

Community Connections

CSU Extension Partners with Clear Creek County

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SAVE THE DATES

October 2: 4-H Leader Meeting @ Elks Club 6-8pm

October 5: CCMRD Fall Fest at the Idaho Springs Ballfield Complex

November 2: "Switch" documentary shown @ United Center in Idaho Springs. 7pm Must RSVP

November 16: Renewable Energy Workshop @ Mt. Tool & Feed 9am-noon Must RSVP

Wow! Colorado State University's newest Extension office is nearing its one year anniversary! Statewide, Extension offers relevant research based information, educational programs for adults, as well as youth and community development programs.

Extension offices operate in 60 of Colorado's 64 counties, and programs are designed to meet current and future needs of Coloradans by providing information and programs that safeguard health, increase livelihood, and enhance well being.



*"Honoring Our Past,
While Designing Our Future"*

Clear Creek County's Extension Office, which opened in October of 2012, is located at 1111 Rose Street in Georgetown in the Courthouse Annex building.

Anyone seeking information can call or email at any time or walk in without an appointment on Mondays and

Tuesdays 10am-4pm.

Current focus areas are 4-H Youth Development, High Altitude Horticulture, and Renewable Energy. There is a wealth of information available to the public online and in printed form.

Clear Creek County Extension Staff is working diligently to develop community partnerships in order to enhance efforts and leverage existing resources, as well.

We're happy to be here, and look forward to continuing to meet and work with Clear Creek County residents.

Colorado State University

Extension

CLEAR CREEK COUNTY



Welcome to the first edition of Clear Creek County Extension's "Community Connections". This e-newsletter is designed to let County residents know what Extension is doing. We are here for you and we welcome your phone calls, your emails, and your walk-ins.

Should you prefer NOT to receive this newsletter, please email

kfiebig@co.clear-creek.co.us and we'll remove you from the list.

Introducing Christine Crouse: Director/Agent CSU Extension



Christine Crouse has lived, worked, and played in the State of Colorado since 1976, specifically in the Clear Creek Watershed since 1990. With a BA degree in Communication, cum laude, from CU Boulder, Chris has consulted on the community relations/public involvement activities for numerous environmental projects, worked in the local journalism arena, was an elementary educator for Jefferson County Schools, was the Education Coordinator for the Bear Creek Watershed Association, and for 10 years was the Executive Manager & Outreach/Education Coordinator for the Clear Creek Watershed Foundation. Her areas of expertise include:

- Environmental Education
- Program Development & Project Management
- Event and Volunteer Coordination
- Community Relations
- Office & Grant Administration
- Document Design & Writing/Editing

Chris believes in being an active member of her community, as reflected by her various volunteer efforts with Golden Earth Days, Clear Creek Land Conservancy, local schools and other community groups/events.

In her free time, Chris enjoys spending time with family and friends -- traveling, attending concerts, and participating in outdoor activities.

"Chris lives, works and plays in the Clear Creek Watershed...."

Clear Creek Watershed Festival

The Clear Creek Watershed Festival, celebrating its fifth year, was held on Saturday, September 21 at the Courtney-Ryler-Cooper Park in Idaho Springs. The Festival provided a full day of free family fun and learning. Attendees received a Watershed Passport at the check-in station. The Passport was stamped at each station, earning prizes and other incentives.

The Festival offered a hands-on learning opportunity as participants worked their

way through 32 environmental passport stations. Stations provided information, activities, and demonstrations by groups such as Trout Unlimited (fishing lessons and fly tying), the USFS/Clear Creek Ranger District (special guest appearance by Woodsy Owl!), NREL mini wind turbine, panning with Gold Prospectors of the Rockies, and much, much more. There was live music, face painting,

a climbing tower, BBQ and ice cream.

The Festival was organized by the Clear Creek Watershed Foundation and Clear Creek County Extension, and sponsored by a wide variety of local and metro Denver organizations. We estimate attendance to have been roughly 800.



Left to right: Kathy Fiebig, CCC Extension; JoAnn Powell, CSU; Christine Crouse, CCC Extension; and Joanne Littlefield, CSU enjoy the Watershed Festival.

4-H : What is it?

One of the areas of focus for Clear Creek County Extension is organizing and implementing 4-H programs.

4-H is an opportunity for youth to explore new things, create fun projects, to make new friends, and most of all, to have FUN!

The four H's are:

HEAD: problem solving and record keeping,

HEART: communication

and sharing,

HANDS: leadership and teamwork, and

HEALTH: character and self-discipline.

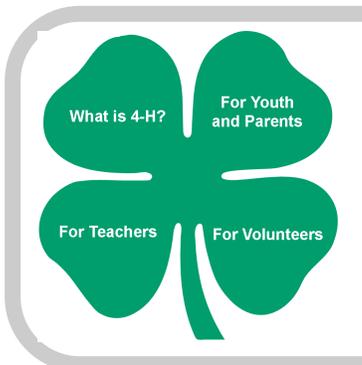
The curriculum is driven by the interest of the club members, and the possibilities are nearly endless.

Extension recently held four preliminary 4-H sessions to gauge interest (robotics, archery, cake decorating,

and a nature hike) and all were enthusiastically well attended.

Studies show that 4-Hers say they are better decision makers, problem solvers, public speakers and record keepers because of 4-H.

Extension intends to build a strong 4-H program in Clear Creek, and welcomes inquiries from any interested parties. We need volunteers leaders as well as club members.



4-H is a **community** of **young people** across America who are learning **leadership, citizenship and life skills.**

Be a 4-H Leader

The first step to creating a successful 4-H program is recruiting a strong volunteer base. To that end, Extension will hold an adult/teen volunteer leader information and training meeting on Wednesday, October 2. The meeting will be at the Elks Lodge, 1600 Colorado

Blvd., in Idaho Springs, from 6-8 pm. Pizza will be provided!

You don't have to be an expert to be a leader. If you are concerned about the youth of our community and if you can commit some time to the program, please join us

us on October 2.

Extension is looking for teen leaders as well as adults. Come help us empower Clear Creek County youth to reach their full potential! Extension can't do it without you.



Renewable Energy Workshop/Film Screening

Thinking about adding insulation but not sure if it's worth it? Should you invest in an energy efficient heating system? Considering solar but can't estimate a payback period? Join CSU Extension at "The Bottom Line--Energy Workshop", to be held on November 16, 2013 at Mt. Tool and Feed (I-70 and Central City Parkway, Idaho Springs). 9am-12pm. This workshop is FREE but pre-registration is required as space is limited! Contact Sharal Foss at 970-491-6281 or sharal.foss@colostate.edu to register.

Please join us on November 2 for the FREE screening of the acclaimed documentary "Switch: Discover the Future of Energy" at the United Center, 1440 Colorado Blvd in Idaho Springs at 7pm.



2014 Master Gardener Applications Accepted

Clear Creek County Extension will be accepting applications for the 2014 Master Gardeners Class until Friday, October 18, 2013 at 4pm. The title "Colorado Master Gardener" is a registered service mark of Colorado State University Extension.

Colorado Master Gardeners assist CSU Extension Staff in delivering research based gardening information to foster successful gardening. The CMG's audience is exclusively home gardeners. Annually, 1,700 CMG volunteers serving in 36 county/area based programs donate \$1.5 million in volunteer time. Clear Creek County could use YOUR help!

Examples of CMG volunteer service include answering phone calls at County Extension Offices, staffing diagnostic clinics, teaching gardening classes, writing newspaper articles, and mentoring community gardening and greening projects.

Weekly all day classes will be held on Thursdays from January 16 through April 4, 2014.

Classes will be held at Denver Botanic Gardens, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, and Broomfield Baptist Church. The course costs \$265.00, which includes the required textbook *The Science of Gardening*. Scholarships may be available. After completing the classes, 50 hours of volunteer service are required to become certified as a Colorado Master Gardener.

The Colorado Master Gardener courses are taught by Colorado State University personnel, and the training is comparable to a four-credit class.

For further information, please visit our website at www.clearcreek.colostate.edu.



"Honoring Our Past,
While Designing Our Future"

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