

The Fish Tale

October 2026 Newsletter

Gunnison Gorge Anglers

Colorado Trout Unlimited
Fly Fishers International



President's Message

Dear Gunnison Gorge Anglers Members, Volunteers, and Friends,

September was a productive month for GGA, beginning with the Colorado Outdoors Block Party. At this annual community open house, organizations and businesses based at the Colorado Outdoors complex in Montrose showcase their work. GGA staffed a booth to answer questions about local fishing opportunities, recruit new members, and provide fly-casting instruction.

Throughout September, we continued to focus on Gunnison River conservation. This summer, the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) decision to reduce flows through the Black Canyon and Gunnison Gorge below the decreed minimum of 300 cubic feet per second contributed to unhealthy river conditions and elevated water temperatures. Water

temperatures have improved recently, but flows are now 209 cubic feet per second and are expected to stay at that level until at least next March.

Last month, GGA and TU staff met with BOR staff and other water users to share our concerns and recommend practical ways to meet agricultural water needs in the Uncompahgre River Valley while maintaining healthy flow and temperature conditions through the Black Canyon and the Gunnison Gorge. Changing current water-management practices will be legally, technically, and politically complex, requiring long-term involvement from GGA and TU. In the coming months, we will continue discussions with BOR, water-user groups, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the State of Colorado to try to ensure that this year's operation of the Aspinall Unit does not set a precedent for future Gunnison River flow management decisions.

On September 24th, GGA and Telluride Outside hosted Troutapalooza, GGA's annual fundraising benefit and auction, at the Sheridan Opera House in downtown Telluride. The event included a screening of the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (IF4) and live and silent auctions featuring exclusive guided fishing trips, high-end rods and reels, and luxury amenity packages. Troutapalooza continues to raise tens of thousands of dollars for river restoration, fish-habitat improvements, and educational programs across all of our rivers. (The Uncompahgre, Gunnison, San Miguel, Cimarron, and North Fork of the Gunnison Rivers.) Special thanks to everyone who participated in the auction, and to John Duncan of Telluride Outside, Marshall Pendergrass, and Claire Barker of GGA for making the event a success.

For the past 25 years, GGA has participated in Cottonwood Days, an annual youth education program sponsored by the Delta County School District, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Colorado Canyons Association. This year's event took place September 28–October 2 at Gunnison Forks (next to Pleasure Park) on the Gunnison River. Approximately 300 sixth-grade students from Delta County and the North Fork Valley learned about the natural and cultural resources of the Gunnison Gorge NCA and how to be good stewards of our public lands and rivers. GGA's portion of the program focused on aquatic macroinvertebrates, river ecology, fly tying, and fly casting. Spending time in the field with students away from their cell phones is always fun and full of surprises. It is also encouraging to see so many young people with a strong interest in science, conserving public lands and rivers, and the joy of fly fishing. Thank you to all past, current, and future volunteers for supporting youth education.

Finally, I would like to highlight three upcoming events for all GGA members and the general public:

1. This Friday, October 9 at 5 p.m. will be GGA's annual end of Summer Bash at River Bottom Park in Montrose. It's all about celebrating another wonderful year, having fun,

eating Chuck Shaver's famous BBQ, and meeting fellow GGA and TU members. Shelter Distillery is providing the beer, and best of all, it's all free! Please RSVP [here](#) . [_____](#)

2. Thursday, November 12th will be the annual All Members' Meeting at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse in Montrose from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. There will be a couple of guest speakers, a summary of GGA's accomplishments and challenges moving forward. It is also an important meeting where GGA members elect a new Board of Directors and Executive Officers. Please plan to attend and RSVP [here](#) .

3. Finally, please mark your calendar for the GGA annual holiday party and silent auction on December 3rd. Once again, this year's event will be held at the Cobble Creek Clubhouse. More details will follow.

Yours in conservation,

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

Upcoming Events

- **GGA's "Summer" Bash - October 9th** at Baldrige Park in Montrose. Free event for GGA members, RSVP [here](#) (RSVP required).
- **Ed's Fly Shop Customer Appreciation Day - October 9th** at Ed's Fly Shop from 9-3. There will be fly tying and give aways, a lot of good sales, and fun with friends. Ed wanted to make sure all of the TU folks were invited!
- **Flies & Lies - October 15th** at the Topsy Trout Taproom in Delta, 6-8 p.m.
- **Flies & Lies - October 29th** at Montrose Anglers in Montrose, 6-8 p.m.
- **Flies & Lies - November 5th** at Horsefly Brewing in Montrose, 6-8 p.m.
- **All Member Meeting - November 12th** at Cobble Creek Country Club in Montrose. There will be a conservation project presentation and annual chapter business. RSVP [here](#).
- **Flies & Lies - November 19th** at the Topsy Trout Taproom in Delta, 6-8 p.m.
- **Holiday Party - December 3rd** at Cobble Creek Country Club. Stay tuned for details.

Other News and Current Events

The Colorado Trout Unlimited Rendezvous is November 6-8th at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs, CO. The Rendezvous is an annual gathering of chapter members, volunteers, staff, and partners from across the state. Whether you have been involved

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

for years or are just getting started, Rendezvous is a great opportunity to learn more, meet people from across the state, and find new ways to get involved with TU. Learn more and register [here](#) .

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped make this year's Troutapalooza a huge success. Troutapalooza is the reason we are able to host events, engage in conservation activities, teach fly fishing education, and support other great organizations, like Project Healing Waters.

Please reach out to John Hamill or Claire Barker by November 1st if you are interested in joining the GGA board, or have questions about it.

If you are an outfitter interested in advocating for the Lower Gunnison and partnering your voice with GGA/CTU/TU, reach out to Claire at lcb96c@gmail.com .

Want to get involved with GGA? Let us know! Send us an email to gunnisongorgeanglersctu@gmail.com and let us know how you would like to be involved. This fall we plan to fill a few board positions, and we are always looking for volunteers at our youth education events. Teaching fly tying, casting, helping set up and break down events, and advocating for our rivers are just a few of the ways to support our local rivers.

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>



Top right: Steve with his Troutapalooza donated original artwork. John D. with the crowd. TIC student projects on display at the Sheridan.



Bottom left: Cottonwood Day volunteers and the CPW stocking truck we spotted at the boat ramp.



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



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 Ridgway, Colorado 81432
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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
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CB's Tavern
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 Delta, CO 81416
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