

Non-Profit Happenings

What is Mayberry?

by Rim to Rim Restoration staff

If you've rafted the Moab Daily below Rocky Rapid or driven the River Road any time in the last decade or so, you've come within spitting distance of a native plant propagation center focused solely on the Colorado Plateau.

Called the Mayberry Native Plant Propagation Center, the 30-acre property lies tucked between the Colorado River and the River Road just downstream of the Castle Valley turnoff. It is owned and operated by Rim to Rim Restoration, which will welcome the community to the property for its annual open house on Saturday, April 25.

Many Moab residents may know Rim to Rim Restoration for the nonprofit's work in the Moab Valley's creek corridors reducing fire fuels and improving the creeks' ability to handle flood flows. In addition to this more visible work, however, Rim to Rim also focuses on plant propagation, including growing native plants for revegetation projects across the region.

What is plant propagation? Most people think of propagation as creating plants from seed or cuttings. Plant propagation also includes increasing the seed stock of a certain kind of plant. One way this can be accomplished is by cultivating many individual plants and repeatedly harvesting their seeds, which is a process called seed increase.

Successful propagation requires expertise in how target plants establish themselves, reproduce, and thrive. Rim to Rim focuses on propagating plants native to southeastern Utah for use in revegetation projects on public and private land.

Revegetation projects do best with plants that originate in the area, and the Mayberry Propagation Center provides a needed location to grow plants collected from the Colorado Plateau. Most plant propagation centers are run by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the closest ones lie in New Mexico, eastern Colorado, and Idaho, meaning Mayberry fills a needed gap by focusing solely and centrally on the Colorado Plateau.

This 30-acre parcel was originally part of 209 acres of land acquired in the 1960s by Moab's Dr. Paul Mayberry and is the only portion of the total acreage that was farmed. In 1994 The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased the entire 209 acres and placed it in a conservation easement.



Mayberry orchard in 2010 when nearly all of the peach trees had died

Later, the land around what is now Mayberry was granted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), meaning the 30 acres with Colorado River water rights is surrounded by public land. TNC still holds a conservation easement on Mayberry which limits activity to agricultural uses only.

When Rim to Rim acquired the property in 2009, all but eight of the 800 peach trees were dead, and the orchard abutted 14 acres of invasive Russian knapweed. Before work could begin to grow native plants, the trees had to be cleared and the knapweed killed. For several years Rim to Rim watered the knapweed to keep it healthy so that the plants would be able to absorb herbicide to kill them. Now there remains just a little knapweed outside the areas where high water events bring the seeds in from the river.

Constant vigilance by Rim to Rim staff now keeps knapweed and other weeds under control. Water for drip irrigation is provided by shallow wells that use the river bank as a cleaning filter. The property also features windbreaks, which double as seed "orchards" of regionally-sourced trees and shrubs and separate the property into one-acre fields. In these fields, Rim to Rim sows small quantities of locally-collected seed and grows out the plants to increase the seed available.

In addition to seed increase plots, Mayberry also hosts research plots supporting scientific studies. At the moment the property hosts a small "common garden" to investigate the viability of various native grass varieties popular in restoration projects. Common gardens are locations where plants from different populations are grown together to determine if differences between these plants are genetic or due to environmental influence. Other research at the property has included growing biocrusts for restoration purposes.

In the near future, Rim to Rim is interested in trialing methods for baling native grass "hay" for erosion control products that could be used during construction projects to hinder erosion while also introducing seed from hard-to-sow species like purple three awn, a bunchgrass.



Aerial photo of the Mayberry property in fall 2023

You can learn about these projects and more at Rim to Rim's annual Mayberry open house. This year, the open house will occur on Saturday, April 25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the River Road mile marker 15.25.

The event will include self-guided and guided tours as well as kite-flying, socializing, a history talk, and more!

For more information check out the Rim to Rim Restoration website, www revegetation.org, send a message to info@revegetation.org, or call 435-259-6670.

And be sure to mention you read about Rim to Rim 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 Animal Control (435) 259-8938
Alcoholics Anonymous (435)-625-1342	Moab City Recreation (Patrick Trim) (435) 259-2255
For Emergencies (24/7) 888-333-9649	Moab Community Dance Band (Miriam Graham) (516) 376-8003
Alpha Rho Sorority (435) 259-6758	Moab Community Theater (Kaki Hunter) (435) 259-8378
American Legion Post (Ronald Irvin) (435) 719-4095	Moab Disk Golf Club (435) 259-2255
Arches Education Center (Trish Hedin)..... (435) 260-8764	Moab Family History Center..... (435) 259-5563
Arches New Hope Pregnancy Center (435) 259-LIFE (5433)	Moab Folk Festival & Free Concert Series (Cassie Paup) (435) 260-1756
BEACON (Xandra Odland) (435) 719-4801	Moab Free Health Clinic (Kate Jagla)..... (435) 259-1113
Boy Scouts of America (Mingo Gritts)..... (435) 260-0871	Moab Friends For Wheelin' Jeep Club (Melissa Fischer)..... (435) 260-7208
Canyonlands Arts Council (435) 259-2742	Moab Garden Club (Tricia Scott)..... (303) 880-9158
Canyonlands Back Country Horsemen (Steve Schultz) (435) 220-0860	Moab Golf Club (Rob Jones)..... (435) 259-6488
Canyonlands Field Institute (Michele Johnson)..... (435) 259-7750	Moab Healthcare Foundation (Kari McKay)..... (435) 210-0087
Canyonlands Natural History Association (Sam Wainer)..... 435-260-6003	Moab Masonic Lodge #30 (Gregory Klepzig)..... (435) 260-1823
Canyonlands Rodeo Club (Kirk Pearson + Krista Wilson)..... (435) 260-2222 + (435) 260-7942	Moab Museum..... www.moabmuseum.org • (435) 259-7985
Colorado Outward Bound School – Moab Basecamp (Lance Plank) (719) 293-5371	Moab Music Festival (435) 259-7003
Community Rebuilds (Rikki Epperson)..... (435) 260-0501	Moab Rotary Car Show (Dave Bierschied) (435) 260-1968
Daughters of Utah Pioneers (Katheryn Jackson)..... (435) 259-5229	Moab Solutions (Sara Melnicoff) www.moab-solutions.org ... (435) 401-4685
Delicate Stitchers Quilt Guild (Vonda Louthan) (435) 260-0960	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 (Lisa Monson-Potter, MSN Ed, RN)..... (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 (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	Wellness Collective (Breann Davis) info@wellnesscollectivemoab.com (435) 255-1438
Moab Chess Society (Addison Goff) https://facebook.com/groups/1988817141950614/	Youth Garden Project (Emily Roberson) 259-BEAN (2326)
	Utah State University Moab (435) 259-7432