



# Tamarisk Coalition Newsletter

September 2010

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## Board of Directors

*President* - Dan Bean Ph.D.  
*Vice President* – Sue Bellagamba  
*Secretary* - Peter Culp  
*Treasurer* - Steve Harris  
Anna Sher, Ph.D.  
Susan Metzger  
Terry Nelson  
Chris Ritzi, Ph.D.  
*Advisor* - Jean Van Pelt

## Contact Us

tamariskcoalition.org  
(970) 256-7400  
P.O. Box 1907  
Grand Junction, CO 81502

## **Greetings from the Tamarisk Coalition!**

With September rolling in, our field season is wrapping up and we have lots to share and look forward to in the coming months. First, the Tamarisk Coalition would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for contributing to the Tamarisk Coalition over the last few months. Your investment is ever important for helping us provide the education and assistance that is valued across the west. Thank you!

**\*\*John Gribben, Steve Pawlack, Peter Culp, William Neill, Sean Damitz/Utah Conservation Corps, Amy Cutts, Dick Stephenson, John Martin, Bruce Wilcox/Imperial Irrigation District, Jodi Downs/Dolores Soil Conservation District, Susan Rose/Colorado State University Extension Office, Dean Mair, Lee Rimel, Lynnel Pollock/Cache Creek Conservancy, Mesa County Commissioners, The Colorado Riverfront Foundation, The Freddie Mac Foundation, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Grand Valley, Jan Dorsey, Dan Bean and Zeynep Ozsoy, and the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.\*\***

## **There is a new way to contribute to the Tamarisk Coalition!**

**The Tamarisk Coalition now has the capability to accept donations and membership payments online.** Just look for the “Become a Member” and “Donate Now!” buttons on [www.tamariskcoalition.org](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org). Payments are processed through a secure credit card system. We still accept check/cash contributions. Please let us know if you have any questions for feedback. Thank you for your ongoing support and investment!



Starting **September 9<sup>th</sup>**, we will be giving away these handy **Tamarisk Coalition thermoses** to anyone who contributes \$75 or above either through a donation or membership. Gifts are limited, so please donate soon! See the website for more information [www.tamariskcoalition.org/BecomeaMember.html](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/BecomeaMember.html)

## **Tamarisk Leaf Beetle Distribution Presentations**

The Tamarisk Coalition and our many partners are concluding the 2010 tamarisk leaf beetle monitoring season. We would like to thank all of the organizations who have helped to collect data and fund this effort. These organizations include: Western Navajo Agency, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Kaibab Paiute Tribe, National Park Service, New Mexico State University, Northern Arizona University, Telluride Foundation, University of California Santa Barbara, USGS, Walton Family Foundation, and Wick Kenny Foundation. Over the next few months, the Tamarisk Coalition will be coordinating public

## Meet the Staff

**Stacy Kolegas**  
Executive Director



**Tim Carlson**  
Research and Policy Director



**Clark Tate**  
Restoration Ecologist



**Nate Ament**  
Restoration Ecologist



**Meredith Swett Walker**  
Science Coordinator



**Rebecca Carlson**  
Restoration Coordinator



presentations around the Colorado Plateau in order to distribute this information. Presentations will be happening in towns across Colorado, Utah, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona. Dates, times and locations will be updated frequently on the Tamarisk Coalition website. Stay tuned!

## Board of Directors News

*Retirements:* The TC would like to thank two Board members, Tom Dudley and Ty Fain, for their dedicated service to the Tamarisk Coalition over the past few years. We have valued their expertise and enthusiasm. Their guidance in the organization's mission has provided the Tamarisk Coalition with opportunities to move forward and engage other regions in the West. We appreciate all they have done!

Jean Van Pelt will be taking a temporary break from the Board of Directors and will be stepping into an advisory role for the next few months.

*Officers:* The Tamarisk Coalition is pleased to announce the following new line-up of Board officers.

**President** - Dan Bean, Colorado Department of Agriculture

**Vice President** - Sue Bellagamba, The Nature Conservancy, UT

**Treasurer** - Steve Harris, Rio Grande Restoration, NM

**Secretary** - Peter Culp, Squires Sanders and Dempsey, AZ

We would like to recognize Anna Sher for her accomplishments while serving as the Board President. Anna has given much time and provided excellent leadership for the Tamarisk Coalition over the past four years. Her knowledge, experience and vision have helped to lay a strong foundation for the Coalition's future. We are constantly learning from her accomplishments in the realm of restoration, tamarisk, and leadership, among others. We appreciate everything she has done for the Tamarisk Coalition. Thanks, Anna!

## Staff News

We would like to wish Levi Jamison luck in his new journey to graduate school. Levi officially started graduate school this fall at the University of Arizona. Levi has played a critical role in monitoring the distribution of the tamarisk leaf beetle. We appreciate all of his hard work and look forward to working with him in his new capacity. Good luck, Levi!



## Seed Collection Training Held in Western Colorado

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the Tamarisk Coalition, in partnership with the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center (UCEPC), hosted a seed collection training near Grand Junction, Colorado. Fifteen attendees from three western states and eleven different agencies participated in the training. Steve Parr from the UCEPC lead the training, with assistance from three other plant center staff.

The morning was spent in the classroom, learning the basics of seed collection, documentation and storage. In the afternoon site visits were made to Orchard Mesa

**Shannon Hatch**  
Restoration Coordinator



**Christy Duncan**  
Business Administrator



**Sarahlee Lawrence**  
Education Intern



**Pat Hickey**  
Policy Research Intern



**Summer Interns**  
Season Martin



**Bill Cooper**



**Jesse Lanci**



Terri Blank (L) and Heather Plumb (R) from the UCEPC work with Ralph Swanson (C) to collect alkali sacaton seed.

Wildlife Area and a location along Plateau Creek, to the east of Palisade. Participants were able to look at seed from a number of species in varying stages of development. Collections were made of skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*) and alkali sacaton (*Sporobolus airoides*).

The Tamarisk Coalition has been working with the UCEPC, by way of funding from the Colorado Healthy

Rivers Fund and the Central Utah Project Completion Act, to grow, from seed a number of locally adapted riparian species in tallpots. Tallpots, which are up to 30" deep, allow the development of root systems capable of reaching subsurface soil moisture, greatly increasing plant survival. Ultimately, the Tamarisk Coalition and the UCEPC hope to disseminate knowledge about this method and its utility for growing native plants to commercial growers in the region. This training greatly increased the Tamarisk Coalition's and its partners' knowledge in how to correctly collect and process seed for this on-going project.

If you missed out on the this year's seed collection training, but want to learn more about riparian restoration, don't miss out on our free riparian planting training workshop to be held November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 in Grand Junction. Participants will learn from the experts at the Los Lunas Plant Material Center how to plant cottonwood and willow pole cuttings and tallpot products. Contact Shannon at [shatch@tamariskcoalition.org](mailto:shatch@tamariskcoalition.org) or see our website, [www.tamariskcoalition.org](http://www.tamariskcoalition.org), for more information.

### **New Option for Mechanical Control of Woody Invasive Plants**

Manufactured by the Canadian company Torrent Technical Inc., the EX40 mulcher attachment may provide landowners with a new tamarisk and Russian olive biomass removal option. Attached to an excavator, the mulcher can turn a medium sized tree into mulch in seconds. A tree up to 10" in diameter can be processed in 3 minutes.



A landowner in Mack, Colorado, recently purchased an EX40 mulcher, one of the handful currently available in the United States. He runs the mulcher on a Kubota KX080 excavator. The KX08 is highly maneuverable, allowing the operator to be extremely selective in thinning operations.

The boom arm on the excavator can clear a swath with up to 50' radius from a single point, enabling work on overhangs and steeper terrain. Running on rubber tracks, the machine exerts little pressure on the soil, keeping disturbance to a minimum and greatly reducing soil impaction. The mulch generated by the Torrent mulching head is finer than mulch produced by other attachments, which may help facilitate restoration efforts by producing a thin layer of mulch to inhibit secondary weed growth. The mulcher could be effective when used in concert with biological control efforts (i.e. removal of standing dead tamarisk biomass).

Questions/inquires can be directed to Stan Young at: 970.216.8112. More information on Torrent mulchers can be found at: [www.torrenttechnical.com](http://www.torrenttechnical.com).

## ***Upcoming Events and Training***

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### **The Landscape Ecology of Tamarisk: 2011 Research Conference**


February 16 & 17 – Tucson, AZ

Visit: <http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/2011ResearchConference.html>

**Abstract Submission Deadline: October 1, 2010**



**Society for Ecological Restoration:** 4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration, August 21-25, 2011 Mérida, Mexico. More info: <http://www.ser2011.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2010/08/SER2011-First-Announcement.pdf>

**Join the Tamarisk Coalition on an extraordinary trip through Cataract Canyon!**  
April 17 – 22, 2011  
Departing from Moab, UT



**Support efforts to manage tamarisk on the Colorado River!**  
Experience the breathtaking scenery and whitewater adventure while learning about the magnificent Colorado River from experts in river system health.

Register at O.A.R.S. at [www.oars.com](http://www.oars.com)  
Email [slawrence@tamariskcoalition.org](mailto:slawrence@tamariskcoalition.org) for details  
Cost: \$1,564 adult/\$1,465 youth (17 years and younger)  
Proceeds benefit the Tamarisk Coalition



### **FREE Riparian Planting Training Workshop – Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> & Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>**

Presented by the Tamarisk Coalition, in partnership with NRCS, Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center, Los Lunas Plant Material Center & Mesa County, CO in **Grand Junction, Colorado**

**Same Training Each Day, RSVP Required:** Please RSVP by November 15 to Shannon at [shatch@tamariskcoalition.org](mailto:shatch@tamariskcoalition.org) or call 970.256.7400.