

from the deck **LAKE ASSOCIATION SPOTLIGHT**

NAME: Circle Lake Association

AREA SERVED: The Circle Lake and the Deer Lake watershed in Driscoll County and southern Dakota counties, Minnesota

MEMBERSHIP: 50 members, including 48 families.

MISSION/GOAL: The mission is to promote the improvement, protection, and preservation of the water quality, ecological balance, and environmental health of Circle Lake, its watershed, and vicinity.

"As with many lakes in southern Minnesota that are often being added to the list of lakes in decline for water quality, our wonderful Circle Lake has been added, too," says association board member Julie Dornbusch. "Our lake association and board have decided to take action. Our primary goal is to restore our lake to a healthy status, as it is beautiful and enjoyed by many!"

PROJECTS:

- Working with our county and local sportsmen clubs, the Circle Lake Association has applied for grants, hired an engineer to work on wetland restoration, installed fish grates to prevent

carp from entering the lake, has grown the lake's blue gill population, and has planted native plants along the lake's shorelines, for starters.

- Holding annual half-marathon, 10k and 5k races every September, the net profits go towards the Circle Lake Association's lake improvement fund. The race committee is run by members of the association, and the volunteer positions are filled from Circle Lake families. "The half-marathon takes the runners around our beautiful lake ('Circle the Lake Run'). It has truly become a first-class certified race," Dornbusch says.
- Holding "Chunky Dunk" event on New Years Day, during which people pay money to jump in the icy waters of Circle Lake, with funds going toward lake cleanup projects.

FUN FACT: The Chunky Dunk event was featured on CBS News.

AFFILIATIONS: We work with the Tri-Lakes Sportsmens Club, Cannon Valley Watershed, and Rice County," says Dornbusch.

WEBSITE: circlelake.org



One of the Circle Lake Association's successful fundraising activities is the annual Chunky Dunk event during which people pay money to jump into icy Circle Lake.

share your story

Does your lake have an association that's improving water quality? Do you belong to a land association that is always looking out for its members? To tell us more about the good work your association is doing, email cabinliving@aimmedia.com. Please include two or three high-resolution photos of your lake or cabin area.