



FILIA, P.O. Box 135, Aitkin, MN 56431 • FILIALake@gmail.com • FarmIslandLake.org

Board Member Update

Denise Noling was voted in as the new Secretary of the Board of Directors. Thank you, Denise, for your active participation in the stewardship of Farm Island Lake!

Scott Scheele was voted in as a new Board Member! Thank you, Scott, for your interest in Farm Island Lake! Denise and Scott also serve as Shore Captains. Thanks for all that you do!

A sample can be found below.

New on your website – 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>

Algae Bloom This Fall

The algae bloom is very typical in early fall, but this fall it was heavier and more widespread than usual. Algae issues on other lakes were discussed at an ACLARA (Aitkin County Lakes and Rivers Association) meeting. A DNR guest speaker noted that with the drought and low water levels last year, many aquatic plants died off. Now that the water has been back to normal levels, the decay is fertilizer/phosphorus added to the water. Also, phosphorus does settle to the lake's bottom.

Most folks I know swim off their boat, away from where the algae is located, but that may be more difficult because it is more prevalent. Additional information from the MNPCA (MN Pollution Control Agency). See their attached PDF for additional information.

Blue-green algae occur naturally in all Minnesota lakes. Swimming in lakes with good water quality and relatively clear water will reduce your exposure to harmful algae. Swimming on the upwind side or middle of a lake can reduce exposure to blooms, which often occur on a downwind shore or in an isolated area (small bay).

When is it safe to swim? When in doubt, stay out. You can't tell if a blue-green algal bloom is toxic just by looking at it. People and animals should avoid contact with water that contains blue-green algae. Toxins can persist in the water after a bloom; watch for signs of recent blooms, such as green scum on the shoreline. In some instances, toxins are in the water before a bloom reaches its peak. If you or your pet go into water where there may be a bloom, rinse off with fresh water immediately afterwards.

Which lakes are safe for swimming? **Minnesota does not have a list of “safe” lakes for recreation.** If a lake-wide bloom is occurring, keep out of the lake until conditions have improved.

At this time, I have not heard of anyone getting ill due to the algae bloom.



Found zebra mussel report

- Folks have reported they have been seeing zebes in a lot of places.
- Zebra mussels have been found on the north side of Dahle's Bay. Not a significant amount, but enough, with some found on the bottom of a pontoon as well.
- Lots of zebes on lifts on the east side of FIL.
- Summer Breeze took out docks and there were THOUSANDs on the swim raft.
- Caught a clam with zebra mussels over by Johnson's point and also by the northeast corner of the big island.

Membership Update

50% of property owners have paid their dues so far. We need 49 more dues payments to do better than last year. A membership application is attached to this newsletter, and an application is included at the bottom of this newsletter and is available on your website.

190 paid members!



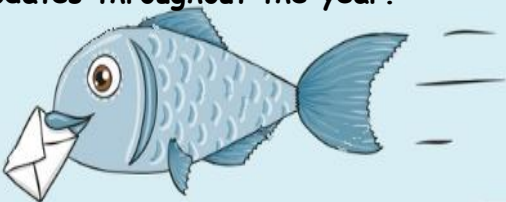
The trend has been that 1/3 of paid members use the online payment method to pay their dues. The current member list is on your website <https://www.farmislandlake.org/membership>

- 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.

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. It is a simple, safe and fast way to use your credit card so you can get those credit card points and rewards.

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



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.

Loon Watch



Date	Adults	Chicks	Comments
July 20, 2008	13	5	
July 10, 2009	24	7	
July 8, 2010	20	4	Oil spill
July 7, 2011	23	2	
July 2, 2012	23	3	
July 3, 2013	27	0	Very late ice out
July 2, 2014	16	4	
July 7, 2015	17	2	
June 28, 2016	20	6	
July 17, 2017	22	4	
July 8, 2018	28	8	
July 1, 2019	NA		
July 15, 2020	17	4	
July 16, 2021	22	4	
2022	22	7	

Keep it Clean- How you can help stop litter and human waste from spoiling our lake and beaches

<https://mlacf.org/keep-it-clean/>

The Keep It Clean campaign is an initiative to address the growing problem of garbage and human waste left on the ice by anglers and other outdoor recreational users during ice fishing season. Keep It Clean focuses on raising awareness about the importance of leaving no trace.

A healthy lake with clean water, pristine ice and litter-free reefs and shoreline helps create the ideal environment for sustainable fishing and helps ensure that people of all ages — whether rugged outdoor enthusiasts or families — can enjoy the lake at any time of year.



How you can help stop litter and human waste from spoiling our lake and beaches

Make a plan for trash and waste removal before you arrive

Whether you access the lake from a public or private entrance, plan to take off of the lake what you take on to the lake. Many access points and resorts offer garbage collection services. If your site doesn't, make a plan to transport it home for disposal.

Use colored garbage bags

In snowy conditions, white trash bags can be difficult to see. Brightly colored bags or black bags are easier to spot making it less likely trash and waste will inadvertently be left behind.

Upon departure, check for trash

Take a moment before you depart the ice to make sure that you have picked up any garbage in your area. And if you notice someone else has left something behind, please take a moment to pick it up and bring it with you.

Allow time and bring the tools you need to move or remove your fish house

Take support blocks, insulation, landscaping fabric, wood and other materials with you and dispose of properly.

Why is it important to leave no trace?

GARBAGE AND OTHER WASTE:



Cause Environmental Effects

They damage the health of the lake and its fishery by harming the plant life, ecosystem and fish reproduction.



Create Safety Hazards

They create year-round safety hazards for anglers and other recreational users who enjoy snowmobiling, snowkiting, boating, jet skiing, kayaking, tubing, water skiing, paddle boarding and more.



Harm Wildlife

They harm wildlife because when fish and animals ingest garbage it causes illness and death.



Reduce Tourism

They hurt tourism and local businesses as well as the families whose livelihoods rely on the income from the jobs these sectors create. No one wants to spend their hard-earned dollars vacationing in polluted areas.

Aitkin County Planning and Zoning

If you are building or remodeling contact Aitkin County at 218-927-7342 or their website to be sure you are up-to-date on their codes <https://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/departments/enviro-svcs/enviromentalSvcs.html#gsc.tab=0>

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 **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.



- 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.

It's a good idea to keep your driveway plowed during the winter months in case emergency vehicles need access to your area!



From the AIS Information Brochure.

The FILIA Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Fund

- In efforts to maintain a healthy lake the FILIA AIS fund was created over 20 years ago to have monies available in case of an urgent issue arising for controlling AIS, which can be quite expensive.
- The fund was originally developed for the potential infestation of Eurasian Milfoil, but is now expanded to include any and all invasive species, both animal and plant.

History of Farm Island Lake

There are 2 books available at the Aitkin public library that are about the history of Farm Island Lake. Might make for some interesting wintertime reading.

The Bennettville community, 1898-1998 : a history of the Bennettville community located in Hazelton Township, Aitkin County, Minnesota by Leslie F. Coleman. Mr. Coleman grew up on FIL, on the southwest side where the Ripple River enters the lake.

Furuly: Shelter in the Pines, by Solvet Lewann Sotnak. Lewann is related to the Dahle family who have a long history with Farm Island Lake.

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.

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.

The annual meeting is held the 3rd Saturday of June each year.

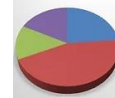
Board of Directors

Dennis Kraimer..... President
Gordon Vetsch..... V.P.
Cheryl McDonough..... Treasurer

Denise Noling..... Secretary
Cindy Chuhanic
Bill Haroldson

Stan Barnes
Mike Harrington
Scott Scheele

FILIA Financial report is on your website under Administration



FILIA Website

FarmIslandLake.org

Site Map

- [Home](#) Mission statement, printable map of Farm Island Lake, description
- [Membership](#) Members lists, application form
- [Pay Dues](#)..... Pay yearly membership dues online with credit card
- [Newsletters/Lake Info](#)..... Current and past newsletters, Gillnet Survey Results
- [Contact/Calendar](#)..... List of Board of Directors, Shore Captains, Meeting dates
 - [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](#)

Be Well. Be safe. Have fun!

Sincerely,
Cheryl McDonough and
Board Members
FILIA Treasurer
filialake@gmail.com

FILIA
PO Box 135
Aitkin, MN 56431

FarmIslandLake.org

Your comments are welcome.

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/g_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/preventspread_watercraft.html

To print just this page for your application, in your Print Settings at the Pages input prompt, type in 8.

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 \$ _____