

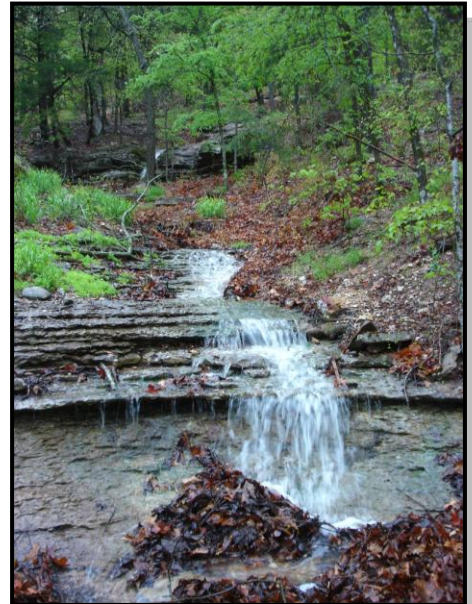
# The ROCKSPIRIAN

April, 2013  
Volume 2, Number 14

**"ONE OF THE STRIKING CHARACTERISTICS** of those who have learned to practice **experimental innovation** is that they understand that failure, in the form of making mistakes or errors, and being imperfect is essential to their success. It's not that they intentionally try to fail, but rather that they know that they will make important discoveries by being willing to be imperfect, especially at the initial stages of developing their ideas."

The above quote is an excerpt from: **Little Bets** by Peter Sims

At Rockspire we initially thought things would progress much faster than they have. However, momentum is building and we have learned much from earlier missteps. It's been difficult finding craftsmen who can help us implement our vision. It's not that we think they were imperfect, it's because we're practicing "**experimental innovation!**"



Waterfalls below the pond and near Betty's Birdhouse, eventually will generate electricity.  
Photo by: G. Myers 4.27.13

## INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT

Upper West Pond dam improvements underway with Jynx drinking from pond that will be stocked with fish when improvements are completed.  
Photo by: G. Myers 3.12.13

**WATER MANAGEMENT** at Rockspire is moving forward with the reconstruction of one of the mountaintop ponds. The Upper West Pond is the first of several ponds to be reconstructed for the purpose of water management as outlined in the Rockspire Manifesto. When completed, this pond will serve as a source of drinking water for livestock and the site for aquaculture through the harvesting of freshwater fish.

Water is a transient natural resource and is always in motion unless encapsulated as ice. By using the wind to pump water from a pond in the valley to this mountaintop pond, water will flow from this pond down the mountainside toward Betty's Birdhouse and back to the pond in the valley where it circulates upward again. As the water flows down the mountainside over cascading waterfalls, micro-hydro electric generators will produce electricity for use in Rockspire's homes and facilities.



**JOAN MYERS NORTON**, one of the founding members of Rockspire, passed away April 4, 2013 after an in-home accident on March 17. A service of worship in witness to the resurrection and in celebration of Joan's life was held at the MobbyMac Carriage House at Rockspire on April 13 with the Rev. Stewart Smith officiating. During the service a newly planted Norway Spruce Tree memorial was dedicated and the Upper Nature Trail at Rockspire was renamed "**Joan's Angel Trail**" to honor Joan and her interest in angels. Joan's family would love to hear your thoughts and memories of her by emailing, [angels@rockspire.com](mailto:angels@rockspire.com)

*L'INSPIRATEUR ANGÉLIQUE*

*What do angels do? Descriptions come to mind like support, gently nurture, inspire others. These aptly describe what Joan meant to Rockspire. She was among the first to support its concept, to embrace its principles, and to lend an extra hand. Rockspire wasn't just "Jordy's latest project"; it was a place she enjoyed being a part of and hoped, by being one of its most vocal champions, to influence others to come to this wonderful setting and enfold it into their own sense of wellbeing. She tread many a time onto the paths that entwine those lovely woods with the hope that one day she could permanently call it "home". It is appropriate her final resting place is Rockspire. Rest, kind angel, you are home now.*

Newly planted Joan's Memorial Norway Spruce Tree  
Photo by: G. Myers 4.14.13



One of the angels overlooking Joan's Angel Trail  
Photo by: M. Johnson 4.14.13



Mike Norton reciting a poem at Joan's Memorial Tree  
Photo by: A. Bevil 4.13.13



May Meredith, Becky Gibbons, Judy Leyba, and David Gibbons  
Photo by: A. Bevil 4.13.13



Rev. Stewart Smith speaking to Joan's family and friends at the MobbyMac Carriage House  
Photo by: A. Bevil 4.13.13



Richard and Deborah Waterman reflecting near Joan's Memorial Tree  
Photo by: A. Bevil 4.13.13