

The ROCKSPIRIAN



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THE BEGINNING of the **Vold Vision Stairway** by David Cunningham of Eureka Ironworks and progress on the **Vold Vision Mural** by Paul O'Neill of Kings River Fine Arts were on display and celebrated with music, food, and wine during a party at **Rockspire** on August 30th.



Paul O'Neill and Dr. Steven Vold in front of
The Vold Vision Mural at the MobbyMac Carriage House
Photo by: G. Myers 8.30.15

Guests at the celebration included Eureka Springs artists, persons working on the Vold Vision project, and friends and neighbors of Rockspire. All are looking forward to the mural signing celebration at Rockspire and eventual Vold Vision open house after the two works are installed at the clinic in Fayetteville.

Tree bark, leaves and acorns made of
steel by David Cunningham for the
Vold Vision Stairway
Photo by: P. O'Neill 9.7.15



Paul O'Neill has been painting at the MobbyMac Carriage House for the past few months on the eighteen feet by twelve feet mural, and according to Paul the mural is about 65% complete. He is now in the process of adding more detail. (*See the May 2015 Rockspiran at www.rockspire.com for more information about Paul O'Neill and the painting*)

David Cunningham has completed his design and has started construction of the monumental stairway that will feature several two story tall, steel trees. As you ascend the stairway using hand hewn steel vines as handrails, it will appear you are winding your way through the trees and vines to enter the Vold Vision Conference Center on the second floor of the Fayetteville Clinic and Surgery Center. (*See more of David's work at www.eurekaironworks.com*)

The architectural design for the overall project at Vold Vision is by Rockspire's architects, George Myers and Mike Johnson. Interior design is by Kelli Gemmell, and construction management is by Milestone Construction Company, LLC with Robert Williams as lead construction manager.



David Geneson at the piano, with Maxine Mahaney, Diane Goodwin, and Tom Mahaney at the MobbyMac Carriage House.
Photo by F. Leyba 8.30.15

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COMPOSTING ELEMENTAL DIRT

Recently, Deborah Myers attended a class on composting with the goal of helping Rockspire advance leadership in sustainable living. Below are her notes from the class taught by Tony O'Sullivan and sponsored by the City of Dallas.

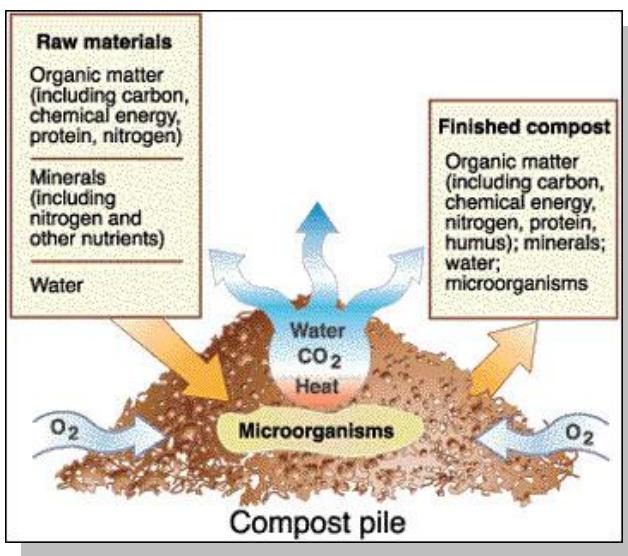
For gardening, you want the best quality compost you can produce. Here are some essential "rules":

- *Keep the Golden Ratio 30:1 Carbon to Nitrogen*
- *Eyeball 3:1 brown to green (brown = dry leaves, wood chips, shredded paper, straw/hay, small twigs; green = pet hair, fruit/vegetable waste, egg shells, alfalfa, garden scraps, some grass clippings, dryer lint). Too much "brown", slows down the process; too much "green" stinks!*
- *No meat, droppings, weeds, diseased plants, or shavings from treated wood*

*Any variance from the ratios will rob your food garden of essential soil nutrients. Worm castings (the natural sloughed skin from worms) plus rainwater offer the most potent natural fertilizer. Special worms (*Eisenia Fiteda*) can be bought in bulk on the web and can even be house-broken for use inside your home.*

Types of composting:

- *managed - such as corralling or binning with special cordoned-off areas*
- *unmanaged - such as trench composting – dig a ditch, throw everything including the kitchen sink into it (also known as a "landfill")*
- *"hot" composting (normal off-gassing process emits heat as the pile degrades); maintained mixture, turned frequently and follows ratios above; matures in 6 months or less*
- *"mesophilic" or "cold" composting – add materials of any size, any order and "let it happen"; grows best at moderate temperature; results take longer -- usually 6 months to 2 years to complete*



Water management:

- *rainwater – mix thoroughly after each rain, especially heavier rains*
- *use water pipes surrounding the site as a coolant because natural heating occurs*

Did you know?

- *dry compost can be used as cat litter*
- *dog and cat poop are toxic for composting*
- *pig manure can remediate oil spills*
- *vermi-composting directs vermin away from your "good pile"*

Once you've followed the essentials, you're well on your way to a great compost heap. To quote my mother-in-law, Mary Myers, "So good it makes you want to dig dirt!"