

Non-Profit Happenings

Rim to Rim Restoration

by Nancy Kurtz

Growing and Supporting an Ecosystem One Seed at a Time

As you read this, we are on the brink of Earth Day 2025. Hold on to that thought, for here in Moab, there are plans afoot, involving a venerated thirty-acre site several miles outside of town known as the Mayberry Native Plant Propagation Center.



According to the historical record, the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, was designed to usher in “the dawn of the modern environmental movement” and college student-wise was timed to fall between Spring Break and final exams. Deemed the “largest secular day of protest in the world,” the event’s inception stopped the traffic on Fifth Avenue and drew students and people like me to places like New York’s Central Park and literally everywhere in the country.

For those who weren’t around in 1970, it was engaging, spirited, hopeful and electrifying and it made history happen.

I’m talking with Kara Dohrenwend, the energetic executive director and founder of Moab’s nonprofit Rim to Rim Restoration, about the upcoming Earth Day celebration at Mayberry.

Dedicated to the sustenance, restoration, and improvement of plant life throughout the giant high desert realm known as the “Colorado Plateau”, Rim to Rim Restoration has plenty going on even without planning an Earth Day celebration.

But just now, as per that celebration, Dohrenwend is focusing on something rather small – the miracle of bringing out of the ground new plants by sowing seeds. Plants that will enrich the local habitat and be sustainable here in the high desert.

“It’s fundamental,” she says, “working with seeds, getting plants to grow. And it needs to happen all over the place.”

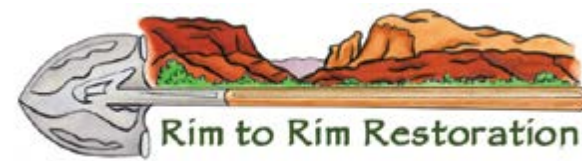
She talks about transferring seed from place to place to determine how far seeds can travel and still survive.

She talks about the connections of Rim to Rim with Federal agencies like the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), agencies she says are not just about law enforcement and recreation: “There’s a lot of

restoration and a lot of reasons why this restoration has to happen.”

Dohrenwend, who holds a degree in landscape architecture from the University of California at Berkeley, started Rim to Rim in 2007 following a decade leading summer work projects in Mill Creek Canyon that engaged local youth with hands-on riparian restoration.

By 2009, Rim to Rim had acquired the Mayberry site from the Nature Conservancy. The vision then, as now, was to create a native plant propagation center and align with a



BLM program called “Seeds of Success” that encourages and supports ventures like Mayberry.

As this article goes to print, the future of Rim to Rim’s Federal funding is uncertain. “We have no idea what will happen,” Dohrenwend says. The Federal agencies have traditionally offered up five-year obligations, and the long-term perspective, according to Dohrenwend, is “so important—plants take a long time to grow and some planted as seedlings in 2014 are just now producing enough seed to collect regularly.”

What better moment to celebrate Earth Day and what better place to celebrate it than the venue that has held the celebration for the last ten years or so, with the exception of a couple of seasons during the pandemic -

This year’s focus, Dohrenwend says, will be on the Federal public lands partners in appreciation for what they have contributed to the Mayberry project, specifically, and—more broadly—their collaborations with Rim to Rim.

The celebration will feature music, light snacks, a small planting event, a traditional kite-flying (bring your own kites), a self-guided tour, and an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of all things having to do with a common garden and that small intrepid warrior known as “the seed.”

The Earth Day event is free and will actually be held on Saturday, April 26 from 1-4 p.m. To get there: North on 191, right onto 128 (“the river road”) and watch for Mayberry on the left 15 miles upriver.

And for more info on Mayberry: [https://www. revegetation.org/mayberry/](https://www revegetation.org/mayberry/)

And be sure to mention you read about it in *Moab Happenings*.

Moab Clubs & Organizations

For a community to prosper and grow, its residents have to be **INVOLVED**. If you would like to participate in any club or organization, **PLEASE CALL THEM**. Many of these groups are always looking for a helping hand or two.

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA) Triangle House 84 W. 100 S.	call or text (435) 220-0646	Moab City Recreation (Patrick Trim)	(435) 259-2255
Alcoholics Anonymous	(435)-625-1342	Moab Community Dance Band (Miriam Graham)	(516) 376-8003
For Emergencies (24/7)	888-333-9649	Moab Community Theater (Kaki Hunter)	(435) 259-8378
Alpha Rho Sorority (Bobbie Long)	(435) 259-6758	Moab Disk Golf Club	(435) 259-2255
American Legion Post (Ronald Irvin)	(435) 719-4095	Moab Family History Center	(435) 259-5563
Arches Education Center (Trish Hedin)	(435) 260-8764	Moab Folk Festival & Free Concert Series (Cassie Paup)	(435) 260-1756
Arches New Hope Pregnancy Center (Cassie Patterson)	(435) 259-LIFE (5433)	Moab Free Health Clinic (Kate Jagle)	(435) 259-1113
BEACON (Xandra Odland)	(435) 719-4801	Moab Friends For Wheelin' Jeep Club (Melissa Fischer)	(435) 260-7208
Boy Scouts of America (Mingo Gritts)	(435) 260-0871	Moab Garden Club (Tricia Scott)	(303) 880-9158
Canyonlands Arts Council	(435) 259-2742	Moab Golf Club (Rob Jones)	(435) 259-6488
Canyonlands Back Country Horsemen (Steve Schultz)	(435) 220-0860	Moab Healthcare Foundation (Kari McKay)	(435) 210-0087
Canyonlands Field Institute (Michele Johnson)	(435) 259-7750	Moab Masonic Lodge #30 (Gregory Klepzig)	(435) 260-1823
Canyonlands Natural History Association (Sam Wainer)	435-260-6003	Moab Museum (Forrest Rodgers)	www.moabmuseum.org • (435) 259-7985
Canyonlands Rodeo Club (Kirk Pearson + Krista Wilson)	(435) 260-2222 + (435) 260-7942	Moab Music Festival	(435) 259-7003
Colorado Outward Bound School – Moab Basecamp (Lance Plank)	(719) 293-5371	Moab Rotary Car Show (Dave Bierschied)	(435) 260-1968
Community Rebuilds (Rikki Epperson)	(435) 260-0501	Moab Solutions (Sara Melnicoff)	www.moab-solutions.org ... (435) 401-4685
Daughters of Utah Pioneers (Katheryn Jackson)	(435) 259-5229	Moab Speaks (Daniel McNeil)	(435) 260-9646
Delicate Stitchers Quilt Guild (Mary Wakeley)	(815) 712-6169	Moab Sportsmen’s Club (Frank Darcey)	(435) 259-2222
Friends of Arches and Canyonlands Parks (Steve Evers)	(435) 259-0108	Moab Taiko (Michele Blackburn)	(435) 259-0816
Friends of Indian Creek	info@friendsofindiancreek.org	Moab To Monument Valley Film Commission (Bega Metzner)	(435) 259-4341
Friends of the Grand County Library (Jessie Magleby)	(435) 259-1111	Moab Trails Alliance (Kirstin Peterson)	(435) 259-5223
Girl Scouts of The U.S.A. (Melodie McCandless)	(435) 259-9797	Moab Valley Multicultural Center (Rhiana Medina)	(435) 259-5444
Grand Area Mentoring (Dan McNeil)	(435) 260-9646	Order of the Eastern Star (Fran Townsend)	(435) 259-6469
Grand Center (Senior Center)	(435) 259-6623	Plateau Restoration/Conservation Adventures (Tamsin McCormick)	(435) 259-7733
Grand County Democratic Party (Bob Greenberg)	(435) 260-9665	Red Rock Arts Festival (Moab Arts)	(435) 259-6272
Grand County Extension & 4-H	(435) 259-7558	Red Rock 4-Wheelers (Ron Brewer)	(435) 259-7625
Grand County Education Foundation (Melodie McCandless)	(435) 259-9797	Rotary Club (Dave Bierschied)	(435) 260-1968
Grand County Food Bank	(435) 259-6456	Seekhaven Crisis Center (Abigail Taylor)	(435) 259-2229
Grand County Hospice (Margy Swenson)	(435) 719-3772	Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (Neal Clark)	(435) 259-7090
Grand County Library (Jessie Magleby)	(435) 259-1111	Trail Mix Committee (Colin Topper)	MoabTrailMix@gmail.com
Grand County Republican Party	grandcogop@gmail.com	Underdog Animal Rescue & Rehab (Jackie)	(435) 260-8033
Humane Society of Moab Valley	(435) 259-4862	Uranium Watch (Sarah Fields)	(435) 260-8384
KZMU Community Radio (Jenna Whetzel)	(435) 259-8824	Utah Avalanche Center	(888) 999-4019 or (435) 259-SNOW
Ladies Golf Club (Chris Woodard)	(435) 259-6488	Utah Conservation Corps (Sean Damitz)	(435) 797-0964 ext 8
League of Women Voters (Carey Dabney)	(801) 938-4038	Utah Friends of Paleontology – Gastonia Chapter (Lee Shenton)	(435) 259-2179
Moab Arts Festival (Theresa King)	(435) 259-2742	Valley Voices (Marian Eason)	(435) 259-6447
Moab Arts Center (Kelley McInerney)	(435) 259-6272	Veterans of Foreign Wars (Fred Every)	(435) 260-1277
Moab Bird Club (Nick Eason)	(435) 259-6447	WabiSabi (Leah Bear)	(435) 259-3313
Moab Chamber of Commerce	(435) 259-7814	Youth Garden Project (Emily Roberson)	259-BEAN (2326)
Moab City Animal Control	(435) 259-8938	Utah State University Moab	(435) 259-7432