



Water Patrol Presence on Farm Island Lake

Dan Asmus, of the Aitkin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol, has asked the FILIA board to pass along this information as a public service announcement - that they will increase their patrol hours on Farm Island Lake to monitor wake boat and Personal Watercraft (PWC, jet skis, etc.) activity. He also asks you to contact the Water Patrol if you see or hear activity that requires their attention, and if possible, please take pictures and/or videos. Their number is the same as the sheriff's office: 218-927-7435.

A friendly reminder that PWC can only operate from 9:30 AM to 1 hour before sunset. Please be respectful of people using the lake.

Membership

We have 219 paid members as of August 6, 2021. We are 17 shy of beating last year's membership. A membership application form can be found on our website and is also included with this mailing, and you can pay online. Yearly dues are \$25, and membership is voluntary. Be sure to include your email address on the application.

Not sure if you paid your membership dues? A current member list is on your website at FarmlandLake.org or send an email to FILIALake@gmail.com.

Lake Level

Board member Bill Haroldson took a lake level reading August 3rd.

- For reference, OHWL is 1255.50 feet.
- Bill's reading last June 18th was 1254.85 feet.
- August 3rd's reading was at 1254.35 feet (0.5', or, 6" lower than June's reading).
- Back in 1935, FIL was at its lowest recorded level, at 1253.20 feet.
 - That's 16 inches shallower than August 3rd, 2021
- The north side of the lake has seen a total of 5.5" inches of rain the last three months (since May 1st). This may have helped the elevation by 3.0-4.5 inches (estimate)?

Lost – A Maui mat. If found please call Reed Nelson at 612.840.8650.

Trouble getting your boat off the lift

Both south and north landings are accessible, but it gets very shallow quickly when you leave the landing. Lake property owners need to be aware and use caution. The lake is low and will get lower without sufficient rain. See list of lake service providers below for help getting your boat off the lift.

DNR List of Permitted Lake Service Providers who install and remove docks and lifts

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 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.

DNR News Release 8/9/21 - Persistent low water conditions continue to affect boaters

People urged to consider removing watercraft early where water conditions are low

As water levels continue to drop due in many areas to drought, boaters are experiencing significant issues with launching and retrieving boats, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

DNR crews are repairing and extending many boat launch ramps to provide boating opportunities in these low-water conditions. However, little can be done to fix boat ramps on naturally shallow lakes or in places where power loading has caused holes that are too deep to fix with equipment.

“Boat ramps that were damaged by power loading provide not only a challenge to launching, but can also result in damage to boats, motors and trailers,” said Nancy Stewart, DNR’s statewide water recreation program lead. “Boaters should always use caution and check the ramp and water levels before launching.”

The DNR is encouraging shoreland homeowners who have seasonally docked watercraft to monitor water levels frequently and keep their eye on the available boat removal options for their waterbody. If options are limited, boaters should consider removing their watercraft earlier than usual, before conditions worsen. Assistance may also be available from lake service providers with the capability to remove watercraft using larger commercial equipment.

Boaters also should be aware of new obstructions in the water, such as rocks, stumps and sand bars that may not typically be an issue but are now creating hazards due to low water levels.

Visit the [DNR website](#) for boat launching maps and information about power loading.

- 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.
- 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 any other FILIA activity.

Wake boats on Lake Minnetonka are making waves among fans, foes

Click to read entire article: <https://www.startribune.com/wake-boats-on-lake-minnetonka-are-making-waves/571820531/>

Even though this article is about Lake Minnetonka, it presents an informative study of the positives and negatives of wake boarding, regardless of the lake on which they're used. I've included the entire article because you need to have a subscription to the Star Tribune if you click on the link.

A popular model of boat that creates wakes big enough to surf is whipping up conflict among lakeshore residents, enthusiasts, environmentalists and boat dealers. Wake boats — watercraft specially designed to churn up massive wakes — are increasingly common on Lake Minnetonka and other lakes.

“There’s no other boat on the lake that affects other people like wake surf boats,” said Michelle Morey, who lives on the lake in Orono. When a wake boat zips by their fishing boat, she said, she and her husband “get tossed around like rag dolls.”

Advocates call wake surfing a safe form of recreation at a time when pandemic precautions limit many activities.

“Everybody in the family can wake-boat surf, from kids to parents to grandparents,” said Andy Weigman, who organizes wake surfing programs on Lake Minnetonka. “Instead of buying a cabin, [families are] putting \$200,000 into a boat.”

Some people simply feel Lake Minnetonka’s recreation rules should be as unrestricted as possible.

“I want everybody to enjoy the lake the way they want to enjoy the lake,” said marina owner Gabriel Jabbour, a longtime Lake Minnetonka advocate.

Wake boats aren’t especially fast, averaging 10 to 12 mph, or big, most under 25 feet. But their motors are two or three times more powerful than those of typical recreational watercraft. They churn billowing wakes on which people can surf, untethered to the boat, a few feet above the lake’s surface.

The boats have prompted public education campaigns: [“Wake Responsibly,”](#) by a boating industry group, and [“Own Your Wake,”](#) by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

A proposal introduced in the Legislature this year that didn’t get a vote would have required wake boats to stay 200 feet from shore, a distance supported by advocates including the boating industry. That’s the length of a hockey rink, or 50 feet more than current rules. Many opponents want longer setbacks, potentially up to 600 feet.

A University of Minnesota engineer is raising money through a crowdsourcing campaign to study the environmental impact of boat wakes in general.

“We’re studying the wake and how that wake moves toward the shoreline and starts to interact with the bottom of the lake and crashes into shoreline,” said Jeff Marr, leader of the project.

Full results are expected to take several years, but if the funding comes in, preliminary data may be ready by the end of the year.



Marr doesn't plan to include Lake Minnetonka in his research because it requires lakes with more uniform shorelines.

The wake boat controversy surged in May when Mark Kroll, a board member for the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD), e-mailed more than 20 of his neighbors to ask how they would feel about banning wakes from Friday night to Sunday night and allow

“people to enjoy fishing, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boating and other small-craft activities.”

Some were alarmed, thinking Kroll was suggesting closing Lake Minnetonka to motorized watercraft on weekends. Kroll said he didn't mean the whole lake, just quiet areas such as North Arm Bay in Orono where he lives. [LMCD regulations](#) already designate some channels and small bays as “quiet waters” with 5-mph speed limits.

Some of Kroll's neighbors, including Morey, have complained to the LMCD that wake boaters crank their music too loud. “When I'm on the dock fishing it's like I'm at a nightclub sometimes,” she said.

The LMCD board has not put wake boats on the agenda, chairman Gregg Thomas said, but will address it “sometime in the future.”

He said he'd prefer to wait for results from the U study.

Weigman acknowledged that some wake surfers are too loud, calling them “uneducated boaters, teenagers who haven't learned how to respect other people.”

But he said lakeshore residents should realize that some commotion comes with the territory.

“When you move to a fully recreational lake, I would say that you shouldn't be surprised to see recreation,” he said.

Loon counts have shown 18 - 20 adults, with 4 chicks that hatched, which is lower than last year. One chick on the north end of Dahle Bay, two from the third island and one from the loon platforms on the big island.



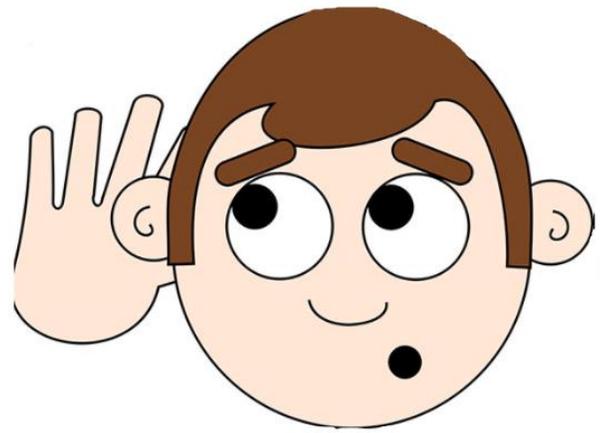
[DNR Boating and Fishing Guide is on our website](#)

Check it out for 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. On our website under [Useful Information](#).

Noise can travel on the lake. When you're talking in a boat be mindful that your voice can carry and people on other boats or on the shore may hear what you're saying.



This holds true for boat radios – the noise from a loud radio can travel far across the lake. Please be noise-considerate of others. We all are here to enjoy the lake.



Lawn or not to lawn?

Interesting information from an Aitkin Independent Age article by Rebecca Fudala Jul 31, 2021

The green, expansive lawn is as American as apple pie. In fact, over 40 million acres of land in the U.S. have some type of lawn on it. According to a 2005 study published by the journal Environmental Management, "That's three times more than corn, or any other irrigated crop."

The creation of the American lawn is credited to Frederick Law Olmsted. In 1868, Olmsted was commissioned to plan one of the first suburban communities in America. He envisioned a sprawling lawn that flowed from one yard into the other, beautifying and uniting the landscape.

In England, lawns were reserved for the rich and their estates. Lawns were a status symbol, signaling, essentially, "I don't need to cultivate or work my land for economic gain." By contrast, Olmsted and other American landscape designers, by democratizing the lawn, used the sprawling expanse to unite the middle class.

Having a lawn came with responsibilities and expectations. In many suburban communities, lawns are required to look the same. A neighbor who let their grass grow or brown might be seen as neglectful. In some communities, homeowner associations impose fines on those who don't play by the local lawn management rules.

But lawns have their critics, pointing to, among other concerns, the quantity of water required to maintain them. The Environmental Protection Agency estimated that between 30-60% of the freshwater in urban areas is used for landscaping maintenance. Every day, Americans use nine billion gallons of water to maintain their lawns.

This seems outrageous when you reflect on the fact that 72% of Minnesota is presently experiencing a severe drought and headlines in regional newspapers this week include "Gooseberry Falls could dry up by August" and "Water wells to dry up across the state."

Additionally, many lawns depend on chemicals like herbicides, pesticides and fertilizer, which pollute the air and contaminate nearby water sources. This, combined with habitat loss, has contributed to widespread biodiversity loss—more than one million plants and animals are at risk of extinction and insects face a faster rate than most mammals and birds.

Read complete article: https://www.messagemedia.co/aitkin/opinion/our_columnists/lawn-or-not-to-lawn/article_d9851544-ef15-11eb-b6c4-8fd675ee3366.html

Search for Starry Stonewort. Lake-loving volunteers are needed at the

Aitkin County Ripple Lake Boat Access

on Saturday, August 21, 2021, at 8:00am -1:00pm

to participate in a search for aquatic invasive species (AIS) with an emphasis on *starry stonewort*—an aggressive, aquatic invasive algae that can spread easily and grows into dense mats at and below the lake’s surface.

Help protect Aitkin County waters by participating in this family friendly event sponsored by the University of Minnesota.

For more information or to register, visit: www.StarryTrek.org or contact: Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District at 218-927-7284.



The graphic features a central image of a hand holding a clump of starry stonewort. Above the image is the text 'Starry Trek 2021' in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the image is a dark green banner with the date 'Saturday, August 21' in white. Underneath the banner is a white section with four icons and their corresponding text: a magnifying glass for 'Help search for starry stonewort', a location pin for 'Locations throughout Minnesota', a dollar sign in a circle for 'Free and family friendly!', and a hand holding a plant for 'No experience necessary'. At the bottom is another dark green banner with the text 'Local rendezvous location hosted by: Aitkin County SWCD' and 'Registration now open at www.StarryTrek.org'.

Starry Trek 2021

Saturday, August 21

- Help search for starry stonewort
- Locations throughout Minnesota
- Free and family friendly!
- No experience necessary

Local rendezvous location hosted by:
Aitkin County SWCD

Registration now open at www.StarryTrek.org

2022 Calendar of FILIA Events

*Spring Board Meeting	Saturday, May 7, 9:00 am	The Joint Tavern & Eatery
Annual Association Meeting	Saturday, June 18, 9-11:00 am	Hazelton Town Hall
4th of July Boat Parade	Saturday, July 2, Noon	FIL South Public Access
*Fall Board Meeting	Monday, Sept 5, 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

Dennis Kraimer..... President	Jim Hausauer	Denise Noling
Gordy Vetsch..... V.P.	Cindy Chuhanic	Stan Barnes
Cheryl McDonough ... Treasurer/Secretary	Bill Haroldson	Mike Harrington

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

Site Map

- [Home](#)
- [Membership](#)
- [Pay Dues](#)
- [Newsletters/Lake Info](#)
- [Contact/Calendar](#)
 - [Local Events](#)
- [Administrative](#)
 - [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](#)
 - [Boating & Fishing Regulations](#)
 - [DNR Permitted Lake Service Providers](#)
- [Mission statement, printable map of Farm Island Lake, description](#)
- [Members lists, application form](#)
- Pay yearly membership dues online with credit card
- Current and past newsletters, Gillnet Survey Results
- List of Board of Directors, Shore Captains, Meeting dates
- Financial reports, current and past

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



Be Well. Be safe. Have fun!

Sincerely,
Cheryl McDonough & Board Members
FILIA Treasurer/Secretary
filialake@gmail.com
[Your comments are welcome.](#)

FILIA
PO Box 135
Aitkin, MN 56431

FarmIslandLake.org
FILIA is a non-profit organization



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

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



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 \$ _____

Thank you for your membership!