



Circle Lake Association Annual Report

2015-2016

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A Letter from the CLA President

Each year for the last 4, I have both the honor and the privilege to write the president's note for the lake association's annual report. Unfortunately, I am in the same position as many of you in that it is hard to find the time to do even the most important things such as this. As the president I work with many other volunteers about one hour a day on initiatives that directly impact the quality of the lake, while doing this I get to meet many of the lake residents, water shed residents, vendor, state and local employees and charitable organizations that all have concerns about water quality. First and foremost, I want to say thank you and congratulations for the hard work, sacrifice, and results that you have achieved!

It is said that if you ask five people about how to fix American politics you will get 8 answers, Facing the overwhelming challenges of cleaning up our lake we are focused in 4 areas that common sense / industry professionals and state and local government have identified: These areas are: Carp control, Erosion control, Weed control, Sediment management. The results of our collective efforts are many; highlighting just a few over the last several years from Association members / DNR / Sportsman's club / Merton's Commercial Fishing / Various vendors:

- 20+ holding ponds and run off structures
- Over half a million pounds of carp removal
- Several thousand pan fish stocked
- Aerators in the winter
- Many acres of weed cutting and chemical treatment
- Carp grates prohibiting movement

As we look forward there is still much more work to be accomplished. This work is collaborative in nature but to be clear, the lake can be cleaned up and removed from the EPA's list of impaired waterways with the right combination of time / money and people. Living on the lake for the last twenty years I recognize the contributions of the older generation who have worked tirelessly to clean up the water shed. This year we lost a visionary, Doug Sonnee who was personally accountable for much progression on the above projects.

Over the last 4 years we have raised \$144,000 in donations and grants from like-minded people that want to clean up the lake. We have a target budget of \$40,000 per year. More money means that we can get the lake cleaned up quicker. If you get a chance please make sure to return your petitions to the association surrounding the formation of the LID.

Sincerely,

Dale Petelinsek



Native Planting 2016

By Dean Sunderlin

Last fall, the Forest Township Board of Supervisors redid the ditches on Circle Lake Trail. They were aware of the damage being done to the native planting in Circle Lake Park by recreational vehicles, so they spent a little time in the park improving the drainage within the planting. Hopefully, now that the area will be drier, it won't be as attractive to the four wheelers. If you see any of the supervisors, we'd appreciate it if you could thank them for the help they have given to us on this project. They have really stepped it up to assist us in our efforts to clean up the lake.



Our plan for this spring is to burn the prairie, remove the tire ruts, and do a small replant to fill in the damaged areas. We have access to the necessary equipment and were able to purchase the plants at a government wholesale rate. We are looking for volunteers to assist us with both the burn, and planting. Both projects will be arranged on a weekend where the weather is looking favorable. Please let us know if you might be willing to help for a few hours. Call Dean at 612-237-3338

2016 Circle the Lake Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K

By Dean Sunderlin

We were a bit concerned this year that the big rain we had three days before the race was going to cause the lake to rise to the point that Circle Lake Trail would be under water. As it turned out, that didn't happen (whew) and the races went off without a hitch. We had 183 runners/walkers come out for the event, with 51 running the 5K, 38 running the 10K, and 94 running the half marathon.



The winners and their times were:

1/2 Marathon MEN: Marco Santos 1:17:36
1/2 Marathon Women: Lana Wegner 1:32:11
10K Men: Philippe Firmin 46:10
10K Women: Sarah Wagner 47:55
5K Men: Tony Havranek 19:26
5K Women: Anne Sawyer 24:47

Thank you to everyone who came out and ran. Also, a big thanks to those of you that volunteered on race day. Your enthusiastic support of the runners was greatly appreciated.

We retained the same great race organizing team with Julie Dornbusch, Ross Morrison, Kathy and Dale Petelinsek, and Kelli and Jim Vogel. Many thanks to them.

The 2017 race will be on September the 16th with a start time of 9 A.M. Please save the date, and come out and support this fundraiser by running or volunteering.



We had great corporate support in 2016. A big thanks you to all of them.

Capital Construction, Burnsville
 Millersberg Construction, Dundas
 State Bank of Faribault

Diamond Level

Southview Animal Hospital, Inver Grove Heights
 Balanced Fitness for Life, Northfield
 Edward Jones Northfield
 Reiland Construction, Northfield
 RE/MAX AdvantagePlus, Northfield
 Platinum Builders Northfield
 First National Bank, Northfield
 Boat Doctor Marine, Montgomery
 Boonies Bar & Grill, Millersburg
 Mike's Garage, Faribault
 Countryside Animal Hospital & Kennel, Dundas
 Emergency Medical Services, Northfield
 College City Beverage, Dundas

Platinum Level

Stellar Hearth Products, Prior Lake
 Cross Country Soaring, Faribault
 Brick Oven Bakery, Northfield
 Forza, Northfield
 Northfield Yarn, Northfield
 Car Time, Dundas
 Tandem Bagels, Northfield
 Econo Foods, Northfield
 Eco Gardens, Northfield
 Cub Foods, Northfield
 Northfield Urgent Care, Northfield
 Fireside Orchards and Gardens, Northfield
 Scentsy, Northfield

Gold Level

We were able to net a little more than \$12,000 from this years event. All of that going into our lake improvement fund.

You will find the link to register for the 2017 runs at www.CircletheLake.com
 Race updates and a link to register are also on the Association website www.circllake.org.
 Follow us on Twitter @CircleLakeRun



Watershed

By Keith Kluzak

Completed a wetland area off the west end of Circle Lake near where County Ditch 32 enters Circle Lake. \$23,000.

Repaired and reinforced erosion control structures on the Lundstrom property off the south side of Circle Lake. \$10,200.



Lake Improvement District

By Brian Panettiere

It has always been the mission of the CLA to support and foster the improvement of Circle Lake and its surrounding area. To support this mission, the membership of CLA voted to initiate the process of forming a Lake Improvement District 1 year ago. I am happy to report that the formation of a Lake Improvement District for Circle Lake has had significant progress over the past year. Our progress would not have happened without the help and assistance by a group of dedicated people who simply care. I want to begin by recognizing the efforts of the members of the Circle Lake Association Board along with Mandi Morrissey, Denise Klokow, and Jim Vogel for their efforts in meeting with property owners, discussing the LID, and addressing questions. I also want to recognize Jeff Docken's input as we prepare for the next steps at the County level.

The update given during the annual meeting will cover the following:

Progress over the past year

- Introduced the LID to CLA members and initiated the petition process
- Canvassed the LID area, meeting/discussing/addressing questions with 85% (estimate) of property owners
- Distributed letters to property owners not residing in the LID informing of the LID process
- Updated the CLA website periodically with LID info
- Worked with Rice County addressing Q/A on LID progress and process

Petitions signed/received

- 86 signed petitions is the 51% majority needed to request Rice County to certify the formation of the LID
- As of today, we have the majority needed to take the next steps
-

Next Steps/LID Certification

- Certify/audit all signed petitions
- Attend Rice County work session and introduce Circle Lake LID formation
- Work with Rice County formally to begin certification process
- Communicate with LID property owners the next steps and timeline

I appreciate the time everyone has taken through this past year to discuss and take action with this very important initiative to take our lake improvement projects to the next level.



Carp Control

By Jason Wood

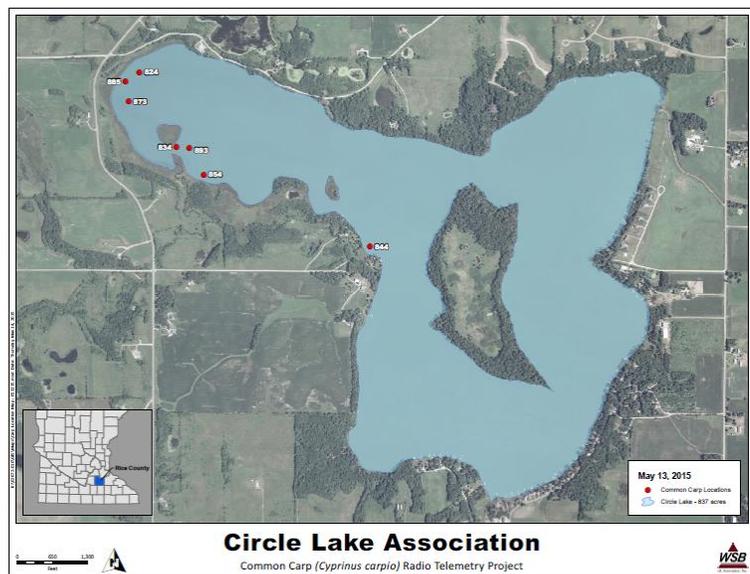
2015 & 2016 were extremely successful years for the Circle Lake Association carp control projects. In the spring of 2015 we surgically implanted seven adult carp with radio telemetry devices that allow us to track their location and the location of the aggregated population. The radio telemetry devices have batteries that last over three years. We also marked another 313 adult carp that are used to characterize the size of the population during removal.



Carp Radio Tag



Surgical Implanting

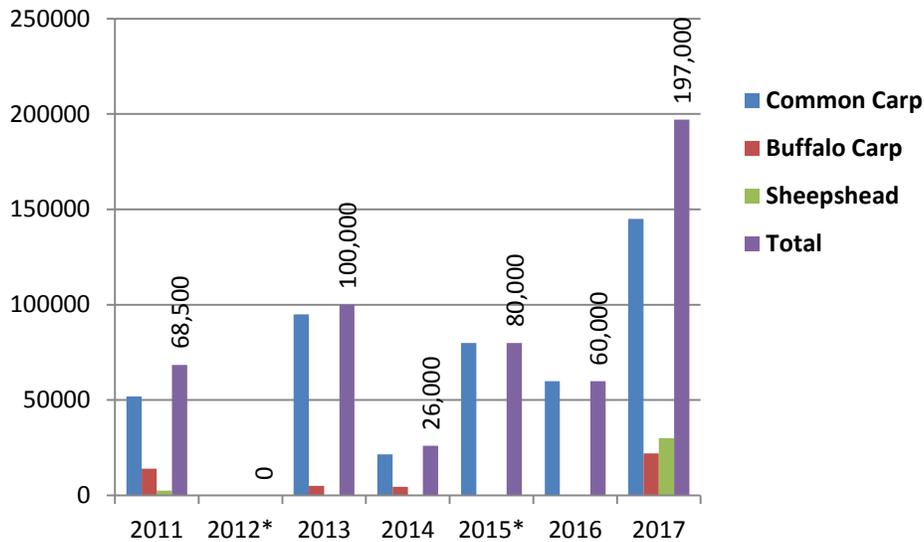


Carp Location Map

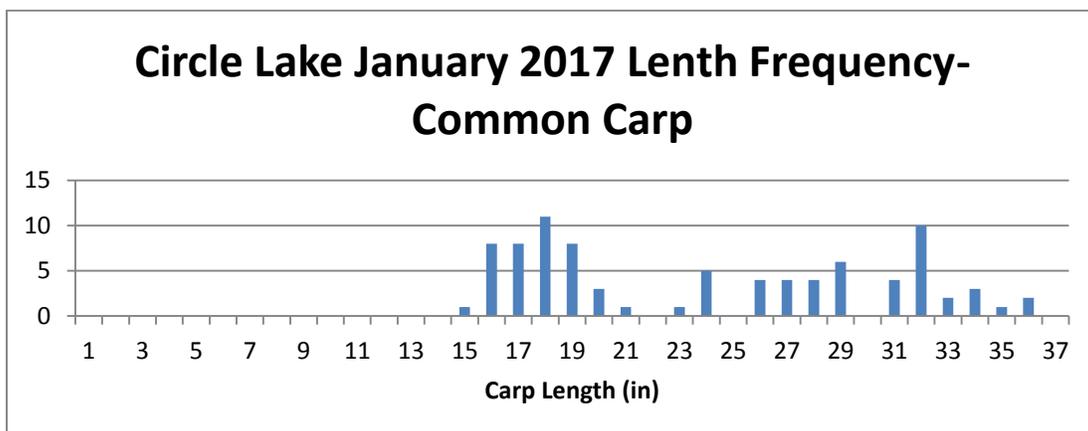
Throughout 2015 and 2016 we tracked the location of the seven carp. In the spring their location data helps us determine where the carp go to spawn and allows us to determine possible areas to restrict access. Once the water temperatures began to decrease in the fall/winter, the carp aggregate into a large group allowing us to target our removal efforts. The first open water removal in 2015 yielded over 80,000 pounds of carp and allowed us to use the marked fish to characterize the population. The data showed that in 2015 our lake had an extremely large population of carp, somewhere between 650,000 to 800,000 pounds in total, which is roughly 80,000 individual carp. The phosphorus load associated with a population of this size dramatically impacts the water quality in our lake.



The winter of 2016/2017 finally produced enough ice to allow us to conduct a winter removal utilizing the data provided by the radio telemetry devices. The graph below shows the removal statistics for the past seven years. As you can see, we saw dramatic increases in 2016/2017 with almost 200,000 pounds of carp removed.



During each removal, we also collect a significant amount of data about the fish being removed. The chart below shows average fish length. This is important as it indicates the age class of the fish and shows that we have a recruitment problem as there are many small carp in the lake. This data helps us determine what our next steps are and points to the fact that we need to concentrate on controlling spawning areas for carp.



Publicity

By Julie Dornbusch

The Circle Lake Association was featured in Cabin Living - Dec 2015!

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

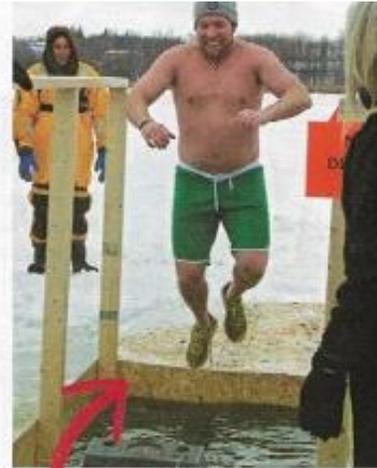
carp from entering the lake, has grown the lake's blue gill population, and has planted native plants along the lake's shorelines, for starters.

- 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 Sportsmen 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.

Other publicity related items can be found in the "about" section of our webpage:

www.circlelake.org

Revenue and Expenses

By Bob Gilbertson

CIRCLE LAKE ASSOCIATION Regular Operating Fund

REVENUE	2009-10	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL	% of total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Member dues	1,530	1,390	2,660	3,400	2,400	3,550	3,000	17,930	94%
Weed-cutting donations				1,100			20	1,120	6%
Interest				7	8	9	10	34	0%
TOTAL	1,530	1,390	2,660	4,507	2,408	3,579	3,010	19,084	
change		-9%	91%	69%	-47%	49%	-16%		
CLA memberships (households & businesses)	52	52	62	64	49	59	69		
change		0%	19%	3%	-23%	20%	17%		

EXPENSES	2009-10	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL	% of total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Insurance				796	834	913	901	3,444	24%
Picnic					357	921		1,278	9%
IRS fees	400				850			1,250	9%
Newsletter / annual report			517				675	1,192	8%
Annual meeting / picnic	125	343	206	210				884	6%
Town hall rental	110		130	140	160	130	140	810	6%
Water sampling & testing		505			144		63	712	5%
Directories (net)	260				411		0	671	5%
Web site	345	25	55	25	71	65	65	652	5%
Fundraising (owls, etc.)			159	230		204		593	4%
Other professional services					465	36	70	571	4%
Weed-cutter storage/maint				165		318	77	559	4%
PO box	70	70	70	70	78	84	88	530	4%
Dues to CRWP, COLA, etc.	100		75	50	50	50	50	375	3%
Bank fees	36	20	36	37	39	39	39	246	2%
Supplies			62	25			28	114	1%
Credit-card fees (online pmnts)							109	109	1%
Maintenance - fish grates							100	100	1%
Annual meeting (net)						63		34	1%
State AG registration fee							25	25	0%
TOTAL	1,447	964	1,310	1,747	3,459	2,822	2,464	14,213	
change		-33%	36%	33%	98%	-18%	-13%		

OTHER	2009-10	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Transfers to Lake Improv Fund			-2,500	-2,500				-5,000
Reward fund donations				1,325				1,325
Reward fund paybacks					-1,325			-1,325
TOTAL			-2,500	-1,175	-1,325			-5,000
change				-33%	13%	-100%		

SUMMARY	2009-10	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Balance to start year	2,945	3,028	3,454	2,304	3,889	1,513	2,270	
Revenue	1,530	1,390	2,660	4,507	2,408	3,579	3,010	19,084
Expenses	1,447	964	1,310	1,747	3,459	2,822	2,464	14,213
Revenue minus expenses	83	426	1,350	2,760	-1,051	757	546	4,871
Other			-2,500	-1,175	-1,325			-5,000
Balance at end of year	3,028	3,454	2,304	3,889	1,513	2,270	2,816	

