



Gunnison Gorge Anglers Newsletter

May 2016

Monthly Meeting

The next GGA member meeting is at DMEA in Montrose 7pm. May 19th. Coffee and snacks provided. Matt McCannel, head guide for Riggs Fly Shop, will be giving a presentation on sight fishing big fish.

From the Prez

Well, the sunshine is slowly peeking out from under the clouds, the rain and snow is going away, and fishing is in a lot of places is "ON FIRE!!!!" as one person used to tell all his customers when they would call him on fishing conditions.

The Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing fly tying classes are over and we had 10 grads. Some of the vets went on the 1st fishing trip to Pa-Co and caught fish. Remember, these men had no fly fishing experience and all had a great time and caught fish. We will be having another trip on May 7th and if you would like to volunteer, or get on the list of volunteers, send me an e-mail or give me a call. We can always use your help.

Questions have come up on why we are affiliated with the International Federation of Fly Fishers. I have some information for you later in the newsletter, so check it out.

The next meeting will be May 19th at DMEA, this will be the last meeting for the summer. We have a lot on our plate for the summer and I hope I can count on you to jump in and give us a hand. For you new members this is a great chance to meet some of the best fly fishers on our home waters. Look at what is coming up and give me a call for whatever event(s) you would like to do.

Tight Lines,
Ed Kehoe

Chapter News

April Meeting Summary

What can I say about the April meeting besides another great presentation from Colorado legend Del Canty. His knowledge about fisheries extends through two hemispheres and over a half a century. If you want to talk big fish, Del is the man. I've not just seen the pictures but have heard shoreline stories of a guy in a float tube in raging storms and spending the night in a float tube all just to catch BIG fish. Those overnight adventures spent as a bobber forced the design of the rod to tether so he wouldn't fall asleep and lose yet another rod to the water and cold spring storms gave way to the idea of a "hypothermia suit" after one very uncomfortable night.

Del focused mainly on rehabilitation of several bodies of water, especially Kootenai Lake, B.C., after fish populations were decimated by commercial fishing. Along with other biologists, he worked hard to find populations of trout in the head waters that feed the lake and in the basin in general; success was limited only by the genetics lost. These trout populations have recovered but the genes that once produced these enormous rainbows may be gone forever. There are still big fish thanks to the introduction of the Gerrard Rainbow but we may never see those natural 50 pounders again.

2016 Chapter Events Schedule

Here are the upcoming volunteer events for 2016. As dates become available they will be updated in the next newsletter and at <http://gunnisongorgeanglers.tu.org> and Facebook. When you volunteer, we have signup sheets for you to give the miles you drive and the hours you volunteered. The miles you drive from home and back are tax deductible (\$0.14 per mile in 2015). The club needs this information to send TU National at the end of the year. We may have more events come up during the year that I have not been contacted about yet. Thank you all in advance for your help with these events.

Contact for sign up:
Ed Kehoe, 970-835-3679

MAY

- **Project Healing Waters-** Chipeta Lake, May 7th; 8:00am
- **Montessori School, Crawford – May 17th and 19th.** Volunteers present by 8:30am. Both days are broke into two sessions, AM and PM. The 17th will be about tying flies and the 19th is fishing. **We really need tyers.** Last year there were +50 students and 4 tyers. Come on folks, GGA needs its members and so do these young folks. They are OUR future!!!! Contact GGA for more information.

JUNE

- **Delta Days – Saturday JUNE 4th** Two Booth's – One for youth casting and contest and one for fly tying and displays. Set up at 8:30am
- Ridgway River Fest – Booth – **Saturday June 26th** Set up time to be announced

JULY

- GGA Members Picnic - **Saturday July 23rd** - 11am till.....all the beer is gone and every fish caught and released.

AUGUST

- River Clean Up – ***We need your input!*** River – **Saturday August 13th**

SEPTEMBER

- Highway 50 and Cimarron River Clean Up – **September 10th**
- BLM "Take it Outside" - This is 4 Days in September at Cottonwood Campground on the Gunnison River. Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri. **(dates to be set)** Setup 8am Monday. This is a fly tying event for youth. We will need six tiers for each day. All supplies will be furnished, but you may bring your own.
- Healing Waters-GGA Vets Fishing – **Saturday September 17th**, Meet in Ridgway State Park at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk 8:30am (This event needs just a few members.)

DECEMBER

- GGA Holiday Party - **December 1st**

Area Events/ Updates

Aspinall Spring Flow Forecasts

For those that want to know and want to know now, we will have to wait until Wednesday, May 4th, before information about Aspinall flows will be disseminated. Once the editors have this information, we will make it available at gunnisongorgeanglers.tu.org and on the Facebook page.

As always you can look at current flows-

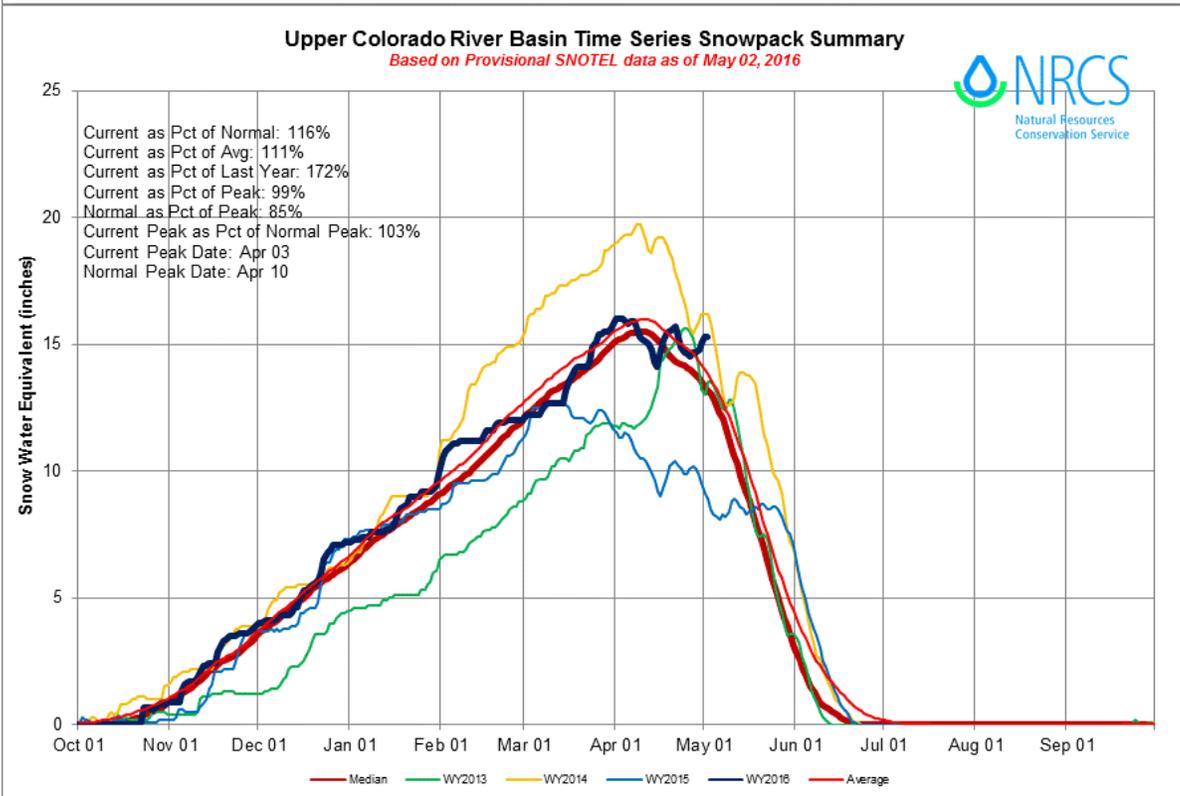
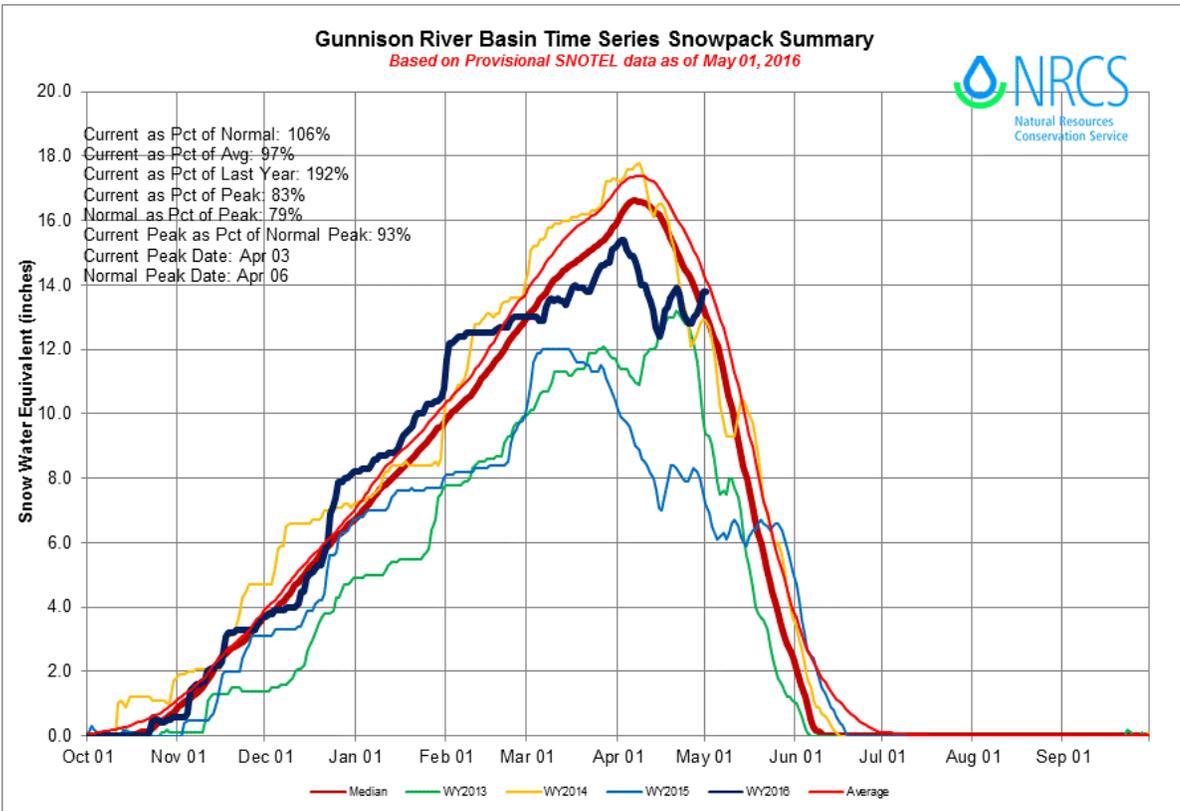
Gunnison River BELOW diversion dam. Always HIGHER above...can be more than 1000cfs higher
http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/uv?site_no=09128000

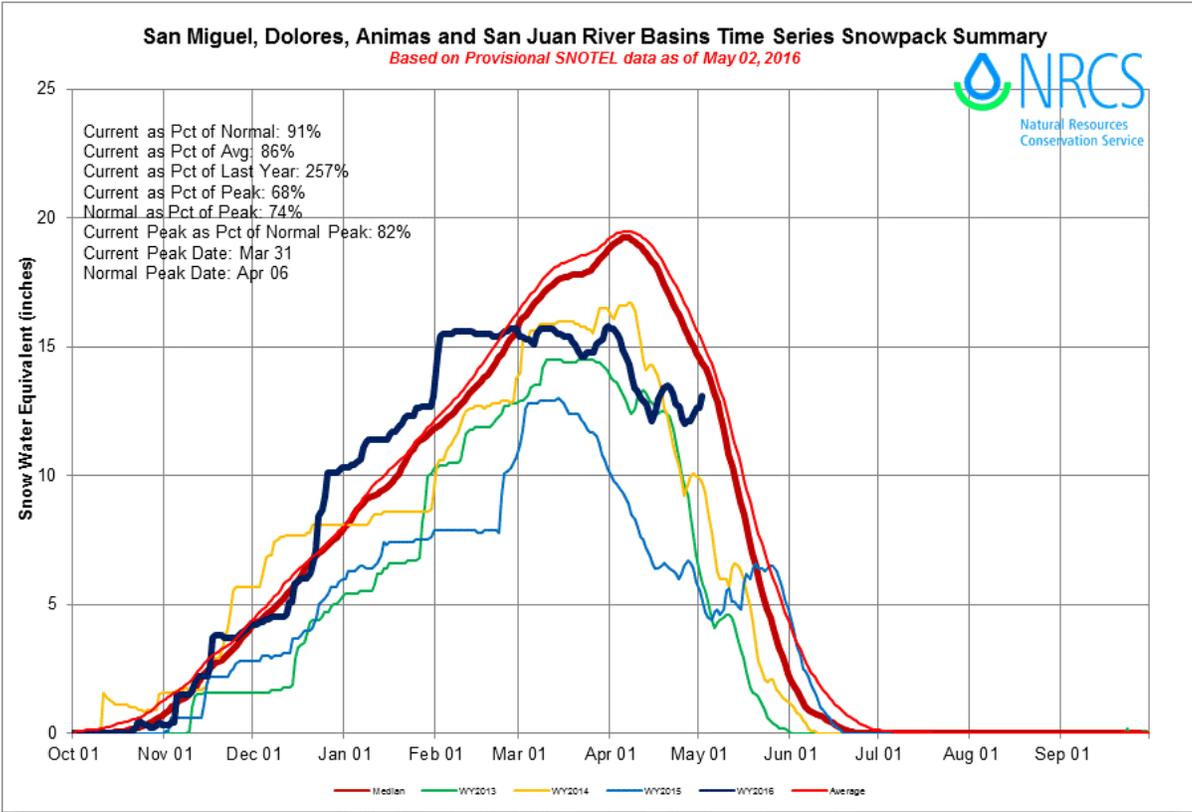
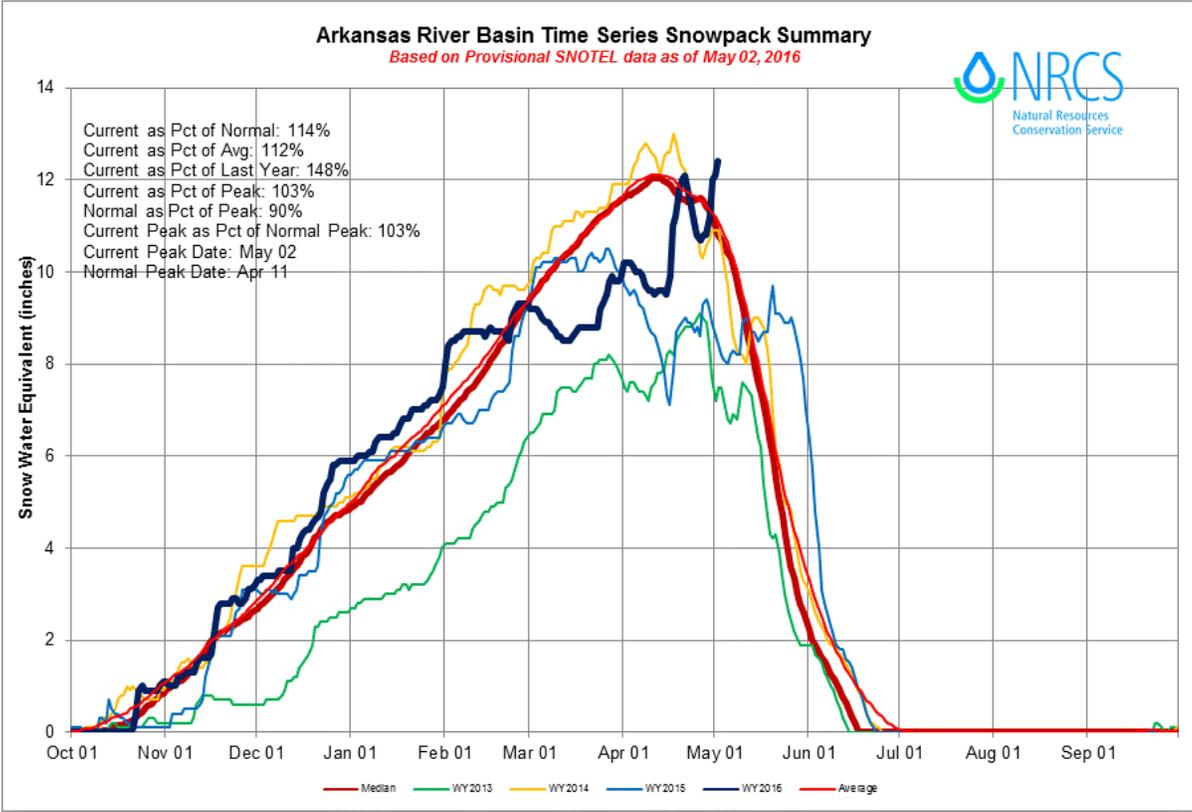
Uncompahgre River below Ridgeway Dam
http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/uv?site_no=09147025

For some of the new members or for those that never knew about this site, real stream flows are available for most of Colorado's waterways. Keep in mind gauge sites may be located above another source of in-flow. You might have to do a bit of adding of multiple gauges to find flows where you might be visiting.

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/current/?type=flow&group_key=huc_cd

Snowpack Update





For more detailed information visit:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/co/snow/products/?cid=nrcs144p2_063323

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters' graduated Vets met at Pa-Co for some on the water action. Despite the less than ideal weather for fishing a few dedicated folks got out there and ripped some lips. The fishing was a bit slow but the rain, sleet, sun, rain, sun, hail and repeat weather keep everyone on their toes and didn't dampen their spirits! Nothing is better than spending a day on the water with a bunch of great guys despite the weather.



Zach (Left) and Richard (Below) both pose with one of their hard earned trophies. Richard made a comment about how exhilarating it is to catch a fish on a fly he tied. I wonder who caught who?



A Vet and his guide work together to remove some undesirable catch from a fly while trying to beat the rain shower that was moving in(Left)

A spring rain/ sleet storm was weathered out under the pavilion during lunch



GGA would like to extend their gratitude to Arlene Crawford with Ridgeway State Park for all her work. We continue to look forward to working with you into the future! In addition, we would like to thank Colorado State Parks for maintaining a quality park with great amenities. Last, but not least, Dawn Gwin, for all her efforts with PHW. THANK YOU!

Project Healing Waters Calendar

May 7th, Saturday, -Chipeta Lake, Montrose; 8:00am

May 20th, Friday, -Sunshine Springs, Hotchkiss; 8:00am

June 11th, Saturday, - Uncompahgre River @ Baldridge Park, Montrose; 8:00am

July 9th, Saturday, -Ward Creek Reservoir- Grand Mesa from Cedaredge; 8:00am

August is still open with no confirmation

Project Healing Waters Staff:

Rod Building Coordinator: Lynn Fenton, Montrose

Beginning Fly Tying Coordinator: Jeff Dean, Montrose

Volunteer Coordinator: **(Need a Volunteer)**, Montrose

Co-Lead: Ed Kehoe, Montrose, GGA President (TU) 970-835-3679, edkehoesr@yahoo.com

Trivia Question of the Month

With the recent fish kill at McPhee Reservoir, most likely from anoxic water conditions (depleted dissolved oxygen), I thought a couple months of water physics trivia questions, related to the health of fisheries, would be appropriate. So, here we go:

Question: You have three buckets of water with **exactly** the same volume in each, say 5 gallons. If the water temperature in each bucket varies; bucket #1 is 54 degrees F, bucket #2 is 30 degrees F, and bucket #3 is 39 degrees F, which bucket weighs the most?

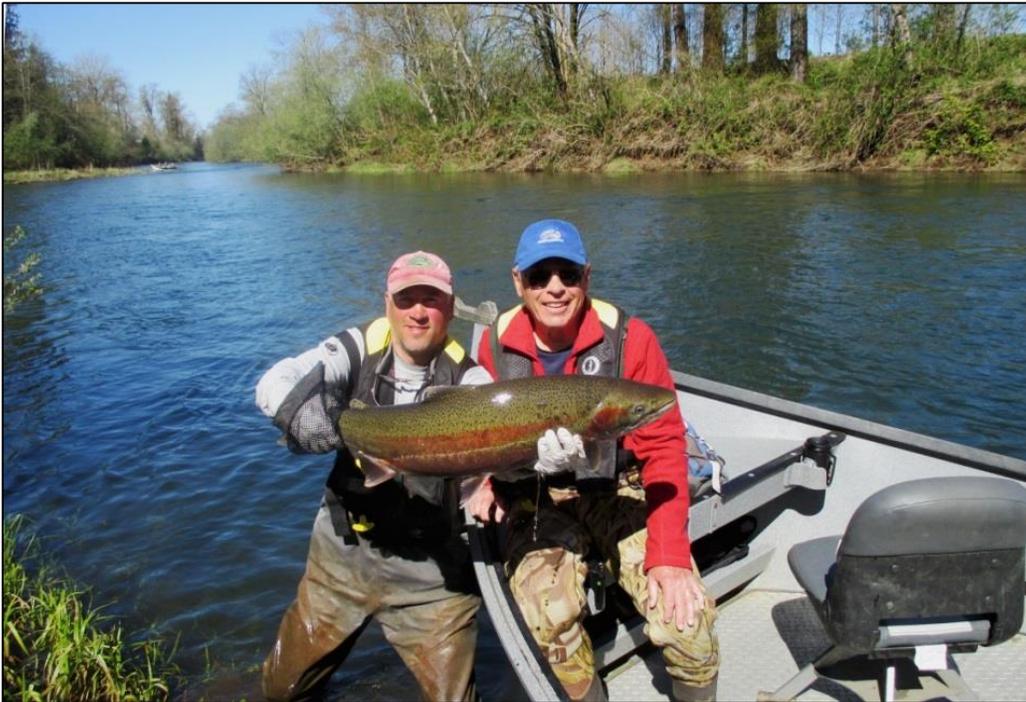
1. This is a trick question, all the buckets weight the same?
2. Bucket #2 because the water is frozen and weighs more?
3. The bucket that is 39 degrees F?
4. The bucket that is 54 degrees because warm water is heavier than cold water, which is proven by ice floating?

Answer to the Trivia Question is at the end of the newsletter above the informational websites!

Fish Tales

GGA member Stan Hayes recently visited the Nestucca and Trask Rivers in Oregon for his first ever pursuit of the sea-run rainbow trout known as the Steelhead. Stan and his wife spent 3 days in late March of this year fishing for this wily trout. Stan landed a total of 12 fish and his wife 4 during the trip. Steelheads in these rivers are a combination of hatchery raised and wild fish. It's required that all wild fish are immediately returned to the water, however up to two hatchery fish per day can be saved for the frying pan. The picture below is a wild male that Stan landed after a more than 30 minute tussle.

The fish statistics are: 36" long, 20" girth, and weight approximately 18 pounds. Nice fish, Stan! Congrats!



Stan's Steelhead....Now that is a fish!

Field Fly Fishing



Some people think spring has arrived when Robins and Meadowlarks start singing their songs, while others look for no rings around the full moon. The true test of spring is when this gate is open and the yellow snow removal sign looks like an impaled grey upside-down triangle. The sound of the gate swinging and being locked in the open position is sweeter to the ears than any bird and the only rings that count for me are found on the surface of the water. So here's to the opening of the East Portal.....Better late than never!!!!!!!

East Portal; like stepping back a month in terms of hatches this time of year. Baetis is the ticket during the day but come evening when they begin to disappear, remember the staple of a trout's diet....Chironomids! #18 dries and nymphs on the Baetis and #20 and smaller for the Chironomid. Watch for feeding fish in the columns and don't overlook the gulpers in the eddies. One size larger in the dry department so not only you can tell it apart from the thousands of naturals and maybe it will stand out for the fish as well!

Fish are (have been) beginning to spawn. Watch out for the redds. Remember that the Gorge will not see any stocking for the next few years so let's do our best and not disturb a sitting bow. Here's a picture I took from the Web for those that don't know what a redd looks like.



Fish may or may not be present on the redd. Highly distinguishable by the clean bottom. Let's do our part and not walk through them.

On the second full day of the Portal being open, Rangers were called in to rescue an overturned sea kayak. *From what I was told*, one guy swam to shore while the other clung to the boat until it was pinned on river right. How it all happened and how the guy got back across is unknown.



Remember folks, the Portal has two different flow rates; one above the diversion dam and another below. The flow listed on the USGS site is BELOW the diversion dam. The upper can have substantially more flow! Take care while wading and use a wading staff. The bottom has yet to be cleaned by the spring high water so it can be slick. Crossing below the diversion dam is still easy but the lower crossing has been dug out a bit and not finding the right path may mean getting some water in the waders. As you can see from the picture, the Gunny is going green so visibility can be limited. Notice the ranger and two boats across the river.

Answer to Trivia Question

If you answered #1, you more than likely were doing too much texting during high school physics class! Or, did they even have texting when you were in high school? The correct answer is #3. Water is a somewhat unique substance in that it reaches its maximum density while still in its liquid phase, at 39 degrees Fahrenheit (F) or 4 degrees Celsius (C) (see table below). So, water that is either warmer or cooler than 39 degrees F is less dense and lighter. That is why ice floats, most of the time. I'll get to that one in a later trivia question! This property of water is largely responsible for an important physical process that keeps our lake fisheries healthy. Think about that a bit and we'll deal with this process in our next month's trivia question.

Density of Water		
Temp (F)	Temp (C)	Density (kg/m3)
212	100	958.40
176	80	971.80
140	60	983.20
104	40	992.20
86	30	995.65
77	25	997.05
72	22	997.77
68	20	998.21
59	15	999.10
50	10	999.70
39	4	999.97
32	0	999.84
14	-10	998.12
-4	-20	993.55
-22	-30	983.85

(contributing editor: Dennis Murphy)

NOTICES

This newsletter is YOUR newsletter. If there is ANYTHING you would like to add, whether it be an article, pictures, a story, news or whatever let us know. Editor's contact information is listed below.

Informational Websites

Here are some handy websites full of information for the "savvy" fisherman.

Gunnison Gorge Anglers

gunnisongorgeanglers.tu.org

Trout Unlimited

<http://www.tu.org>

International Federation of Fly Fishers

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org>

Colorado Trout Unlimited

<http://www.coloradotu.org>

Colorado Parks & Wildlife Map Atlas:

<http://www.ndis.nrel.colostate.edu/huntingatlas/>

BLM Gunnison Gorge Information:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/recreation/recreation_areas0/uncompahgre_field/gunnison_gorge_national0.html

USGS Gunnison Gorge River Flow: http://www.waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/uv?site_no=09128000
 USGS Gunnison River Flow at Delta HWY 50 http://www.waterdata.usgs.gov/co/nwis/uv?site_no=09144250
 National Weather Service Forecast Information: <http://www.forecast.weather.gov>

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