



May 2, 2012

## **Water Awareness Week – Greater Idaho Falls Water Festival Poetry Contest**

The Idaho Falls Water Awareness Week Committee and the Eastern Idaho Environmental Education Association invite you to see the work of local fifth and sixth-grade poets! Students attending the Greater Idaho Falls Water Festival were invited to author a poem celebrating water and specifically written for this year's Water Awareness Week event. Dr. Mark Hatch and his ISU English Composition students selected the top poems from the 336 entries received. A total of 18 poets are recognized, with the top five framed by Willowtree Gallery. All the entries are now on display at the Idaho Falls Public Library until May 9<sup>th</sup>. These awards will be presented at the completion of Water Festival morning and afternoon sessions, 11:10 AM and 1:30 PM, May 10<sup>th</sup>, at the east side of the Tautphaus Park hockey shelter and at the Gem State Power Plant site.

The Greater Idaho Falls Water Festival will occur Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at the Tautphaus Park hockey shelter and at the Gem State power plant (beginning at 9:20 AM and 11:40 PM) south of Idaho Falls. This marks the fifteenth year for this event in Idaho Falls. An expected 1229 fifth and sixth grade students from District #91 and 93, schools, as well as private schools, will attend the festival during either the morning or afternoon sessions. The morning and afternoon sessions at Tautphaus Park will begin with Mayor Fuhriman presenting the 2012 Water Awareness Week proclamation from Governor Otter. Mayor Brad Anderson, Iona, and David Richards, City of Idaho Falls Water Department will open festivities and present poetry awards at the Gem State Power Plant site

The Greater Idaho Falls Water Festival is sponsored by the Eastern Idaho Environmental Education Association along with local, state, and federal environmental and educational professionals, including the city of Idaho Falls' water, sewer, power departments, Tautphaus Park Zoo, US Geological Survey, Bureau of Land Management, National Weather Service, Idaho Departments of Environmental Quality, Water Resources, and Fish and Game, Water District 1, local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Idaho State University Biology Department, Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, Eastern Idaho Public Health District, SM Stoller, Idaho National Engineering Laboratory and Battelle Energy Alliance, along with many other local businesses who have helped to bring Water Festival to Eastern Idaho! Special thanks is in order for Cargill, Inc, and the INL STEM program whose donations provided materials given to schools and students, and will cover busing costs for attending schools!

For more information about this event contact Flint Hall at 208 528-2612, 208 520-5382 or [Flint.Hall@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:Flint.Hall@deq.idaho.gov)