at the Spring meeting to continue to support these organizations.
- I have noticed more “**BLUE FIRE NUMBERS**” (good job) around the lake, please contact the Aitkin County Highway Department to order yours. It is also your address. Even if you are in an association you still need your own number. This could save your life or property. They even give you the post to put in the ground. The phone number to order is: 1-218-927-3741.
- Please remember that some insurance companies may not cover you if you do not have your cabin/house plowed out in the winter months and the trucks can't get to your house in case of fire ect. You might want to check on this.
- *GPS doesn't work well in our area. **If you need to call for an emergency please be able to give directions on how to reach you. This is very important, have it written down, Post it so everyone at your house can see it and knows what to do in case of an emergency. Give detailed instructions to the dispatcher, this will save time and maybe your life.** There are so many different street names in the same locations that don't appear to make much sense and are confusing to our First Responders and others trying to find us.*
- Please be courteous to your neighbors when you have pets. Please clean up after them and keep them leashed. Some people don't love them as much as you do. Also when you leave for a while, don't leave your pets outside to bark or leave them inside near an open window. It happens and others want to enjoy their time at the lake also.
- The DNR and Aitkin Sheriffs Water Safety are patrolling the lakes, so follow the rules, be safe and have fun.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

There have been some questions about whether or not we treat the lake for weeds, swimmers itch, etc. In the past we did treat the lake for Curly Leaf Pond weed. We no longer do this due to the small amount that we have and the cost. For swimmers itch, copper sulfate can be used, but please check with the local regulations for use before you apply. There are also some other ideas on the internet. Check to see what would be best for you.

Memorial Gift

The Kent Grosser family has informed us they will give a memorial gift to our Farm Island Lake Association in memory of his mother, who loved our lake. On behalf of the association, a heartfelt thank you.

2015 FILIA Board Members

Pam Husom has retired as the Treasurer of the FILIA but will remain on the board. Please take a minute to thank Pam for all the hard work she has done over the years as the treasurer and 1st Lady of the lake for several years when Fred was our President.

Cheryl McDonough has agreed to take over as the treasurer from Pam.



Board of Directors

Jim Hausauer	President	jhausauer@hotmail.com
Bill Haroldson	V.P.	williamharoldson@edinarealty.com
Cindy Chuhanic	Secretary	cchuhani@yahoo.com
Cheryl McDonough	Treasurer	cherylmcdonough@gmail.com
Pam Husom		fphuey@embarqmail.com
Dennis Kraimer		dkkramer@hotmail.com
Gordon Vetsch		gordon.vetsch@claconnect.com
Greg Anderson		farmislandlake@yahoo.com
Patrick Holder		patrick_holder@hotmail.com

Shore Captain Information

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

1. Welcoming new residents and making them aware of lake issues, such as Invasive Species controls, and opportunities.
2. Helping broadcast late breaking news, i.e. no-wake order in 2012 due to high water.
3. 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
Cheryl McDonough	Southwest Shore	cherylmcdonough@gmail.com
Dick Dahnert	Johnson Point	ridskd@mlecmn.net
Dick Rees	Island	reesMinneapolis@aol.com
Gordon Vetsch	Dahles Bay	gordon.vetsch@claconnect.com
John Dahle	Northwest Shore	johndahle@yahoo.com
Karilyn & Paul Martinsen	South Shore	pkmartinsen@gmail.com
Lowell Larson	Dummers Bay	carolelarson@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

BECOME A MEMBER AND HELP PRESERVE AND ENHANCE FARM ISLAND LAKE

Complete the form below and bring to the next meeting or mail to:

Farm Island Lake Improvement Association

PO Box 135

Aitkin, MN 56431

* Note this is a new mailing address

Farm Island Lake Improvement Association Membership Form

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Lake Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Lake or Cell: _____

Email: _____

Your email will be used for the Newsletter and other important FILIA news. It will not be sold.

Dues are \$25.00 per property owner from January to January

New member: ____ Renewing Member: ____

Please indicate with an X whether you are a New or Renewing member.

Referred by: _____

Donation to FILIA Invasive Weed Fund: _____

Date: _____

I hope everyone is having a wonderful and safe summer, and I'll see you at the meeting!

Cindy