



# Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **FIRST ANNUAL LAKE HELENA WATERSHED FESTIVAL**

**HELENA-** The Lewis & Clark County Water Quality Protection District is holding its first annual Lake Helena Watershed Festival on **September 27, 2008 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds 4-H Building.**

This free Festival is for all ages and provides the opportunity to increase watershed awareness through hands-on activities, demonstrations, presentations, and tours. Water pollution has a serious impact on all living creatures, and can negatively affect the use of water for drinking, household needs, recreation, fishing, transportation, and commerce. It's important we all take part in pollution prevention efforts aimed at protecting our watersheds and sources of drinking water. "The Festival is a great opportunity to see work that is typically done in our area as it relates to our watershed," explained Jennifer McBroom, Watershed & Community Outreach Coordinator, Lewis & Clark County Water Quality Protection District, "We all live in a watershed and our actions affect it. The Festival is an avenue to learn and take part in caring for our water resources."

A number of agencies and groups participating in the Festival this year include; the Department of Environmental Quality, US Geological Survey, Department of Natural Resources (DNRC), Exploration Works! Prickly Pear Land Trust, Upper Tenmile and Lake Helena Watershed Group, and Student Advocates Valuing the Environment (S.A.V.E.).

Starting at 8:00 am, an urban bird walk will be lead by the local Audubon Society at the County Fairgrounds pond. Those participating in the bird walk should bring binoculars if they have them. The rest of the Festival activities start at 10 am at the Lewis & Clark County Fairgrounds 4-H building with an opening welcome by County Commissioner, Ed Tinsley.

There will be many fun kid-friendly activities such as; a student art display, building an edible aquifer, field trips, playing with bugs, dancing, and learning about local plants and wildlife habitat. Stop off at the Lake Helena Watershed Group booth to receive an activity card and enter into a drawing for a chance to win a cash card from Costco or a bird feeder donated by Rock Hand Hardware and other prizes.

The District would like to thank DNRC and the Lewis & Clark Conservation District for the grant that funded the Festival. Also a special thanks goes to the Lewis & Clark County MSU Extension Office and Fairgrounds for the use of their buildings throughout the planning year. We would also like to express our gratitude to those who volunteered their time during this past year planning the Lake Helena Watershed Festival and to Power Townsend, Birds & Beasley's Alpine Analytical, Energy Labs, Lowe's Agrifeed, and the MT Book Company for their donations to the event.

The Lewis and Clark Water Quality Protection District, whose mission is to preserve, protect, and improve water quality within the district boundaries, coordinated this project. For more information on the Watershed Festival, please call **457-8584**.

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