

Farm Island Lake Improvement Association

Plan to attend the Annual FILIA meeting Saturday June 15 from 9:00am – 11:00am

The annual association meeting is held at Hazelton Town Hall, which 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 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 (Aquatic Invasive Species) updates, water clarity, etc.

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 get more involved with the lake.

This year's guest speaker will present information about a Lake Improvement District (L.I.D.)

The Farm Island Lake Improvement Association (FILIA) board is in the first stages of investigating the formation of a Lake Improvement District (LID). 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 property owners. There is still a lot of information to be gathered and conveyed to the 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 Farm Island Lake property owners.

Board Member Opening

There is an open position to serve on the FILIA Board of Directors - a 3-year term. If interested please email FILIALake@gmail.com or call Treasurer/Secretary Cheryl McDonough at 218-851-7026. The board officially meets 2x a year and maybe a few more times, depending on the need or a special project.

2018 AIS Inspection Final Results

- 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. More 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. Check our website or the DNR at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/program-info.html> for more facts about zebra mussels and AIS.

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.

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.

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.



First loon sighting on April 15th

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.

Important Phone Numbers

Aitkin County Sheriff	218-927-7435 or 911
DNR Information Center	651-296-6157
DNR Invasive Species Specialist at Brainerd Tim Plude	at 218-203-4354
Aitkin Chamber of Commerce	218-927-2316

Communication Method to Lake 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. If you don't fill out an application you can email your email address to FILIALake@gmail.com.

Membership

Last year we ended up with **214 paid members – 62% of total lake property owners!** It would be great to continue this upward swing in membership. A 2019 membership application form can be found on our website and is also included with this mailing. Yearly dues are \$25 and membership is voluntary. Be sure to include your email address on the application. Membership lists are on the website.

FILIA is a non-profit organization.

Dues Increase?

What do you think of raising the yearly dues to \$35? The \$25 dues amount has not been raised for many years, and some members have requested that it be raised. Please send us your vote via email or a letter, or write yea or nay on your application form.

AIS Fund

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.

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.

Curly-Leaf Update

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. 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!

** As of April 19th, we saw walleye gathering by the Ripple River, getting ready to spawn.

2019 DNR Boating Guide is on our Website

Check it out for PWC (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. Find it on our website on the Useful Information page.

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

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.

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.*

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

The FILIA website contains useful information – to name just a few:

- 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
 - Important links to other websites, such as the DNR, Aitkin County, etc.
- much more on the website!



Is there information that you would like included in your newsletter or on the website? Send an email, letter or let us know at the annual meeting held the third Saturday of June each year.

Ice-out date: April 24, 2019

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.

Visit your website to see a list of activities we are involved in to support the FILIA mission!

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.