



RUBBER DUCKS HELP KEEP GOOD CAUSES AFLOAT

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June 11, 1990

Scott Southworth turned the South Platte River into Denver's biggest bathtub yesterday.

"Dump the ducks! Dump the ducks!" cried the frantic voice over Southworth's radio as a tardy semitrailer unloaded more than 15,000 rubber ducks over the West 13th Avenue Bridge for the Original Denver Duck Race.

And one mile later at Confluence Park, the ducky dash over gold-speckled rapids raised enough money to aid families battered by domestic violence and to create an inner-city trout pond.

"You see that yellow thing?," Judy Chavez of Denver gushed to friends as the bright-yellow toys splashed through.

"There's one right there," said Leticia Melendez of San Diego, one of several hundred race spectators watching along the Platte.

In all, Denver Duck Race, sponsored by the **Denver Active** 20-30 Club, raised about \$80,000 for the Colorado Christian Home and the South Platte River Greenway Foundation.

The race raised the money by persuading folks to sponsor a tagged-and-numbered duck for \$5.

The first duck caught by river-wading duck catchers Mark Madgett and Kent Stevinson at the finish line under the 15th Street Bridge won sponsor Kelly Vickers a \$20,000 Toyota 4-Runner four-wheel drive truck.

The second-place duck earned Eve Crook a trip for two to London.

Race co-director Southworth said his group is committed to the ducky fund-raising race the next two years.

Yesterday's production took some work. Race officials found toy ducks durable enough to withstand river rapids only from a firm in Calgary, Alberta. About 130 volunteers were also recruited to ensure the toy ducks kept moving until radio personality Steve Kelley collected them on a bank in Confluence Park.