

# The ROCKSPIRIAN

April, 2010

The Quarterly Rockspire Newsletter

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OUR MASTER PLAN at Rockspire is taking shape with a strong emphasis on sustainability. Harvesting many of the trees that were killed in the ice storm of February, 2009 and having them milled and dried on site is part of that plan. Most of the trees being harvested are Oak, Walnut, and Pine. However, the log being milled in the picture at the right is Maple and was given to Rockspire by Nancy Tolbert and Stewart Wilson of Glenpool, Oklahoma.

Kenneth Wolfinbarger of Eureka Springs brings his portable sawmill to **Rockspire where he mills the logs into 1", 2", 3", or 4" thick slabs.** These slabs are then dried in our drying shed, pictured below. The slabs will be air dried one year for each inch of thickness.



Kenneth Wolfinbarger with sawmill  
Photo by G. Myers - 11.13.09



Due to the large volume of trees killed in the ice storm we anticipate doubling the size of our drying shed this year. The roof of the drying shed, along with the roofs of the MobbyMac Carriage House and the woodworking shop are also used to collect rainwater for our underground cisterns. The collected rainwater is then piped down the side of the mountain where it provides the potable water for Betty's Birdhouse Cabin after it passes through the filtration system.

Once the milled lumber has dried it will be incorporated into the community buildings and homes to be constructed at Rockspire. Some of the larger tree trunks are not being milled with the anticipation that they will be sculpted once they have dried. These sculptures will be placed around the property for the enjoyment of members and visitors. The non-usable portions of the trees (small limbs or crooked logs) will be recycled as fire wood or chipped into mulch for landscaping.

Maple wood slabs in drying shed  
Photo by G. Myers 11.14.09

# NORTHWEST ARKANSAS B

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ON THE WEB: [nwaonline.com](http://nwaonline.com) ♦ [arkansasonline.com](http://arkansasonline.com)

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010

## 7-mile stretch of Kings River to be preserved

### Agency says some restoration needed at popular destination

ADAM WALLWORTH  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A seven-mile stretch of the Kings River and adjacent lands, purchased from the family of a Texas oil man for \$10.2 million, is the 41st Arkansas preserve of The Nature Conservancy.

"We're really proud to have joined the local landowners there," said Jay Harrod, spokesman for The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas.

The purchase was announced Friday, though official closing on the 4,557 acres occurred March 18.

The conservancy is known for acquiring large tracts of land and preserving them in their natural state.

In the case of the new property, Harrod said the

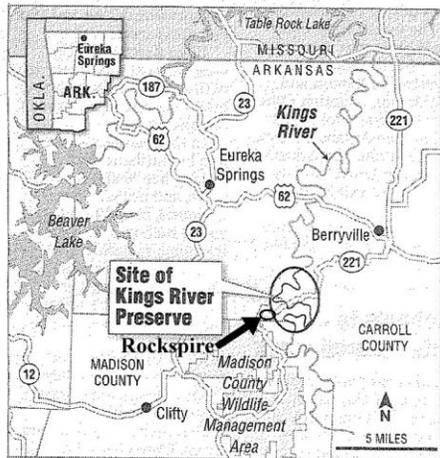
goal is to preserve the pristine quality of the river.

The preserve includes land on both sides of the river, which meanders north to Missouri before entering Table Rock Lake, Harrod said. He said the property includes Mason Bend, located about three miles north of the Rockhouse community.

Although Harrod declined to name the seller, court records show the property was purchased from Texas-based Liedtke Interests, Ltd., which is managed by Blake Liedtke, son of the late J. Hugh Liedtke.

The elder Liedtke was the longtime head of the Pennzoil Co. and a business partner of former president George H.W. Bush.

See **RIVER**, Page 3B



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/KIRK MONTGOMERY

## River

• Continued from Page 1B

Harrod said a May 8 dedication is being planned and will be open to the public. The group will continue to encourage the public to enjoy the river and its banks, he said, but there are no trails on the property.

The Kings River remains one of the state's cleanest streams, but some restoration of property within the preserve is needed, said Tim Snell, associate state director of The Nature Conservancy.

Snell said immediate plans call for restoring trees in flood-prone areas and improving the riparian corridor.

"We are going to be planting hundreds of thousands of trees out there," he said.

The preserve is home to a "suite of Ozark endemic species," including a stone fly that's unique to the river.

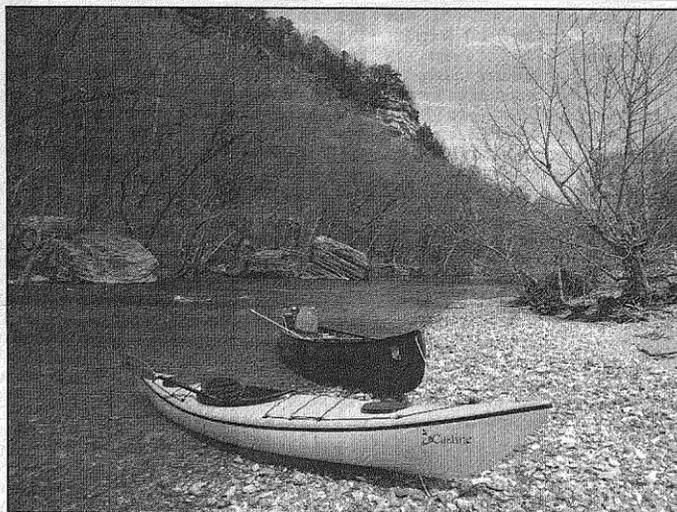
The river is also popular among anglers.

"One of the best small-mouth bass fisheries is right there," Snell said.

The area also is home to the endangered gray bat and is a popular paddling destination, attracting tourists from far and wide.

"It's like a time warp that's been locked away for 50 or 60 years," said Ernie Kilman, owner of Kings River Outfitters and a nearby resident.

Kilman's business is located on Arkansas 221, which bisects the preserve. He said



Special to the Democrat-Gazette/ERNIE KILMAN

The Nature Conservancy in Arkansas announced Friday that it recently purchased 4,557 acres at the Kings River, about five miles southeast of Eureka Springs. The Conservancy will establish the Kings River Preserve, making it the 41st preserve the organization will own in the state.

the purchase is exciting because future generations will be able to enjoy one of the state's finest streams.

"I feel like I just got a 4,557-acre backyard," he said.

The preserve also came as good news to environmental groups such as the Upper White River Basin Foundation, which promotes water quality in Arkansas and Missouri.

Excess sediment and nutrients are the biggest threats to water quality in the Ozarks,

said John Moore, president and executive director of the foundation.

"It's just tremendously important to maintain good

practices on the land so that the water will stay clean and wholesome," he said.

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Rockspire Family Spring Picnic  
Photo by G. Myers 3.27.10  
View commentary of Picnic at [www.rockspire.com/events.html](http://www.rockspire.com/events.html)

Editor's Note: Rockspire overlooks this newly created Kings River Preserve and is now strategically located between it and the Madison County Wildlife Management Area where the Ozark Natural Science Center is located (See map at left).

## Second Quarter - Events at Rockspire

View calendar details at [www.rockspire.com/events.html](http://www.rockspire.com/events.html)

### Did you know....?

If you type "**Rockspire, AR**" into the search engine of either Google Earth or Google Maps, it will take you directly to the Rockspire front gates.

### MAY

- 8 Rockspire members meeting; Kings River Preserve Dedication
- 29 - 30 Rockspire Memorial Weekend

### JUNE

- 12 Cogdell Spencer ERDMAN Canoeing, Camping, Cooking