



Tamarisk Coalition Newsletter

December 2009

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2010 Tamarisk Symposium

The 2010 Tamarisk Symposium is rapidly approaching! Join us January 12 & 13 in Grand Junction, CO for the latest information on tamarisk biocontrol, revegetation, tamarisk and wildlife issues, restoration projects and tamarisk water use. We will also be featuring a panel on “Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery in the Presence of Diorhabda” which we hope will generate productive discussion on this critical issue. The Symposium will be a great opportunity to network with others working on tamarisk issues. Don’t miss this important meeting! Registration is \$135 for Tamarisk Coalition members, \$150 for non-members, and includes a catered lunch on both days. Student registration rates are available. Register by December 31, 2009 to avoid paying a late registration fee. Please check out the Symposium website to view the schedule and to register: [Tamarisk Symposium website](#).

Thank You for Rising to Meet the Fundraising Challenge!

Thank you to everyone who was able to renew their memberships and submit contributions for the matching donation challenge. An anonymous donor offered to match every dollar raised by the Tamarisk Coalition from October to December 18. We were able, through your generous support, to raise approximately \$2,234 which amounts to \$4,468 with the match! Also, since this campaign was done entirely over email, we saved money on advertising and mailing costs. The Tamarisk Coalition would like to graciously thank everyone who took the time to donate. Your support enables Tamarisk Coalition to pursue our mission to provide education and technical support for riparian restoration. The more non-discretionary funds raised, the more opportunity we have to help organizations, land managers and other agencies in providing the assistance they need to be successful with restoration. If you missed the deadline for the challenge, your donations are still appreciated. Remember, because the Tamarisk Coalition is a 501(c)3 non-profit, your donation is tax deductible. Please mail contributions to the Tamarisk Coalition at PO Box 1907, Grand Junction, CO 81502.

Colorado River Basin Tamarisk and Russian Olive Assessment Available

Meet the Staff

Stacy Kolegas
Executive Director



Tim Carlson
Research and Policy Director



Clark Tate
Restoration Ecologist



Meredith Swett Walker
Science and Outreach
Coordinator



Levi Jamison
Biocontrol Ecologist

The Tamarisk Coalition is proud to announce the release of the Colorado River Basin Tamarisk and Russian Olive Assessment. The seven states that span the Colorado River basin commissioned the Tamarisk Coalition to perform a comprehensive assessment of tamarisk and Russian olive including: current conditions, distribution, the state-of-the-science, the range of information available on impacts, control and management techniques, restoration, potential sources of funding, and gaps in current knowledge where additional research is appropriate. In addition the Tamarisk Coalition was asked to develop a list of potential tamarisk and Russian olive control demonstration projects for submittal to the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation for consideration for federal funding pursuant to the *Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act*. If you are interested in reading the report, keep an eye on our website where we will be posting the text of the report as a pdf soon or you may call us and request the report on DVD.



Tamarisk Coalition Fall Rafting Trip a Great Success!

In October, the Tamarisk Coalition partnered with the Sierra Club to lead a service trip through Cataract Canyon. The trip was chartered through OARS, a top commercial rafting company. The U.S. Park Service identified Spanish Bottom, as a high priority for tamarisk removal. The area is just below the confluence of the Green and Colorado Rivers and is the last high-use camping area before the rapids of Cataract Canyon.

A group of twenty Sierra Club members were guided by Jim Geltz from the Sierra Club, Sarahlee Lawrence from the Tamarisk Coalition, Kyler Carpenter from the Park Service, two sawyers and six OARS river guides. Together they hauled brush and logs, winched stumps out of the ground, raked, sawed, picked, and shoveled. In two full days of work, they managed to clear three large campsites at Spanish Bottom. These tamarisk-free campsites will be much more hospitable to river-runners and reduce the



Christy Duncan
Business Administrator



Sarahlee Lawrence
Education Intern



risk of fire.

The trip will run again October 3-8, 2010! Visit the Sierra Club website: www.sierraclub.org/outings/ click on National and International outings and type in trip number 10337.



Shannon Hatch



Rebecca Carlson

New Faces at the Tamarisk Coalition

The Tamarisk Coalition is excited to welcome two new staff members, Rebecca Carlson and Shannon Hatch, who we recently hired as restoration coordinators.

Rebecca has always had a deep connection with western river systems: she grew up in Grand Junction playing on the Colorado River, was a collegiate rower on the Snake River and later worked on a cattle ranch along the Yampa River. After earning her Bachelor's in Landscape Architecture from Washington State University, she interned for the Nature Conservancy on the Carpenter Ranch engaging in hands-on restoration. With a new fervor for land stewardship, she headed to the University of Wisconsin-Madison to pursue her master's degree with a dual focus in ecological restoration and community-based development. She was asked to assist the TC on the planning and design of the Watson Island Restoration Plan in the fall of 2008 and is thrilled to be back in action.

After a peripatetic existence working in various capacities for the National Park Service and the US Forest Service, Shannon moved back to her home state of Colorado in 2008. Following two seasons with a local land trust, Shannon joined the Tamarisk Coalition in 2010, excited to be working in a position combining weeds, water and the Wild West. She received a MS in Environmental Science with an emphasis in rangeland ecology from the University of Idaho.

Thank you to Janet Clark

The Tamarisk Coalition would like to thank Janet Clark, who is leaving her position on the Board of Directors. Her dedicated service for the past two years has been extremely valuable. Her role with the Center for Invasive Plant Management has fostered a strong partnership with the Tamarisk Coalition. We wish Janet the best in her career and new pursuits. Thank you!



Revegetation at Island Acres

Tamarisk Coalition volunteers turned out in full force in late October to help restore native vegetation at the James M. Robb Colorado River State Park at Island Acres. The project was a joint effort between the Western Colorado Conservation Corps, the Tamarisk Coalition and Colorado State Parks. Volunteers and the Conservation Corps removed invasive tamarisk and Russian olive and planted over 250 native plants including three-leaf sumac, rabbitbrush and buffalo berry using an exciting new product. Even native, drought tolerant plants need a little help getting established when planted as transplants. In areas that lack irrigation, getting water to these plants can be challenging. We used a non-toxic, bio-degradable gel that gradually releases water to plants as it is broken down by soil bacteria. This is one of the first applications of this type of product in the Grand Valley and we are anxious to check on our plants next Spring! Many thanks to all our hard working volunteers and generous project sponsors: Williams Energy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Bacon Family Foundation.

Announcements

January 19th, 2010: Beetle Monitoring Presentation in Page, AZ (7:00 p.m. AZ time, Glen Canyon Dam Carl Hayden Visitor Center)

The Tamarisk Coalition and the Colorado Dept. Of Agriculture will discuss the results of their third year of monitoring the distribution of the tamarisk leaf beetle, *Diorhabda spp.* in the Colorado River Watershed. Surveys monitored beetle populations along the Colorado, Dolores, Escalante Green, Gunnison, San Juan, Virgin and White Rivers as well as other major tributaries. Spreading rapidly across the region, the tamarisk leaf beetle has now been established over nearly half of the Colorado Plateau. This presentation will include a description of *Diorhabda spp.* and their interaction with tamarisk, maps of beetle population locations in 2009 and a discussion on the beetle's place in the ecosystem.

Water Course Coming in January!

The Mesa County Water Association invites community leaders and interested citizens to attend a 3-evening "Water 101" course. The Water Course, held from 6-9pm on Tues 1/19, Wed 1/27, and Tues 2/2, will provide an introduction to water law, water quality and the challenges of balancing competing water demands. Special attention will be given to water issues in the Grand Valley, including how Grand Valley water rights relate to Denver and California rights; who is responsible for irrigation water after it leaves a canal; and how our local drinking water is protected and treated. We have applied for accreditation to provide continuing realtor and legal education credits for course participants. Full details are available at <http://www.mesacountywater.org> or by calling Hannah Holm at 683-1133.

The Tamarisk Coalition wishes you Happy Holidays and a Fantastic New Year!

