



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.



Move the annual meeting date to the first week of June?

At this year's meeting we will discuss and vote on whether to move the FILIA annual meeting to the first week of June. The board members think it will encourage more attendance because there are less conflicts at the beginning of the month. By the third week there are more lake visitors, weddings and graduations that prevent folks from attending the annual meeting. The annual meeting attendance is between 20 – 65 attendees, and out of the 375 property owners, we encourage your attendance.

If you can't attend the meeting you can email your meeting date preference by June 12th.

Due to a scheduling conflict with the Hazelton Township Hall, the year 2024 annual meeting will be held the first week on June 8, 2024. This is regardless of the voting decision mentioned in the above paragraph.

Board Elections

Dennis Kraimer and Gordy Vetsch are up for election following their 3-year term. There is a vote at the annual meeting. Anyone interested in being on the board can contact a board member, or me at 218-851-7026 or send an email to FILIALake@gmail.com. Current board members are listed in this newsletter and on our website.



DNR Fisheries Management Update

Update from DNR Rick Bruesewitz as of May 12, 2023. Things looked real good last fall. Best young-of-year walleye catches for several years. Also, we will be conducting a standard survey this year. That will also include electrofishing for bass this spring - next couple of weeks I would guess. We also have a creel survey planned for next year (2024). Rick's contact info. 218-429-3037 Rick.bruesewitz@state.mn.us. The [2022 Fisheries report](https://www.farmislandlake.org/newsletters-1) is on our website <https://www.farmislandlake.org/newsletters-1>

Communication via email

Please be sure we have your email addresses so lake news can be communicated to you in a timely manner. The mass mailing is sent only once a year. The newsletters are emailed numerous times with lake association news, AIS and DNR updates and tons more information. Include your email addresses with your application. You can also email or mail your email address. FILIA's contact info is at the end of this newsletter.

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. An application is included at the bottom of this newsletter and is available on [our website](#).

-1/3 of paid members use the online payment method on [our website](#) to both pay their dues and donate 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.

103 paid members!



The boat parade meets at the south public access, starts at noon. It will head east this year.

Numerous folks have asked that water balloons be curtailed during the parade and always, due to concerns about the impact to the environment, wildlife, and property, and the time spent to take them out of the water and dispose of them. Have fun decorating your watercraft, be kind and courteous. Remember children are watching this parade from the shore and from the parade. Be careful not to follow too closely or make waves that could knock over smaller watercraft. HAVE FUN! We have about 50-70 boats yearly, and lots of folks watch the parade from the shore. Some boats have been published in the Aitkin Independent Age newspaper!

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.

5 STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT OUR LAKES

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

Give wildlife space

Stay at least 200 feet away from wildlife, nests, and marked breeding areas.

Close encounters can disrupt activities like nesting, 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 feet 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.

Avoid pesticides and chemicals

Try to use non-chemical management methods on your lawn and garden.

Introduce beneficial insects and wild, native plants. Use physical methods, including hand weeding, mulching, or setting traps, to reduce chemical use outdoors.

*"Nature is not a place to visit,
it is home."*



Curly-leaf Turion

Curly-leaf Pondweed – first to come up in the springtime

by Veronica Lundquist For the Aitkin County Aquatic Invasive Species Committee May 12, 2023. [Aitkin Independent Age](#)

Curly-leaf Pondweed is an increasingly common lake plant, known as curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton Crispus*) and it is an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) that you should keep an eye out for.

Did you know curly-leaf pondweed is the first to come up in the springtime? It actually begins developing in the fall and continues to grow under the ice throughout the winter. By mid-spring it develops turions, which are a wintering bud, that become dormant on the lake floor until ready to sprout. Curly-leaf is not the only plant to have a wintering bud, tulip bulbs overwinter very similarly to turions, although tulips are much prettier and not nearly as spikey as curly-leaf turions. Once summer comes around, the turions drop and the leaves die off. Once the leaves die off, the turions hang out on the lake bottom floor tucked in the mud, waiting to sprout. Some turions sprout the next year and some can stay cozied up in the mud for up to seven years!

Curly-leaf pondweed is such a pesky aquatic plant that it can easily outcompete the native vegetation, mainly due to the turions and the length of its survival rate. When a seed can hibernate in mud and muck

for that many years, it is hard to know what could be in the seed bank of the lake floor. You do not know until it sprouts and reappears. It is also difficult to treat because it dies off quickly in the summer season.

Most chemical treatments are applied too late to target this plant before it dies and releases the turions. Then when it dies off, it creates a dense mat of dead and dying material that coats the lake's surface. When the vegetation is disturbed by boats at any point in the spring and summer months, the turions can drop down to the lake bottom and prepare to sprout or hibernate.

So the main question is how do we get rid of this pesky plant? Are we able to eradicate it? The trouble is, we may not be able to fully remove it once it is introduced to a lake. Just like with other AIS, we need to educate and avoid the spread to more lakes. Aitkin County currently has 20 lakes with curly-leaf pondweed out of the 365 Aitkin County lakes. Preventing the spread is our best weapon against AIS.

Some lakes like Round Lake are mapping curly-leaf pondweed and installing buoys around the infestation. This lets boaters know where the curly-leaf is and to avoid the area, so as to not disturb it and release the turions. This keeps the infestation from spreading to other areas of the lake and infesting other lakes in the area.

Not all "weeds" are bad. Lakes naturally have a variety of plants that offer important habitat for lake critters, some of which are native pondweeds, large-leaf pondweed and clasping-leaf pondweed. These two pondweeds differ from curly-leaf pondweed in the shape of the leaves and the importance of them. The main difference is that curly-leaf has small "teeth" along the edge of the leaves. Large-leaf and clasping-leaf have no "teeth" on the edges. Also, unlike curly-leaf, both the native species are beneficial to lake organisms as they provide habitat for many species of fish. The two native species do not invade areas or over compete with other native vegetation.

It is always important to keep in mind that it is illegal to transport plant material, mud or water on a watercraft. So, make sure to clean, drain and dry your watercraft before leaving the boat landing. As lake users, we want to keep our lakes clean and protected for many years to come. We should all do our part to prevent the spread of AIS. No one likes a weedy lake, but they are important, so let's keep in mind the good weeds and the bad weeds.



Should I Rake Leaves into the Lake?

Please be a good steward and do not rake leaves into the lake. It is important to do everything we can to keep our lakes free of pollutants. The DNR strongly discourages dumping leaves and grass clippings into a lake, river, wetland, or other body of water.

Leaves, grass clippings and similar debris add nutrients to the water that use up precious oxygen as they decompose. Some aquatic organisms need that oxygen.

If you'd like to be a good steward of our water and land resources, the best way to dispose of leaves and similar waste is to compost it either on your land, or at a designated compost site near you.

Ice out date was May 2, 2023

Farm Island Lake AIS Information Brochure

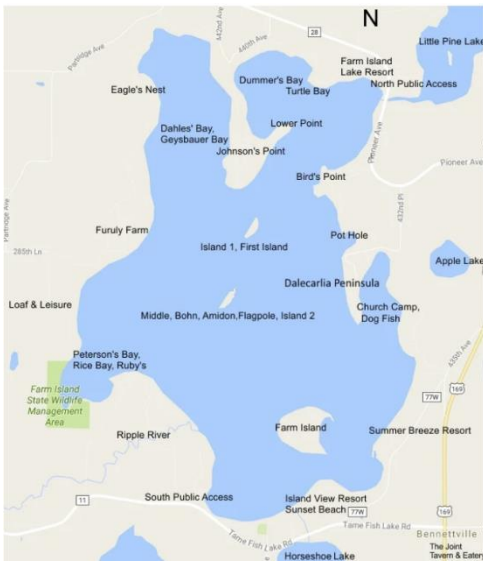
“WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER
FARM ISLAND LAKE”

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!

A printable version of this map is on our website.



Help the pollinators AND the Lake!

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.



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.

A printable version is on our website, to post on your refrigerator for all to see.

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 Nesting Platforms

As part of a collaborative venture with the MN DNR, the FILIA board members elected to build two ANPs – Artificial Nesting Platforms. We hope the loons will build their nests in the platforms this year.

The ANPs were placed in Ruby's and Church Camp Bay.

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

The DNR provided instructions and monies toward the cost of the supplies to build the nests. Members of the FILIA board built and placed them in the lake on May 4, right after ice out. Additional pictures on our website.

Removing lake plants could require a permit

The MN DNR reminds lakeshore property owners that a permit may be required to remove aquatic plants. Aquatic plants provide food and shelter for fish, ducks and wildlife. They also stabilize the lake bottom, which helps maintain water clarity, and protect shorelines from erosion by absorbing energy from waves and ice.

Specific regulations govern what situations require permits for aquatic plant removal and can be found at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html>, along with the required permit.

- 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 other FILIA activities.

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](#)
- [Membership](#)
- Pay Dues
- Newsletters/Lake Info
- Contact/Calendar
 - 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](#)

Mission statement, printable map of Farm Island Lake, description
 Members lists, application form
 Pay yearly membership dues online with credit card
 Current and past newsletters, Gillnet Survey Results
 List of Board of Directors, Shore Captains, Meeting dates



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

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 \$ _____



Annual meeting
June 17
9 - 11:00 AM