

## WHAT'S IN YOUR WATERSHED?

Predictably unpredictable Colorado weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the more than 500 participants at the Clear Creek Watershed Foundation's first CLEAR CREEK WATERSHED FESTIVAL!



All who attended can now expound on the topic of watersheds in general, and the unique attributes of the Clear Creek Watershed, in particular.

"Our goal was to increase awareness and appreciation for the Clear Creek Watershed, and judging by the number of completed passports, I'd say we were successful," reports Chris Crouse, CCWF Outreach Coordinator and festival organizer.

Upon arrival, attendants were given a WATERSHED PASSPORT and a nifty reusable tote bag for collecting all the goodies and give-aways from the environmental education booths. The passport was a key tool in motivating participants to visit each



### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PASSPORT STATIONS

Audubon Society of Greater Denver  
City of Idaho Springs  
Clear Creek County  
Clear Creek Power  
Clear Creek Rafting  
Clear Creek Sustainability Committee  
Climax Molybdenum Company & Colorado Mining Association  
Colorado Department of Transportation  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety  
Colorado Renewable Energy Society  
Echo Mountain  
Environmental Protection Agency Region 8  
Frontier Environmental Services, Inc.  
STRIKE IT RICH! Goldpanning  
Green Waste & Recycling  
Historical Society of Idaho Springs  
I-70 Task Force  
Mile-Hi Rafting  
River Watch of Clear Creek High School  
Standley Lake Cities  
Tri Power Systems Inc.  
Trout Unlimited—West Denver and Evergreen Chapters  
US Forest Service—Clear Creek Ranger District



booth and partake in the activities—which ranged from decorating cookies to

catching rubber duckies in the duck pond. At the booths, attendants learned about such topics as water and mineral resources, sustainable development, alternative energy, mining history, mine remediation, ecotourism, wildlife and habitat, and transportation. Upon completion of their passport, watershed explorers were rewarded with a cool color-changing water bottle, a BBQ lunch, and ice cream. "While the festival was completely free for



participants, there was a catch," Crouse explains, "they had to earn their passport stamps by learning and actively engaging."

In addition to the 23 passport stations, activities throughout the day included fly tying and fishing, coordinated by Trout Unlimited. Although Clear Creek is a viable fishery, the Colorado Division of Wildlife's stocking of the fishing pool with 100 cut-bow trout certainly helped in the successful fishing experience for many of the children. Goldpanning,



along with a large dose of story-telling, was led by many local miners. Demonstrations included snowmaking, a small-scale wind turbine, and a solar generator. Another attraction was the NPS Program mascot – Joe. Live music and other entertainment also filled the park.

Carl Norbeck, former CDPHE/WQCD Watershed Program Manager and Clear Creek Watershed Forum Coordinator was the recipient of the FOUNDER’S AWARD. Masters of Ceremony were Max Dodson, former EPA Region 8 Assistant Regional Administrator for the Office of Ecosystem Protection and Remediation and Ed Rapp, CCWF President, along with Dave Holm, past director of CDPHE/WQCD. Other special guests included Bill McKee, former CDPHE/WQCD Watershed Coordinator and County Commissioners Kevin O’Malley and Joan Drury.



The festival was a huge team effort and CCWF greatly appreciates all the people and organizations who worked with us to make

it happen. It is all of the stakeholders who make this a truly special watershed community!

See you creekside in Idaho Springs next year at the second annual festival—Saturday, September 18, 2010!

*Submitted by Christine M. Crouse, CCWF Outreach Coordinator*

**EVENT SPONSORS:**

City of Idaho Springs  
Clear Creek County  
Clear Creek Economic Development Corporation  
Climax Molybdenum Company  
Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining & Safety  
Echo Mountain  
Albert Frei & Sons  
Frontier Environmental Services, Inc.  
Lakeside Insurance Center LLC  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
TDS Consulting Inc.  
Tri Power Systems Inc.  
Upper Clear Creek Watershed Association  
Joie & Miles Williams

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