



Fall 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
- Milfoil and other lake weed control
- Water quality monitoring
- Improve walleye spawning area



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

www.minnesotawaters.org/farmislandlakeimprovement

Upcoming Events

- **Fall Meeting Saturday August 15, 2015, @ 9:00am
Hazelton Township Hall**

The hall is located 3 miles south of the Farm Island Store; a gray building on the east side of Hwy 169. Treats and coffee will be served. There will be door prizes but you

must be present to win and have paid current dues.

- Our speaker for the Fall meeting will be Lynn Pribbenow and Dave Strand, who are filling in for Steve Hughes from the Aitkin Soil and Water Department. They will be discussing this year's aquatic invasive species efforts and findings.
- Our speaker for the previous spring meeting was Sherriff Deputy Dan Asmus who is in charge of the Boat and Water Patrol. Dan discussed his role in the Sherriff's office which includes Snowmobile safety, lake buoys, and public safety on the area waterways.
- 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 building on Hwy 169.

Updates

- 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.

ACLARA

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 if you can help.
- Walleye fishing season on Lake Mille Lacs was closed at 10:00 pm on August 3rd. The Band of Ojibwe has also agreed to forgo harvesting of walleye by netting next year. Governor Dayton is trying to have a Special session with legislatures to discuss an aid package for the resort and other businesses that rely on the Walleye fishing for their business. This closure it is sure to have some affect on the other area lakes. Please try to keep updated on this situation over the next few months because it will effect us in



some way. Here is a link to the DNR Mille Lacs Lake info.
www.mndnr.gov/millelacslake.

- 18 Inspectors were hired through a Job Fair hiring, AIS required education class were completed. 3 decontamination units were purchased from a company in Motley. The two stationary units will be at Wiley's Sports and FIRM. The portable will be used extensively around Aitkin County, the north area of Mille Lacs Lake. Coverage has been at both public landings and overall has received positive feedback from the boaters and the inspectors. The inspections are planned on being completed the day after Labor Day. To date they have inspected approximately 4,500 boats in the area lakes.



- Veliger testing was completed on 9 lakes on July 20 and 21st. All 9 lakes tested negative for zebra mussel veliger. Testing will be repeated next summer to verify the absence of zebra mussel veliger. (*Veliger is the planktonic larva of many kinds of sea snails and freshwater snails*).
- The 4th of July boat parade was held on Saturday July 4th at noon at the south end landing. There were approximately 48 boats that participated this year. If you would like to be the "Parade Leader" next year, please contact a board member. This is your chance to show off your "Stuff" and be the leader of the pack.



Membership

Membership is still down. We have currently received dues from 117 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!

The \$25 dues can be paid up to the end of the year, either at the meetings or can be mailed. **Note the new FILIA mailing address listed on the application form at end of this newsletter.**

FILIA Donation


FILIA has donated \$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.

Board Member Election

Three board members are up for re-election this year. Cindy Chuhanic, Dennis Kraimer and Bill Haroldson. If you would like to be put on the ballot for voting please let us know before the meeting if possible. This is for a 3 year term.

Blue Fire Numbers

The Blue Fire Number, which is your address number, is the best way for your property to be found by emergency responders. This could save your life or property. Please contact the Aitkin County Highway Department (218-927-3741) to order yours. Even if you are in an association you still need your own number. They even give you the post to put in the ground.

- ***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, and 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 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, etc. You might want to check on this.
- 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. When you leave for a while, don't leave your pets outside or leave your windows open because most dogs will bark, and other people 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.

Lost and Found

A floating mat was found after the storm that occurred after the 4th of July storm. Contact Gary Blake at 218-678-2372 or wakesong@embarqmail.com.

Memorial Gift to FILIA

A memorial gift from the Grosser family was given to the Lake Association in honor of their mother Irene Grosser. Please accept our deepest condolences and thank you from the FILIA members.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

There have been some questions about whether or not we treat the lake for weeds, swimmers itch, etc. We no longer treat for Curly Leaf Pond weed 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.

2015 FILIA Board Members

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 Captains

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 other lake information.
2. Helping circulate 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.

<http://minnesotawaters.org/farmislandlakeimprovement/shore-captains/>

Shore Captain Contacts

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	Dahle Bay	gordon.vetsch@claconnect.com
John Dahle	Northwest Shore	johndahle@yahoo.com
Karilyn & Paul Martinsen	South Shore	pkmartinsen@gmail.com
Lowell Larson	Dummer 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

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

Farm Island Lake Improvement Association Membership Form

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Lake Address: _____

Phone: Home: _____ Lake or Cell: _____

Email: _____

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

New member:

Renewing Member:

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

Donation to FILIA Invasive Weed Fund: \$ _____

THANK YOU!

Date: _____

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

Cindy

cchuhani@yahoo.com

August 6, 2015