



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

Annual Meeting June 8 is from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

The meeting is held at the Hazelton Township Hall, 24248 US-169, Aitkin, about 4 miles south of Tame Fish Lake Road (CR-11).



The speaker this year will be Executive Director Jeff Forester of MLR – Minnesota Lakes and Rivers. MLR has been protecting Minnesota's lake and river heritage since 1994 by:

- Working to keep lake places affordable,
- Working to protect and improve water quality,
- Providing grants to help with shoreline management, aquatic invasive species control and prevention, septic system management, firewise wildfire protection, Sustainable Forest Incentive Act, non-typical insurance for remote properties, and more,
- Greater transparency in the taxation and permitting process.

Click here for more information on MLR <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/>

From the pontoon of the president...

Although it's been wet with cooler temperatures, summer's warmer temps will soon be here. As I look into the very clear water this spring, I am very concerned with the thought of seeing Starry Stonewort in FIL. It has been recently confirmed to be in Middle Cullen Lake near Nisswa, in the heart of the Brainerd Lakes area. This is the 29th lake in MN to be infested, and is now less than 25 miles away from FIL. If you would like to know more about what can be done to curb the spread of this most serious AIS to date, please attend your Members meeting Saturday, June 8th. I ask that you talk with your neighbors, and ask them to attend as well.

One question that I have for you ... "Are they biting"? Take care, and enjoy your lake time!

Bill

Board Member Elections at the Annual Meeting

3-year term elections

Up for 3-year term elections are current board members Cindy Chuhanic, Bill Haroldson, and Stan Barnes.

Board Member Opening

We are looking for a new board member. Contact me if you're interested in getting involved in the lake community. FILIALake@gmail.com

Board members serve a voluntary 3-year term. They meet two times a year, and attend the annual meeting. Let us know if you're interested!

Get the Lead Out

There will be “Get the Lead Out” packages at our annual meeting. The package consists of lead-free tackle, miscellaneous information about lead tackle and a drop box for lead lure disposal.

Get the Lead Out is an educational program with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency working to protect and restore the population of common loons and wildlife in Minnesota by reducing their exposure to lead-based fishing tackle.

To learn more about Get the Lead Out, visit <https://lakeadmin.org/get-the-lead-out/> or

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/LeadOutMN/>



MNDNR Creel Survey This Summer



The DNR will perform a creel survey this summer, starting at opener and running through the end of September. Farm Islanders will see DNR creel clerks running around the lake doing boat counts and interviewing anglers to get the information to estimate fishing pressure and harvest.

There have been concerns for some time about issues relating to anglers from Mille Lacs “moving” to Farm Island. This creel should give the DNR an idea of how much of that is occurring. The DNR thanks you all for your cooperation with this project as it will need your collective cooperation to make it successful.

133 paid members so far!

Membership Update

Thank you to those who have already paid this year's dues! Current and past member lists are on the website.

An application is at the end of this newsletter and is on the website.

You can also pay dues online at FarmIslandLake.org. A member is someone who has paid their dues, payable yearly.



If you have not been a FILIA member in the past, please consider joining this year. If you are already a member, thank you, and we hope you will continue to support the stewardship that FILIA provides.

It does make a difference! A large lake association membership provides a strong influence when it comes to the affairs involving lakeshore ownership, including grant applications, government, county, and local agency activities.

Be sure we have your email to ensure receipt of newsletters sent throughout the year.



FILIA Membership Facts

- 368 property owners as of March 2024
- Newsletters are emailed to 501 recipients
- 223 members is the average membership over the last 5 years
- 33% of members pay additional money toward the AIS Fund
- 33% pay their dues online at FarmlandLake.org
- \$2,362 is the average donated to the AIS Fund over 5 years
- FILIA is a non-profit organization
- You are a member when you pay dues, which are due each year

New, Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species PSA Series

The AIS Public Service Announcement videos that the Aitkin County AIS program helped fund are available. Counties across Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates collaborated to produce a unique ‘**How Well Do You Know Minnesota?**’ series that provides Minnesota fun facts and AIS information.

Watch the Videos on YouTube:

Both videos are only 30 seconds long. There may be an advertisement that you’ll have to skip.

May: Never Release

https://youtu.be/fcV-9_kaHKM

June: Early Detection

<https://youtu.be/6EzR0tzxMdM>



Did You Know?

- **PWC (jet skis) hours of operation are between 9:30 AM and sunset.**
- PWC must travel at slow-no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of shore, docks, swimmers, swimming rafts, any moored or anchored watercraft, or nonmotorized watercraft. Exception is when a PWC is launching or landing a water skier by the most direct route to open water.
- **It is illegal to chase or harass wildlife**, or weave through congested watercraft traffic or jump the wake of another watercraft within 150 feet of that boat.



Minnesota’s personal watercraft laws https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/education_safety/safety/boatwater/pwc-brochure.pdf

DNR encourages a safety mindset as recreational boating season kicks off

Minnesota's lakes and rivers are about to be abuzz with activity. Memorial Day weekend represents the traditional start of the recreational boating season, when water recreation enthusiasts of all types join the anglers, paddlers and others who've been on the water now for weeks.

All users have a role in keeping Minnesota's lakes and rivers safe, said Lt. Eric Sullivan, supervisor of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Enforcement Division's newly created statewide Marine Unit. The unit includes five conservation officers whose overall responsibility is keeping the state's waterways safe.

"Few states have the water-recreation resources that Minnesota does, and fewer still have as many registered watercrafts as we do," Sullivan said. "It's great that so many people connect with the outdoors on the water – we just want to make sure they're being safe so everyone can make positive memories."

Following are safety tips for all boaters to keep in mind to ensure a fun, memorable and successful boating season:

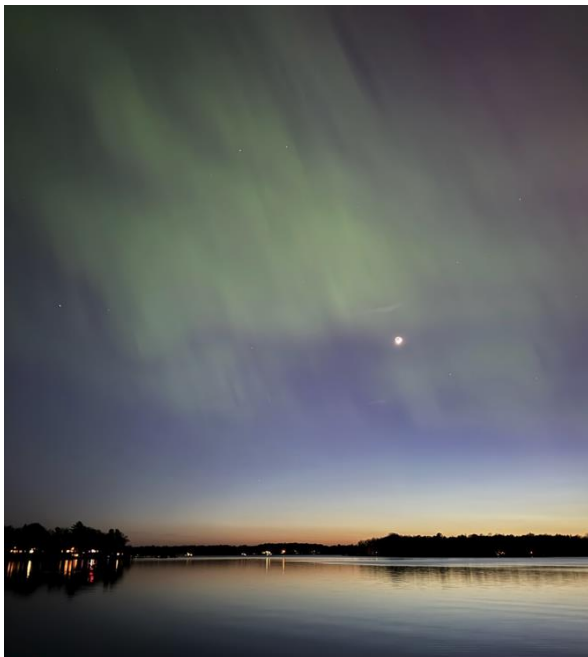
- Wear a life jacket, don't just bring it. State law requires children under 10 wear a life jacket when the boat is underway, but wearing one is the best way for people of all ages to survive an accidental fall into the water. (Ninety percent of victims in boating fatalities were not wearing a life jacket.)
- Leave alcohol on shore. Operating a boat under the influence is the single greatest factor in fatal boating accidents. It's also illegal.
- Check safety equipment. Make sure life jackets are in good condition and fit the wearer. On motorboats, ensure carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, navigation lights, and sound-producing devices are in good condition. Inspect the engine cut-off lanyard and wear it anytime the boat is underway.
- Be cognizant of potentially high water, which can present safety risks by hiding hazards beneath the surface of the water.
- Own your wake. Large wakes can negatively affect the shoreline and be hazardous to other people recreating on the water.
- Take an [online education course](https://mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/education.html) (mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/education.html) to increase your knowledge. More information, including boater education requirements and information on safe boating, is on the [boating safety webpage of the DNR website](https://gov/safety/boatwater) (gov/safety/boatwater).
- Brush up on the rules. Read the [2024 Minnesota Boating Guide](https://gov/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf) (gov/rlp/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf).

- The FILIA Board Members, to fulfill our mission of stewardship for Farm Island Lake, strive to maintain good communications and collaborative efforts with lake association members, Aitkin County, and state agencies. To name a few - the DNR, Aitkin Area Fisheries, Aitkin County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Invasive Species Specialist, etc.
- 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 other FILIA activities.

AIS Inspections 5-1-2024 through 5-24-2024

Almost 1,300 inspections to date

Lake	Inspections	Drain required	Mud/ water/ plants incoming	Plug on arrival	Plants/ water/ mud on exit	Decon Completed	Inspection Hours	Inspection per hour
1003302, MINNEWAWA, SOUTH	78	1		1	24		33.95	0.44
1006201, BIG SANDY, EAST	39				13			0
1006203, BIG SANDY, HWY 65	168				56		43.75	0.26
1006204, BIG SANDY, NORTH WEST	87				34		27.78	0.32
1009301, CLEAR, CLEAR	77				25		38.5	0.5
1009601, DAM	40				15		19.42	0.49
1010201, WILKINS	30	1		1	13		25.26	0.84
1012901, SISSABAGAMAH	24				11		38.94	1.62
1014601, RIPPLE LAKE, RIPPLE	76		2		17		45.86	0.6
1015701, BIG PINE	75				27		39.47	0.53
1015901, FARM ISLAND, NORTH	212	2		2	70	2	56.92	0.27
1015902, FARM ISLAND, SOUTH	180	1	1	1	81		64.16	0.36
1017801, SPIRIT, SPIRIT LAKE	50				17		37.5	0.75
1020401, ROUND (Near Garrison - North of Mille Lacs), SOUTHWEST	50				17		38.79	0.78
1020901, CEDAR, CEDAR	108		1	2	31		43.44	0.4
Grand Total	1294	5	4	7	451	2		



Aurora pictures complements of Lori Scharmann. Taken from the southeast shore.

Emerald ash borer flight season begins May 1

Flight season for emerald ash borer (EAB) starts on May 1. EAB was recently found for the first time in the Northwoods in Cass and Crow Wing counties. EAB kills black ash trees, which is an extremely abundant tree in northern Minnesota. Woodland stewards can slow the spread of EAB in the Northwoods by reporting any suspected EAB or declining ash trees, protecting healthy trees and not moving ash wood.

Learn more about [EAB from the U of MN extension](#).



Oak wilt high risk season is upon us!

Don't prune your oaks or move firewood! We are now in the high risk season for oak wilt. Oak wilt is a serious disease affecting Minnesota's native oaks and it is expanding in central Minnesota. The disease can spread either below ground via root grafts or above ground, carried by sap beetles that are drawn to the smell of fresh, exposed oak wood.

Learn more about [Oak Wilt from the U of MN extension](#).

Quick facts

- Oak wilt is a fatal tree disease caused by a fungus that affects all species of oak trees.
- Oak wilt spreads from diseased to healthy trees either below ground via connected roots or above ground by insects.
- DO NOT prune oaks from April through July to prevent infection by sap beetles. Immediately cover unavoidable wounds with a latex-based paint or shellac.
- DO NOT move logs or firewood from recently wilted oaks, and don't move fresh oak firewood from oak wilt-infected areas.

Both tree articles from Landsburg Landscape Nursery newsletter, May 16, 2024

Navigating the ATV trails safely

Article from Riverwood Health Care Center, Aitkin, Posted on [April 19, 2024](https://riverwoodhealthcare.org/navigating-the-atv-trails-safely/), By David Taylor, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Emergency Department Physician. <https://riverwoodhealthcare.org/navigating-the-atv-trails-safely/>

All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) provide excitement and versatility for outdoor enthusiasts, but they also come with inherent risks. Understanding ATV safety and practicing awareness while riding is crucial to prevent accidents and injuries. In this guide, we'll explore essential tips and practices for ATV awareness.

Knowing Your ATV: Before hitting the trails, familiarize yourself with your ATV. Read the owner's manual thoroughly to understand its features, controls, and maintenance requirements. Ensure the ATV is properly sized for the rider and in good working condition.

Wear Protective Gear: Wearing appropriate protective gear is non-negotiable when riding an ATV. This includes a DOT-approved helmet, eye protection, gloves, long sleeves, pants, and over-the-ankle boots. Protective gear significantly reduces the risk of serious injury in the event of an accident.

Follow Manufacturer Recommendations: Adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines regarding the age and size of riders for each ATV model. Never allow underage or inexperienced riders to operate adult-sized ATVs, as they may lack the necessary strength and skills to control the vehicle safely.

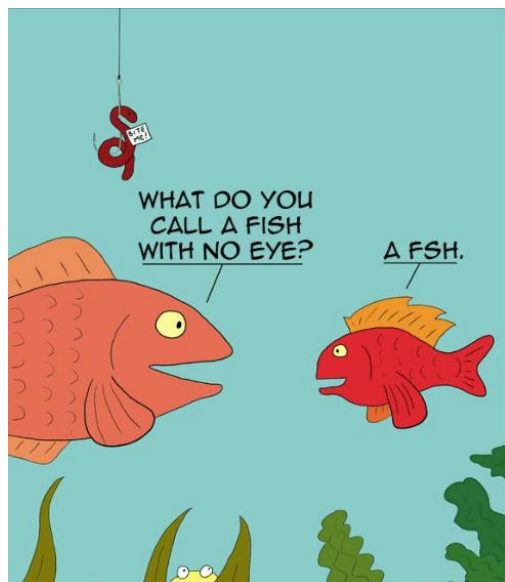
Ride at a Safe Speed: Speeding increases the likelihood of accidents and reduces reaction time. Maintain a safe and controlled speed appropriate for the terrain, weather conditions, and visibility. Slow down when approaching corners, hills, or obstacles.

Be Aware of Your Surroundings: Constantly scan your surroundings while riding to anticipate potential hazards such as rocks, stumps, potholes, and other vehicles. Keep an eye out for wildlife, pedestrians, and other riders on the trail. Stay alert and focused at all times.

Never Ride Under the Influence: Operating an ATV under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal and extremely dangerous. Impaired judgment and coordination significantly increase the risk of accidents. Always ride sober and encourage others to do the same.

Take an ATV Safety Course: Consider taking an ATV safety course to learn essential riding skills, rules of the trail, and emergency procedures. These courses provide valuable knowledge and hands-on training to enhance safety awareness and reduce accidents. For more information and upcoming classes in Minnesota go to: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/vehicle/atv/index.html>

"ATV awareness is essential for enjoying the thrill of off-road riding safely. By following these guidelines and practicing responsible behavior, riders can minimize risks and contribute to a positive ATV experience for themselves and others," David Taylor, MD, Chief Medical Officer and Emergency Department Physician added. "Remember, safety should always be the top priority when exploring the great outdoors on an ATV."



DNR cautions lake and river property owners about improper use of hydraulic jets

Minnesota DNR News May 24, 2024

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources frequently receives questions about devices that generate water current to blast muck and aquatic plants away. They have various trade names, but the DNR refers to these devices generically as hydraulic jets. Even though they can be purchased in Minnesota, they cannot be used in any way that disturbs the bottom of a waterbody or uproots plants.

A person may legally operate a hydraulic jet if it is placed at the surface of the water in such a way that it does not disturb the bottom or destroy rooted aquatic plants. It should be directed slightly upward toward the water's surface. This can prevent dead vegetation and duckweed from collecting around docks and boat lifts.

"We want people to know why it's important to protect aquatic plants," said Shane McBride, DNR aquatic plant management consultant. "Plants are important to lakes and rivers because they help maintain water clarity, prevent erosion, stabilize the bottom of the waterbody, and provide habitat for fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants are protected under state law."

Specific regulations govern aquatic plant removal and prescribe the situations that require permits from the DNR. Regulations and a guide to aquatic plants can be found on the [Minnesota DNR website](https://mndnr.gov/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html) (mndnr.gov/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html). To apply for an aquatic plant management permit, visit the Minnesota DNR's [permitting and reporting system](https://mndnr.gov/mpars) (mndnr.gov/mpars).

The 4th of July boat parade is Thursday July 4th!



The boat parade meets at the south public access, starts at noon.

Numerous folks have asked that water balloons be curtailed during the parade and always, due to concerns about the impact to the environment, wildlife, and property, and the time spent to take them out of the water and dispose of them.

Have fun decorating your watercraft, be kind and courteous. Remember children are watching this parade from the shore and from the parade.

Be careful not to follow too closely or make waves that could knock over smaller watercraft.

HAVE FUN! We have about 50-70 boats yearly, and lots of folks watch the parade from the shore. Some boats have been published in the Aitkin Independent Age newspaper!

Boating and Fishing Regulations

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.

<https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/r/p/regulations/boatwater/boatingguide.pdf>



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.

If you witness a concern, please call the Aitkin County Sheriff's office at 218-927-7435 and provide as much information as you can. Location and photos and videos really help. Our local law enforcement really does want to hear from you.

Important Phone Numbers

Aitkin County Sheriff	911	or
& Water Patrol	218-927-7435	
MNDNR Hotline	651-296-6157	
AIS Specialist	218-203-4354	

Lake Facts

Lake level May 26, 2024

1,255.4 feet

- 1.2 inches under OHWL

The OHWL sign is by the Little Pine Lake culvert. OHWL stands for Ordinary High Water Level.

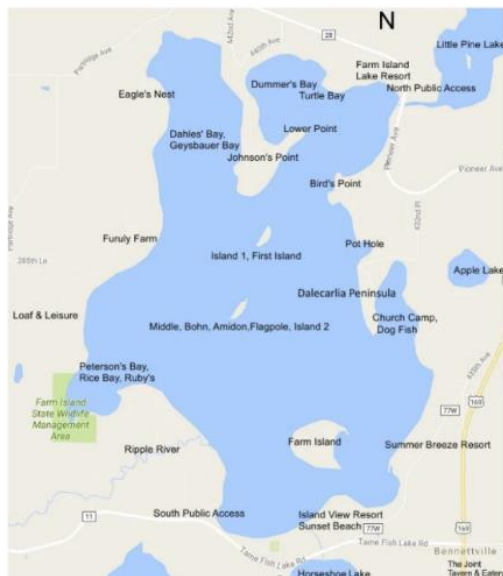
Water clarity is at 14 feet, which is the same as it was last year at this time.



Aitkin County Planning and Zoning

If you are building, remodeling or working on shoreline, 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>



Printable version of map is on our website.

AIS Brochure

“WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FARM ISLAND LAKE”

Find the brochure at

<https://www.farmislandlake.org/copy-of-score-your-shore-1>

This is a section title from the FILIA AIS Brochure which is on the website. Click on the link to get the details.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO ENHANCE AND PROTECT THE LAKE AND WILDLIFE

1. Maintain or establish a buffer zone between your yard and the lake.
2. Maintenance of your lawn.

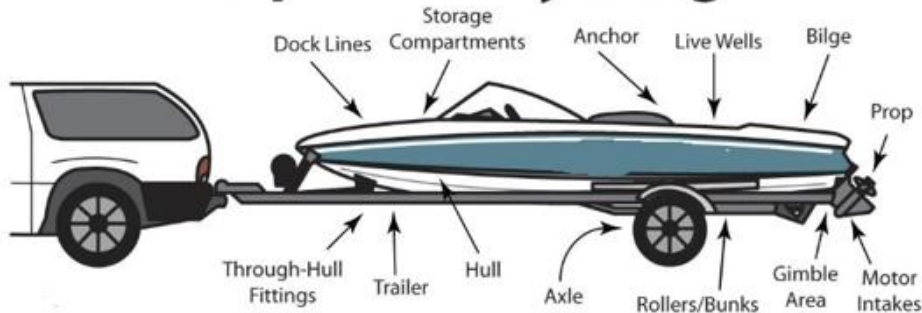
Minnesota law requires water recreationists to:

- **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/preventspread_watercraft.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.

Before leaving and before launching...
inspect everything!



To prevent the spread of all aquatic species, remember to

- Clean
- Drain
- Dry
- Dispose of water.



AIS Cleaning Tool

Stop and clean your watercraft with this handy cleaning tool that will be at the two landings, and other places on the lake. These AIS tools were provided by the DNR.



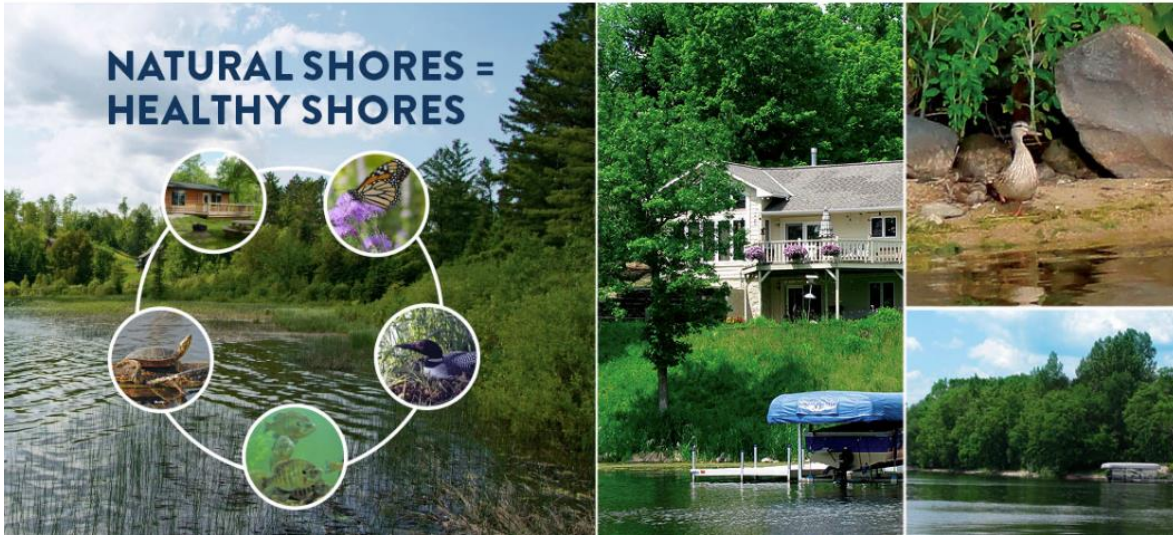
All vessels, boats, jet skis, etc. should **stay at least 200 feet away when they see a SCUBA flag.**

SCUBA Warning Flag

A diver down flag, or scuba flag, is a flag used on the water to indicate that there is a diver below. This flag will also be displayed on the diver's boat.

Shoreland Management – Protect the Lake and the Wildlife

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/shoreland/index.html



Maintain and/or restore natural vegetation along your shoreline. Natural vegetation:

- Holds soil in place protecting shorelines from increasingly intensive rain events and rising water levels
- Slows runoff and stores moisture
- Filters out nutrients, which along with rising lake temperatures, accelerates algae blooms
- Provides habitat so species can survive in a changing climate
- Increases property values by keeping lakes clean.

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 another county for a list of permitted lake service providers. The list appears at the bottom of the web page.

https://webapps11.dnr.state.mn.us/aquatic_invasive_species_training/lake_service_provider_permits/public_website_list.

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 **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.



Free Recycling

Free recycling of flattened cardboard, plastic, cans, etc. is offered at **Aitkin County Recycling Center**, 36488 400th Ave, Aitkin, just north of Mille Lacs Energy Coop. Phone Aitkin County at (218) 927-7342.

2024 Calendar of FILIA Events

*Spring Board Meeting	Saturday, May 4, 8:00 am	The Joint Tavern & Eatery
Annual Association Meeting	Saturday, June 8, 9-11:00 am	Hazelton Town Hall
4th of July Boat Parade	Thursday, July 4, Noon	FIL South Public Access
*Fall Board Meeting	Saturday, Sept 7, 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 2nd Saturday of June each year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Haroldson President
Gordon Vetsch V.P.
Cheryl McDonough Treasurer

Open Position..... Secretary
Cindy Chuhanic
Dennis Kraimer

Mike Harrington
Stan Barnes
Scott Scheele

Contact board members: FILIALake@gmail.com

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 **FILIA Financial Report is on the Administrative page.**

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 **safe** contacts, etc.
 - [Boating & Fishing Regulations](#)
 - [DNR Permitted Lake Service Providers](#)

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



Have a and joyous year!

Sincerely,
Cheryl McDonough
Editor, FILIA Newsletter
filiialake@gmail.com

Your comments are welcome.

FILIA
PO Box 135
Aitkin, MN 56431

FarmIslandLake.org

To print just this page for your application, in your Print Settings at the Pages input prompt, type in 13

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 \$ _____

