

Greater Arkansas River Nature Association

Nature Centered, Community Driven.

The GARNA Gab - November 2015

garna.org

Upcoming Programs

Great Sand Dunes Photo Trip

Saturday, November 7 * 7:00 am to 2:00 pm * Great Sand Dunes Nat'l Park * Free members, \$5 non members

The [GARNA Photography Club](#) is organizing a day trip to the Great Sand Dunes National Park led by local photographer Ed Berg. The focus of the trip will be on communicating our individual responses to the solitude, grandeur, and stark beauty of this unique natural setting. This event is a wonderful chance for photo buffs to share ideas, techniques, and experiment photographing this extraordinary area. There is no cost for members and \$5 non members. More information and registration is available [HERE](#).

Tour the Swissvale Earthship

Sunday, November 8 * 1:00 to 2:30 pm * Swissvale east of Salida * \$5 members, \$8 non members



GARNA is hosting a tour of the 6,000 square foot earthship recently completed in Swissvale east of Salida. The building is an energy efficient, off-the-grid structure partially earth-bermed and built with a variety of recycled materials including 4,000 earth-rammed tires, aluminum cans and glass bottles. The earthship was built by [Earthship Biotecture](#), a Taos, NM earthship construction company, and involved volunteers from around the world. If this tour fills up (the tour can accommodate 15 people), we will add a 2nd tour from 2:30 until 4:00 pm. The cost is \$5 for members and \$8 non members. More information and

VOTE!

for People's Choice Award for GARNA's Photo Contest



One of the photos in the running for the People's Choice Award. Photo notecards of the first place and People's Choice winner will be available for sale soon!

Youth Ecological Literacy Program



GARNA took the entire 6th grade from Salida Middle School to Mt Ouray State Wildlife Area on October 20.

With the newly snow-capped Collegiate Peaks as the backdrop and the wildlife-rich riparian bottomlands of the Arkansas River as their classroom, students rotated between 4 environmental education stations

registration is available [HERE](#).

GPS Workshop and Field Event

Saturday, November 21 * Workshop: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm * Field event: 12:00 to 4:00 pm* BV area and Midland Trail * \$5 suggested donation

GARNA is offering an introductory adult GPS class for learning the basics of GPS (Global Positioning System) technology. The second part of the day takes participants out into the field on a short hike defined by three points and the start/finish location. The same field event was held in August and received great reviews. Don't miss this one. The cost for each event is \$5 for members and \$7 non members. More information and registration is available [HERE](#).

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,

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designed to engage the senses, hone scientific exploration and analysis skills, and encourage stewardship. Topics included bat ecology, water quality and aquatic insects, erosion and the rock cycle, and GPS navigation. During lunch, students discussed conversation ethics and enjoyed a fly fishing demonstration. Thank you to teachers, students, and our volunteer environmental education presenters.

We have a lot of youth programs coming up this fall. Please visit our [calendar](#) to find out more.

Salida Trail Ecological Restoration Project

October 24 was the last public volunteer workday for the Salida Trail Ecological Restoration Project. About 20 volunteers, including 12 Americorps Alpine Achiever Initiative members from the San Luis Valley, helped with Russian Olive branch removal to trim along the trail for trail users, weeded, planted seeds and seedlings, and spread mulch along the Monarch Spur Trail west of Holman Avenue in Salida. More information about the project is available [here](#). Trail work days are a great opportunity to learn about native and invasive plants in our valley, and restoration techniques in general. To volunteer, or receive emails specific to this project, please email Dominique@garna.org.

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