

# The ROCKSPIRIAN

July, 2010

The Quarterly Rockspire Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 3

NATURE STRONGLY INFLUENCES the lifestyle we are cultivating for ourselves and our friends and family at Rockspire. This spring and summer have blessed us with abundant natural wonders, many of which are now easily viewable along the 2 mile long, Upper Nature Trail recently completed over the winter months. The trails are especially popular with the children who visit Rockspire to experience nature. The Box Turtle pictured at the right, named Darth Mall, was discovered and named by eight-year-old, Richard Waterman and his dad Robert during their recent stay at Rockspire. Turtles are abundant throughout the Ozarks, and can be seen often when walking the trails at Rockspire.



Eastern Box Turtle on the Upper Nature Trail  
Photo by R. Waterman - 5.31.10

Other wildlife easily spotted at Rockspire are deer, armadillo, possum, squirrel, raccoon, and birds of all types including bald eagles, hawks, hummingbirds, crows, turkeys, and owls. Not so easily spotted, but nonetheless present are bears, coyotes, mountain lions, and snakes.



Virginia Waterman with Rockspire Antlers  
Photo by R. Waterman - 5.30.10

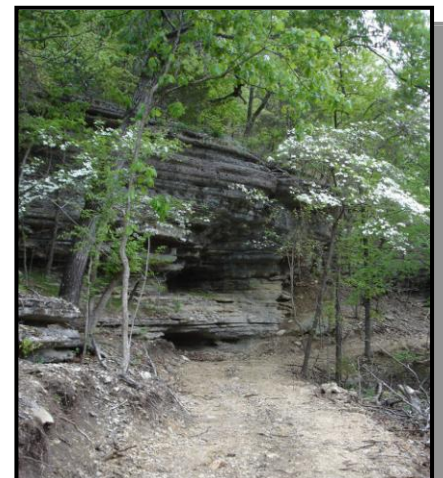
The antlers pictured with six-year-old Virginia Waterman were found this spring in the mountaintop pasture after they were shed by the large buck that has been spotted near Nelson's pond several times over the past few years.

Wildflowers are also abundant this year and the wide variety of native wildflowers can be observed at almost every step along the Upper Nature Trail. In addition, moss, ferns, and lichens adorn the rock outcroppings and cliff ledges. Some of the wildflower species identified at Rockspire by Deborah Waterman are: Cat's Claw, White Heath Aster, Running Myrtle, Daisy Fleabane, Foxglove Beardtongue, and Black-eyed Susan.



Wildflowers at cliff's edge  
Photo by G. Myers - 4.18.10

In addition to the wildlife and wildflowers we are able to harvest nearly 200 bales of hay yearly from our thirty five acre mountaintop field which doubles as an airfield. Once we live full time at Rockspire we plan to raise not so wild Morgan horses to harness for carriage and pleasure riding at Rockspire.



Dogwoods in bloom at Rockspire  
Photo by G. Myers - 4.17.10

**T**HE NATURE CONSERVANCY held its dedication ceremony for the newly acquired Kings River Preserve on May 8, 2010 near Rockspire at the river's Rockhouse Access Point. The dedication was attended by nearly 100 people ranging from representatives from the Governor's and Senator's offices to state and local conservationists and nearby residents.

For those who missed the article in our 2nd Quarterly **ROCKSPIRIAN**, the 4,500+ acres, seven mile long, Kings River Preserve is located immediately to the north and east of Rockspire. With the dedication of this preserve Rockspire is now strategically located between it and the McIlroy Madison County Wildlife Management Area to the south. All totaled there are over 20,000 acres of nature preserve in the immediate vicinity of Rockspire. The Ozark Natural Science Center is also nearby.

**F**IRST EVER AIRPLANE take off and landing at Rockspire was accomplished by pilot Jim Mullen on Saturday, June 12, 2010. Jim flew to Rockspire from Springdale, AR in his single engine plane and picked up George who used the opportunity to take aerial photographs of the MobbyMac Carriage House and Betty's Birdhouse Cabin.



George Myers and pilot Jim Mullen at Rockspire Airfield  
Photo by J. Leyba - 6.12.10



Rockspire contingent at the Kings River Preserve Dedication  
From left, Mike Johnson, Pete & Eileen Cunningham,  
Marjorie Jones, and Deborah & George Myers.  
Photo by S. Borne - 5.8.10

All this was possible because the hay in the mountaintop field had been harvested the week before. With a cleanly mowed 1/2 mile long field the plane easily landed from the east and rolled to a stop near the front gates to the amazement of those driving on Highway 221.

If you are planning on jumping into your private jet and flying to Rockspire please notify us in advance as we will need to make sure the field is properly mowed and there are no wild turkeys or deer on the runway! We also make no claims about UFO's using the airfield in our absence!