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Greater Arkansas River Nature Association

Natured Centered, Community Driven.

The GARNA Gab - August 2015

garna.org

Upcoming Programs Lots of **NEW** programs have been scheduled!

[Berry Harvesting Foray with Sam & Jillian Liebl](#)

Sunday, August 9 * 9:00 am to 12:00 pm * Angel of Shavano Campground * \$8 members, \$10 non members

Join local wild foods experts Sam and Jillian Liebl for a morning of harvesting the bounty of berries we have in the Upper Arkansas Valley. Learn how to identify these fruits and other edible plants, as well as their poisonous lookalikes, and get tips on where to search for each species. Sam and Jillian are instructors at [Rift Valley Earth Skills](#). They have dedicated themselves to finding a sustainable way to live in the Western United States. [Pre-registration](#) is required.



[GPS on the Midland Railroad Trail](#)

Friday, August 14 * 7:00 - 11:00 am * Collegiate Peaks Scenic Overlook area * \$5 members, \$7 non members

GARNA and AHRA are organizing a special GPS field event. The 3-4 mile loop hike/GPS training will take place along the Midland Railroad Grade northeast of Johnson Village with beautiful mountain and rugged shallow canyon scenery and sweeping views of the Upper Arkansas Valley. You'll learn basic GPS field skills training and use the GPS and topo map in the field to locate specific points specified by latitude and longitude locations. Then go on a short hike defined by three points and the start/finish location. The event will be led by Bob Hickey, AHRA volunteer naturalist. As an amateur geologist and GIS hobbyist, Bob is a true student of all-things geospatial and geological. [Pre-registration](#) is required by August 12.

Mushroom Madness Foraging Trip

**Tuesday, August 18 * 9:00 am to 12:00 pm *
Monarch Park (tentative) * \$5 members, \$8 non
members**

Very knowledgeable mycologist Linda McMenamy will lead a mushroom foray and will explain how to properly gather mushrooms. Then participants will fan out into the woods to gather the fungi. The group will reconvene in an hour, and Linda will help with identification, particularly noting if the species is edible or not. Linda has been hunting mushrooms for 35 years, for many years as a member of the Colorado Mycological Society. She has led forays at the [Buena Vista King Boletus Mushroom Festival](#), cooking the mushrooms in the field for foragers to taste. [Pre-registration](#) is required.

Orient Mine Bat Cave Tour

**Thursday, August 27 * 4:30 to 11:00 pm * San
Luis Valley near Valley View Hot Springs * \$12
members, \$15 non members**

GARNA is organizing a tour to the Orient Mine cave to watch the colony of migratory bats fly from the mine at dusk. The [Orient Mine](#) is located on the Orient Land Trust (OLT) and Valley View Hot Springs property, southeast of Villa Grove in the San Luis Valley. The closed Orient Mine has been the home to nearly 250,000 migratory bats for the last 40 years. The Orient Mine is also home to five or six populations of hibernating bats. The OLT will provide us with a guide, as we hike 2 miles to the bat cave opening called The Glory Hole to witness the mass flight exodus of the bats at dusk over the San Luis Valley. [Pre-registration](#) is required.

The Business of Nature: Alpacas & Paco-Vacunas at Jefferson Farms

**Saturday, August 29 * 10:00 - 11:30 am *
Jefferson Farms * \$8 members, \$10 non
members**

As part of GARNA's Business of Nature series, visit [Jefferson Farms Natural Fibers](#). They have locations in Salida and Denver with around 100 Alpacas and 300 Paco-Vicunas. Soft, very fine natural fiber is their primary product. The tour will be led by Jean Levene, and will include a discussion of the breeding program, production of the fiber and a visit with these incredibly adorable animals. [Pre-registration](#) is required.

SPECIAL TRIP

Overnight visit to Rocky Mountain Biological Lab



Courtesy of Jefferson Farms

Friday-Saturday, September 11-12 * RMBL in Gothic, CO near Crested Butte

We are working on final details for this exciting trip... please stay tuned for more information and registration.

Enjoy an overnight stay at [Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory](#) (RMBL). This two day trip will take advantage of GARNA Board Chair Paul Robertson's knowledge and connections at RMBL to tour the facilities and learn more about the current field studies taking place there. There will be time for gorgeous hiking and exploring the history around the town of Gothic, CO. Participants will stay in RMBL living quarters and meet with RMBL scientists. GARNA will provide transportation to and from RMBL.

There are a limited amount of spots available for this trip. If you know you are interested in attending, please [email](#) the office and we will let you know as soon as registration opens.

Not a GARNA member?

GARNA is the Arkansas River Valley's only local broadly focused conservation and educational institution with non-profit status. GARNA is supported by membership fees. We have over 300 members and growing... [will you join us?](#) Benefits for GARNA members:

- 20% discount on all items at all times in GARNA book and map outlets
- Advanced notification and invitations to special events and activities
- Reduced registration fees for GARNA programs
- Access to GARNA's special interest clubs

Thank you for supporting GARNA and our mission of fostering stewardship of the resources of the greater Arkansas River region through education, volunteerism and experiences.

Sincerely,

GARNA Board of Directors

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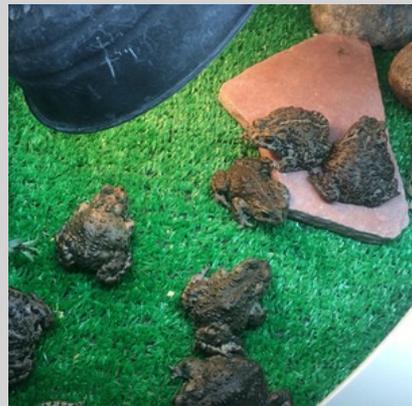


Alan Robinson, Friends of Fourmile
Kate Garwood, Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers
Steve Harris, Chaffee County Heritage Board



Courtesy of RMBL

GARNA's Summer Nature Camp 2015



We great summer at nature camp! The last session the kids visited the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility in Alamosa where they learned about boreal toads and other endangered aquatic species.

Please let [Dominique](#) know if you would like to be on the list for next summer.

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US

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