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Greater Arkansas River Nature Association



Photo by Diana Griffin

2016 marks GARNA's 20th Anniversary. Thank you for helping us reach this milestone! Happy new year.

The GARNA Gab - January 2016

garna.org

Upcoming Programs/Events

Ski with a Naturalist Tours

**Every Friday through March * 11:00 am to 12:00 pm *
Monarch Mountain**

Free, on-hill tour at our local ski area. Guests of all ages and abilities are welcome. The 45 minute tour will be offered every Friday at 11:00 am through March. Tom McCollum will be our guide this year. Tom has an environmental science degree from Bowling Green State University and has worked for The Nature Conservancy and the US Forest Service seasonally for the past 10 years. Tom is an avid backpacker, snowboarder, and runner and will bring a unique perspective to the tour.

Salida Trail Ecological Restoration Project Volunteer Meeting

**Monday, January 25 * 7-8:00 pm * Salida United
Methodist Church**

GARNA, Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas, Salida-area Parks, Open-space and Trails, the City of Salida and Chaffee County have been working to restore the Monarch Spur trail to its natural habitat. Please join us for this informational meeting and learn how you can be

SAVE the DATE!

GARNA's 20th year is 2016 and we are planning a BIG celebration on **Thursday, April 7**. We will not have our usual early February annual meeting and instead we'll mark this important milestone. Please stay tuned for many more details.

Welcome new Board of Director members Terry Porter and Claire Shepherd



GARNA was the first organization Terry Porter joined when relocating to the area. He is retired Director of Operations and Compliance for Intercontinental Exchange, Inc. He holds a Business Administration degree from Langston University. Terry was born and raised in

a part of this community volunteer project.

[An extensive article and accompanying op ed](#) on this effort was recently printed in The Mountain Mail.

Backcountry Basics

***Please note date change:* Thursday, January 28 * 6:30 pm * First Presbyterian Church in Salida * \$5 members, \$8 non members**

With backcountry enthusiasts on the rise and Chaffee County being home to 14,000-foot peaks, the Arkansas River and countless hiking, biking, four-wheel drive and snowmobile trails, it is not uncommon for our search and rescue volunteers to be called out on more than 60 missions a year. Learn more about tips to keep safe and prepared for the winter months. Hear about two past winter missions that CCSAR-S conducted and how they demonstrate how being unprepared can get you into trouble. The workshop will be led by Don Dubin and Dana Porter, both members of Chaffee County Search and Rescue. Pre-registration is available [HERE](#).

Youth Ecological Literacy



Natural Kids Series: Animal Imitation, Shelf Road climbing trip, Friday program on drought, weather and snowpack to name a few...

There are too many activities scheduled over the next few months to list! We are excited to continue programming with the **Boys & Girls Clubs in Salida and Buena Vista**, holding **Friday enrichment** programs and begin working with **The Greater Heights Academy in Leadville** on the Mineral Belt Trail! See our [calendar](#) for much more information about our youth-focused activities.

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

the flatlands of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas while dreaming of the Rocky Mountains. Terry lives in Salida and he and his wife are loving life in our idyllic valley.



Claire Shepherd, our 2nd ever student Board member, is a freshman at Salida High School. She runs on the high school cross-country and track teams, and skis in her free time. Claire is also a member of FBLA and Key Club. Claire previously attended the Crest Academy and will be very helpful in providing a youth perspective.

- 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

Paul Robertson, Chair
Aaron Derwingson, Vice Chair
JD Longwell, Treasurer
Deb Bass
Janet Blessington
Jody Bol
Kate Garwood
Emily Katsimpalis
John McCarthy
Logan Myers
Terry Porter
Claire Shepherd



Alan Robinson, Friends of Fourmile
Kate Garwood, Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers
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