



## **Saying Goodbye to a River's Best Friend**

# David Brower

## Friend of Flowing Rivers

July 1, 1912 — November 5, 2000

David Brower came to Moab on May 7, 2000 to participate as a speaker in a community event called *Glen Canyon in Word, Song and Film*, which was sponsored by Colorado Plateau River Guides and the Glen Canyon Action Network. How very fortunate we were to welcome him back to our community, for in six short months this ambassador for the planet would pass away with his family at his side, and in his comfortable Berkeley home, from complications due to cancer.

Think about this, please. The world's most senior environmental activist, thrice nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, took time from his ever-demanding speaking schedule to travel to Moab specifically to address the guides of the Colorado River, many of whom were born when he was in his sixties.

Obviously we occupied an important place in the world according to David Brower. His life's work is a legacy of river protection. Simply stated, if it were not for David Brower's leadership to fight dam construction in the Colorado River watershed, we would not be doing river trips today in Lodore, Whirlpool, Split Mountain, Yampa, Marble and Grand Canyons.

Brower lost the fight for Glen Canyon Dam, a fight he blames on nobody but himself. But before his death, he opined the possibility of running that which was lost, namely Cataract (the lower half), Narrow and Glen canyons. While serving as a director of the Sierra Club's national board in November of 1996, he authored a motion to decommission Glen Canyon Dam, which passed unanimously. The simple, direct statement, "the Sierra Club supports the draining of the reservoir behind Glen Canyon Dam," is now official policy of the nation's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization. Today, four non-profit groups are working hard with various targeted programs to make Mr. Brower's bold dream come true:

Glen Canyon Action Network in Moab  
[www.drainit.org](http://www.drainit.org)

Glen Canyon Group of the Sierra Club in Moab  
[www.sierraclub.org/chapters/ut/glencanyon](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/ut/glencanyon)

Glen Canyon Institute in Flagstaff  
[www.glencanyon.org](http://www.glencanyon.org)

Living Rivers in Phoenix  
[www.livingrivers.net](http://www.livingrivers.net)

But we must not forget to mention another important non-profit group whose board voted unanimously—prior to the Sierra Club's—to drain the reservoir behind Glen Canyon Dam. That group is the same one that Mr. Brower came to Moab to address last May—our own

Colorado Plateau River Guides. Mr. Brower was very aware of the advocacy work we do on our river trips in support of decommissioning Glen Canyon Dam, and now in the community, as we presented for the first time a program dedicated to Glen Canyon restoration.

We owe a huge thanks to Mr. Brower for keeping our rivers flowing free. We can return that thanks by keeping his legacy alive. Very soon, and with your help and dedication, Lee's Ferry will become, once again, one of the take-outs for river trips launching from the upper basin.

## Thank You Community Leaders For Your Programming Support

From May 5 to May 7, 2000, Colorado Plateau River Guides sponsored two events to promote river education and river conservation. The educational event called "**Boats and Boaters**," was held on the shores of the Green River in Gray Canyon and at the John Wesley Powell Museum. On May 7, the program was called "**Glen Canyon in Word, Song and Film**," was held at the Grand County High School in Moab.

Colorado Plateau River Guides would like to express their **thanks to the following**, who supported the educational program "Boats and Boaters:" Action Shots, Bighorn Express Shuttle, BLM/Grand Resource Area, Canyon Voyages, Canyonlands National Park, Canyonlands Natural History Association, Fat City Smokehouse, Glen Canyon Action Network, Glen Canyon Institute, Headwaters Institute, John Wesley Powell Museum, O.A.R.S., Maravia, Moab Brewery, Rio Colorado Restaurant, Utah Guides and Outfitters, and Wilderness Medicine of Utah.

For the program called "Glen Canyon in Word, Song and Film," **we also thank** the Grand County School District, and their staff, for the opportunity to rent their fine facility, and for providing our audio/visual needs. We also thank the Glen Canyon Action Network for their financial and logistical support.

We would like to give a **special thanks** to all the instructors, presentors and organizers: Al Holland, Brad Dimock, Charlie Eggert, David Brower, David Orr, Dusty Simmons, Eleanor Inskip, Eric Brunnemann, Jake Burnett, John Weisheit, Kara Dohrenwend, Katie Lee, Leave No Trace, Martin Litton, Owen Lammers, Rebecca Martin, Richard Ingebretsen, Rich Valdez, Robert Webb, Roy Webb, Sebastian Eggert, Steve Young, Susette Weisheit.

Apologies to anyone inadvertently not included.