The Fish Tale
November 2026 Newsletter
Gunnison Gorge Anglers

Colorado Trout Unlimited
Fly Fishers International

President's Message

Dear Gunnison Gorge Anglers Members, Volunteers, and Friends,

In October we were excited to welcome rainbow trout eggs to all of our area's Trout in the Classroom sites (Panoia, Montrose, and Telluride). Each class received 200 eggs and students will learn about cold water conservation while raising the trout during this school year. They will work with CPW this spring to release the fry into the North Fork, Uncomahgre, and San Miguel Rivers. Read more about Trout in the Classroom here , and contact Claire for information about starting TIC at your school.

Next week is the annual All Member Meeting on Thursday, November 12th at the Cobble Creek Country Club. Please join us for a Trout in the Classroom student presentation, a summary of GGA's 2026 activities and accomplishments, a local

fisheries update from CPW, and a discussion about GGA and TU's efforts for the Lower Gunnison River. While air temperatures have provided water temperature relief for fish this fall, the fight to protect flows on the Gunnison is ongoing.

There is one important action item at this year's meeting: approving the 2027 Board of Directors and Executive Officers. The agenda and nomination slate are attached to this newsletter. There are still available positions, and nominations will be accepted from the floor. Please let me know if you are interested in serving on the board or have questions about the commitment. The 2026 board and I look forward to seeing you all there. Light snacks and a cash bar will be available.

Yours in conservation,

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

Upcoming Events

- **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 at 6 p.m. RSVP here .
- **Flies & Lies - November 19th** at the Tipsy Trout Taproom in Delta, 6-8 p.m.
- **Holiday Party - December 3rd** at Cobble Creek Country Club. Tickets available here . The menu and program are TBD.

Other News and Current Events

Please join us at the All Member Meeting Thursday, November 12th at the Cobble Creek Country Club at 6 p.m. RSVP here .

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 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 .

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









Trout in the Classroom eggs from Montrose and Telluride

New faces try fly fishing

Chipeta in the fall with an American Coot





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

AGENDA

GUNNISON GORGE ANGLERS All MEMBERS MEETING

November 12, 2026, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Cobble Creek Club House, 699 Cobble Dr., Montrose

***GGA Mission** : to conserve, protect, and restore cold water fisheries and their watersheds, and educate the publicabout itsmission. To achieve this mission, the Chapter engages in a broad range of activities that span conservation, education and fishing.*

5:30 pm Social, Appetizers and Drinks

6:00 pm Convene Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions (John Hamill, President GGA)

2. Review of GGA and TU 2026 activities, accomplishments, and budget (Hamill) (20 min)

3. Trout in the Classroom -Doug Echer and Peaks Academy students (20 min)

4. GGA Volunteer of the Year (John Hamill) (5 min)

5. Nominate/Elect 2027 GGA Board and Executive Officers (All TU-GGA Members) (15 min)

6. GGA/TU efforts to address the impacts of low flows and high-water temperatures on the Gunnison River trout fishery (Cary Denison, Cow Creek Consulting, 30 min)

7. Update on local fisheries and related management activities (Eric Guardino, Montrose Area Aquatic Biologist, 20 min)

8. Member and Public Comments (10 minutes)

8:00 pm Adjourn Meeting

Attachments

2027 Nomination Slate

2027 GGA Board of Director's Officers and Nomination Slate.

Article IV Section 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than three (3) non-officer members and the officers and no more than 12 members (including officers). Each Officer and non-officer Director shall serve a two-year term, with Directors' terms staggered to provide for continuity. The immediate past President shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for the term of his or her successor. All Directors and Officers shall be current members of Trout Unlimited. Consult the GGA bylaws for the duties of Board Members and the Executive Officers.

2026 Officers
President: **Connor Visser**
Vice President: **Vacant**
Treasurer: **Vacant**
Secretary: **vacant**
Immediate Past President: John Hamill (non-voting)

2026 Board Members:
John Fischer (extend term)
Marshall Pendergrass (Extend Term)
Able Sanchez (year 2)
Al Rit (year 1)- biography attached
Lee Pillaro (year 1)

Contractor Staff Support
Claire Barker - administrative support, marketing, events, social media, web service, newsletter
Cary Denison, Cow Creek Consulting –Gunnison River flows

Biography--Al Ritt

Al has fished as long as he can remember. Growing up in southern Michigan he fished primarily for warm water species but was fascinated with trout and trout flies. He recalls making "flies" including forming his own "hooks" out of pipe cleaners. He took his first formal tying class in 1983 after moving to California. He's tied flies and fly fished for trout, grayling, bass, pike, panfish, catfish, carp, steelhead, salmon, bonefish, permit, snook, tarpon, redfish and other species.

Currently Al and his wife Diana own and operate Al Ritt Flies and Al works part time for Montrose Anglers. Al and Diana are fly tying demonstrators and domestic/international destination travel hosts. Their hosted trips include destinations in Alaska, Quebec, British Columbia, Oregon, Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Mexico and Belize. Al is also a fly-tying instructor, a member of Trout Unlimited, a life member of Fly Fishers International (FFI) and a life member the FFI Fly Tying Group. Al currently serves on the FTG Board of Governors and has worked on committees developing the Fly-Tying Video Library and Fly-Tying Skills Award Program. His current board activities include serving as a member of the Fly Tier Instructor Program committee.

Al has taught fly tying classes independently and through local fly shops in Longmont, Loveland, Montrose CO, Dexter MI and many shows and expos in the US and Canada. He has led fly tying clubs in Longmont, Loveland and Montrose.

As a demonstration tier Al has appeared at numerous fly shops and expos including The Fly Fishing Show (in Denver CO, Somerset NJ, Edison NJ, Lynnwood WA and Pleasanton CA), The International Fly Tyer's Symposium in Somerset NJ, the International Sportsman's Expo in Denver CO, the FFI Annual Fly Fishing Fair (in Loveland CO, West Yellowstone MT, Livingston MT, Boise ID and Spokane WA), The Western Canadian Fly Fishing Expo in Calgary AB, The International Sportsman's Expo (Denver, CO), New Mexico TU Fly Tying Expo in Albuquerque NM, East Idaho FFI Fly Tying Expo in Idaho Falls ID, Black Canyon Fly Fishing Show in Montrose CO, Western Colorado Fly Tying Expo in Grand Junction CO, West Denver TU Fly Tying Expo in Golden CO, FFI Southern Council Conclave and Sowbug Round-Up in Mountain Home AR, the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo in Warren MI, Rocky Mountain Flycasters (Ft. Collins, CO), St Vrain Angler's Trout Unlimited (Longmont, CO) and The Fly Tying Rendezvous (Denver, CO).

- Al is the 2022 FFI Buz Buszek recipient
- Al has received the FFI bronze, silver and gold fly Fly Tying Skills Awards
- Al is author of the book 25 Best Most Versatile Flies (*Stonefly Press*)
- Al has written articles for *Fly Fusion, Fly Fishing and Tying Journal, Fly Tyer* , *Hatches, Flyfishing Journal* and the FFI FTG newsletter
- Al was profiled in *Colorado Trout Flies; Great Patterns and the Remarkable People Who Tie Them* by Todd Hosman (Streamside Press), *The Master's Fly Box* by David Klausmeyer (Globe Pequot) and contributed tips for *Better Flies Faster* by David Klausmeyer (Stackpole Books)
- Al has patterns featured in *100 Best Flies for Montana Trout* by Thomas R Pero (Wild River Press), *Modern Midges* by Rick Takahashi and Jerry Hubka (Headwater Books), *100 Best Flies for Colorado Trout* by Thomas R Pero (Wild River Press), *100 Best Flies for Montana Trout* by Thomas R Pero (Wild River Press), *A Fly Fisher's Guide to Rocky Mountain National Park* by Steven B Schwietzer (Pixachrome Publishing), *101 Favorite Dry Flies* by David Klausmeyer (Skyhorse Publishing), *101 Saltwater Flies* by David Klausmeyer (Skyhorse Publishing), *Flies for the Greater Yellowstone Area* by Bruce Staples (Stackpole Books), *Super Bass Flies* by Pat Cohen (Skyhorse Publishing), *Tying Heritage Featherwing Streamers* by Sharon Wright (Stackpole Books) and *All Fish All Waters* (Fly Fishers International Fly Tying Group)

Contact Information:

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al@alrittflies.com