

SCHOOL'S OUT !!

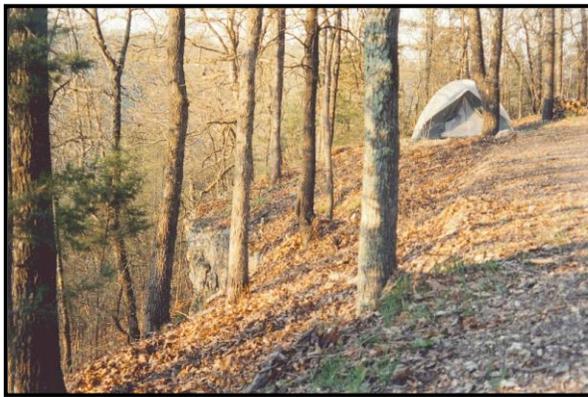
After graduating from high school in May, 2013; what did they do before heading off to college?



Left to right: Rebekah Gibbons, Alleayah Tramel, Shelby Cormack, Anthony Gibbons, Sydney Ford, Jacob Eason, and Wacey Connor. Not pictured, Malorie Mullens

THEY HEADED TO **ROCKSPIRE** for a weekend of camping, hiking, and canoeing. Now completing their freshman year at five different universities, these seven friends (plus one not pictured) have decided to reunite at **Rockspire** for four days in early June. If last year was any indication, late night *spooky* hikes along Joan's Angel Trail, campfire cooking, and shooting the Kings River rapids are on the agenda. A video by Anthony Gibbons, **Camping Rockspire 2013**, is posted for your viewing on Rockspire's Facebook page.

For the past few weeks, crews have been cleaning and repairing damage done over the winter months at Camp Sassafras. As this past winter was especially harsh, there was extensive work required but the campgrounds are now ready for this year's campers. The hexagonal dining gazebo pictured below has been replaced with a new tent, since the one pictured was crushed under the weight of a snow storm that caught us by surprise early last December.



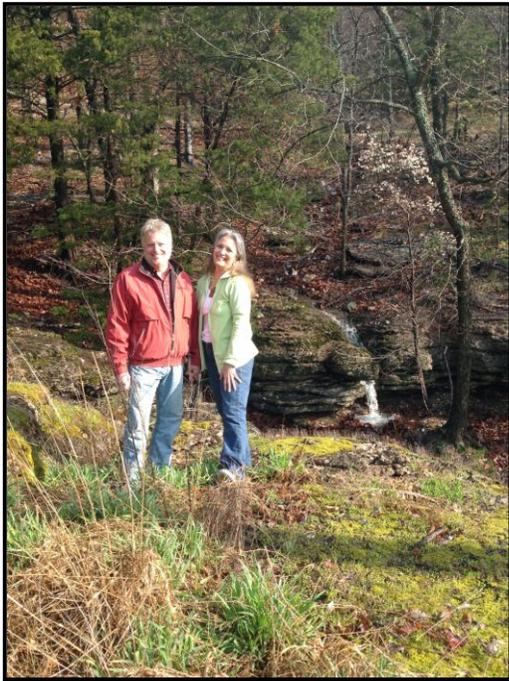
Cliff's edge tent camping at Camp Sassafras



Hexagonal dining gazebo, hammock, and fire pit at Camp Sassafras

CITY GIRL WITH COUNTRY HEART?

by Deborah Myers, present-day visitor, future-day resident of Rockspire

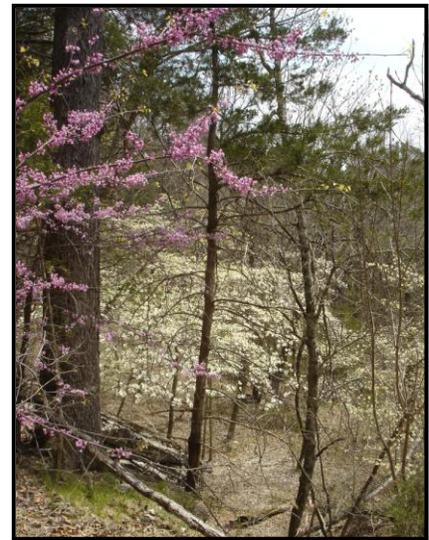


George & Deborah Myers near Betty's Birdhouse
Photo by M. Johnson 4.7.14

"I must have country in my heart." Do I? City-girl born and bred, I'm imagining the country girl deep inside me. It comes out when I enjoy the smell of farm animals at the State Fair, or stack Mason Jars full of freshly-canned fruits grown nearby, or watch critters that dash away fleet-footed as I approach them. As it doesn't come naturally to me, something latent from another time or place awaits a trigger or a sensation for the "country girl feeling" to emerge. Does my future see a time when shopping, gallery-hopping, fine-dining at fancy restaurants and exotic cultural events will be supplanted by walks in rustling leaves, night sightings of stars, whispers in the hollowed caves, and forays into forests pungent with rain smells? Surely, I am richer for the choice.



Snow on Rockspire's North Face
note the deer beneath the pine tree at the top center
Photo by K. O'Neal 3.4.14



Red Bud and Dogwoods along Joan's Angel Trail
Photo by G. Myers 4.18.14