



Spring Meeting Saturday June 18 at 9:00 am
at Hazelton Township Hall

Spring Meeting Speaker

Rick Bruesewitz, DNR Aitkin Area Fisheries Supervisor will speak about fishing on our lake. If time permits a few subjects of discussion may be:

- * Electro-fishing survey that occurred Thursday night on October 1, 2015
- * Spawning Habitat Science Research Project that was to occur during spring spawning

The speaker begins shortly after 9:00 am.

Hazelton Township 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. You can pay dues at beginning of meeting so plan to arrive earlier than 9am.

! FILIA Apparel Now Available !

Shirts Plus of Aitkin has an online website for you to order tee shirts, sweat shirts, hoodies, hats, tank tops, etc. Shown are just a few of the items that will be available, offering either screen print or embroidered apparel. To order, go to www.shirtsplusofaitkin.com. Click on "ONLINE STORES" on the left hand side. There will be a drop down with a "FARM ISLAND" option. There is a shipping cost or orders can be picked up Tuesday-Sunday in Aitkin.



This offer is for a limited time, and is a fun easy way to get Farm Island Lake apparel. The online store is open June 18th and will close on July 4th. All items can be picked up on or after July 18th. The association will not make a profit and is not responsible for delivering your order, or for returns, or for any part of the ordering process.

Questions should be directed to Shirts Plus 218-927-2837 or visit them in downtown Aitkin at 212 Minnesota Ave N.

Efforts to Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Infestation

We have been working closely with the DNR, ACLARA, Aitkin County Soil & Water, etc. to help prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) infestation. We have applied for another grant. This year the lake association match will drop from 20% to 10%. Last year your FILIA paid \$2,903 for their 20% match. The FILIA board members voted to spend no more than \$1,600 this year in its collective efforts with the DNR and Aitkin County Soil & Water.

Further AIS reports and information located on our [website](#).

The **AIS decontamination** units are staffed and located at Minnewawa, Big Pine, and Spirit Lakes. During the week, the units are staffed by FIRM on Hwy 169 Aitkin and Willey's Marine on Hwy 65 in McGregor. Stop in to thank them for running the decontamination units during the week, storing those units, and being very supportive of the AIS effort.



AIS Report to FILIA, June 4, 2016

Submitted by Board Member Greg Anderson

After one full year of open water season (2015), using paid DNR trained inspectors at both north & south public access point - we see great improvement in compliance with current law to curb Aquatic Invasive Species. We are less concerned with Eurasian Milfoil now and we know that Zebra Mussel invasion is our biggest threat. Aitkin County had over 8,000 boats inspected with the largest number at Farm Island Lake with 1,756. Only a few boats were referred to one of the decontamination units to be sprayed with hot water. That only means that those boats were a "high risk".

Mid-summer of 2015 we had tested for juvenile Zebra Mussels and found none. We are a high priority from the DNR's perspective and will continue to have intense coverage. We applied for 1,288 hours of inspection for 2016 and were given 864. Inspectors are using computer 'notebook' devices for recording data at the inspection points which will improve usefulness of information at the end of the season. If we use all of the inspection hours allocated to us for the 2016 season, our 10% matching expense will be only \$1,555.

Opening fishing weekend saw cold & windy weather with less than usual boat activity, but all partner lakes had full inspector coverage. We had coverage Friday for 8 hours and Saturday and Sunday 12 hours. Memorial Day weekend was extremely busy with both north & south landings covered Friday, Saturday, Sunday and a partial day on Monday. Aitkin County hired 30 inspectors for the season knowing some would quit so there are at least 24 inspectors to cover all partner lakes and some random lakes who did not submit for a Grant or are too small to have a lake association. The weekend of June 4 & 5 had full coverage with decontamination units at Minnewawa, Big Pine and Spirit. During the week, the 'decon' units are staffed at Willey's Marine in McGregor and F.I.R.M. near FIL.

As the water gets warmer, the AIS risk increases. By now, the staff of inspectors has had a chance to get up to speed with the process. The Sheriff's department is in full support of our efforts for AIS control and there will be a random presence at all landings in the county.

Do NOT Do This!



Results of careless dumping of hot ashes

Fire caused by **dumping left over hot ashes** in a low area on the south end of Farm Island Lake resulted in an acre of fire damage. It just about reached to Tame Fish Lake Road. The Aitkin Fire Department and the DNR put out the fire.



News from the DNR

The DNR will be doing a population assessment of fish on our lake this summer. This will probably take place during the third or fourth week in July.

Available on our FILIA website is the first issue of the [Aitkin DNR Fisheries Newsletter](#). With this newsletter the DNR hopes to pass on a little information of the current work at their office, and to Focus on a few of the more interesting projects the DNR has ongoing.

Note: When government, local agency and county information is included we are serving as the messenger to keep you informed of their activities on Farm Island Lake.

Donations from the Association

In the past FILIA had donated \$500 to provide support to non-profit organizations such as the Aitkin Fire Department and the South Aitkin First Responders emergency assistance program.

Because FILIA itself is a non-profit organization the Board Members voted to cease making donations to other non-profit organizations.



Loon Watch



FIRST LOON SIGHTING APRIL 1ST

We are trying to locate the loon platforms that were placed in various areas along the lake, in order to track them to see how they are doing. If you know of any, please contact us via email FiliaLake@gmail.com.

There are at least 4 nests this year; there were 5 nests counted last year.



2 unhatched eggs from a nest were turned in to the DNR Loon Guy (out of Garrison). The eggs were sent out East for evaluation, and we are awaiting results from the testing.

Thanks to Barb Swenson and Barb Juntti for this Loon Watch update.

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. [A list of the Shore Captains and more information is on our website.](#)
- We could use a few more Shore Captains so please email us or send us a letter. Contact information is below.

Board Member Elections

Cindy Chuhanic (Secretary), Bill Haroldson (V.P.) and Dennis Kraimer were re-elected at the August meeting for a 3-year term.

Three board members are up for re-election this year - Greg Anderson, Pam Husom and Cheryl McDonough (Treasurer). This is for a 3-year term. Nominations for board members will be held at this meeting, to be elected at the Fall meeting on August 20th.

Please be prepared to place names in nomination and we ask that if you are nominated, that you seriously consider running. Nominations can be submitted up to August 1st, 2016 by calling President Jim Hausauer at 218-678-3377 or send an email to FiliaLake@gmail.com.

Membership

If you have not already done so, please consider becoming a member. See the FILIA Mission Statement below for what FILIA does for the lake and lake community. [Click here for Membership Application on our website.](#) An application is also attached to this email.

In an effort to keep you updated with Farm Island Lake Improvement Association (FILIA) happenings, we periodically send emails with pertinent information. As a courtesy we are also sending the Newsletter to non-paying members (for whom we have an email address). Receipt of an email or the Newsletter does not mean you are a FILIA member. If you're not sure if you paid or have questions, please send us an email at FiliaLake@gmail.com or call the treasurer Cheryl McDonough at 218-851-7026.

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.

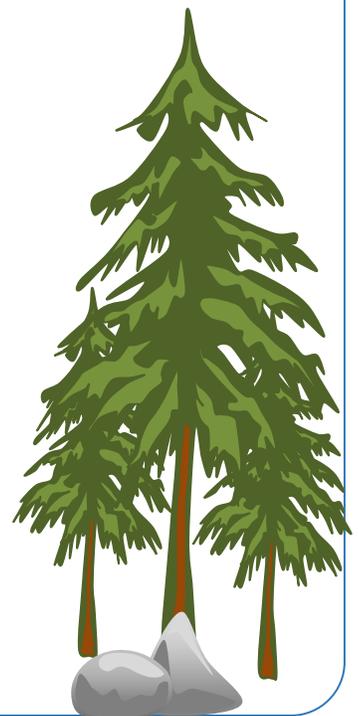
Some examples of how we strive to meet our mission are:

- 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, 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
- 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





- **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.
- Some **insurance** companies may not cover you if you do not have your cabin/house plowed out in the winter months, preventing emergency vehicles access in case of fire, etc. You might want to check this out with your insurance company.

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.

See you this summer!

Sincerely,

Cindy

FILIA Secretary

cchuhani@yahoo.com

Your questions and comments are welcome.

FILIA

PO Box 135

Aitkin, MN 56431

FiliaLake@gmail.com

2016 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	cherylhmcDonough@gmail.com
Pam Husom		fp.huey1@gmail.com
Dennis Kraimer		dkkramer@hotmail.com
Gordon Vetsch		gordonvetsch@gmail.com
Greg Anderson		farmislandlake@yahoo.com

2016 Calendar of Events

*Spring Board Meeting	Saturday, May 7th, 9:00 am	at The Joint Tavern & Eatery
Spring Association Meeting	Saturday, June 18th, 9:00 am	at Hazelton Town Hall
4th of July Boat Parade	Saturday, July 2nd at Noon	gather at FIL South Landing
Fall Association Meeting	Saturday, Aug 20th, 9:00 am	at Hazelton Town Hall
*Fall Board Meeting	Monday, Sept 5th, 9:00 am	at The Joint Tavern & Eatery

*Only board members attend the Board Meetings.