

The ROCKSPIRIAN

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The Quarterly Rockspire Newsletter

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HARVESTING HARDWOODS AND HAY at Rockspire are two ways in which we take advantage of the renewable resources available to us. Our policy is to harvest only the trees that die of natural causes. The severe ice storm of February, 2009 has given us an almost limitless supply of hardwoods that have died over time due to the stress caused by the weight of the ice on the limbs of the trees.



Kenneth Wolfinbarger raking hay for bales from the west pasture.
Photo by G. Myers - 10.2.10

The views north from the pastures are sweeping vistas of the Kings River Valley and Nature Preserve at Trigger Gap.

The mountains barely visible on the horizon in the picture are in Missouri which is 15 miles north as the crow flies. The pasture in the foreground is a small part of the central pasture at Rockspire.



Trigger Gap overlook from the central pasture.
Photo by G. Myers 10.2.10

Martin Fortenberry, Director of Maintenance and Security at Rockspire, has been instrumental in harvesting the hardwoods. He designed and built the log hauler pictured below. The log hauler axle is a rebuilt riding mower which allows Martin to maneuver the log hauler deep into the woods to access downed trees that were previously unreachable with the tractor.

The hay is usually harvested twice a year in June and October. It is sold to local cattle farmers for use during the winter months. Rockspire's twenty-plus acres of mountaintop pastures are divided into four distinct areas. The west pasture will eventually become home to horses and possibly alpaca llamas; the central pasture is the largest and doubles as the airfield for airplane use; the south pasture will be home to the planned gardens and greenhouse; and the east pasture will become the location of our planned amphitheater and stone gazebo.



Martin Fortenberry hauling logs out of the woods. The Black Lab watching from the woods is one of Martin's 6 dogs - Chico
Photo by G. Myers - 9.22.10

THE JOHNSON FAMILY REUNION was held this year at Rockspire for the second time. Rockspire co-founder/manager, Mike Johnson hosted the event from October 6-11 at Betty's Birdhouse Cabin. Attendees came from Overland Park, KS; Raleigh, NC; Sterling, VA; and Dallas, TX. Most of the time was spent catching up on family news, reminiscing, hiking, and reading. However, time was spent in the towns of Eureka Springs and Berryville enjoying the shopping, galleries, live bluegrass music, and fine dining. Most of the family members had not been to Rockspire in several years as they commented on the large amount of progress that has been made at Betty's Birdhouse Cabin, the Upper Nature Trail, and the MobbyMac Carriage House. Unfortunately, the younger Johnson Family members were all at college or working and unable to attend.



The Johnson Family at Betty's Birdhouse Cabin

From left, standing: Alex Johnson, Mike Johnson, Rosalyn Johnson, Betty Johnson, Kathy Crosby, Court Crosby; seated: Kent Johnson, Judy Sharp. Dogs from left: Lily, Lucy, Ariel, Sophie, and Chase
Photo by C. Crosby - 10.10.10

EUREKA SPRINGS is a special place for many and it has a very colorful history to match its colorful architecture and natural beauty. The "Twilight Tales" troupe featured in the photograph re-enact the founding of the town from the time when it was a special place for the Native American Indians through the discovery of the healing properties of the springs and to the town's phenomenal growth during the late 19th century. The photograph was taken during a recent re-enactment at the Basin Park in downtown Eureka Springs.



Rockspire co-founder/manger George and Deborah Myers witnessed the "Twilight Tales" as they spent the weekend of October 9-10 in Eureka Springs at the Heartstone Inn to celebrate their wedding anniversary. They were married 20 years ago at the famous Thorncrown Chapel in Eureka Springs with the reception held at the Heartstone Inn. The Inn was recently named Lanier's Bed and Breakfast International 2010 Inn of the Year! You might want to view their website at www.heartstoneinn.com. If you stay there, tell Rick and Cheri Rojek, the owners, we sent you!

Twilight Tales at Basin Park
Photo by G. Myers 10.9.10



George & Deborah Myers
at Thorncrown Chapel
Photo by: unknown tourist
10.9.10