



The Annual FILIA meeting was held Saturday June 15

50 people attended the annual meeting. FILIA member Jan Knotek provided home-baked pastry breads – thank you Jan! A lot was discussed and a plethora of door prizes were passed out.



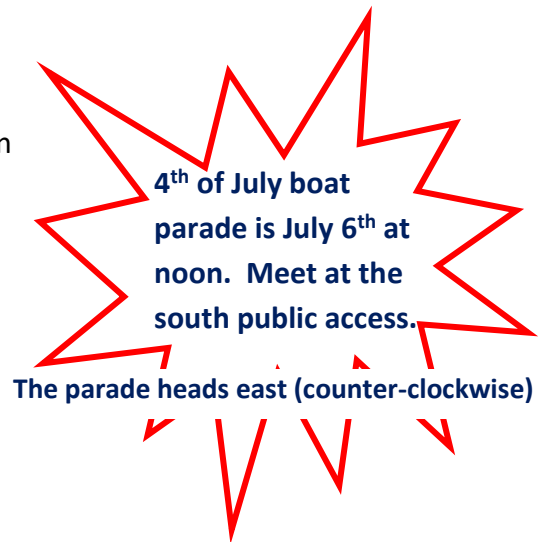
New on the website – Annual meeting minutes are now on the FILIA website. [Click here.](#)

The guest speaker presented information about a Lake Improvement District (L.I.D.). The FILIA board is investigating how a Lake Improvement District (LID) works. There is still a lot of information to be gathered and conveyed to the property owners, and president Cindy Chuhanic asked that property owners help by doing their own research – the more we know the better. A lot of information can be found online. As your board it is our responsibility to look into problems that other lakes are having, so if it happens here, we know what to do.

A LID is a local governmental unit managed by a local board of directors (BOD), not the FILIA BOD, that has taxing authority. A LID can be formed only with a resolution of the Aitkin County board and the approval of at least 60% of Farm Island Lake (FIL) property owners.

Some of the reasons that the FILIA Board is looking into a Lake Improvement District is:

1. The cost of treating an aquatic invasive species such as Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Milfoil or new species.
2. To have a steady source of funds for ongoing lake improvement.
3. With the formation of a Lake Improvement District, all property owners will share in the cost of the stewardship of Farm Island Lake. Past membership has shown that less than half support the lake association, out of the approximately 360 FIL property owners.



4th of July boat parade is July 6th at noon. Meet at the south public access.

The parade heads east (counter-clockwise)

New Board Member

Denise Noling is our new board member. Welcome Denise!
 Greg Anderson announced this is his last year as a board member, so we will have an opening next year.

2018 AIS Inspection Final Results

- Greg Anderson and Bill Haroldson created and presented a PowerPoint report on the 2018 AIS

Inspections and Background Data. This report is on our website at <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia/aquatic-invasive-species-activities>.

- Approximately 20 boat landings throughout Aitkin County had inspectors present in 2018. ...Of the 250 AIS issues, 155 of them were for drain plugs still in the boat upon arrival, 94 were plants, water, mud, etc. on the boat or trailer. Once again, the busiest lake was Farm Island, with Big Sandy coming in 2nd, and Cedar in 3rd. A chart and information is in the full report, which can be found on the FILIA website.



There were no zebra mussels found in Farm Island Lake. They have been found in Bay Lake and Big Pine, so they are a near and present threat to Farm Island Lake.

The DNR AIS program addresses invasive species in Minnesota, such as Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, zebra mussel, spiny water flea and starry stonewort. Efforts in this area include working to prevent further spread and to manage impacts from invasive populations. More information can be found on the DNR website and on our website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/program-info.html> for more facts.

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



Ironically, the lake is too high to put the lake level sign in the lake!

Farm Island Lake is high for this year, so please be aware of your speed and wave action.



“Score Your Shore”

A tool to assess habitat conditions of developed lake lots, to be used by lakeshore property owners and organizations to self-assess habitat and stewardship on their land and adjacent aquatic areas. [Click here](#) for more....

2 Videos on AIS Prevention on our website!

[Click here](#) to watch these 2 YouTube videos on your FILIA website.

Minnesota Waters at Risk (AIS) & Stop the spread of invasive species

**A BIG THANK YOU to Hugh Heinicke, CPA
for inspecting the 2018 year-end financial reports!**

[Click here](#) for financial report.

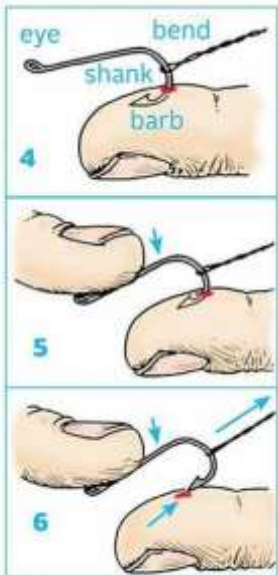


2018 Financial Report is on our Website, including past reports.

Russ Hoppe reported on water clarity:

- a) June 2 clarity was at 10.5 feet, with a lot of water run-off
- b) He guessed clarity at 12 feet now, which is good

Hooked? What to do if you get “caught” up in all the fun



Article from Independent Age published June 12, 2019

A common injury for those who fish or just hang out near docks and boats is becoming “hooked” when the intended catch was a fish. The medical team at Essentia Health recommends removing the fish hook from your finger using the String Yank Technique.

1. Remove hook from lure by cutting at attachment ring.
2. Tape any additional free hooks to prevent the hooks from also getting embedded.
3. First, wash your hands with soap and water, or disinfecting solution, and then wash the area surrounding the hook.
4. Tie off a loop with some fishing line. [Read more steps](#)

We do not recommend pushing the hook through your skin and cutting the barb as this introduces another potential wound for infection. Also, do not try to remove a fish hook that is deeply embedded in the skin, lodged within a joint or tendon, or located in or near an eye or artery. If you are at all unsure, it is best to seek medical attention immediately.

Hooked? What to do if you get “caught” up in all the fun



A cool \$100

Article from Independent Age published June 12, 2019

County offers a \$100 reward to those who leave these items out of the water for 30 days.

Between June 1 and Nov. 30, Aitkin County is offering an incentive to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species. **According to state law, docks or boat lifts must be out of the water for 21 days before they are moved to another body of water or sold.** A new program through Aitkin County offers a \$100 reward to those who leave these items out of the water for 30 days.

Aitkin County started a program June 1 especially for movers or sellers of docks and boat lifts. Since July 2012, Minnesota law states that any boat lift, dock, swim raft, or associated equipment that has been removed from any water body may not be placed in another water body until a minimum of 21 days have passed. Now people moving or selling those items can be rewarded \$100 just for leaving a dock or boat lift out for nine extra days for a total of 30 days on land (the dock or boat lift must have been in the

water in the current open water season). The program runs each year from June 1 through Nov. 30.

[Read more....](#)

The Water's Edge Helping fish and wildlife on your lakeshore property

A brochure published by the DNR about helping fish and wildlife on your lakeshore property.

Available in PDF at

<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/backyard/shorelandmgmt/savewateredge.pdf>

"I believe that one of the primary reasons that fishing has declined on many lakes is because of alterations to lakeshore habitat by shoreline property owners."

- Quote by Jack Skrypek, DNR Fisheries chief, retired

AIS INSPECTORS – HELP WANTED

You or a family member may want to consider becoming an AIS inspector. It is a great summer job that pays up to \$14 an hour. Contact AIS Coordinator Steve Hughes for more information at hughes.aitkinswcd@gmail.com or call: 218-927-6565.

A few facts about working as an AIS Inspector:

1. Hourly wage is \$12 - \$14, depending on training level and experience. Volunteers are also welcome.
2. Part-time, seasonal work from the Friday before fishing opener (mid-May) through Labor Day.
3. Schedules cover Friday afternoons, Saturday, Sunday, and the summer holidays.
4. Training cost is paid by Aitkin County.

CHASING WILDLIFE AND WATERFOWL IS ILLEGAL

Not sure what else needs to be said about harassment of loons and other lake animals or wildlife. DO NOT bully animals, or people. It's not nice - and harassing wildlife is illegal.



At least 6 baby chicks have been reported

Some board members have heard from quite a few people concerned about loons and their loon families nearly (if not) being run over by inattentive boaters.



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. 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.

This is what a zebra mussel looks like.



Invasive Species contact is DNR Invasive Species Specialist at Brainerd - Tim Plude at 218-203-4354.

[Click here](#) for more information on zebra mussels and how to identify.

Communication Method to Lake Property Owners

In an effort to keep you updated with FILIA news and happenings, association members will periodically receive emails with current and pertinent information. Please include your email when mailing in your application so you can receive FILIA emails throughout the year, or you can email your email address to FILIALake@gmail.com. The emailed newsletters offer a richer experience, more up-to-date information and cost nothing, compared to this letter (bulk mailed via post office) at a cost of about \$500.

Membership

We have 201 paid members as of June 26, 2019. A 2019 membership application form can be found on our website and is also included with this mailing, and you can pay online. Yearly dues are \$25 and membership is voluntary. Be sure to include your email address on the application.

- FILIA is a non-profit organization.



Online Dues Payment

You can pay your dues online using your credit card. There is a \$1.15 fee that goes directly to Square.com, the app that provides the secure online payment service. Postage is now 55 cents. It is a simple, safe and fast way to use your credit card so you can get those credit card points and rewards.

AIS Funding

Additional monies can be paid toward the Aquatic Invasive Species Fund (AIS) when you mail in your application or pay online with your due's payment.

Curly-Leaf Update

Pond weed (curly-leaf) is not as prevalent this year due to the heavy snow on the ice this winter. End-of-Year 2018 the DNR reported that they did not do a Curly Leaf survey that year, but it was diminished on many lakes and they would expect the same on Farm Island Lake. It grows in the winter-time; and when there is a lot of snow you get less curly-leaf because it doesn't get sunlight. Your FILIA board will request a survey for this year. More information on our website.

Walleye Population

The DNR will continue to monitor walleye population using electroshock and gillnetting, and stocking walleye fries in Farm Island Lake every year. See Gillnet Catch Rates and electrofishing reports on the FILIA website. 🟦 All walleye from 16-19" in length must be immediately released.

2019 DNR Boating Guide is on our Website

Check it out for Personal Watercraft (Jet Ski) regulations, such as time-of-day usage, age restrictions; life jacket information, water navigation, paddling safety, scuba diving safety, when an aquatic plant management permit is not needed, rescue breathing, etc. On our website under [Useful Information](#).



Please be mindful of your pets. Before heading out for fun on the lake verify that your dog won't bark while you are gone all day. Pick up after your pet and do not let your pet wander.

🟦 *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.*

Volunteers Needed

- "Vets Out to Fish", a program for volunteers to offer their boats so Veterans can go fishing. Contact Aitkin Sherriff to volunteer.
- Aitkin High School has a Fishing Club, volunteers are needed. Their number is: (218) 927-2115

Door Prizes at the annual meeting

Various door prizes are passed out at the end of the annual meetings. We'd like to acknowledge and thank the local businesses that have provided these prizes throughout the years.

- Farm Island Store
- F.I.R.M. Farm Island Repair & Marine
- The Joint - Tavern and Eatery
- Shirts Plus of Aitkin
- Alpha Dog Grooming
- The Green House
- Beartooth True Value Hardware
- Hyytinen Hardware Hank
- S.A.M.-Scooby's Animal Mission
- Aitkin (Bowling) Lanes
- Aitkin Pet and Farm Supply
- Tire Barn

And a huge THANK YOU to Bill Haroldson for asking for the donations!

NOT SURE IF YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR THIS YEAR? AN UP-TO-DATE LIST OF MEMBERS IS ON YOUR WEBSITE. [Click here](#). Or, send me an email and I can let you know. You can also get an application form and view previous year's members online.

FILIA Website <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia>

The FILIA website contains useful information – such as:

- FILIA Membership Application Form
 - List of Members, , current and past
 - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) information
 - Contact information - Board of Directors and Shore Captains
 - Newsletters and other reports
 - Financial Reports, current and past
 - DNR Boating Guide
 - Water Clarity Readings and Ice-Out Dates
 - Map of Farm Island Lake
 - Links to other websites, such as the DNR, Aitkin County, etc.
- much more on the website!



Website Trivia

- There were 1,319 visitors on the FILIA website last year.
- Your website is hosted, **FREE**, on WIX.com. In order to be free, “wixsite” has to be included as part of the FILIA web name.
- Dues can be paid on the website.

Is there information that you would like included in your newsletter or on the website? Send an email to let us know.

2019 Calendar of Events

*Spring Board Meeting	Saturday, May 4, 9:00am	The Joint Tavern & Eatery
Annual Association Meeting	Saturday, June 15, 9:00am	Hazelton Town Hall
4th of July Boat Parade	Saturday, July 6, Noon	FIL South Public Access
*Fall Board Meeting	Monday, Sept 2, 9:00am	The Joint Tavern & Eatery

Hazelton Town Hall is located on east side of US Hwy 169, a few miles south of Tame Fish Lake Rd.

**Only board members attend the Board Meetings.*

See you this summer!

Sincerely,
Cheryl McDonough
FILIA Treasurer/Secretary
FILIALake@gmail.com

Your questions and comments are welcome.

FILIA
PO Box 135
Aitkin, MN 56431

<https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia>

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.

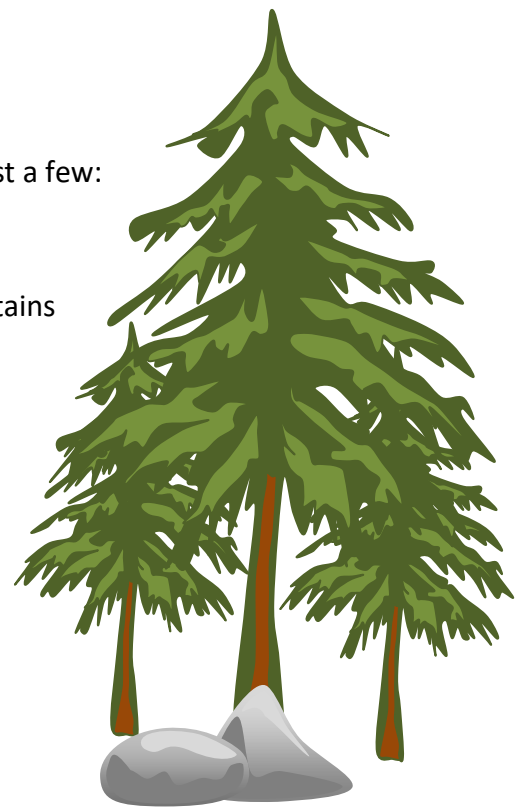
Some examples of how we strive to meet our mission are:

- 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, annual meeting, AIS updates, 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:

- * Aitkin County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) reports
- * [FILIA Membership Application Form](#)
- * Contact information - Board of Directors and Shore Captains
- * Financial Reports
- * Previous Newsletters and other reports
- * Map of Farm Island Lake
- * Lake information, i.e. Lake clarity, ice out dates
- * Contact information for (and many more)
 - Aitkin County Government
 - MN DNR
 - Aitkin County Sheriff
 - Minnesota Waters home page

Check it out at <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia>



Among other activities, we have been working closely with the DNR, ACLARA, Aitkin County Soil & Water, etc. to help prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) infestation

Useful Information

This contact information is also on your website at <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia/useful-links>

Aitkin County Government

For information such as Aitkin County building codes

www.co.aitkin.mn.us

Aitkin County Sheriff Dan Guida

[Sheriff department](#)

(218) 927-7435 Or 911 sheriff2@co.aitkin.mn.us

MN DNR

For MN Dept of Natural Resources (DNR) lake info etc.

<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/>

(651) 296-6157

DNR Invasive Species Specialist Tim Plude at 218-203-4354

DNR fishing regulations for Farm Island:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id=01015900>

Minnesota Waters home page

<http://www.minnesotawaters.org/>

Aitkin Chamber of Commerce for area travel and events

www.aitkin.com

Aitkin County Health & Human Services at (218) 927-7200

Aitkin County SWCD Water Quality Evaluation – 2008

http://www.aitkincountyswcd.org/PDF-Docs/WaterPlan6-24-09LargeLakes_Section1.pdf

MN DNR Boating Guide

[2019 Minnesota Boating Guide](#)

MN DNR Fishing Guide

[2019 Minnesota Fishing Guide](#)

MN DNR depth map

<http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/data/lakemaps/b0002011.pdf>

Aitkin Area DNR Focus on Fisheries Newsletters

[Click here to view all of the DNR area fisheries newsletters.](#)

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.

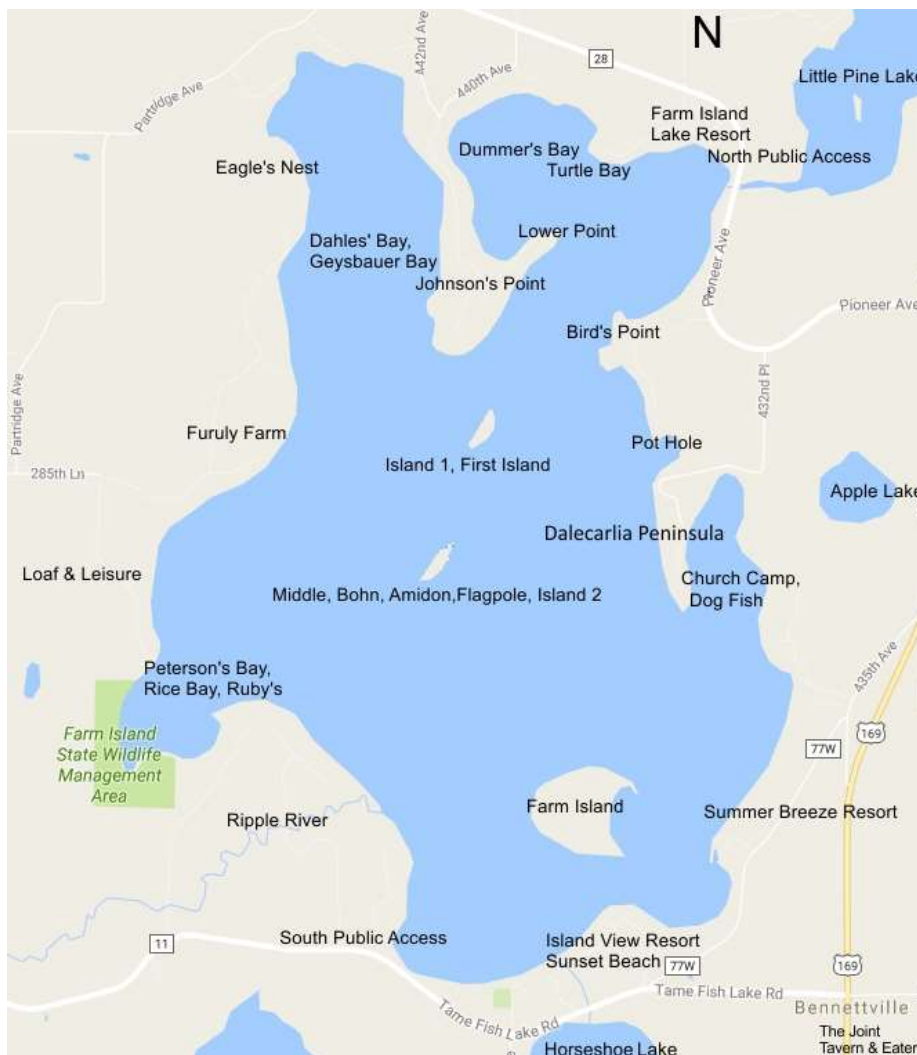
Use the link below and select Aitkin or other county for a list of permitted lake service providers. The list appears at bottom of the web page.

https://webapps11.dnr.state.mn.us/aquatic_invasive_species_training/lake_service_provider_permits/public_website_list

SCUBA Warning Flag

A diver down flag, or scuba flag, is a flag used on the water to indicate that there is a diver below. This flag will also be displayed on the diver's boat.

All vessels, boats, jet skis, etc. should **stay at least 200 feet away when they see a SCUBA flag.**



This map is on your [FILIA website](#) in a more printable format, with the most up-to-date information.

Below is a printable version of Clean In Clean Out to post where everyone can see it.

Clean In Clean Out

When boating or fishing in Minnesota, protect your waters by following state aquatic invasive species laws.

1. **CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels, and other prohibited invasive species from watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment before leaving any water access or shoreland.
2. **DRAIN** water-related equipment (boat, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) *and* drain bilge, live well and baitwell by removing drain plugs before leaving a water access or shoreline property. **Keep drain plugs out** and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.
https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/invasives/q_and_a_drain_plug_law_20110609.pdf
3. **DISPOSE** of unwanted bait, including minnows, leeches, and worms, in the trash. It is illegal to release bait into a waterbody or release aquatic animals from one waterbody to another. If you want to keep your bait, you must refill the bait container with bottled or tap water.

KNOW THE LAW: You may not...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug.
- Arrive at lake access with drain plug in place.
- Transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels, or other prohibited species on any roadway.
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached.
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers.
- Release bait into the water.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Spray, rinse, dry — Some invasive species are small and difficult to see at the access. To remove or kill them, take one or more of the following precautions before moving to another waterbody, especially after leaving zebra mussel and spiny waterflea infested waters:

- **Spray** with high-pressure water
- **Rinse** with very hot water*
- **Dry** for at least 5 days

Run motor and personal watercraft for a few seconds to discharge water before leaving a water access.

Transport fish on ice — be prepared, bring a cooler.

* These water temperatures will kill zebra mussels and some other AIS: 120°F for at least 2 minutes; or 140°F for at least 10 seconds

Report suspicious infestations

If you suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, take a photo and note the location, or save a specimen and report it to a local [DNR invasive species contact](#).

More information at https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/preventsread_watercraft.html