



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

Hello All,  
I hope that all of you are safe and healthy.

## 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.

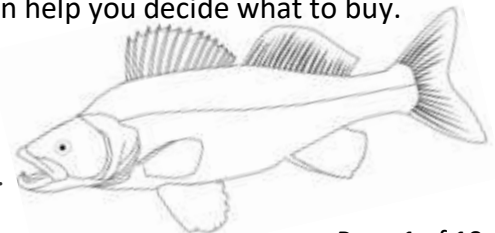
## New Changes to Married Combination License

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/gcH1AAkbDsWLbQAP1pFW5GNhaKYfBDHZTYaaaaDMIzBQD40Tbaa?j=B_rBqBt~amp;n=FR EO1ODOMd~25uA6W0SB.MEW~amp;b=3~amp;n=)  
[http://raoutdoors.hosted.strongview.com/t/gcH1AAkbDsWLbQAP1pFW5GNhaKYfBDHZTYaaaaDMIzBQD40Tbaa?j=B\\_rBqBt~amp;n=FR EO1ODOMd~25uA6W0SB.MEW~amp;b=3~amp;n=](http://raoutdoors.hosted.strongview.com/t/gcH1AAkbDsWLbQAP1pFW5GNhaKYfBDHZTYaaaaDMIzBQD40Tbaa?j=B_rBqBt~amp;n=FR EO1ODOMd~25uA6W0SB.MEW~amp;b=3~amp;n=)

You need to buy a Minnesota fishing license if you're 16 or older. Annual licenses allow you to fish from March 1 to the last day of February the following year. Lower-cost licenses are available for shorter time periods. There is an added cost to fish for trout, salmon or sturgeon. In most cases, Minnesotans don't need a license if you're fishing in a state park. The [DNR's complete listing of fishing licenses](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/fishing/index.html) can help you decide what to buy.  
<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/fishing/index.html>

## 2021 Fishing Opener is May 15th

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



Don't Forget!

## 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.

Here are a few laws for Personal Watercraft (PWC), Jet Ski, Wave Runner, Sea Doo, etc.



- PWC must travel at slow-no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of shore (except when a PWC is launching or landing a water skier by the most direct route to open water), docks, swimmers, swimming rafts, any moored or anchored watercraft or nonmotorized watercraft.
- You may not chase or harass wildlife
- You may not weave through congested watercraft traffic or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of the other boat.

## Board Member Opening

We have an open position for a Board of Director (Board Member). The board members meet twice a year and attend the annual meeting held the 3rd Saturday of June. The board meetings are held the first Saturday in May and on Labor Day, from 9:00 – 11:00 AM, at The Joint Tavern & Eatery. It is a 3-year voluntary position and is a great way to be actively involved in the lake community and activities and in local county information.

## Shore Captains Needed

We currently need 2 Shore Captains; one for the big island (Farm Island) and one for the northwest shore. Anyone who is interested please contact a board member or send us an email. If the area where you live currently has a Shore Captain and you would like to be one - the areas can be divided up.

Shore Captains are Farm Island Lake residents who have volunteered to help provide 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.

Shore Captains are provided with a brochure that they can hand out to new lake property owners along with a membership application. The Shore Captain brochure is on the website on the Contact/Calendar page.

Our goal is to have Shore Captains on the different shoreline areas of the lake. It is a wonderful way to get to know your neighbors and keep well-informed of happenings and news around the lake.

Here is a list of our current Shore Captains with two open positions.  
Use the FILIALake@gmail.com to contact a Shore Captain and board members.

Scott Scheele.....South Shore  
 Randy Feltmann .....Southwest Shore  
 John Pierson .....Johnson Point  
 Gordon Vetsch .....Dahle Bay  
 Denise Noling .....East Shore

Karen Ulstad .....West Shore  
 Cindy & Tom Scott.....Dummer's Bay  
 Lowell Larson .....Dummer's Bay  
 Sharon Mattison .....West Shore  
**Open position            Northwest Shore**  
**Open position            Farm Island**

## Loon Watch



### LOON MONITORING PROGRAM

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO PARTICIPATE IN A SUMMER LOON COUNT. IT TRANSPIRES A COUPLE OF DAYS OVER JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> (JUST A FEW HOURS PER DAY).

IT IS A COORDINATED EFFORT TO SIMULTANEOUSLY COUNT LOONS TO GET AN ACCURATE NUMBER OF ADULTS AND CHICKS. MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.

## Membership Update

We have 70 paid members so far.

Current and past member lists are on our website. An application is included at the bottom of this newsletter and is available online on your website. Last year 1/3 of paid members used the online payment method to pay their dues and pay toward the AIS fund.

- 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.

*70 paid members!*



Thank you if you have already paid. If you're not sure if you paid, send an email or check the website for the current list of paid association members.

- 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.

## Walleye Update

Dennis Kraimer, FILIA Board Member, contacted the DNR for an update about limiting walleye catch to 3 fish. Here is the update:

Spoke with Rick Bruesewitz today and he will send us a complete report on the status of the fishery on Farm Island. As for the three fish limit, that is not moving ahead at this time. The legislative body is currently looking at reducing the statewide limit to four. Rick wants to see where that goes before even considering a special bag limit for Farm Island Lake.



## MLEC awarded broadband grant for Farm Island Lake- southeast side

by Jennifer Eisenbart Feb 2, 2021

[https://www.messagemedia.co/aitkin/news/business/mlec-awarded-broadband-grant-for-farm-island-lake/article\\_f67a673c-65a7-11eb-b732-53e97984f265.html](https://www.messagemedia.co/aitkin/news/business/mlec-awarded-broadband-grant-for-farm-island-lake/article_f67a673c-65a7-11eb-b732-53e97984f265.html)

The Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative was one of several organizations named recipients of a Minnesota State Broadband Grant last week. The amount of the grant is \$198,607, with a local match of \$242,743. The total estimated cost of the project is \$441,350. MLEC will bring 1 GBPS speeds to 84 homes and one business, which exceeds the state's 2022 and 2026 speed goals.

The project area is located on the southeast side of Farm Island Lake.

According to a press release from MLEC, the Phase 4 project will use symmetrical fiber-to-the-home internet service. "FTTH is the fastest and most reliable Internet available," a spokesperson for MLEC said. "We are excited to, once again, partner with Consolidated Telecommunications Company (CTC) on the construction of this project and expand our MLEC fiber internet network."

In addition to Phase 4, MLEC is resuming construction on its Phase 3 and East Lake projects this spring. MLEC said there is still time to sign up for these projects. MLEC emphasized that residents in these project areas will have expanded educational, economic and health care opportunities. "Especially during these unprecedented times, we understand that having an internet connection is more important than ever before," the company said.

For more information on MLEC Fiber Internet call the office at 218-429-0433 or visit the company's website at [www.mlecmn.net/fiber](http://www.mlecmn.net/fiber). Project area maps, internet plans, and service agreements can all be found online.

State Rep. Dale Lueck said he was pleased to see broadband funding reaching the area.

"The state Border-to-Border Broadband program continues to be a bipartisan effort led by rural legislators to build out rural internet service into the unserved and underserved areas in Minnesota," he said.

End of article....

Link to map located on Mille Lacs Electric website <https://www.mlecmn.net/sites/mlecmn/files/Phase4Map.jpg> where you can zoom-in for a closer look.

### 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.

*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**, or **911 Address**, 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.

### **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 and Crow Wing 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](https://webapps11.dnr.state.mn.us/aquatic_invasive_species_training/lake_service_provider_permits/public_website_list). This link and information is also on your FILIA website on the Useful Info page.

*The list of permitted lake service providers is made available for the convenience of the public only. Farm Island Lake Improvement Association, The State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources neither endorse the services listed nor accept any liability arising from the use of the services listed.*

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.

## 2021 Calendar of FILIA Events

*Spring Board Meeting	Saturday, May 3, 9:00 am	The Joint Tavern & Eatery
Annual Association Meeting	Saturday, June 19, 9-11:00 am	Hazelton Town Hall
4th of July Boat Parade	Saturday, July 3, Noon	FIL South Public Access
*Fall Board Meeting	Monday, Sept 6, 9:00 am	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.

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

## 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](http://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](#)
- [History](#) 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](mailto:filialake@gmail.com)

*Your comments are welcome.*

FILIA  
PO Box 135  
Aitkin, MN 56431

[FarmIslandLake.org](http://FarmIslandLake.org)

# Starry stonewort represents a significant threat to Minnesota's lake ecology and lake-based tourism

Here is the link: <https://www.congressweb.com/MLRA/53#/53/>

[View in browser](#)



Forward to a friend



## MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates

Protect Our Lake Legacy

*Trusted advocate and advisor to Minnesota's lake and river communities.*

[Send your legislators an email urging them to support the Stop Starry Program HERE](#)

Dear Bill,

Starry stonewort was first discovered in Minnesota near a boat access on Lake Koronis in Stearns County. The size of the outbreak was almost 300 acres.

The next summer starry stonewort covered thousands of acres of Lake Koronis. From Koronis it spread. Today sixteen lakes (29 public accesses) are now infested. Each is a vector of spread. Starry stonewort is difficult and expensive to manage, prefers high quality waters, and significantly impacts fishing, boating, and swimming.

MLR submitted a grant to the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, ENRTF (lottery proceeds) to contain starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) in those 16 lakes (29 accesses) using waterless boat cleaning stations, civic organizing, and social messaging enhancements. The commission included this project as part of their overall package recommendations to the legislature.

**The funding for this program is being carried in the 2021 ENRTF appropriations bills, HF 151 and SF 690. Contact your legislators today to encourage them to support this funding package so that we can get protection for all of MN's lakes this summer.**

## Starry stonewort represents a significant threat to Minnesota's lake ecology and lake based tourism:

- Starry stonewort grows from 2 to 25 feet deep,
- It is an algae, and not a vascular plant, and so is more difficult to control with chemical treatments,
- It can grow on many different substrates, but prefers the gravel and sand bottoms used by panfish and bass for spawning,
- Its growth response is triggered by the same water temperature that triggers panfish and bass reproduction,
- It is threatened in its native range because starry stonewort prefers high quality waters,
- Real Estate agents in the Koronis area are starting to notice impacts to both sale prices of lakeshore properties on Koronis and time on the market before sales,
- Recreation of any kind is impossible in a starry stonewort patch.

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Write your legislator in support of the ENRTF funding bill: <https://www.congressweb.com/MLRA/53#/53/>

The Best Management Practice, BMP, to prevent AIS spread, including starry stonewort, is to completely clean, drain and dry all watercraft and water-related equipment when leaving a water body.

Surveys consistently find lack of tools with which to do this at the access to be a major obstacle to BMP compliance. MLR will install waterless watercraft cleaning stations with wet/dry vacs, high pressure air, scrubbers, grabbing tools, undercarriage and overhead lights, and drain plug wrenches.

[The Stop Starry Program](#) will turbocharge clean, drain, dry BMPs on starry stonewort lakes. Hennepin County found that when waterless boat cleaning stations are combined with organized community engagement, signage, careful location, and pavement markings, AIS violation rates can be reduced by 70+%.

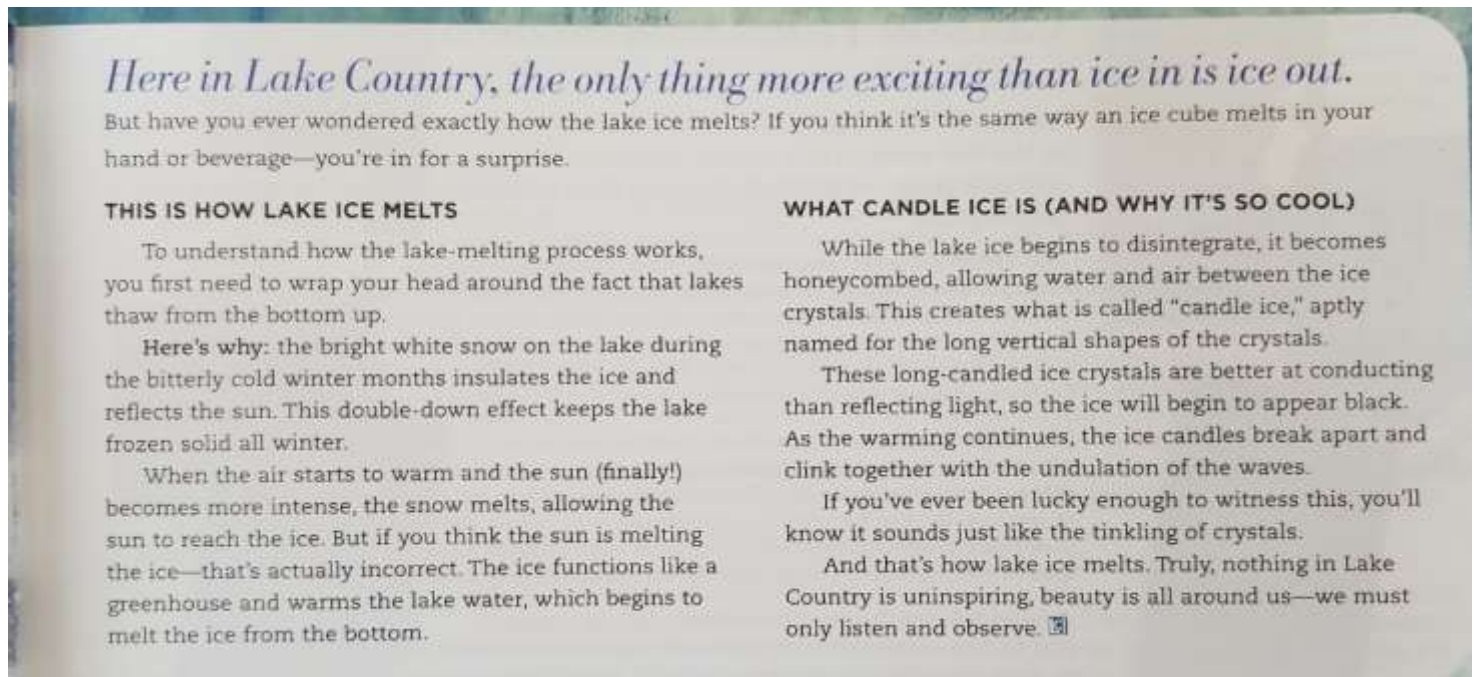
Thank you for all you do to protect our lakes. Thank you for taking action to advance the Stop Starry Program.

Be well,

Jeff Forester  
[jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org](mailto:jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org)

## Melting and Majestic - the extraordinary process of ice crystals

Written by Cara Lanz. From Lake Country Journal Magazine, February/March 2021, page 10





# 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](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/preventspread\\_watercraft.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/preventspread_watercraft.html)

To print just this page 10 for your application, in your Print Settings at the Pages input prompt, type 10.

# 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** \$ \_\_\_\_\_