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# Greater Arkansas River Nature Association

Natured Centered, Community Driven.

The GARNA Gab - May 2015

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

## Upcoming Programs & Events

### Using Wild Plants in your Life

**This Thursday, May 7 \* 6:30 - 7:45 pm \* Salida Community Center \* \$10 members, \$12 non members**

Sam Liebl of [Earth Knack](#) in Crestone will speak about his quest to thrive alongside wild plants in every season. Drawing on historical accounts, current ethnobotanical research, and his daily first-hand experience, Sam will share how to use the plants of the region as food, tools and medicine. [Learn more and pre-register](#). **You can also pay at the door, check or exact change appreciated!**

### 24th Annual Clean Up Green Up Work Day for Salida Trail Project

**Saturday, May 16 \* 8:30 am registration \* Picnic: Riverside Park/Scout Hut, Salida**

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) and GARNA team up each year for this important volunteer community event. Volunteers may register the day of at AHRA or at the Buena Vista River Park. All volunteers enjoy a picnic lunch at Riverside Park in Salida. Come on out! This will also be the 1st 2015 work day for the Salida Trail Project. Please contact [Doug](#) at LTUA for more info on this.

### Railroad History of the Arkansas Valley: tour the Buena Vista Depot

**Sunday, May 17 \* 2:00 - 3:30 pm \* Buena Vista Depot Museum, McPhelemy Park Buena Vista \* \$6.50 members, \$8.50 non members**

Vic Kuklin, frequent railroad storyteller, member of BV Heritage and former member of the DSP&P Historical Society will share the history of the railroad and its role in developing agriculture, mining, and ice harvesting in BV, Nathrop and St. Elmo. Event includes touring the depot museum and adjacent caboose. [Please pre-register](#).

### Photographing the Sand Dunes

## 2nd Climate Series Pub Talk

Thursday, May 21

5:30 to 6:30 pm

**Eddyline Brewery in Buena Vista**

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With Reed Dils - Arkansas River water issues related to climate change



## BLM Eastern Colorado Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement

Our regional office, the Royal Gorge Field Office, has initiated a land use planning process. Project background, newsletter, public meeting schedule and more available [HERE](#).



**Friday - Sunday, May 29-31 \* Great Sand Dunes National Park \* \$25 members, \$35 non members**

GARNA's photo club is hosting a field trip to the Great Sand Dunes. The focus of the trip is on communicating individual responses to the solitude, grandeur, and stark beauty of this unique and natural setting with photographs. Local photographer Ed Berg will lead the photo talks with topics of composition, camera settings and other techniques. In order to take advantage of late afternoon, evening and morning light on the dunes, this is an weekend excursion. Learn much more and [pre-register here](#).

**17th Annual Headwaters Institute**  
**Special announcement:**  
**John Fielder to present**  
**Keynote and slide show**

**Friday, June 5 \* 8:30 am - 5:00 pm \* Scout Hut/Riverside Park/SteamPlant \* \$20**

Join us for an all-day workshop for first year river guides and the public. Lectures and breakout sessions will be presented by numerous local and regional experts. Topics include the history of the Arkansas Valley, water quality, wildlife, geology and more. **PLUS - John Fielder, renowned nature photographer, publisher, teacher and environmentalist will be delivering the Keynote and presenting an afternoon slide show on Browns Canyon and the Yampa River.** Learn much more and [pre-register here](#).

**John Fielder Slide Show: Browns Canyon Protected - Yampa River Unprotected**

**Friday, June 5 \* 1:00 - 3:00 pm \* SteamPlant Theater \* \$10 *Fielder slide show only***

As part of this year's Headwaters Insitute, John Fielder, nationally renowned nature photographer, publisher, teacher and environmentalist will present a slide show of his photographs of Browns Canyon and all 250 miles of Colorado's Yampa River from its headwaters in the Flat Tops Wilderness to the confluence with the Green River. Music and commentary of CO water issues will accompany the presentation. John will be selling his photo books and be on hand to sign them. Learn much more and [buy tickets here](#).

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## **Club News**

### **Birding Club**

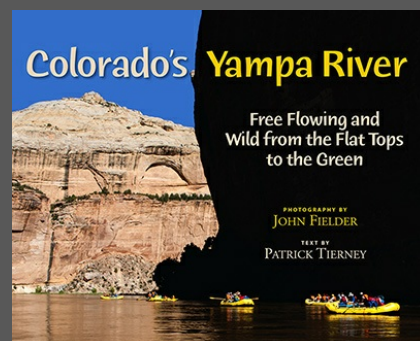
Last year 25 people participated in the Birding Club Challenge. One challenge was to see how many species of birds could be seen in a four county area. Sally Waterhouse won with 216 species and runners up were Boyd Clark, 2nd place and Pat Clark, 3rd place. Congrats! If you are interested in this member-only club, please contact Denny Arter at 539-0787.

### **Nestbox Monitoring Program**

At our March training for monitoring nest boxes for



Photo by Ed Berg



bluebirds, swallows and other species, five new volunteers joined the program. We now monitor 18 sites in the county and 30 volunteers are involved. GARNA partners with CO Parks and Wildlife in this Nestwatch program from Cornell University and our data from the breeding season is added each fall to the [website](#).

### Hiking Club

The hiking club's first hike of the season will be on a portion of the Gentleman's Loop in the Fourmile area on May 15. An additional hike is scheduled for May 29 in the Ruby Mountain/Browns Canyon area. Mary Helen Dunn, John McCarthy, Ruth Runge-Barnes and Pat Clark have signed up to lead hikes this year and more people have expressed an interest. We could have even more hikes than the 19 currently planned! Over 75 people are hiking club members, if you are interested in this member-only group, please [email](#) the office.

### Earth Friendly Book Club

June book: *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Kimmerer.

July book: *Anthill* by E.O. Wilson.

If you would like to join this member-only club, please contact [Marilyn Moore](#).

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## Chapter/Project News

### Upper Arkansas Wilderness Volunteers

**Saturday, June 13 and Sunday, June 14 \* Buena Vista Community Center \* Free**

Training on the Trails: the UAWV has scheduled a one and a half day training to be presented by seasoned US Forest Service personnel from the Leadville and Salida Ranger Districts. Topics will include: trail tool safety, use and maintenance; campsite monitoring; Leave No Trace concepts; public interface best practices; backcountry first aid and more. Please contact [Kate](#) for more information.

### Stage & Rail Trail

Following a year-long grant funded project, the draft Master Plan for the proposed 64-mile long Salida to Leadville Stage and Rail Trail has been published! Read more about this exciting project and view the extremely comprehensive, well-done plan [HERE](#).

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## 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



Challenge winners! Boyd, Pat Clark and Sally Waterhouse; photo by Denny Radabaugh



Calla Shiefelbein on left and a friend checking one of the nest boxes; photo by David Shiefelbein

- 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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Aaron Derwingson, Vice Chair  
JD Longwell, Treasurer  
Dibby Olson, Secretary  
Deb Bass  
Janet Blessington  
Jody Bol  
Kate Garwood  
Emily Katsimpalis  
John McCarthy  
Logan Myers  
Harper Powell



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



### **GARNA Green Tip**

Help hands and our river. Use environmentally friendly Borax instead of corrosive chemicals to clean toilet stains.

**GARNA | 719.539.5106 | [info@garna.org](mailto:info@garna.org) | [garna.org](http://garna.org)**

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