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## CONCRETE IN THE WOODS

For those who have stayed at Betty’s Birdhouse cabin you are aware that you need a four-wheel-drive vehicle to make your way back up the hill from the cabin due to the slippage of gravel and sometimes erosion on the road. Well, that’s no longer the case. Earlier this month Alejandro Gachuzo and his crew did a masterful job of pouring concrete under very difficult conditions. The 150’ long, concrete roadway over the steepest part of the hill is now navigable with a normal two-wheel-drive vehicle, plus we no longer have to worry about erosion control. Kudos also go to the concrete truck drivers at Thompson Concrete who took the challenge of backing down a long, narrow, steep, dirt road to deliver the concrete.



Orchard Ridge Road on the way to Betty’s Birdhouse Cabin. Above right– during the concrete pour. Left – the completed concrete section



Right – concrete slab & retaining wall at the MobbyMac Carriage House



## CONCRETE ON THE HILL

In addition to the Concrete in the Woods, Alejandro completed the concrete slab and retaining wall at the MobbyMac Carriage House which is the beginning phase for what will be a drive-under canopy with a large outdoor fireplace. Once completed, the covered space will almost double the size of the great room when the large front doors are laid wide open on good weather days.

## GLASS IN THE WOODS

On October 21<sup>st</sup> Mike and Pam Johnson and Martha Taylor visited the Dale Chihuly glass exhibit at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, AR near Rockspire. What a treasure to have so close! For more about Crystal Bridges see the January 2012, *Rockspirian* at [rockspire.com](http://rockspire.com).



The following is an excerpt from the *Eureka Springs Independent* newspaper article published, October 4, 2017. Thanks to Becky Gillette for writing this article.



## Rockspire serving as think tank for sustainable eco-development

October 4, 2017



In the 40-plus years Dallas architects Mike Johnson and George Myers have been business partners, they would often come up with innovative ideas for sustainable development. They could hardly tell clients, “We have this great idea, but aren’t sure if it will work or not.”

But now many of those ideas are being developed and tested at Rockspire, an intentional community and living laboratory for sustainable lifestyles being developed on 125 acres off Rockhouse Road and Hwy. 221 near Trigger Gap.

They don’t expect every new innovation to pan out, but that’s okay, with them, saying they can sometimes learn as much from mistakes as successes. What they learn will potentially have an impact far beyond Rockspire, as they have developed 10 advisory boards of people around the country interested in serving as a think tank for eco-housing and environmental sustainability.

Initially Johnson and Myers were looking for only 20 acres to build a retreat for their families. They looked all over east Texas and northwest Arkansas.

“We couldn’t find anything that met our specifications until we found this land,” Myers said. “But 125 acres was way more than we needed. We bought this land in 1997 with the intention of letting others get involved. We felt like there were some opportunities here to do something innovative.”

Read the entire article at:

<http://eureka.news/rockspire-serving-as-think-tank-for-sustainable-eco-development/>