



Farm Island Lake Improvement Association

ANNUAL MEETING CANCELLED

Due to the Covid-19 virus and for the safety and well-being of our association members, the FILIA Board Members decided to cancel the annual meeting.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Please welcome Loren Rachev as FILIA's newest *interim* board member. Jim Hausauer and Gordy Vetsch terms end this year so starting January 1st, 2021, along with Loren, they will hold interim positions until next year's annual meeting when an election will be held. Pat Holder is stepping down so we have an opening for a board member, which is a 3-year voluntary position, we meet twice a year and communicate as necessary. Contact a board member if interested or send an email.

ZEBRA MUSSELS CONFIRMED IN FARM ISLAND LAKE IN AITKIN COUNTY

MN DNR Press Release June 11, 2020 <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/2020/06/11/zebra-mussels-confirmed-farm-island-lake-aitkin-county>

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed a report of zebra mussels in Farm Island Lake in Aitkin County.

A lake property owner fishing on the lake contacted the DNR after finding an adult zebra mussel on vegetation attached to a boat anchor. The DNR sampled the vegetation and collected a plankton sample, which revealed a zebra mussel larva, or veliger. Veligers may indicate a reproducing population of zebra mussels.

After reports of individual zebra mussels in Farm Island Lake in 2018 and 2019, the DNR was unable to find additional zebra mussels or veligers, despite a number of follow-up searches. The DNR appreciates the vigilance of lake users who contact the agency when they find what may be invasive species not previously confirmed in a lake.

Whether or not invasive species have been confirmed in a lake, **Minnesota law requires boaters and anglers to:**

- **Clean** watercraft and trailers of 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.

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:

- **Spray** with high-pressure water.
- **Rinse** with very hot water (120 degrees for at least two minutes or 140 degrees for at least 10 seconds).
- **Dry** for at least five days.

Zebra mussels can compete with native species for food and habitat, cut the feet of swimmers, reduce the performance of boat motors, and cause expensive damage to water intake pipes.

People should contact an area DNR aquatic invasive species specialist if they think they have found zebra mussels or any other invasive species that has not already been confirmed in a lake.

More information is available on the DNR's aquatic invasive species webpage

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/laws.html>

- - - end of DNR press release

Be sure to inform your visitors and neighbors of the Minnesota regulation – Clean, drain, dispose - which is important and necessary to keep our lake clean and free of invasive species.

Contact information

Tim Plude, Invasive Species Specialist | Ecological & Water Resources
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1601 Minnesota Dr.
Brainerd, MN 56401
218-203-4354 | timothy.plude@state.mn.us

Rick Bruesewitz, Aitkin Area Fisheries Supervisor | Division of Fish and Wildlife - Fisheries
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1200 Minnesota Avenue, Aitkin, MN 56431
218-429-3037 | Rick.bruesewitz@state.mn.us

Steve Hughes, District Manager | Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District
307 2nd St NW #216
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7284 | hughes.aitkinswcd@gmail.com

We Have Zebra Mussels - Now what?

1. DNR Parks and Trails have posted Invasive Species Alert signs at both public landings.
 2. Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District will continue AIS inspections with a focus on prevention and protection from other invasives – i.e. starry stonewort, milfoil, etc.
 3. MN DNR activity will pick up and spend more time on AIS activity, inspections, etc. (during normal years this is true but with the current pandemic they are currently not fully staffed for watercraft inspections).
 4. Tim Plude plans to continue to search area lakes for adult zebra mussels as well as take veliger samples.
 5. Depending on how heavy the infestation we'll need to be careful walking in the water or when removing docks or lifts because the shells are sharp. You may need to wear water shoes for protection.
 6. Environmentally, zeebs compete with the native mussels in the water. Farm Island Lake water may be clearer.
 7. There is current research ongoing through the U of M and DNR to figure out all the fishing implications.
 8. It is important for landowners to understand that all water-related equipment (docks, boat lifts, swim rafts, etc.) will have zebra mussels on and inside the equipment. How much is dependent on how heavy the infestation. This equipment needs proper care when being transported away from the lake.
- - See much more detailed information on your website on the Aquatic Invasive Species page under “We have zebra mussels – now what?”.

HOW TO IDENTIFY ZEBRA MUSSELS

The FILIA website has a printable document with pictures and a description of zebra mussels.

<https://www.farmislandlake.org/copy-of-score-your-shore>

NEW WEBSITE NAME

FarmIslandLake.org is your new website name, replacing <https://filialake.wixsite.com/filia>, which was a difficult and not-intuitive name to remember. There is lots of information on your website:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Contact information - Board of Directors and Shore Captains- List of Members, current and past- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) information- FILIA Mission Statement- Local Events | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Newsletters and other reports- FILIA Membership Application Form- DNR Boating & Fishing Guide- Water Clarity Readings and Ice-Out Dates- Calendar of Events- Score Your Shore | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Links to other websites, such as the DNR, Aitkin County, etc.- Financial Reports, current and past- Pay Dues Online- FILIA Bylaws- Map of Farm Island Lake.... much more, check it out! |
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MINNESOTA DNR CANCELS FISH EGG TAKE IN 2020 Due to Covid-19 Social Distancing Protocols

You can read the complete press release dated April 14, 2020 at this link:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/news/2020/04/14/2020-egg-take-operations-suspended-canceled-due-covid-19-social-distancing-protocols>

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will cancel its 2020 egg take operations for walleye, northern pike, muskellunge and steelhead because the work cannot be done safely under COVID-19 social distancing guidelines. Per Rick Bruesewitz, Aitkin Area Fisheries Supervisor: No fry or fingerlings will be stocked this year in Farm Island Lake. The DNR did stock last October on top of the modest year class created by the fry that were stocked a year ago. Missing one year is not too big of a deal and anglers would not likely notice anything in the fishing for probably 3-4 years. Even then, since there is some natural reproduction in Farm Island and the Ripple River, it is still possible to produce at least a moderate year class. We will likely still assess that natural reproduction this fall with electrofishing.

EMAIL AS THE WAY TO COMMUNICATE TO LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS

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) which costs about \$600.

2020 DNR BOATING GUIDE IS ON YOUR WEBSITE

Check it out for Personal Watercraft (Jet Ski) regulations, such as time-of-day usage (9:30am to 1 hour before sunset) and speed regulations ((slow no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of nonmotorized boats, shore (unless launching/landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any anchored boat)); 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 your website under Useful Information.

2019 AIS INSPECTION FINAL RESULTS

All surveys 2019			
Total Inspections			
Equipment	FARM ISLAND	BIG SANDY	CEDAR
Boat Lift/Dock/Or Similar	2	1	6
Canoe/Kayak/Or Similar	18	35	37
Fishing Boat	1,926	1,280	912
Jon Boat	4	4	8
Personal Watercraft	188	160	83
Pontoon	205	373	118
Runabout or Ski-Boat with no Ballasts	164	381	117
Sailboat	2	3	1
Wakeboard Boat with Ballasts	12	57	28
(blank)	-	-	-
Total Inspections	2,521	2,294	1,310
Equipment	FARM ISLAND	BIG SANDY	CEDAR
Drain plug in upon arrival	16	25	7
Send the boater away to drain water	0	0	0
Plants, animals, water, mud etc.	4	7	7
Zebra mussels found	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total Number of Issues	20	32	14

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.

AIS Fund

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

Ice-out date: April 19, 2020

CHASING WILDLIFE AND WATERFOWL IS ILLEGAL

Do not harass loons and other lake animals or wildlife. DO NOT bully animals, or people. It's not nice - and harassing wildlife is illegal.



5 chicks as of July 7

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. Cost is \$30, includes sign, post, bolts. In an emergency, be able to give detailed directions on how to reach your address. Post it so everyone at your house can clearly see it.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Aitkin County Sheriff 218-927-7435 or 911
 DNR Information Center 651-296-6157
 Aitkin County 218-927-7350

Aitkin Chamber of Commerce 218-927-2316
 Aitkin Cty Health & Human Services 218-927-7200

There is additional contact information listed on your website

DNR fishing regulations for Farm Island Lake: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/lake.html?id=01015900>

Mode of Operation of Watercraft - Boat wash/wake statement

Aitkin County Sheriff Guida asked the area lake associations to distribute the following boat wash/wake statement dated May 9, 2020.



Greetings from your Sheriff,

If you are a boat owner/operator, I would like to take this chance to remind you of the responsibility you have for your boat's wash or wake. MN 6110.1200
NAVIGATION OF WATERCRAFT ON THE WATERS OF THE STATE; SAFETY EQUIPMENT.

Subp. 2. Mode of operation of watercraft. Mode of operation:

- A. No person shall operate a watercraft in such a manner that its wash or wake will endanger, harass, or unnecessarily interfere with any other person or property.

This means that if your wake causes any sort of damage you could be cited. In 2019, we received many complaints of this and we hope to curb those for 2020. I would prefer doing this with some education but the enforcement piece is an option. There are many areas of the lake we can enjoy without violating this rule; please encourage spending time in those areas. I would also like to encourage people with concerns of the wake issues to capture the event on video. Using your cell phone to record the boat activity, the wake (in action) damaging your shore and the suspects operating the boat will be a huge benefit to my Officers. It is really easy to educate when we have the proof.

I want to thank all of you for a great winter. Your calls are always welcome, and if you see something, say something. We will do our best to solve the problems!

Sheriff Dan Guida
218-927-7435

Membership

We currently have **156 paid members!** We only need 79 more members to exceed last year's count of 234 paid members – 63% of total lake property owners! It would be great to continue this upward swing in membership. A 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 to receive newsletters. A current member list is on the website, so if you can't remember if you paid you can check the member list or send an email to FILIAlake@gmail.com.

Thank you if you have already paid!

● FILIA is a non-profit organization.

Online Dues Payment

You can pay your dues online at our website using your credit card - it's safe, easy and fast. 40% of this year's members have used the online payment process. There is a \$1.15 fee that goes directly to Square.com, the app that provides the secure online payment service.

2019 Financial Report is on your website, including past reports.

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. This link 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.

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.

2021 Calendar of Events

*Spring Board Meeting	Saturday, May 1, 9:00am	The Joint Tavern & Eatery
Annual Association Meeting	Saturday, June 19, 9:00am	Hazelton Town Hall
4th of July Boat Parade	Saturday, July 3, Noon	FIL South Public Access
*Fall Board Meeting	Monday, Sept 6, 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.*

Board of Directors

Cindy Chuhanic President
Bill Haroldson V.P.
Cheryl McDonough ... Treasurer/Secretary

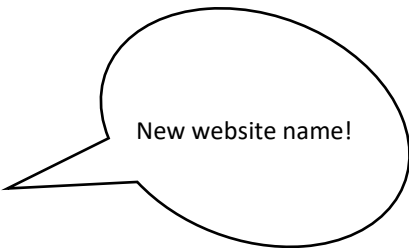
Jim Hausauer
Dennis Kraimer
Gordon Vetsch
Patrick Holder
Denise Noling
Loren Rachey

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.

Be safe, be well

Sincerely,
Cheryl McDonough
FILIA Treasurer/Secretary
FILIALake@gmail.com
Your questions and comments are welcome.

FILIA
PO Box 135
Aitkin, MN 56431
FarmIslandLake.org



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 work closely with the DNR, Aitkin County Soil & Water, attend ACLARA meetings, etc. to help educate about and prevent Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) infestation.