GUNNISON GORGE ANGLERS All MEMBERS MEETING

AGENDA

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 public about its mission.** 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

- Door prize awarded to attendee with the best fish shirt. Show up early and show up in style!
- Drinks and snacks provided. Cash bar available.

6:00 pm Convene Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions - John Hamill, President GGA (5 min.)
2. Review of GGA and TU 2026 activities, accomplishments, and budget - John Hamill (15 min.)
    - Priorities for 2027 - Connor Visser, Vice President (5 min.)
3. Trout in the Classroom - Doug Echer and Peaks Academy students (20 min.)
4. Budget Update - Stan Hayes, Treasurer (5 min.)
5. GGA Volunteer of the Year - John Hamill (5 min.)
6. Nominate/Elect 2027 GGA Board and Executive Officers - All TU-GGA Members (15 min.)
7. 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.)
8. Member and Public Comments (10 minutes or until 8 p.m.)

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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