



Hello Farm Island Lake,

The Broadband Needs Survey

This is a survey to find out what are the Broadband needs of the 5-county area. This survey is also being sent to other local lake associations. More information is provided when you click on the link to take the survey <http://z.umn.edu/uptospeed>. Either click on this link or copy & paste it into your browser.

This market study, co-sponsored by the Aitkin County Growth, Kanabec County EDA, Pine County and Mille Lacs Tribal Economy is a first step to bring better and more affordable broadband (high-speed) Internet services to our region. If you have any questions about this survey, please contact Michelle at the East Central Regional Development Commission, 320-679-4065, or email michelle.thomas@ecrdc.org.

Aitkin Growth Inc. contact is:

Mark Jeffers

Executive Director

<https://aitkingrowth.org/about-aitkin-growth/>

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Cuyuna Regional Medical Center traffic detours or delays

Crosby's main thoroughfare, Highway 210, will soon be under construction and those traveling to CRMC may experience traffic detours or delays. Patients are reminded to allow extra time for travel, slow down and pay attention to the road.

The project near CRMC will begin Monday, April 19, with only one lane open to traffic. There will be periodic stops as flaggers direct traffic. The entire construction project continuing along Highway 210 through Ironton is expected to be complete in September. CRMC will always remain accessible.

Please visit the following website for up-to-date information: https://www.dot.state.mn.us/d3/crosby-ironton/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

Annual Meeting June 19th

The FILIA annual meeting will be held at Hazelton Town Hall from 9:00 Am to 11:00 AM. Due to the covid pandemic, last year's meeting was cancelled for the safety of our members, so it would be great to have a big turn-out of members this year. It's a good way to meet your neighbors and stay on top of events and discussions surrounding Farm Island Lake and the Aitkin community. **Because of the pandemic, any changes to this meeting date will be included in a newsletter, so be sure we have your email address.**

Hazelton Town Hall is 2 miles south of Tame Fish Lake Rd / Hwy 11. You do not have to be a paid member to attend. We have guest speakers who cover information pertinent to lake property owners. Other activities, to name

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



This year our speaker will be Sheriff Dan Guida, who was elected in 2019 as the Aitkin County Sheriff. Guida has over 24 years of experience with Aitkin County, serving in the positions of deputy, boat and water recreational officer, patrol sergeant and investigator.

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

Mass Mailing Update

All Farm Island Lake property owners are snail-mailed (mailed via post office) the summer newsletter to ensure that those folks not on our email network receive the annual meeting dates and other information. The mailing addresses come from Aitkin County and total approximately 370 addresses each year.

In order to save money on postage and paper/envelopes, I plan to NOT mail the mass snail-mailed newsletter to those who have already paid their FILIA member dues. The same newsletter will be *emailed* to everybody on the FILIA email network, so no information will be missed. If you have paid your dues and would still like to receive the snail-mailed newsletter please email me to let me know and I won't pull your name. I need to know by April 23rd. The current list of paid members is on our website. Please call or email me if you have questions: 218.851.7026.

New Changes to Married Combination License

Both spouses must be present to purchase a combination license in person. Both must provide and verify their customer records on file with the DNR to purchase a combination license in person, by telephone or online. Both will need to provide full name, birth date, social security number, and if a Minnesota resident over age 21 a current Minnesota driver's license or current Minnesota identification card. [Learn More](#)

http://raoutdoors.hosted.strongview.com/t/gcH1AAkbDsWLbQAP1pFW5GNhaKYfBDHZTyaaaaDMLzBQD40Tbaa?j=B_rBqBt~amp;n=FREO10DOMd~25uA6W0SB.MEW~amp;b=3~amp;n=

2021 Fishing Opener is May 15th

All Walleye from 16"-19" must be immediately released

Membership Update

We have 103 paid members so far. About 1/3 have paid online or also paid toward AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) fund. An application can be found online at your website and was sent along with this newsletter. Or, you can send your check to address below and email me any contact update information.

U of M Project: Farm Island Lake and Lead Tackle

Educational Piece for Farm Island Lake Improvement Association

Here's the article from the U of M students that board member Bill Haroldson has been working with in regards to their project to educate on banning the use of lead products in fishing gear. They had chosen Farm Island Lake as their subject lake, and reached out through ACLARA to contact us.

Hello! We are a group of students from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities studying Natural Resource and Environmental Policy. We value our state's beautiful lakes and wildlife, and through research, we have been made aware of the threat that loons face due to lead tackle and sinkers. We have committed this semester to understanding this issue facing our environment and are hoping to share what we have learned. Thank you for your passion for protecting and caring for Farm Island Lake, and we hope that you join us in this effort to move past lead use on the lake.

Lead has largely become a thing of the past, but it's certainly not gone. Although we no longer use lead in our gasoline, paints, pipes and many other things, lead is used by anglers across the US in the form of lead sinkers, lead weights and lead jigs. However, these small, innocuous looking balls of metal have disastrous consequences for wildlife populations, specifically common loons.

Nationwide, lead tackle is the leading cause of loon deaths. In order to grind up food in their stomach loons swallow pebbles on the lake bottom, and if they mistake a broken off lead sinker as a pebble and eat even one, they'll likely die of lead poisoning. This was found to be the cause of death of nearly half of the dead loons in New England from 1989 to 2012. (Tufts University). Lead tackle also impacts swans, bald eagles, and other important species.

With Farm Island Lake being such a large, heavily fished lake, it is essential that lead tackles and sinkers are avoided in order to protect the ecosystem. In the most recent loon census Farm Island Lake was home to 15 adult and 2 juvenile loons. These high numbers are indicative of the ideal shoreline and lake structure that Farm Island Lake offers for loon populations (Larson 2019). The proposal to ban state wide use of lead tackle has been considered by the Minnesota Legislature. However, these proposals were shut down leaving loons and other wildlife at risk for lead poisoning across the state.



It is recommended that you switch to one of the following options that can be found at your local bait and tackle shops:

- Steel and Tin
- Tungsten
- Bismuth

Fishing allows us to spend time in nature amongst Minnesota's native wildlife. Loons, eagles, and other waterfowl are what keep our nature diverse and thriving, so you are encouraged to do your part in protecting the longevity of these species. If you have any questions or

concerns, we urge you to check out the MPCA's Lead Out Program on their website ([MPCA Lead Out](#)).

*** End of UofM article. Image source: MinnPost

Voluntary Angler Actions

Critics of a lead ban have said Minnesota's loon population is not declining and that the move will cost anglers more money for lead substitutes like tungsten. But supporters say the cost increase is just pennies per unit and that any loons killed by lead poisoning, when other tackle options exist, is too many. <https://www.duluthnewstribune.com/northland-outdoors/6858742-Bills-would-ban-small-lead-fishing-tackle-lower-walleye-limit-allow-rifles-statewide-for-deer>

If not switching to non-lead options, anglers are encouraged to take these voluntary steps to minimize the probability of losing fishing tackle into the water:

- Use sufficiently strong fishing line and leaders when fishing with sinkers and jigs
- Make sure to tie lures and jigs using strong knots
- Tightly crimp split-shot weights using pliers
- Discard all unusable fishing tackle, such as line, hooks and sinkers, in proper trash receptacles and never dump into the water or shore

Score Your Shore

Score Your Shore is a tool offered by the DNR to assess habitat conditions of developed lake lots. It is a method to assess the type, quantity and quality of the existing shoreland habitat. The tool will enable you to:

- Assess the amount of habitat at developed lake sites
- Generate awareness of what makes a high-quality functioning shoreline buffer
- Provide a system to recognize landowners with functioning shoreline buffers.

The score your shore survey is on our website, along with more information. Click here to take the survey:

<https://www.farmislandlake.org/score-your-shore>

- The FILIA Board Members, in order to fulfill our mission of stewardship for Farm Island Lake, strive to maintain good communications and collaborative efforts with lake association members and Aitkin County and state agencies such as the DNR, Aitkin Area Fisheries, Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Invasive Species Specialist, to name a few.
- 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cindy Chuhanic President	Jim Hausauer	Denise Noling
Bill Haroldson V.P.	Dennis Kraimer	Loren Rachey
Cheryl McDonough ... Treasurer/Secretary	Gordon Vetsch	Open Position

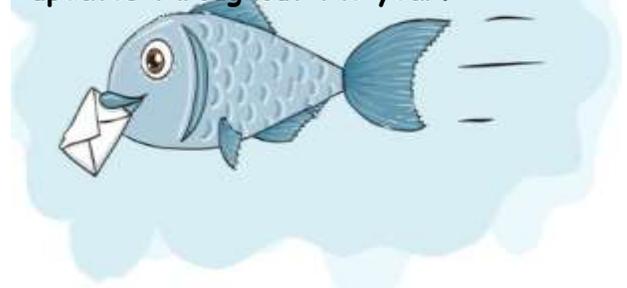
FILIA Website

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](#)
 - [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](#)
 - [Boating & Fishing Regulations](#)
 - [DNR Permitted Lake Service Providers](#)
 - History
- 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
 - Financial reports, current and past
 - Aitkin County contacts
 - Under construction

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



Be Well. Be safe. Have fun!

Sincerely,

Cheryl McDonough
FILIA Treasurer/Secretary

filialake@gmail.com

Your comments are welcome.

FILIA
PO Box 135
Aitkin, MN 56431

FarmIslandLake.org

From John Dahle, Farm Island Lake association member (4/15/21): Rescued this beautiful eagle Sunday and was hoping for good news today only to find out the broken elbow wing was inoperable and they had to euthanize it. The bird will be sent to National Eagle Repository in Colorado. I don't know how long this bird had been using the nest on Farm Island Lake but over 40 birds have hatched from that nest. Hopefully more to come with another partner.

Thanks to the two young couples that helped me rescue it and for Wild and free rehabilitation center for trying to help this majestic bird.

www.wildandfree.org

I have watched this nest for at least 20 years and they averaged 2 young per year... one year just one and one year three so they were a productive pair.

Per the National Eagle Repository, the eagle may be mounted, or if not worthy of a mount, its feathers may go to Indian nations.

Picture of the eagle in cage awaiting transport to Wild and Free. The vet thinks it was the male, they are smaller than the females.

