



Welcome Cindy Chuhanic as the new president of FILIA.

Cindy has served on the board for 16 years. Her years of service as a board member indicate her interest in the stewardship of Farm Island Lake. Cindy is a familiar face in our area, as she is the owner of The Joint Tavern & Eatery on Hwy 169.

Cheryl McDonough has accepted the secretary responsibilities since Cindy had been the secretary. Cheryl will also continue as the treasurer.

See list of board members on the website and below.

Jim Hausauer will continue to serve on the board and offer his valuable experience and service to the association. We want to thank Jim for his 7 years serving as the president.

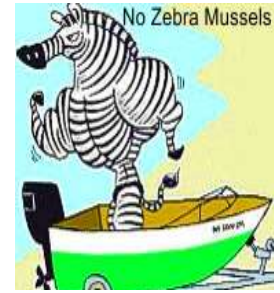
Zebra Mussels Found in Area Lakes. Not on Farm Island Lake!

Zebra mussels are confirmed in Bay Lake and Big Pine. They have also been confirmed in five more Minnesota lakes. Click here to read the Star Tribune article. <http://strib.mn/2F2SZMT>

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.



[Click here](#) to read the Aitkin Age article published July 27, 2018 – “Zebra mussels confirmed in Bay Lake”
“Most of the new zebra mussel reports are brought to our attention by people who are out using Minnesota’s public waters in the summer months,” said DNR invasive species specialist Tim Plude. “We appreciate the vigilance of folks reporting them to the DNR, as well as the partnerships we have with lakeshore owners.”



There were no zebra mussels found in Farm Island Lake in 2018

The 2019 Grant Application for Aquatic Invasive Species for funding in Aitkin County was submitted by board member Greg Anderson.

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.
- [Click here](#) for more information on the Minnesota law, which holds true whether or not a lake is listed as infested.

See article below for more detailed instructions - Clean In Clean Out.

Be sure to inform your visitors and neighbors of this important Minnesota regulation.

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.

214 people have paid their dues this year. That's 62% of approximately 349 lake owners! This is the most members we've had in at least 5 years!

Thank you, members!

Yearly membership dues are accepted through end of each year.

A membership application form can be found on our [website](#), and is also included with this mailing. Voluntary dues are \$25 a year and are welcome any time. Our mailing address is at the end of this newsletter.

In an effort to keep you updated with Farm Island Lake Improvement Association (FILIA) happenings, association members will periodically receive emails with pertinent information.

Please be sure we have your email address so you can receive FILIA newsletters and updates.

Paid association members, in recognition of their support, are posted on the [FILIA website](#) and are listed in this newsletter. Please contact me with any name spelling updates.

**214 Members
62% Membership!**



AIS INSPECTORS – HELP WANTED

YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER MAY WANT TO CONSIDER BECOMING AN AIS INSPECTOR NEXT YEAR. 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
5. Work schedule can be early morning to mid-afternoon, or noon to 8:00. Usually it is afternoon and evening to catch the most boaters. It varies according to the lake and the inspector's schedule.
6. What you will do: AIS Inspectors meet with boat owners at the public boat launches to inspect their water craft and speak with them about laws and rules regarding AIS.
7. The Minnesota Legislature has appropriated money for AIS control statewide. Aitkin County has a 2018 budget of \$275,000, \$165,000 of which is for inspector wages.
8. Three decontamination units that heat water to 150 degrees F have been purchased by Aitkin County for \$15,000 each.
9. Equipment for inspectors has also been purchased, such as tablets used to track boat count, etc.



LOONS APPEARED TO BE GONE FROM FARM ISLAND LAKE BY NOVEMBER 11

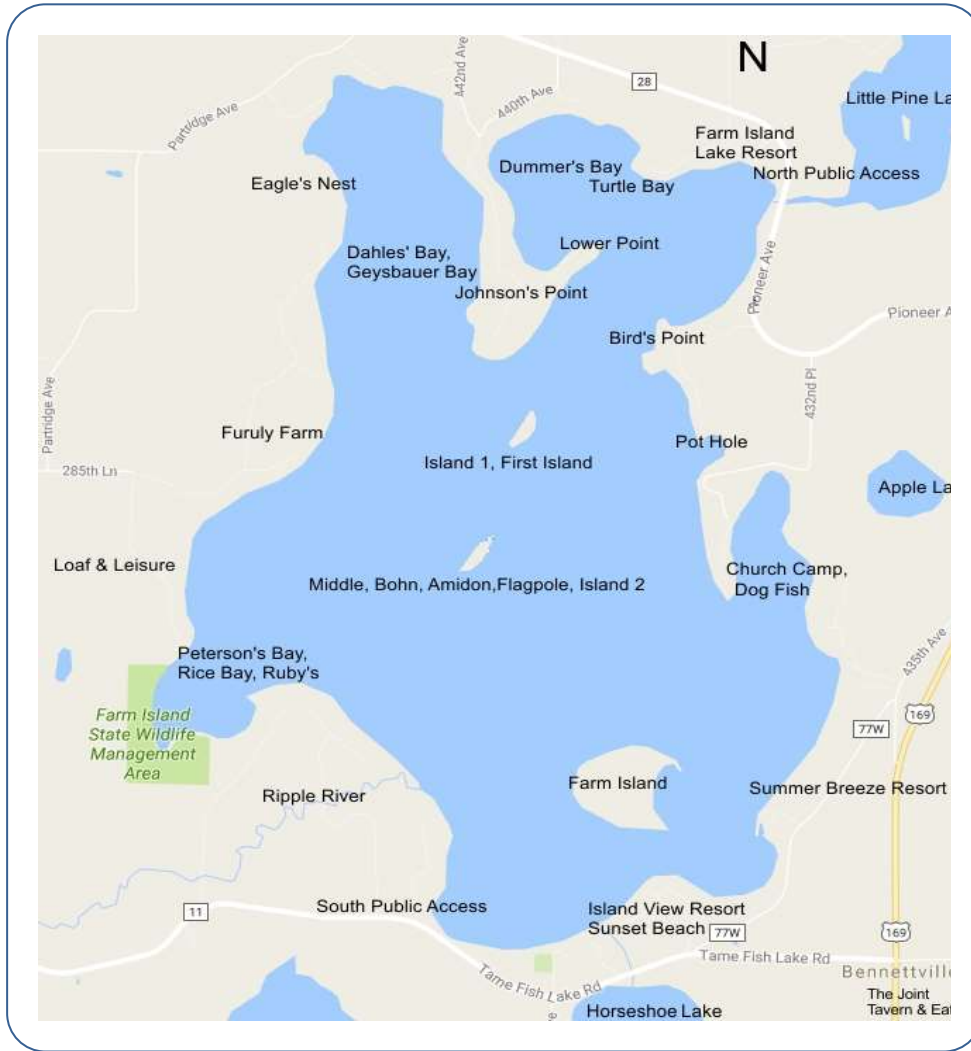
CHASING WILDLIFE AND WATERFOWL IS ILLEGAL

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.

2017 Year-End Financial Report can be found on your [website](#), along with past reports.

2018 Year-End financial report will be available on our FILIA website beginning of next year.



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

Blue Fire Number



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.

GPS doesn't work well in our area. 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



From: Bruesewitz, Rick (DNR)

GILLNET CATCH RATES IN 2016 AND 2018

Sent: Monday, August 27, 2018 1:13 PM

To: Cheryl McDonough

Subject: RE: Gillnet Catch Rates - Farm Island Lake assessment Week of July 30

Hi Cheryl,

Here is a chart that compares this year's assessment with that of 2018, and normal ranges for this type of lake.

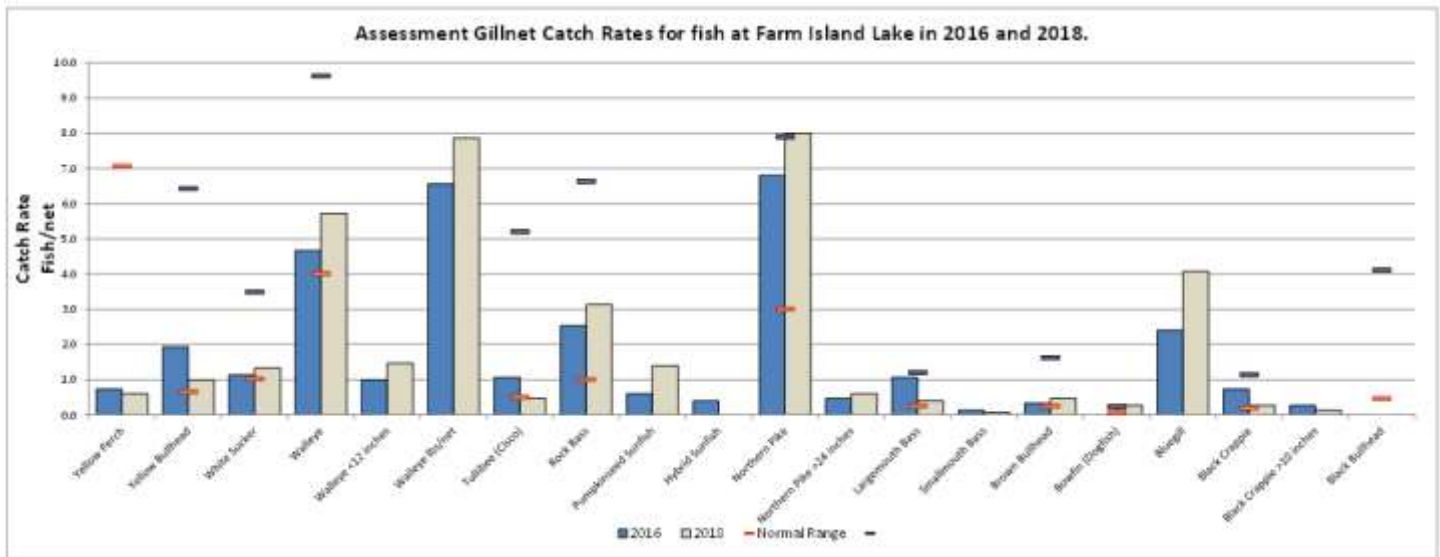
Overall the things that we are watching closely are going in the right direction, namely walleye. This is especially true for the number of smaller walleye.

They jumped up a fair amount from last survey and are very near the long-term average. While perch are very low, we recognize that perch growth rates in

Farm Island are very slow and so we do not sample them well with these nets.

I won't have much more until our staff complete the analysis over winter.

Rick



Note: [Click here](#) for a better view of the Gillnet Catch Rate chart on the FILIA website, located at bottom right on the Newsletters/Lake Info page, under Reports.

Fall Electrofishing Update from the DNR

From: Bruesewitz, Rick (DNR) <rick.bruesewitz@state.mn.us>

Sent: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 10:27 AM)

Subject: Farm Island Electrofishing

I thought I'd let you know that we were unsuccessful in electrofishing the lake this fall. Unfortunately the weather changed from Summer to Late Fall way too quickly and by the time we made it to Farm Island the walleye had moved offshore.

If we have an opportunity we'll try to give it another go in late spring (just after spawning) when the young move in. IT won't be directly comparable to fall electrofishing, but it will give us some idea of this year's year class.

Rick

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](mailto:rick.bruesewitz@state.mn.us)

mndnr.gov



Water Clarity reported by Russ Hoppe

May	11 feet – this is within limits
June 22	11 feet
July 29	9.5 feet
Aug 7	8.5 feet
Sept 1	5.5 feet – algae bloom can affect water clarity

[Click here](#) for ICE OUT DATES on FILIA website.

Click for:
[DNR Boating Guide](#)
[2018](#)

The lake froze over early this year, with an Ice-in date right before Thanksgiving, on November 20th.

Curly-Leaf Update

The DNR reported that they did not do a Curly Leaf survey this year, but it was diminished on many lakes and they would expect the same on Farm Island.



Walleye Population

The DNR will continue to monitor walleye population using electroshock (this fall) and gillnetting, and stocking walleye fries in Farm Island Lake every year. See Gillnet Catch Rates and electrofishing reports above.

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
- The Junction Convenience Store
- Alpha Dog Grooming
- The Green House
- Beartooth True Value Hardware
- Hyytinen Hardware Hank
- Shirts Plus of Aitkin

My apologies if your business name has not been included.

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:

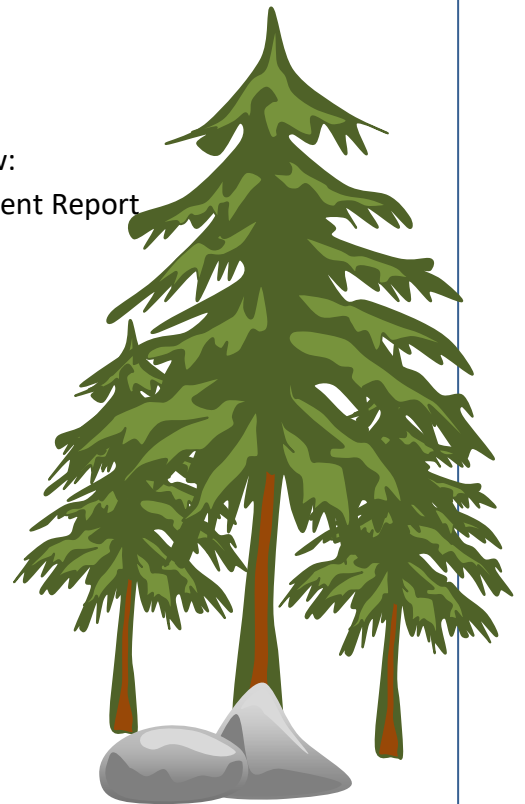
- Work with DNR, ACLARA and Aitkin Soil and Water Department on Invasive Species Prevention, includes efforts to monitor public accesses
- Provide opportunities (Farm Island Lake Boat Parade, annual meeting, AIS updates, etc.) for members to get to know each other. This will foster a safer community 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:

- * 2015 Aitkin County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Risk Assessment Report
- * [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
 - 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



FILIA Board Members

All board members can be emailed using the FILIA email address:

FILIALake@gmail.com

Cindy Chuhanic President

Bill Haroldson V.P.

Cheryl McDonough ... Secretary

Cheryl McDonough ... Treasurer

Jim Hausauer

Dennis Kraimer

Gordon Vetsch

Patrick Holder

Greg Anderson

Julie Anderson

New President:

Cindy Chuhanic

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.*

Have fun, be safe!

H

Sincerely,

Cheryl McDonough

Treasurer/Secretary

Your questions and comments are welcome.

FiliaLake@gmail.com

FILIA website link.

1,000 website visitors this year!

**FILIA
PO Box 135
Aitkin, MN 56431**

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

Members can email the board at any time and we will try to address your questions in a timely matter. The best way to contact us is with the FiliaLake@gmail.com email address.

New Sheriff Dan Guida takes helm in Aitkin County in 2019



Aitkin County Sheriff-elect Dan Guida

By ANN SCHWARTZ

"I felt led to run for the sheriff in Aitkin County," said Dan Guida, 47, sheriff-elect. "I care about the people of Aitkin County and knew I could do a good job."

Guida, originally from rural Crosby, has served about 25 years with the Aitkin County Sheriff's Department, including as sergeant, where 60 percent of his responsibilities were administrative.

He trained in as a deputy un-

der Roy Bruggman and Harold Lucht and has worked in drug enforcement, on all the large cases such as the murder of Evelyn Malin (rural McGregor storekeeper); and has been the boat and water deputy and also found lots of lost souls in the woods.

"I seem to have a knack for going into the woods and finding lost people," said Guida in an interview.

He worked as an undercover drug agent, where he grew his hair long and worked with the Lakes Area Drug Task Force that covers several counties.

"We'll be aggressively pursuing meth and the illegal drug situation in Aitkin County," he noted. "There will be a difference in that."

Realizing that drug problems are a result of addiction, he'd like to see more Teen Challenge involvement in Aitkin County. The successful treatment program's staff vis-

its jail inmates here once a month but he'd like to see that increased and have even more of a drug treatment presence locally.

"We need to help people with their addictions – not just put a band aid on it. I have people shake my hand and thank me because I arrested them 20 years ago and they turned their life around. It is a long process and we need more staff so we can be pro-active and not just re-active."

The sheriff's office is down three to four road deputies – positions he'd like to fill immediately. He's also made an offer to an individual to be his undersheriff but that has not yet been accepted. He'll take office on January 7. He is working closely with incumbent Sheriff Scott Turner, who is retiring, and is attending meetings with Turner and learning the ropes.

"I also reached out to past sheriffs for their support," he

said. He was pleased to see, with election returns, that he had support from voters all over the county. Guida has lived in rural McGregor for many years and knows that Hill City, Palisade and McGregor folks will sometimes vote against county-wide candidates who are from Aitkin.

He loves the small population of the county and the way you can develop relationships with a lot of people. He also

Continued on Page 5

New Sheriff Dan Guida | Continued from Page 1

thinks the rural, down-to-earth people of the county are its greatest asset.

"If I had a magic wand, I wish people wouldn't compare themselves to others, but just be the best they can be for themselves," he observed.

He and his wife Melanie Turnock both grew up in close-knit families where community service was a priority. Melanie, now an Early Childhood teacher in McGregor, was an Aitkin County Dairy Princess and her parents Darlene and Frank Turnock are very active in the communities east of McGregor.

Guida's parents, Gary and Becky, still live in the area and are busy volunteering with the Salem West mission, Persian Gulf Support Group and Habitat for Humanity. Guida's brother Jim is a conservation officer and his other brother David is a lieutenant colonel with the army in Fort Riley, Kansas. Older sister TyAnne Rezak is an educator in Brainerd.

Guida and Melanie have a close-knit family themselves with four school-aged children. The family enjoys hunting and fishing and working on projects together.

Operations will continue as-is at the sheriff's department. Guida's other goal is to have more of a police presence in the McGregor and Hill City schools. He said it is helpful for students get to know officers and it also benefits the recruiting of young people to enter the law enforcement field.

He'll also work very closely with the police departments in Aitkin, Hill City and McGregor.

With the sheriff's office providing coverage 24 hours a day every day of the year his first priority will be to hire more officers. With Sheriff Turner and Undersheriff John Drahota stepping down through retirement and long-time deputy Chuck Everson resigning, it does leave some holes in the department. But he has two investigators, a top-notch jail staff and experienced administrative staff and deputies to keep the department running smoothly.

Sheriff Guida's candidacy statement:

A career law enforcement officer and military veteran, I have been with the Aitkin County Sheriff's Department since 1994. My 23 years of experience in the positions of deputy, boat and water recreational officer and patrol sergeant, as well as attaining the rank of master sergeant, provides me with the proficiencies to be an effective sheriff.

Incumbent Scott Turner retired. "... I decided it's time for a new chapter of my life as I didn't want to commit another five years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Aitkin County as their sheriff for the last 13 years."

Farm Island Lake Improvement Association Membership 2018

[Click here](#) for the most current list of paid members on our website. Voluntary dues are accepted through end-of-year.

214 members as of December 6, 2018

Accola, Michael and Melanie
Althoff, Chad & Tresa
Amrhein, Terry & Dorla
Anderson, Greg & Diane
Anderson, Julie
Anderson, Pete & Mary and Krueger Arden & Cathy
Arndt, Dave & Jennifer
Arndt, Joseph - Farm Island Lake Partnership
Balko, Tim & Tracy
Ball, Dennis and Sharon
Barnes, Stan & Karla
Bencini, Lon
Betzler, Ronald & Julie; Don & Anita Hime; Jane & Tony Sparrow
Billman, Brandon & Amy
Blake, Gary & Kelly
Blumke, James & Sandra, Steven, Davis, Paula &, Kitts, Lisa
Bohn, James Kelsey
Boudreau, David & Laura
Brandt, Robert & Dorothy
Brewster, Linda & David
Brown, David & Renea
Buechele, Don and Doreen
Burnison, Russ & Trish
Cannady, Douglas & Judith
Carroll, Wade and Linda
Chmelik, Marvin & Joanne
Christy, Judy
Chuhanic, Ed & Cindy
Cowan, Rob & Pam
Dahle, John
Danielson, Stephen & Roxanne
Diedrich, Bill & Karen
Diedrich, Sivar or Joan
Diehl, John & Karyn
Ditty, Dave & Angie
Dosser, Carolyn
Dosser, Paul & Linda
Doty, Jody & Gary
Doty, Thomas and Jeanette
Dumonceaux, Brad & Jodi
Elkin, William & Alice
Engh, Jim & Julie
Erickson, Ronald & Helen
Fahey, Mike & Linda

Fawley, Craig & Sharon
Feldstein, Thomas & Mary Ellen
Feltmann, Douglas & Sandra
Feltmann, Randy & Faye
FIRM, Scott Boyd
Fjerstad, Mark & Kim Curless
Foley, John & Shari
Fragodt, Brian & Joy
Frederick, Todd & Keri
Freeman, Maurice and Arlene
Fritz, Robert & Susan
Furth, John & Allison
Furuly, Sotnaks & Anne Utschig
Futhey, Lee & Kathy
Geist, Gary & Mary Joan
GH Grove Cabin, Thraen
Gilson, Pamela & Scott
Gracek, Raymond & Alice
Grailer, Tom & Traci
Green, Mark & Julie
Griesel, Wayne
Ham, Darrell & Carol
Hanna, Connie; Nordquist, Scott & Jen; Klepinger, Brian & Laurie
Haroldson, Bill
Haroldson, Debbie
Harrington, Michael & Wendy
Hausauer, Jim & Nancy
Hay, Clifford & Sylvia
Hayes, James & Cindy
Hesse, Steve & Sally
Hoelzer, Greg & Marybeth
Hoffman, Michael & Denise
Holder, Patrick & Maryann
Holst, Brad & Vickie
Holter, Steve and Lynn
House, Nate & Susan
Hreha, Blake and Amanda
Hutterer, Vincent & Doreen
Iverson, Dave & Lisa
Jaeger, Douglas & Laura
Jamar, Jeff & Laura
Johnson, Larry & Janet
Johnson, Richard & Phyllis
Johnson, Rick & Babs
Johnson, Thomas & Mary
Jost, Ron & Jean
Juntti, Glen & Barbara
Keatts, Andy & Deb
Keisling, Stephen

Kise, Kayla & John
Klein, Doug & Stacey
Knotek, Mikal, Kelle, Bob & Jan
Knott, Randy & Jan
Knutson, Brian & Debbie
Kraimer, Dennis & Chris
Landgren, Ted & Natalie Madgy
Larson, Lowell & Carole
Larson, Sean & Linda and Mike Lund
Larson, Tom & Rachel
Lavigne, Larry & Jule
Leckscheid, Joanne
Lensegrav, John & Lisa
Leonard, Gary & Rea
Letich, Mark or Brian Burke
Loew, Patrick & Nancy Jo
Long, Gerry & Judy
Long, Lisa or Lori
Lund, James
Lux, Carol & Ron
Maciej, Scott & Lexi
MacMillan, Mike & Carol
Maksymkiw, Lisa & Mike
Martinson, John & Sara Fisher
Matthias, Don & Judy
Mattison, Robert & Sharon and Ulstad, Karen
McDonough, Kevin & Cheryl
McLain, Janis
McPheeters, Dick & Mavis and Jeff & Tammy
Meehan, Claudia Trustee and Harriet Anderson
Merriman, Dale & Suzanne
Meyer, Tim & Deb
Mikkonen, John & Carolyn
Moey, Lee
Moormeier, Reed & Jayne
Morris, Fay Closuit
Muelhbauer, Pam & Gerald
Mueller, Bob & Terri
Munzel, Jeffrey & Victoria
Murray, Barry & Joyce
Nardini, Eugene & Donna
Nelson, Reed & Joan
Ness, Wayne & Mary
Netz, David & Barbara
Noling, Dennis & Denise
Norberg, Richard & Nathaly
Norgren, Jim & Judy
Oare, Les & Susan

Oare, Scott & Robin
O'Brien, John & Karin
Olson, Ross
Opsal, Don
Pearson, Bob & Bonnie
Perrine , Pat & Judy, Aaron, Stephanie
Peters, Gordon & Muriel
Peterson, Don and Michelle - Farm Island Store FIS
Peterson, Rozanne
Peterson, Steve & Pat
Pierson, John
Poser, Richard & Sue
Rachey, Loren & Diane
Rasmussen, Jim & Roma Lee
Rebecca Luker & Ed Stabno
Reinhard, Arnie & Connie
Reisetter, Tom, Doreen, Dan & Ann
Remme, Doug & Sue
Rezac, Terry & Janet
Roiger, Lavonne
Rolley, Jeremy & Leah
Romenesko, Stuart & Sherry
Rose, Mike
Ryan, Tim & Sue
Scharmann, Philip & Lori
Scheele, Cheryl & Scott
Schiffler, Roger & Sharon
Schifsky, Mark & Peg
Schifsky, Steve & Dawn
Schlichte, Robert & Kathy
Schrupp, Alan & Lori
Schultz, Robert
Scott, Thomas & Diana
Scott, Tom & Cindy
Seiger, Gary & Cheryl
Seltun, Jay & Kelly
Sherburne, James and Jeanne
Sherf, Dale & Barbara
Shikowsky, Steven & Pamela
Smalley, Matt & Angela
Sowles, Jim & Lois
Spargo, Scott & Anne
Steffl, Neil & Nancy
Stevenson, Gary & Mary
Stippel, Roger and Lucy
Stovern, Bryan & Lauren
Strohmayr, Tim & Chris
Sullivan, Tom & Nancy
Summer Breeze Resort - Cathyann LaPlante Family
Dec 19, 2018

Swenson, Barb
Sylvester, Kathy
Thomas, Ward & Joyce
Thorson, Doug & Cris
Trick, Carol & John
Tyson, David & Jane and Daleiden, Doug & Antoinette
Utterberg, Thomas & Carol
Vander Vorste, Merlin & Jean
Vetsch, Gordon & Laurie
Vetsch, Thomas & Connie
Vollmer, Steve & Cindy
Von Barga, Dennis & Annette
Walter, William & Karen
Weslander, Dennis & Eunice
Westendorf, Dean & Mary
Wilmes, Dave & Connie
Wilmo, Wesley & Sylvia
Wilson, Steve & Julie
Wisnewski, Paul & Lori
Young, Keath & Lesley
Zeien, Debra
Zeilinger, Ken & Deb
Zelixon, Lily & Alex
Zumwinkle, David & Family