



Tamarisk Coalition Newsletter

March 2010

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2010 Tamarisk Symposium

The 2010 Tamarisk Symposium was held January 12 & 13 in Grand Junction, CO and was attended by over 200 people. The Symposium featured the latest information on tamarisk biocontrol, revegetation, tamarisk and wildlife issues, restoration projects and tamarisk water use. In case you missed it, abstracts and videos of most of the presentations can be viewed on the Symposium website:

<http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/tamariskcoalition/Symposiumhome.html>

The Symposium brought together many of the researchers and land managers most active in tamarisk management and riparian restoration and there was much enthusiasm to hold the companion Tamarisk and Russian Olive Research Conference in Tucson, AZ in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey and CSU extension. That meeting has been scheduled for February 16-17, 2011 at the Tucson Marriott University Park. More details coming soon!

Changes on the Tamarisk Coalition Board

The Tamarisk Coalition would like to thank Bob Hamilton for his dedicated service to the TC Board of Directors. Bob, of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, served on the Board for 4 years. We appreciate all of his participation and will miss his involvement. Thanks, Bob!

We would like to welcome Jean Van Pelt as the newest Tamarisk Coalition Board Member. Jean is the Conservation Outreach Coordinator at the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District. She has experience working on the tamarisk issue in Southeastern Colorado. We are excited to have her on the Board and look forward to working with her. Welcome, Jean!

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 2010 First President's Award goes to Shelly Simmons

The Tamarisk Coalition's First President's Award is given in memory of Pete Larson, the Tamarisk Coalition's first president to honor his dedication to restoring natural resources through the application of science, education, and volunteerism. The individual selected for this award has demonstrated the same level of commitment on their project through their volunteer efforts, incorporation of education and use of science in their work or through their project.

On January 13, 2010 Shelly Simmons (formerly Van Landingham) with the Colorado State Forest Service - La Junta office was nominated and received this distinguished award at the Tamarisk Symposium in Grand Junction.

This is a quote from the for the award nomination form:

“Shelly Simmons has spearheaded the tamarisk control and restoration efforts for over seven years in southeast Colorado within the Arkansas River Basin. Shelly was an integral part of the development of the Arkansas River Watershed Invasive Plants Plan (ARKWIPP). She chaired the education / outreach committee, assisting with the development of the educational website and the brochure.

Shelly was the lead in the development of the strategic plan for the Purgatoire River watershed and has conducted numerous restoration projects within the watershed. These projects encompass federal, state, and private lands, and have utilized many types of control and restoration methods. Shelly is a stickler for monitoring her projects for potential problems and for successes.

Shelly possesses the skills and talent to bring together different interests to join together in a common cause. She knows and works very well with private landowners and various governmental agencies. Anyone who has worked with this highly knowledgeable and energetic individual appreciates her unfaltering dedication to riparian restoration.”

Congratulations Shelly!

Rebecca Carlson
Restoration Coordinator



Shannon Hatch
Restoration Coordinator



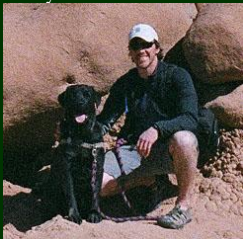
Christy Duncan
Business Administrator



Sarahlee Lawrence
Education Intern



Pat Hickey
Policy Research Intern



Join the Tamarisk Coalition for Rafting Trip Through Cataract Canyon!

The 2nd Annual Fundraiser for the Tamarisk Coalition Education Program is coming up. Join the Tamarisk Coalition and O.A.R.S. on the river trip of a lifetime through Utah's stunning Cataract Canyon May 16-21, 2010! This eco-adventure has it all:

- An unparalleled opportunity to talk to the experts about river ecosystem health and to participate in a critical scientific monitoring effort of the tamarisk biological control agent, the tamarisk leaf beetle
- Exhilarating whitewater rafting
- Plush camping including deliciously prepared meals
- Hiking trails leading to geologic and historic wonders, including ancient ruins, petroglyphs and pictographs
- Opportunities to watch for wildlife such as bighorn sheep, bobcat, great blue heron, ring-tailed cat, fox, and beaver

Money raised by this expedition will fund scholarships to educate students about river health and restoration. O.A.R.S., an outstanding worldwide river company, will guide us downstream through Cataract Canyon, a stunning chasm in the heart of Utah's Canyonlands National Park boasting spectacular scenery and heart pumping whitewater. The expedition will be joined by Robin Bay, an Environmental Scientist with Habitat Management, Inc. Robin has over ten years of environmental reclamation, land management, and field research experience working in a wide variety of ecosystems from high alpine to arid riparian. She has also conducted and published several quantitative research projects evaluating revegetation and reclamation techniques including a study evaluating revegetation after tamarisk removal in the Southwest which she completed as a part of her Master's degree program. Robin has extensive experience in field ecology and botany and is very knowledgeable on tamarisk ecology, control, and research.

Cost: \$1,564.

For Questions please contact Tamarisk Coalition Education Intern: Sarahlee Lawrence sarahlee.lawrence@gmail.com

(541) 279-0841

More information can be found at:

www.tamariskcoalition.org

www.oars.com



Another New Face at the Tamarisk Coalition

The Tamarisk Coalition recently hired Patrick Hickey in a new position as a policy research intern. Patrick, a Colorado native, studied environmental science and economics at Richard Stockton College, and GIS at Rutgers University in New Jersey. After spending an additional 5 years in NJ working for the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, he finally made his way back to Colorado; landing in San Juan Mountains where he could pursue his love for backpacking, skiing and mountain biking. Patrick has worked for 5 years as a wetland consultant in Durango, Colorado, which is where he developed his professional and personal interest in Tamarisk and riparian ecology. He now resides in Fort Collins, CO, with his fiancé and two dogs. He is currently studying Environmental Policy and Natural Resource Management at the University of Denver and combining his graduate studies, professional experience and passion to assist the Tamarisk Coalition with researching sustainable funding strategies for riparian restoration.



Spring 2010 Volunteer Schedule

With Meredith Walker, the Tamarisk Coalition's volunteer coordinator out on maternity leave, we have streamlined our volunteer program this spring. Instead of 5-6 smaller events, we will focus on two larger events. The first event will be held at the

King's View Open Space in Fruita on March 27th. We will be doing further tamarisk and Russian olive removal and helping the City of Fruita restore this recreation area. Our second event will be held on April 24th at Watson Island. We will be working on revegetation so come out and plant a native for Earth Day! We will be sending you details on these events if you are on our volunteer e-mail list. If you aren't on the list, please contact Rebecca Carlson (rcarlson@tamariskcoalition.org) to find out more. In addition we will occasionally let our volunteers know about other volunteer opportunities in the area that they might be interested in. Hope you can join us for one of these events!

Featured Riparian Restoration Projects

Tamarisk Coalition newsletters will now feature a restoration project or two each issue. We hope to get the word out about work being done to restore Western rivers as well as provide a resource for those planning riparian restoration projects. Each project "featured" will include a brief description of the project and contact information for the project managers who have practical experience with tamarisk control and riparian restoration. If you are interested in having your project featured in our newsletter, please contact Executive Director, Stacy Kolegas skolegas@tamariskcoalition.org

Cache Creek Conservancy's Tamarisk Removal Project- Cache Creek's waters travel east from the upper North Coast Range to California's Great Central Valley floor ultimately reaching the Sacramento River during high flows. Cache Creek Conservancy works primarily on a 15 mile stretch of the lower creek, working under the Yolo County Cache Creek Resources Management Plan. Removal of invasive species, primarily *Tamarisk parviflora* and *Arundo donax*, began in earnest in 2003 with grant funding from the State of California. Grants have provided almost a million dollars for on the ground removal of invasives over seven seasons. Methods have included both mechanical removal using a chopper head and herbicide application via tractor, ATV or backpack depending on conditions. Recently much of the creek area has been readily accessible due to a three year drought. USDA-ARS, in conjunction with the Conservancy, has implemented a bio-control program with the tamarisk leaf beetle, *Diorhabda elongata*. The long term success of this program is not known yet.

While control has been achieved, we probably will never have total eradication as weeds continue to be recruited from upstream. In a few areas the removal of tamarisk has been followed by the establishment of other non-natives, such as pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) and Ravenna grass (*Saccharum ravennae*).

For more information, please contact:

Lynnel Pollock, Executive Director
Cache Creek Conservancy
34199 County Road 20
P.O. Box 8249
Woodland, CA 95776-8249
Phone: 530-661-1070 Fax: 530-661-1757
e-mail: cachecrk@yolo.com www.cachecreek.org

Tamarisk Control on the Browns Park WMA- The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources removes tamarisk from along the Green River within the Browns Park Waterfowl Management Area. Due to the wet soil conditions on the WMA, tamarisk spreads rapidly if not controlled. Tamarisk is cut and stumps are sprayed with

Pathfinder II during the early spring and fall. Smaller tree trunks are surface sprayed. Treated areas are checked for regrowth and treated again when necessary. The project is limited in size due to overall funding. The removal project began in 2001 as part of overall invasive weed control on the WMA. To date, several thousand trees have been removed. The overall goal is to remove all seed producing trees from the WMA and surrounding lands when possible.

For more information, please contact:

Lowell Marthe
Wildlife Biologist
Utah Wildlife Resources
P. O. Box 145
Dutch John UT 84023
(c) 435-823-0968
lowellmarthe@utah.gov

Seasonal Position Open at the Tamarisk Coalition

The Tamarisk Coalition is hiring for a summer seasonal intern position to assist our 2010 tamarisk biological control monitoring program. Please see the home page of the TC website (www.tamariskcoalition.org) for a full job description and application deadline. This position will require travel throughout the Colorado River Basin and will involve the collection of information regarding beetle distribution, tamarisk defoliation, and native/invasive vegetation. Additional information on the program scope is also available at our website.

