



Tamarisk Coalition Newsletter

October 2009

In This Issue

▶ Fundraising Challenge

▶ 2010 Tamarisk Symposium

▶ Evapotranspiration Report Released

▶ 2009 Biocontrol Monitoring Complete

▶ Project Update

▶ Big Changes at Watson Island

▶ Staff Changes

▶ Contact Us

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Fundraising Challenge

The Tamarisk Coalition has a challenge for you! An anonymous donor has promised to match EVERY dollar given to the Tamarisk Coalition up to \$10,000! The catch, this challenge is only good for funds raised between now and November 30th. So, here is your chance to double your dollars and give twice as much to support the work of the Tamarisk Coalition. Membership renewals count toward the match too!

Please mail your donation to: Tamarisk Coalition
PO Box 1907
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Thank you in advance for valuing the education and the support we give to people across the west who are working to restore our river systems.

Your friends,
The Tamarisk Coalition Staff



2010 Tamarisk Symposium

The 5th Tamarisk and Russian Olive Symposium will be held January 12th -13th at the Two Rivers Convention Center in Grand Junction, CO. This year the Symposium will feature presentations on biological control of tamarisk, revegetation, the interaction of tamarisk, biological control and wildlife, tamarisk and fire, water use by tamarisk, and other relevant topics. We hope that you can join us in January. If you are interested being a symposium sponsor or hosting a commercial booth at the Symposium, please contact Meredith at the Tamarisk Coalition. For registration information, Symposium agenda and other information, please visit the [2010 Tamarisk Symposium website](#).

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



Tamarisk and Russian Olive Evapotranspiration (Water Use) Report Released

The Tamarisk Coalition is pleased to announce the completion of the report titled *Independent Peer Review of Tamarisk & Russian olive Evapotranspiration for the Colorado River Basin (ET report)*. A panel of experts was convened in November 2008 to try to answer ten specific questions on the current knowledge about tamarisk and Russian olive (TRO) effects on water availability. The Panel assembled to complete the report represented a wide range of expertise and views on water use, revegetation, and riparian ecology. The Panel was asked to address whether TRO water use, or evapotranspiration (ET), is sufficiently understood to reasonably predict the water savings associated with TRO removal and native species restoration. The panel was also asked to detail where and how future research and demonstration projects could best contribute to TRO management and its role in the stewardship of Western rivers. This report, commissioned by the Colorado River Basin States (Basin States), was facilitated by the Tamarisk Coalition. The ET Report is one component of the Colorado River Basin Tamarisk and Russian Olive Assessment (TRO Assessment) being prepared for the Basin States by the Coalition which is expected to be finalized in October, 2009.



2009 Biocontrol Monitoring Complete!

The Tamarisk Coalition and the Colorado Dept. Of Agriculture have completed 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. Tamarisk Coalition Staff will be presenting results of this year's monitoring at locations in CO, AZ and UT during the month of October as well as during the Tamarisk Symposium in Grand Junction January 12 & 13, 2010. Please check out our website www.tamariskcoalition.org to see a listing of presentation locations and dates as well as a map of the current distribution of *Diorhabda spp.* in the Colorado River Watershed. Presentations 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.

Project Update

Christy Duncan
Business Administrator



The Walton Family Foundation has approved a grant for the Coalition to support their *Freshwater Initiative* in the Colorado River watershed. This grant will help the Tamarisk Coalition to provide technical support to several watershed projects within the Colorado River system to restore riverside habitat, identification of training needs and opportunities, biological control monitoring, and an assessment of potential strategies for long-term funding of restoration efforts.

Sarahlee Lawrence
Education Intern



Staff Changes

John Heideman, a long time Tamarisk Coalition employee, has moved on to follow other pursuits. John helped establish the Coalition and his work to develop our capabilities is very much appreciated.

Nate Ament, who has been working to explore and restore riparian environments with the Coalition for four years, has accepted the position of Assistant Coordinator of the Mesa State College Outdoor Program. Nate was one of the first hired Tamarisk Coalition employees and has been instrumental in the progress of the Coalition to date.

Big Changes on Watson Island!

A great group of TC volunteers kicked off revegetation on Watson Island on a sunny Saturday in September. Thanks to a donation from Stoller Corporation and the Department of Energy that allowed us to purchase native shrubs, we planted 65 drought and salt-tolerant shrubs in the “Upper Terrace Garden” section of Watson Island north of the irrigation channel. A good time was had by all, and the rain that we have been getting will help get these plants off to a great start.

If you missed this event but want to get in on the revegetation action be sure to join us on October 24th at Island Acres State Park where we will be planting more natives or on November 7th at Watson Island when we will continue the extensive revegetation we will doing at this site.

Plants are the only new surprises at Watson Island. Thanks to a grant from the Grand Junction Lion’s Club, Watson Island now boasts four new park benches and two educational signs. The benches are located at the south, east and west ends of the paved loop trail on the main island. The signs, designed by local artist Paul Gray and the Moab-based graphic designer Bruce Andersen, encourage folks to enjoy and care for our community’s rivers as well as educate them about the relationship between native plants and wildlife. Next time you are in Grand Junction, stop by Watson Island to sit a spell and learn something new!