

The ROCKSPIRIAN

July 2020
Volume 4, Number 41

ROCKSPIRE.COM, the official website for Rockspire has been improved and expanded. We moved the website to a more secure internet server and upgraded to commercial hosting protocols. This is in anticipation of using the website more extensively to interact during these times when staying connected with friends and family has become more difficult, yet more important than ever.



Rockspire's Home Page.

Arrow points to the tab that takes you to the new *Advisory* pages

The most noticeable change to the website is the addition of the *Advisory* pages. These pages were created as a platform for the ten *Rockspire Advisory Boards* which are not meeting in person due to the Coronavirus and are therefore meeting on-line. All Advisory Board meetings are open to the public, via Zoom invitation. You are encouraged to read what is posted to the *Advisory* pages at Rockspire.com. We are posting articles of interest from related publications, links to other websites covering pertinent subject matter, and *Rockspire Advisory Boards* meeting minutes.

In addition, Cliff Wright has donated a laptop computer to Rockspire for public use.

Please contact us when you want to stop by to use the computer/ internet, or just to chat. We'll be following CDC guidelines for social distancing, sanitization, and the Mayor's and Governor's mask mandates.

~~✍~~ GUEST COLUMN ~~✍~~

WHAT ROCKSPIRE MEANS TO ME

by Carol Wright, Rockspire Community Advisory Board member

ROCK: Beta-site for ecologically resilient living and demonstrations nourished by a dedicated "community" of conservationists, organic & heritage agriculturists, architects, engineers, artists, musicians, fundraisers, foundations, and educational institutions from all over the globe.

SPIRE: Links all to promising & resilient techniques & technologies through discussion, research and on-site application & shared among other eco-communities, educational institutions, and the public in the Ozarks, and throughout the world.

Rockspire's "community" has completely reshaped our dream of life, for the better. In our years of involvement, we have learned much about living sustainably and with resilience and, certainly, 2020 has been an incentive for all of us to reexamine "how" we live. But the overriding lesson we have learned is that building a conscious community and living and interacting within it is a positive, safe, productive, and healthy way to live. We are moving to acreage nearby Rockspire, building a sustainable homestead and are planning to be more resilient to meet whatever 2021 and beyond brings us.



July 2020

FIRE AT ROCKSPIRE!

Early on the morning of March 30th as Rockspire’s neighbors, Gerald and Karen Kelley were on their way to feed their cattle, they spotted smoke coming from the two-story storage facility near the MobbyMac Carriage House at Rockspire. After calling 911, Gerald called George Myers who was at home in Dallas.



Interior damage
Photo by: Servpro, NWA 4.4.20

Photos by: H. Goodwin 3.30.20

George in turn called other Rockspire neighbors and within minutes the volunteer fire departments from both Eureka Springs and Berryville, as well as several neighbors sprang into action fighting the fire and moving equipment located near the building. The structure was saved, and nobody was hurt as the fire was contained to the second floor with little exterior or structural damage. Reconstruction is under way and should be completed in early August.

The cause of the fire appeared suspicious at first, but a subsequent investigation by the Eureka Springs Fire Marshal and an independent fire investigator determined the fire was caused by lightning.

Nobody was at Rockspire at the time of the fire, so it was lucky that the Kelleys were able to spot the smoke before much damage was done. The greatest loss was personal “stuff” being stored on the second floor. We figure it was Nature’s way of telling us we have too much stuff! It’s also interesting to note that while the fire was under way, George was continuously being informed remotely by phone calls, texts and photos from neighbors, the fire department, and the mayor of Eureka Springs. The quick action of everyone involved is an example of how the close-knit Trigger Gap community pulled together to help. Many thanks to everyone who helped out that morning!



Controlled burn at homesites
Photo by: R. Rothgeb 4.18.20

On a related subject, in mid-April Rockspire conducted a ***controlled*** burn at the site where the first two homes have started construction. After consulting with The Nature Conservancy and Arkansas Parks and Wildlife, it was determined that a controlled burn would help restore the forest near the homes, control insects such as chiggers and ticks, and make access for layout and construction easier. In addition to the controlled burn, many of the smaller trees and standing dead trees were removed. This was done to give the larger, mature oak, pine, and walnut trees the opportunity to become better established while opening more extensive vistas of the Kings River Valley below the homesites. More trees will probably need to be removed during construction to make sure any future wildfire or storm damage to trees will not cause damage to the homes. However, we still intend to preserve as much of the natural state of the surrounding forest as possible.

