

The Fish Tale

April 2026 Newsletter

Gunnison Gorge Anglers

Colorado Trout Unlimited
Fly Fishers International



President's Message

Dear Gunnison Gorge Anglers Members, Volunteers, and Friends,

"Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not the fish they are after." - Henry David Thoreau

As we start a new fishing season, I sometimes reflect on why fly fishing has such an allure for me. I find that the true reward of fly fishing lies not just in catching fish but in the overall experience of being outdoors on a river surrounded by nature and engaging in a challenging activity that I will never perfect. It offers an escape from my daily life, providing peace, stress relief, and a connection with nature. It's an excuse to explore new rivers and landscapes, and leads to new adventures and fun experiences.

My passion for fly fishing and love of rivers helps explain why I spend so much of my time devoted to an organization like the Gunnison Gorge Anglers. GGA gives me the opportunity to work with others to conserve and protect the rivers and streams that I have grown to love. It gives me the opportunity to pass on the legacy of fly fishing and river conservation to future generations through youth education and engagement.

In this edition of our newsletter, we highlight some of the GGA's activities this past month including a fishing outing on the Uncompahgre River led by Bill Frangos, a long-time member of GGA and exceptional fly fisher. These outings are designed to explore outstanding local waters and connect with fellow anglers who share a passion for fishing and conservation. The next outing is planned for April 11 to Pa-Co-Chu-Puk and will be led by GGA board member John Fischer.

On March 24, at River Bottom Park in Montrose, middle schoolers from Outer Range and Peaks Academy stocked 174 young rainbow trout into the Uncompahgre River. The stocking was the culmination of this school year's Colorado Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom Program. The students raised the trout in a classroom aquarium from eggs to fingerlings. GGA participated in the event by collecting aquatic insects from the river, providing fly tying demonstrations, and fly-casting and fishing instructions for the kids. Around 200 students participated in the event. The next day, students from the Telluride Mountain School held their fish release on the San Miguel River. The third and fourth graders worked hard to raise their trout, and read a heartfelt letter to both parents and attendees from the local angling community. CTU's Trout in the Classroom program is an important aspect of GGA's youth education and outreach, and we appreciate the educators and CTU staff that make it possible. Especially Natalie, Haley, and Audrey.

Yours in conservation,

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

Upcoming Events

- **Flies & Lies - Thursday, April 9th** at Horsefly in Montrose, CO
- **Fly Fishing Outing - Saturday, April 11th** at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk in Ridgway State Park with John Fisher [register here](#)
- **Flies & Lies - Thursday, April 16th** at Silver Basin Brewing in Montrose, CO
- **Flies & Lies - Thursday, April 23rd** at The Topsy Trout in Delta, CO
- **Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) Benefit for the Uncompahgre River - April 24th** at the Wright Opera House in Ouray, CO [tickets](#)
- **CTU Spring Rendezvous - April 24th-26th** in Montrose, CO [tickets](#)
- **The New Fly Fisher Uncompahgre Restoration film - April 25th** 7 p.m. at Shelter Distillery in Montrose, CO, after the CTU Rendezvous social hour
- **Flies & Lies - Thursday, April 30th** at Montrose Anglers in Montrose, CO

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

- **Troutapalooza Online Auction - May 10th-20th** Information and auction at [this link](#) . *The live event will be held September 23rd at the Sheridan Opera House in Telluride. Silent and live auction, door prizes, food and drink, and IF4 showing.*
- **Fly Fishing Outing - Saturday May 16th** at Cerro Summit Reservoir east of Montrose with Abel Sanchez
- Check out the Project Healing Waters newsletter for more events

Projects and Current Events

The **Colorado Trout Unlimited Spring Rendezvous** is this April 24th - 26th in Montrose. This is a great opportunity to meet other Trout Unlimited members and fly fishing enthusiasts from across the state. And to connect with our Colorado Trout Unlimited team that supports GGA's conservation projects, youth education, local events, and more. There will be social events Friday and Saturday evening, educational and council meetings Saturday and Sunday, and fishing outings on Sunday afternoon. Follow [this link](#) for more information and to register.

On April 25th, after the CTU Rendezvous social at Shelter Distillery in Montrose, there will be a showing of The New Fly Fisher episode about restoration work on the Uncompahgre River through Montrose. The showing will be projected outside at Shelter and starts at 7 p.m. It is open to the public and hosted by Ed's Fly Shop, the City of Montrose, and Mayfly Outdoors.

Thank you to all GGA members that showed up and supported, the kids really loved it. Click [here](#) to learn more about Trout in the Classroom.

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>

March 26, 2026

Dear Third and Fourth Graders,

Thank you SO much for taking such good care of us throughout this year in your classroom. We were always happy to see your smiling faces in the morning, especially when you'd share us with your parents. We obviously enjoyed eating all the food you put in our tank (even though one of us clearly ate more than the rest). And, we also loved to see the nervous looks on your faces when you could only count two of us instead of three...it was fun to trick you by hiding under the air stone.

We can't believe, though, that you spent so much time wondering about whether we'd survive! Come on! I mean look at us - we are here, and we are strong, and we are so ready to go into our new home. Hopefully, as you watched us grow (and as you saw many of our egg-mates not make it), you also thought about how many things have to be exactly right to get us to where we are now. Life is amazing! Nature has so many things figured out that people haven't quite figured out yet - that's an important thing to remember as you keep growing up, too. Being here is such a gift!

We also hope that having us in your classroom helped you think about our river, our watershed, and our home in a new way. It is more important than ever to make choices that protect not only our stretch of river and us up here, but the communities and systems downstream, too. We, as trout, are pretty connected to everything that's around us, and we hope you continue to notice that in other ways as you grow.

And last - we hope you never stop looking for trout in the river! The time is always right to slow down and appreciate the beauty and details of what's around you. We, of course, are a small (but important!) piece of that puzzle. But if you look hard enough, you will be able to see us and our new friends and the balance and connections that we hold, too.

Come back to visit us anytime! And if you try to catch us, remember to take the barb off the hook and wet your hands before you pick us up.

We will miss you too!

Love,

Nibbles, Sneaky, and Tiny

PS Thank you, Bella, for giving us names!



*A letter from Telluride's trout to the students



***Montrose Trout in the Classroom release**

THANK YOU SPONSORS



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Service Fly Shop serving the greater Montrose Community
 Gunnison River, Uncompahgre River, Cimarron River
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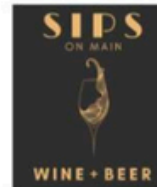
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 Brewing
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CB's Tavern
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