

The Fish Tale

February 2026 Newsletter

Gunnison Gorge Anglers

Colorado Trout Unlimited
Fly Fishers International



President's Message

Dear Gunnison Gorge Anglers Members, Volunteers, and Friends, The GGA Board of Directors kicked off the new year with a meeting to reflect on what GGA should focus on in the coming year. The result was a draft 2026 Work Plan (included in newsletter). Dedicated Board members and other volunteers will take the lead on most of these activities. Professional staff from National and Colorado Trout Unlimited will provide technical expertise to help GGA implement activities such as river restoration and youth education. This coming year our goal will be to sponsor more FUN events for our members including a monthly fishing outing, special guest speakers, and great fishing films. GGAs budget has grown substantially over the past several years thanks to several very successful fundraisers. This gives us the opportunity to leverage

our funds as matching contributions for larger grants and secure specialized expertise needed to carry out certain activities in the work plan.

As always, we welcome your comments on the overall direction of GGA and the activities in the draft 2026 work plan. Also, if you are interested in volunteering your time to help out please let me know.

I am optimistic about the year ahead. With a committed Board, more resources, and clear priorities, we are prepared to build on our progress, engage members further, and advance our mission in the year ahead.

Yours in conservation,

John Hamill, President
Gunnison Gorge Anglers
Hamilldsrt50@msn.com

Upcoming Events

- **Flies & Lies - Thursday, February 5th** at CB's Tavern in Delta, CO
- **Flies & Lies - Thursday, February 19th** at Silver Basin Brewing in Montrose, CO
- **International Fly Fishing Film Tour hosted by Grand Valley Anglers - Saturday, February 21st** Avalon Theater in Grand Junction, CO [tickets](#)
- **Flies & Lies - 3rd February event TBD**, stay tuned for more information from Jeff!
- **CTU River Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp - March 1st** [applications](#) due
- **Colorado Trout Unlimited Gala - March 19th** at the Cable Center in Denver, CO [tickets](#)
- **Trout in the Classroom Release - March 25th** at Riverbottom Park in Montrose, CO
- **CTU Spring Rendezvous - April 24th-26th** TBD in Montrose, CO
- **Fly Fishing Film Tour hosted by RIGS Fly Shop to Benefit UWP - April 24th** at the Wright Opera House in Ouray, CO
- **Troutapalooza Online Auction - May 10th-20th** online, live event in September

Projects and Current Events

Gunnison Gorge Anglers is hosting the **Colorado Trout Unlimited Spring Rendezvous** this April 24th - 26th in Montrose. We are finalizing the location and programming now. Stay tuned for more information!

The Montrose Peak Academy and Outer Range School are releasing the trout they have raised through the CTU **Trout in the Classroom** program on March 25th. The release is at Riverbottom Park in Montrose from 8-11 a.m., and GGA will host fly tying and/or casting demos. The students have also organized an Adopt a Trout Fundraiser to purchase a new tank chiller for future TIC generations, \$5 per trout. Cash or check accepted at the event. Email us if you are interested in attending or volunteering!
gunnisongorgeanglersctu@gmail.com

We are looking for lead volunteers to support **Delta Heritage Days and Cottonwood Days**. As many of you know, Ed Kehoe has championed both of these events for many years. We appreciate everything he has done, and will miss his leadership. Delta Heritage Days is a 1 day event with casting demos, fly tying, and a fishing derby. Cottonwood Days is a week-long event in September for area 6th graders to learn about recreating on and caring for public lands. This event has a lot of support, and runs very smoothly with a little pre-planning. Please let us know if you want to get more involved with GGA and youth education.

Applications for the **CTU River Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp** are due March 1st. The camp is in Almont and open to 14-18 year olds. GGA offers 2 annual scholarships to local youths, and applications are open now. [Click here](#) to read more and apply.

Connect with Gunnison Gorge Anglers

Facebook: [Gunnison Gorge Anglers](#)

Instagram: [@gunnisongorgeanglers](#)

Website: <https://gunnisongorgeanglers.tu.org/>

Email: gunnisongorgeanglersctu@gmail.com

Newsletter Submissions: [Google form](#)

CTU Event Calendar: <https://coloradotu.org/events>

THANK YOU SPONSORS



Gunnison River Expeditions
 8949 Pleasure Park Rd
 Hotchkiss, Colorado
 970-872-3232



Service Fly Shop serving the greater Montrose Community
 Gunnison River, Uncompahgre River, Cimarron River
 1325 Mayfly Dr. Montrose CO 81401 - www.montroseanglers.com
 970249-0408 - info@montroseanglers.com



RIGS Fly Shop
 1075 Sherman Street #101
 Ridgway, Colorado 81432
 Phone: 970-626-4460



Ed's Fly Shop
 432 E Main St
 Montrose, CO 81401
 970-372-2395



Abel Reels
 1101 Mayfly Dr
 Montrose, CO 81401
 970-249-0606



Telluride Angler
 121 W. Colorado Ave
 Telluride, CO 81435
 800-831-6230

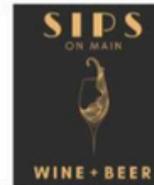
Silver Basin
 Brewing
 147 N 1st St
 Montrose, CO
 81401
 970-249-8689



CB's Tavern
 334 Main St
 Delta, CO 81416
 970 399-3570



Ross Reels
 1101 Mayfly Dr
 Montrose, CO 81401
 970-249-0606



SIPS
 215 W Main St
 Cedaredge, CO 81413
 970-856-5077



Draft GGA 2026 Annual Work Plan from Jan 24, 2026, Board Meeting

<u>Project Category</u>	<u>GGA Lead (TU staff)</u>	<u>Date</u>
Conservation/Restoration (Hamill)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Uncompahgre River- Billy Creek SWA	Hamil, Stortz (Luke)	Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/> San Miguel River Restoration Plan	Marshall (Tanner)	Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/> Clear Fork East Muddy Creek	Hamill (Luke, Nancy)	Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/> Escalante Creek Restoration	Brent Kim, Abel (Luke)	Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/> Uncompahgre River Restoration, City of Montrose	Joel (Luke)	Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/> Pa Co Puk Restoration	Joel (Luke)	Ongoing
Youth Education (Connor)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Cottonwood Days—6th graders day camp	See Note below	Sept
<input type="checkbox"/> Montrose 4th graders Nat Resource Festival	Stan	May
<input type="checkbox"/> The Nature Connection/CTU youth camp	(CTU)	July
<input type="checkbox"/> CTU Almont Fly Fish/Conservation Camp	Claire (CTU)	June
<input type="checkbox"/> Trout in the Classroom (TIC)	(CTU Lead)	Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/> Chipeta Kids Fishing day	Frangos (Rotary Club lead)	May
Events (Connor, Fischer)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Delta Heritage Festival (fishing derby)	See Note below	June
<input type="checkbox"/> Colorado Outdoors Block Party	Fischer	Sep
<input type="checkbox"/> Troutapalloza Online Auction	Marshall, Claire, Duncan	May 10-20
<input type="checkbox"/> Troutapalloza live auction/IF4 Film	Marshall, Duncan, Claire	Sept 23
<input type="checkbox"/> CTU Donor Trip	Hamill/Marshall	Sep 18-20
<input type="checkbox"/> CTU Spring Rendezvous (Host)	Claire/Hamill/Connor (CTU)	Apr 24-26
<input type="checkbox"/> GGA Holiday Party	Claire/Connor	Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> All members Events	Hamill, Connor	Quarterly
Fly Fishing Outings (Fischer, Abel)		
	TBD	Monthly
<input type="checkbox"/> John F, Abel, Claire and Hamill volunteered to lead the monthly fishing outings. John F. and Abel will develop a plan for 2026 outings for Board review and approval. Fishing outings may be combined with the quarterly all member events.		
Administrative and Budget Activities (Stan, Claire)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly budget update	Stan	Quarterly
<input type="checkbox"/> GGA Newsletter	Claire (contributors)	Monthly
<input type="checkbox"/> GGA Tax Filing	Stan	Augus
<input type="checkbox"/> GGA social media and website	Claire	Ongoing

Note:

Cottonwood Days and Delta Heritage Festival.
events.

Volunteers needed to lead/coordinate these