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# Greater Arkansas River Nature Association

Natured Centered, Community Driven.

**The GARNA Gab - July 2015**

[garna.org](http://garna.org)

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### **Not your typical river float - [Interpretive Rafting Trip Fundraiser with Susan J. Tweit](#)**

**Sunday, July 26 \* 12:00 - 5:00 pm \* Big Horn Sheep Canyon \* \$74 members, \$84 non members and \$30 goes to GARNA!**

**This year: different stretch of river, new things to see and learn while rafting some really fun water!**

Last year's trip sold out and the group had a great time floating on this guided interpretive tour with award-winning author, speaker, and teacher Susan J. Tweit. This year we'll float from Saltlick to Browns Landing and then have drinks and appetizers back at [Echo Canyon River Expeditions](#). A big thanks to Echo Canyon for their partnership with this fundraiser. Much more info and registration info [HERE](#). **If you are a GARNA member and do not have the promo code, please [email](#) the office.**

### **[Rescheduled! 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.

## Club News

### **[Photography Club](#)**

The Photography Club met on July 6 to brainstorm ideas for photo events and ways to better serve the group. Many wonderful ideas were discussed. In



Last year's rafting trip



Courtesy of Jefferson Farms

## **Browns Canyon National Monument Designation Celebration**

**Saturday, July 18 \* 3:00 pm \* Buena Vista River park soccer fields**

Join in the celebration of President Obama's proclamation of Browns Canyon National Monument! Invited guests include Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, Bureau of Land Management Director Neil Kornze and Deputy Director Steve Ellis, Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell, Governor Hickenlooper, Senator Bennet, former Senator Udall, and others.

particular, we decided to meet on the first Wednesday every month from 5-7 pm, location TBA. A topic will be selected and one of the members will lead the discussion or a guest speaker will be invited. In addition, the monthly meeting will provide a forum for networking with other members to critique photos and learn from each other. The topic of our August 5 meeting will be photo editing.

Many members of the group want to plan regular photography outings. While remaining separate from the hiking group, we decided to initially utilize the hiking group's schedule. The first photo outing will be to Alpine Tunnel this coming Friday, July 10. Please contact [mccllellan.lila@gmail.com](mailto:mccllellan.lila@gmail.com) if you are interested in photo hiking on Friday. To be added to the GARNA Photography Club roster and receive announcements, please contact Ann Graham at [anng9555@gmail.com](mailto:anng9555@gmail.com).

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## Chapter/Project News

### Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers

On June 13 and 14, the UAWV held their first ever Spring Training Event highlighting the importance of stewardship and safety on the many trails in our community. With 27 people attending, it was very successful! Steve Sunday from the Leadville Ranger District provided a substantial portion of the training for attendees, including topics such as tool maintenance, what to pack in your day pack, and how to interface with the public.

Other Forest Service presenters were Allison Stewart of VOC (the Job Hazards Assessment), Jenni Windorski (handling encounters with wildlife) and Bob Dorenfeld (working with the UAWV Trails Reporting Database).

UAWV is very grateful for the tremendous support from the Leadville and Salida Ranger Districts of the Forest Service, as well as for the donations of City Market, Safeway and Walmart that helped make the training event possible.

### Salida Trail Restoration Project

You might see some high school kids with Southwest Conservation Corps out on the Salida trail the next few weeks. GARNA is working with the [Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas \(LTUA\)](#), [Salida-area Parks, Open Space and Trails \(SPOT\)](#), and the City of Salida. We're working on the restoration of the Monarch Spur, Striker and Milk Run trails including removing and controlling invasive plants such as kochia, Russian thistle and Russian olive, restoring native grasses, shrubs and trees, increasing suitable habitat for native birds and pollinators and providing ecological restoration education to trail users and residents. If you are interested in this project, please contact us!

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## Lightning Safety

With lightning in the news lately, one of GARNA's Hiking Club leaders and Board Member John McCarthy thought he'd share this short **informational piece** developed by NOAA, the Nat'l Weather Service and NOLS about staying safe in the backcountry.



UAWV Training at BV Comm Center

## 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

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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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