

The ROCKSPIRIAN



January, 2012

The Quarterly Rockspire Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 9



Happy New Year from Rockspire!

*Rain rushed down Rockspire cliffs
on a November day of constant cloudbursts,
An open spigot that ceased only after
midnight's deep slumber.
We stopped to marvel at waterfall's edge,
and with clicking camera in hand,
Woefully captured its cold, pure, raging glory.*

Deborah Myers

Waterfall near Betty's Birdhouse
Photo by G. Myers 11.8.11

HOW DO WE PLAN TO HARNESS THE EARTH'S COLD, PURE, RAGING ENERGY? Alternative energy production drives several projects planned for completion in 2012 at Rockspire. First, the construction of an underground bunker will house the equipment necessary for interfacing the electrical grid with our community energy production systems.

Some of these alternative energy concepts trace back to the early 1990's when Deborah Myers was with the Center for Global Studies at the Houston Advanced Research Center. And when Rockspire was eventually acquired in 1997, George Myers and Michael Johnson intensified their research into alternative energy systems with the goal of making Rockspire a net producer of electricity by selling excess electricity to the power grid of Northwest Arkansas.

The result of this research is a proposed system that will be an integrated hybrid system of solar photovoltaic (PV), wind, and micro-hydro electric systems. We will use these three

technologies in concert to ensure the constant, reliable, and sustainable production of electricity.

The *natural environment* at Rockspire is perfectly suited for a meaningful conversion of the potential energy found in the sun, wind, and water into usable, efficient, locally produced, electricity. Some of Rockspire's natural benefits include:

- **Sun:** Clear, mountain top pastures that allow unobstructed access to the sun.
- **Wind:** Unobstructed escarpment that focuses the north winds, up from the valley from miles away.
- **Water:** 400 feet of vertical fall from mountain top ponds to the valley.

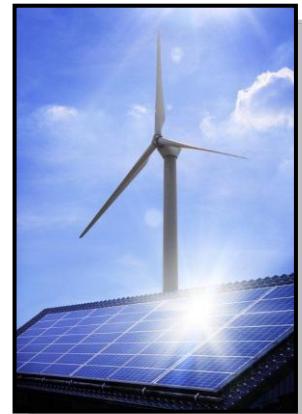


Photo by: Shutterstock.com

SOME OF OUR NEIGHBORS in the surrounding area known as Trigger Gap have joined in the community we call Rockspire. One such neighbor is Rusty Rothgeb. Rusty helped with the finish work on Betty's Birdhouse and has managed the construction of the shop addition and the MobbyMac Carriage House. He brings his talent in the construction trades after years of working in multiple countries as everything from a lineman to a finish carpenter on yachts.



Rusty's home base for the past 18 years has been his dome home located at Trigger Gap not far from Rockspire. Using geodesic principles, he built the dome of wood and concrete. The two level dome features a loft style bedroom, overlooking the main living area. Rusty has located the dome on the side of the mountain with dramatic views of his terraced water gardens and wooded valley below. When his main house is completed, he plans to make his dome available for eco-tourism rental.

Rothgeb Dome - West Elevation
Photo by G. Myers 1.11.12

CRYSTAL BRIDGES MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART opened its doors to the public for the first time on November 11, 2011 and is a must see addition to the Northwest Arkansas cultural scene. Located near downtown Bentonville, AR, Crystal Bridges is just 45 minutes from Rockspire. George and Deborah Myers, and Grant and Sherryl Hensley were pleased to attend a members only preview on November 10. Architect, Moshe Safdie designed the museum which houses some of the best American art found anywhere in the world. We highly recommend you visit the museum on your next visit to Rockspire.



Rusty Rothgeb and dog, Sophie
On the dome roof
Photo by G. Myers 1.11.12

Crystal Bridges Museum
Left: Museum Cafe, interior
Photo by G. Myers 11.10.11
Right: Sherryl and Deborah at Crystal Bridges
Photo by G. Hensley 11.10.11