



Tamarisk Coalition Newsletter

December 2010

IN THIS ISSUE

TAMARISK LEAF BEETLE REPORT - THANKS TO DONORS - WATSON ISLAND PLANTING TRAINING - TRO EQUIPMENT DEMO - COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SUPPORT STAFF NEWS - UPCOMING EVENTS - NEW WAYS TO DONATE

TAMARISK LEAF BEETLE REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Visit our website to [download it](#).

END OF A GOOD YEAR

Winter finds the Tamarisk Coalition (TC) staff holed up in the office wrapping up our work from a busy year. Our work during 2010 has taken us across the West. We started the year off working with ProNatura in the Colorado River Delta, traveled throughout the San Pedro watershed in southern Arizona, conducted tamarisk leaf beetle monitoring in the Upper Colorado River Basin, facilitated the Northwest Colorado Watershed Partnership, continued our work with the Dolores River Restoration Partnership, completed restoration plans for the Colorado River around Grand Junction, and began working with the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as federal and state agencies to promote habitat improvement for the southwest willow flycatcher in Nevada and Arizona. All of our work would not be possible without the help of our donors. The TC would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for contributing to the TC over the last few months:

Steve Harris, Roger O'Hara/Division of Water Resources Pueblo, Debbie Buecher, Shelly Simmons, Elizabeth Neubauer, Barry Morenz, Chip Norton/Friends of the Verde River Greenway

Your investment is important for helping us provide the education and assistance that is valued across the West.

Thank you!

BIG CHANGES AT WATSON ISLAND COMPLEX

If you have been out along the Riverfront Trail east of the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens this fall you may have caught sight of some serious tamarisk removal action. The TC and the City of Grand Junction were given the great pleasure of working with the Colorado National Guard in cooperation with their heavy equipment and burn training units to remove over seven acres of dense tamarisk along the Colorado River. Along the river's edge Western Colorado Conservation Corps sawyer crews and an excavator with a mulching head attachment were used to clear an additional 14 acres. The TC also called in the help of the Mesa County Sheriff's Department's Workender Program to move the remaining slash to piles with the intention to burn in the spring. In October, TC



volunteers came out in full force to protect some valuable cottonwoods that were discovered during the removal from beaver. Native grass seeding provided a preliminary revegetation and restoration of the site that will continue in the coming years.

Contact Us: www.tamariskcoalition.org

970.256.7400

P.O. Box 1907, Grand Junction, CO 81502

SUCCESSFUL RIPARIAN PLANTING TRAININGS

On November 30th and December 1st the TC, in partnership with the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center (LLPMC) and the Upper Colorado Environmental Plant Center (UCEPC), hosted a riparian planting training workshop near Grand Junction, Colorado. Over sixty attendees from Colorado and Utah representing a number of state and federal agencies, as well as private landowners and interested individuals participated in the training. Steve Parr from the UCEPC kicked off the training with a presentation on seeding considerations. Greg Fenchel from the LLPMC followed-up with a presentation on riparian restoration methodologies, with an emphasis on longstem plantings.



Ultimately, the TC and partners 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 TC's and its partners' knowledge in how to correctly plant longstem products for this on-going project.

If you missed out on the this year's riparian planting training workshop, but want to learn more about riparian restoration we will be hosting more trainings in 2011 and a short video and course handouts will be available on our website by the first of the year. Contact

Shannon at shatch@tamariskcoalition.org or keep an eye out on our [website](#) for more information.

Thanks to all of our partners who contributed to the success of this event, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), LLPMC, UCEPC, CDOW, Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, and the City of Grand Junction.

The morning was spent in the classroom, learning the basics of seed treatments; grow out methods, benefits and challenges of riparian restoration, species availability and planting methods for longstem products were also discussed. In the afternoon participants met at the Los Colonias section of Watson Island, a City of Grand Junction property, to learn, through hands-on participation, how to correctly plant pole cuttings and longstem products. Participants installed willows, cottonwoods, and a wide variety of riparian shrub species along the riparian corridor. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) generously offered up the use of their tractor and two of their fearless operators, Tom Sanderson and Derek Lovoi.

The TC has been working with the LLPMC and 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 using the longstem grow out method and provide riparian restoration trainings. Longstems, which have root balls 4"x4"x14" and stem heights of up to six feet, allow planting up to six feet below the soil surface. The longstem planting method ensures that the plant roots are in direct contact with the water table, greatly increasing plant survival.



TAMARISK AND RUSSIAN OLIVE EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION

On December 2nd the TC and National Wild Turkey Federation with support from Colorado Division of Wildlife, Colorado Water Conservation Board and the Bureau of Reclamation, hosted an equipment demonstration at Horsethief Canyon SWA, west of Fruita, CO. Over 40 people from federal, state, and local government agencies, regional conservation corps, private corporations, and interested community members were in attendance to witness the effectiveness of



various types of TRO control and re-vegetation equipment in action. TRO control Equipment present included: **Barko 930, 305 hp industrial tractor w/ F.A.E. forestry mulcher; Fecon FTX90-L, 90 hp forestry skid-steer w/ Tushogg 4800 mulcher; CAT 307D, rubber tracked excavator equipped with thumb grab attachment for biomass extraction; ASV RC100, 100 hp forestry skid-steer with TimberAx mulcher;**

Kubota KX80 excavator w/ Torrent EX40 mulcher; Star Hill JAWZ pinching skid steer attachment for biomass extraction; and Vermeer BC1000 chipper capable of chipping 12" diameter material.

Revegetation of the disturbed areas was achieved by broadcast seeding using a site specific seed mix before and after the mechanical control events. In addition, five cottonwood pole cuttings from Los Lunas Plant Materials Center were planted using a John Deere 7000 series tractor in appropriate areas. The TC filmed the

event and is work-ing to produce an informative video that will be accesible on our [website](#).

This video will highlight how the machines and techniques used during the demonstration can increase the effectiveness and cost efficiency of removal efforts. The TC is dedicated to producing more of these educational events in the future so stay tuned!

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SERVING SOUTHWEST COLORADO HELPS THE TAMARISK COALITION GROW

The TC recognizes conserving, restoring and maintaining functioning river systems are of great importance throughout the world. In order to ensure that the our work and influence in the field is as effective and beneficial as possible, we are constantly searching for ways to incorporate innovative restoration methods as well as the policies and funding that support them. In this spirit, the TC had an opportunity to send a staff member to a short-course discussing fluvial geomorphology and the innovative European Union's Water Framework Directive Legislation in Provence, France. The [Community Foundation Serving Southwest Colorado](#), based in Durango, CO, contributed \$500 to the project. Other grant funders including the Walton Family Foundation's Freshwater

Initiative provided additional support. The course linked the TC to river restoration experts in California, Canada, Europe, and New Zeland. Knowledge of fluvial geomorphology and the wider context of watershed processes it provided is informing interactions along the Dolores River and other TC watershed planning efforts. Information gathered about the Water Framework Directive is helping the TC explore funding mechanisms and legislation supporting restoration on a watershed scale. We are grateful to the **Community Foundation** and others for supporting the growth of the Tamarisk Coalition's and Southwest Colorado's capacity to address watershed issues by providing training to practitioners and linking them with experts throughout the US and the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Landscape Ecology of Tamarisk: 2011 Research Conference

February 16 & 17 - Tuscon, Arizona

Early Registration Deadline - January 7th

Society for Ecological Restoration 4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration

August 21 to 25 - Merida, Mexico

The TC in coordination with Canyonlands National Park will be adding a community service component to the April 17-22 2011 Cataract Canyon trip. More information will be available in the coming month.

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
Email slawrence@tamariskcoalition.org for details
Cost: \$1,564 adult/\$1,465 youth (17 years and younger)
Proceeds benefit the Tamarisk Coalition

STAFF NEWS

Tim Carlson is leaving the Tamarisk Coalition at the end of the month to work with the Walton Family Foundation's Freshwater Initiative. He will be working on riverside habitat strategic efforts throughout the Colorado River system. As many of you know Tim has been an integral part of the staff from the creation of the Tamarisk Coalition. His guidance, mentorship, and outlook have shaped many of us as well as the restoration community. We wish him luck in his new position and look forward to working with him in his new capacity. **Good luck Tim!!**

We would also like to welcome on as permanent staff:

Patrick Hickey, Bill Cooper and Season Martin

We have enjoyed working with them over the past year and look forward to working with them in their new roles.



NEW WAYS TO DONATE

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. 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.



We are 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! Thank you for your continued support. See the [website](#) for more information.

Tamarisk Coalition Staff

Stacy Kolegas - Executive Director
Clark Tate - Restoration Ecologist
Nate Ament - Restoration Ecologist
Meredith Swett Walker Ph.D. - Science Coordinator

Rebecca Carlson - Restoration Coordinator
Shannon Hatch - Restoration Coordinator
Patrick Hickey - Restoration Ecologist
Season Martin - Restoration Coordinator

Bill Cooper - Restoration Coordinator
Sarahlee Lawrence - Education Intern
Christy Duncan - Business Administrator
Michele Rohrbach - Bookkeeper

Board of Directors

Dan Bean Ph.D. - President, **Sue Bellagamba** - Vice President, **Peter Culp** - Secretary, **Steve Harris** - Treasurer, **Anna Sher Ph.D.**, **Susan Metzger**, **Terry Nelson**, **Chris Ritzi Ph.D.**, **Shelly Simmons**

