



Tamarisk Coalition Newsletter

July 2009

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Incoming and Outgoing Board Members

The Tamarisk Coalition would like to thank Rick Enstrom for his dedicated service on the Tamarisk Coalition Board of Directors. We would like to wish Rick Enstrom luck in his new pursuits. Rick was a valuable member of the Board for many years and will be missed.

The Tamarisk Coalition is pleased to welcome both Peter Culp and Sue Bellagamba to the Board of Directors. Peter practices water, natural resources, environmental and Tribal law at Squires, Sanders and Dempsey in Phoenix, AZ. Peter has extensive experience working on Colorado River water issues with various organizations including in the U.S. and Mexico.

Sue is the Canyonlands Regional Director for The Nature Conservancy based out of Moab, UT. One of her project areas includes Colorado River restoration. Sue has a long history of running rivers and is looking forward to teaming up with the Tamarisk Coalition.

Fundraising Campaign

The Tamarisk Coalition is still seeking your support for our annual fundraising campaign. We are making progress. However, the success of our volunteer, education, biocontrol monitoring, and other programs depends on your contributions. Your contribution will be applied to your annual membership. Thank you for valuing the Tamarisk Coalition and our commitment to the restoration of riparian lands through technical assistance and education. Please see the attached membership form for additional information. Thank you for making riparian health, restoration and education a priority.

Colorado Water Conservation Board Tamarisk and Russian Olive Grant Program Awards

In May, the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) approved recommendations to award tamarisk and Russian olive management grants to projects throughout the State of Colorado. The types of projects that were awarded funding include tamarisk and Russian olive removal and native revegetation. The following programs/organizations received funding (organized by watershed):

Platte and Republican Watersheds

- Boulder County Parks & Open Space Boulder County Collaborative TRO \$85,000
- Sedgwick County Cons. Dist. TRO Removal, Wildlife Approval \$10,000
- Weld County Weed Div. TRO - Cache La Poudre River \$30,000
- Yuma County Pest Control Dist. Republican River Watershed Riparian Restoration \$100,000

Meet the Staff

Stacy Kolegas
Executive Director



Tim Carlson
Research and Policy
Director



John Heideman
Community Liaison



Clark Tate
Restoration Ecologist



Nate Ament
Restoration Ecologist



Arkansas River Watershed

- Southeastern Colorado Water Cons. Dist. ARKWIPP Riparian Restoration \$150,000
- Bent Cons. Dist. Bent CD TRO \$85,600
- Branson-Trinchera Cons. Dist. Purgatoire River Watershed Riparian Restoration \$100,000
- Sangre de Cristo RC&D Upper Arkansas Watershed Riparian Restoration \$75,000

San Juan and Dolores River Watersheds

- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Ute Mountain Tribe TRO \$75,000
- Dolores Cons. Dist. McElmo Creek Tamarisk Removal \$25,000
- The Nature Conservancy Dolores Restoration \$100,000

Colorado and White/Yampa River Watersheds

- Delta County Noxious Weed Program Delta County River Restoration \$40,000
- City of Grand Junction Watson Island Complex Restoration \$100,000
- Western Colorado Conservation Corps Island Acres TRO \$10,000

Chevron Supports Watson Island Restoration

The Tamarisk Coalition is pleased to announce that Chevron is providing another generous donation in support of the Watson Island Restoration Project. The Tamarisk Coalition has been working in collaboration with the City of Grand Junction, who owns the property, to control invasive weeds such as tamarisk and Russian olive and to plan for revegetation of native plants. Chevron's generous contribution of \$50,000 builds upon a separate donation made in 2008 to support restoration efforts on the island.

This year's contribution from Chevron was also used by the City of Grand Junction as the matching component to a \$100,000 grant award from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The ability to leverage additional funding has been an important component of this project, which is expected to be completed by the end of 2010.

In addition to helping to start the revegetation component of this project, the Chevron funding will help to support other Mesa County organizations such as the Western Colorado Conservation Corps. The WCCC's skilled sawyer crews have been essential in clearing the tamarisk and Russian olive on the main island.

The Watson Island complex is formed by a braided stretch of the Colorado River and hosts a meandering nature trail system. The property is located off Highway 50 behind the Western Colorado Botanic Gardens and covers approximately 70 acres, most of which is infested with invasive trees such as tamarisk and Russian olive. Tamarisk and Russian olive are invasive non-native trees which can inflict serious impacts that damage water resources, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and recreational value. If restored, Watson Island has tremendous potential to provide prime wildlife habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife.

The Watson Island Restoration Project kicked off in fall of 2008. To date, community volunteers coordinated through the Tamarisk Coalition have worked over 1,000 hours to control tamarisk and Russian olive. Other contributors to the project include the Colorado Riverfront Foundation, Stoller Corporation, the U.S.

Meredith Swett
Science and Outreach
Coordinator



Christy Duncan
Business Administrator



Sarahlee Lawrence
Education Intern



Department of Energy, Audubon Society, REI, Western Colorado Botanic Gardens, Grand Junction Lion's Club, Colorado Division of Wildlife, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.



Farewell to a Member of the Restoration Community

We sadly report the death of Brian Cardall, a great friend of our western rivers. Brian was a Utah native, and a PhD student in ecological genetics at Northern Arizona University where his major research focus was on how different genetic forms of tamarisk were affected by the *Diorhabda* beetles. He had just been sampling with our biocontrol research crew on the Virgin River, and planning similar studies at the Dolores River. Brian was an artist, a gentle musician and a brilliant geneticist and ecologist, in no particular order, and there was no greater believer that through good science and deep personal commitment we can make the world a better and beautiful place.

Tom Dudley, Tamarisk Coalition Board
Marine Sciences Institute, University of California
Santa Barbara, CA



Fall Volunteer Season Kicks off September 26th at Watson Island

As the weather cools down, do you get a hankering to cut down some tamarisk? Never fear, the Tamarisk Coalition volunteer program returns from its summer hiatus September 26th when we will be continuing our work on Watson Island- a valuable community resource. This event will also be a great opportunity to check

out the new benches and signs we are putting up on the island courtesy of a generous grant from the Grand Junction Lion's Club. If you can't make it on the 26th, there will be plenty of opportunities to help out this fall- including revegetation at Island Acres State Park on Saturday, October 24th. Other events include an overnight in Devil's Canyon and a new project in Fruita removing tamarisk to make way for a mountain bike trail and frisbee golf! Also be sure not to miss the Tamarisk Coalition Thank-You BBQ on October 15th. Stayed tuned for further details via e-mail and our website.



Tamarisk Coalition fundraiser rafting trip a great success!
by Sarahlee Lawrence

Two Tamarisk Coalition members and eight others interested in tamarisk biological control, gathered on May 15 in Moab, Utah for a fully catered rafting/research trip. OARS, the rafting company, generously donated the trip to the Tamarisk Coalition. Also along for the ride and to provide expert guidance was Tamarisk Coalition board member, Dr. Dan Bean, the head entomologist for the Palisade Insectary.

Tamarisk Coalition staff member, Sarahlee Lawrence, rowed one of the OARS rafts with Dan Bean in the bow. Over the six days everyone had a chance to ride in the "tamarisk boat". The group collected data for our Colorado River basin biological control monitoring project. Sweeping tamarisk trees every 1.5 kilometers to record the spread of the tamarisk leaf beetle, everyone had a turn with the bug net, GPS, camera, and data sheets.

This is the third year the Tamarisk Coalition has monitored the one hundred mile section of the Colorado River through Cataract Canyon. The trip members thoroughly enjoyed being a part of a scientific research team as well as on-on-one time with Dan and Sarahlee to learn more about tamarisk, biological control, the Coalition, and the great Colorado River.

Being May in the upper basin, the trip fell right on the season's high-water peak with flows around 40-thousand cubic feet per second (cfs). This made for some exciting whitewater on days four and five with the famed Big Drop Rapids in full effect. We hiked. We found petrified logs. We played Frisbee, bocce ball and guitar. We ate amazing food and made good friends.

Thanks to OARS for this outstanding opportunity to blend data collection, education, and fundraising. We'll be doing it again next year and very much look forward to having you along!



2010 Tamarisk and Russian Olive Symposium

The 5th Tamarisk and Russian Olive Symposium has been scheduled for January 12th -13th at the Two Rivers Convention Center in Grand Junction, CO. The Symposium series began in 2001 and is a (roughly) biennial conference. The symposium connects researchers and land managers, facilitating opportunities to use science in a practical manner, to address unanswered questions, and to identify future research needs. We hope that you can join us in January. Keep your eye on our website for more information.

Volunteers In Action!

Education Programs

Biocontrol Monitoring

Tamarisk Coalition
© tamarisk coalition
 working to restore riparian lands

www.tamariskcoalition.org

I am enclosing to support Tamarisk Coalition programs:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$1,000 \$ Other

Please use my contribution toward:

Anywhere it's needed

or

A specific program _____

I am an existing member of the Tamarisk Coalition and would like my donation to count as my annual contribution.

Add me to the volunteer mailing list.

Name: _____

Organization/Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail to/make check payable to: Tamarisk Coalition
 PO Box 1907
 Grand Junction, CO 81502