

# The ROCKSPIRIAN

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## **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition!**

**1997 MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE DREAM OF ROCKSPIRE.**

Much has been accomplished in 20 years, as the dream lives on. With the vision to develop a *Living Laboratory for Sustainable Lifestyles*, Rockspire is becoming reality with the talents and tasks of many.

***Some accomplishments of the past twenty years are:***

### ***The Dream***

- 1997** – George Myers and Mike Johnson purchased 125 acres seven miles southeast of Eureka Spring, Arkansas as a personal retreat for family and friends.
- 1998** – Camp Sassafras was created for tent camping and campfire dining.
- 1998 – 1999** – A series of “Concept Papers” were written to establish the early concepts for creating an Intentional Community on the property.
- 1999** – The property was officially named *Rockspire*.
- 1999** – Roads were built, allowing vehicles access from the west end to the east end of the property.
- 1999** – Rockspire, LLC was formed by five families with the dream of building an Intentional Community.

### ***Building a Community***

- 2004** – Rockspire Properties, LLC was formed, and ownership of the Rockspire real estate holdings were transferred from George Myers and Mike Johnson to Rockspire Properties, LLC
- 2006** – Rockspire’s rainwater collection system was built to supply potable water to the west end.
- 2007** – The Rockspire Cabin was built as a guesthouse.
- 2008** – The woodworking shop and drying shed were built and tools and equipment were moved from the shop in Dallas to the new shop at Rockspire.
- 2009** – The Rockspire Cabin was dedicated as Betty’s Birdhouse Cabin to honor Betty Johnson.
- 2009** – Rockspire began harvesting, drying, and milling hardwoods.

### ***Nature Trails and Newsletters***

- 2010** – The two-story shop addition was built, completing the shop complex.
- 2010** – *The Rockspirian* quarterly newsletter was first published.
- 2010** – The two-mile long, upper nature trail was built, and digging began at Moonshiner’s Cave.
- 2011** – The Rockspire Carriage House was built as a community building, housing Rockspire’s offices and meeting space. It was dedicated as the MobbyMac Carriage House to honor Marjorie McDonald Jones.

### ***Building Projects***

- 2012** – The Trigger Gap LZ helipad was built near Rockspire’s front gates.
- 2013** – Joan’s Angel Trail was dedicated with angel sculptures placed along the trail to honor Joan Myers Norton.
- 2014 – 2015** – Multiple furniture and art projects were completed at Rockspire’s shop and studio. The Vold Vision Mural, Erdman Conference Table, and MobbyMac Carriage House doors are just a few examples.
- 2016** – The two main roads at Rockspire were dedicated as *Rockspire Road* and *Orchard Ridge Road*.

### ***The Task at Hand***

- 2017** – Looking forward to the next phase when we begin design and construction of member homes!

*A vision without a task  
is but a dream.*

*A task without a vision  
is drudgery.*

*A vision with a task is  
the hope of the world.*

Carved on a wall of an 18<sup>th</sup>  
century church in England



## RESISTING SUCCESS THROUGH GROWTH.

By remaining relatively small in numbers at Rockspire, our intentional community can meaningfully address issues to create a sustainable lifestyle - now and for generations to come. In keeping with that philosophy, the by-laws of Rockspire, LLC stipulate that **“at no time shall the total number of member units exceed thirty unless approved by 100% of the members,”** ... where one “family” represents a membership unit. To be clear, we are not seeking thirty families for membership. Any size is good as-long-as it doesn't exceed thirty families.



Below is an excerpt from the revised and updated version of the book:  
***Life, Money, and Illusion - Living on Earth as if we want to stay***  
By Mike Nickerson, Copyright © 2009

***MOST OF TODAY'S ECONOMIC DECISIONS are based on assumptions that proved successful decades or even centuries ago and continue to be systematically applied. The patterns and inertia of the management system continue to be immensely successful in their own terms. The overall volume of production and consumption continues to rise. The process has been progressively refined and applied up to this day, enabling the human presence to multiply many times over. It is a story of extraordinary success. Great wealth and power continues to accumulate to those in charge, further reinforcing their belief that the system is working. They feel good about their accomplishments, making it very difficult for them to see that our present crisis is a product of that success. They are to be congratulated, then gently urged to acknowledge the new challenges....***

***When the solution to a problem is based on growth, it can find acceptance within the present order.... Be that as it may, expansion is now at the root of some serious problems. Effective solutions to the modern crisis lie elsewhere.***



ON DECEMBER 12, 2016, THE NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO STATION, KUAF in Fayetteville, Arkansas aired their program called ***Ozarks at Large*** where they featured ***Rockspire!*** In the seven-minute radio report, Jacqueline Froelich interviews Rockspire's founders, George Myers and Mike Johnson. You can listen to the full commentary and interview on the internet at <http://kuaf.com/post/rockspire-inspires-sustainable-community-development>.

Thanks to Jacqueline Froelich, Senior News Producer, KUAF National Public Radio 91.3fm, Station-based NPR Correspondent.