

The ROCKSPIRIAN

October, 2012

The Quarterly Rockspire Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 12

THE BURN BAN IS OFF! THE BURN BAN IS OFF!

It was not Chicken Little running around yelling in the fields at Keels Creek on Rockhouse Road, October 14.

Instead, it was men shooting flaming arrows into the dark sky to ignite some 10 twig sculptures constructed last May waiting for a dry, hot summer to pass. As soon as the burn ban was lifted in Carroll County, word went out that a “sculpture burning” at a neighboring field to Rockspire would take place. This was an event not to be missed!

The idea, now an annual event, is to have local artists along Rockhouse Road and points around Trigger Gap where Rockspire is located, create sculptures made of twigs, found objects, logs – whatever the mind imagines – so large that only big acreage could contain. Then, at a designated time, the public is invited to gather for wine from the Keels Creek Winery, cheese, neighborhood camaraderie and burning. Think “Block Party” – flambé!

Some 10 sculptures could be previewed and then as dusk fell, out came the sparklers, the fuel, the matches, the flaming arrows – and within minutes, each sculpture was lit, crackling and spitting into the night air with spectacular light-show effects. One sculpture of straw named “Burn Boy” was adorned with marshmallows strategically placed so that sparklers would ignite and toast the little guy – all to the enthusiastic cheers and hoots of the 50-plus crowd that had gathered to watch the burning. A “sight to behold” said George and Deborah Myers!



George Myers at one of the sculptures prior to the burning
Photo by: D Myers: 10.14.12



Same sculpture as above, during the burning
Photo by: G Myers: 10.14.12

DIGGING BY HAND AT MOONSHINER'S CAVE is progressing in the corridor that we hope will lead to the "pond room". The digging is slow and we have begun to unearth artifacts such as broken jars, metal and glass jar lids, and broken bottles. Since all these items have been unearthed in an area of the cave that was until recently inaccessible, we now have more convincing evidence that the folklore surrounding Moonshiner's Cave could be true.



Robert Dunbar and Phillip Fortenberry
digging in Moonshiner's Cave at Rockspire
Photo by: G Myers: 9.23.12

For those of you who missed the story in our January 2011 *Rockspirian*, old-timers in the region tell stories of moonshine being brewed in the cave at Rockspire during the early twentieth century. Story has it that there is an underground, spring-fed pond where the still was located. It now appears that the entrance to the cave was deliberately filled with stone and dirt to bring an end to the illegal activities. More news to follow as digging through the blockage continues!



Library at the MobbyMac Carriage House
Rockspire at night
Photo by: G Myers: 10.29.12



Music room at the MobbyMac Carriage House
Rockspire at night
Photo by: G Myers: 10.29.12

INTERIOR FURNISHINGS at the MobbyMac Carriage House are almost complete . The concrete floors are stained and polished, and the drapes are hung! Let the parties begin!!