



***The Ongoing History of  
A Living Laboratory for Sustainable Lifestyles***

***The Dream***

**1997**

- Dallas architects, George Myers and Mike Johnson purchased 125 acres seven miles southeast of Eureka Spring, Arkansas as a personal retreat for family and friends.

**1998**

- Upon request, the Ozark Natural Science Center's staff conducted a tour of the property for 10 interested people, identifying flora and fauna and answering questions about the natural science of the area.
- The "Grand Hoo-Ha" picnic, attended by approximately 20 people, was held at the property to celebrate the beginning of on-site work.
- Camp Sassafras was created for tent camping and campfire dining. See *The Rockspirian* – November 2019 – *Camping at Camp Sassafras*.

**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*. See *The Rockspirian* – April 2011 – *Did you know?*
- Over one mile of roads were built, allowing vehicles access from the west end to the east end of the property.
- Rockspire, LLC was formed by five families with the dream of building an Intentional Community.

***Building a community***

**2000 - 2001**

- Planning, design, and early sitework begins on a cabin and vehicle barn which eventually become Betty's Birdhouse and The MobbyMac Carriage House.

**2002**

- *The Rockspire Manifesto* presentation was created and presented to members, friends, family, and interested parties.

**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

**2005**

- The first Johnson Family reunion was held at Rockspire with hikes and picnics. Since no facilities were completed at Rockspire, family members stayed in Eureka Springs' hotels.

**2006**

- Rockspire's rainwater collection system was built to supply potable water to the west end. See *The Rockspirian* – July 2011 – *Rainwater Collection*

**2007**

- The Rockspire Cabin was completed as a guesthouse. See *The Rockspirian* – July 2011 – *Betty's Birdhouse Cabin*

**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. See *The Rockspirian* – January 2010 – *Betty's Birdhouse Dedication*
- Rockspire began harvesting, drying, and milling hardwoods. See *The Rockspirian* – October 2010 – *Harvesting Hardwoods and Hay*.

***Nature Trails and Newsletters*****2010**

- The two-story shop addition was built, completing the shop complex.
- *The Rockspirian* quarterly newsletter was first published in January 2010. See *The Rockspirian* – January 2010 – Volume 1, Number 1
- The two-mile long, upper nature trail was built, and digging began at Moonshiner's Cave. See *The Rockspirian* – January 2010 – *Construction begins on Upper Nature Trail*
- The second Johnson Family reunion was held October 6-10. See *The Rockspirian* – October 2010 – *The Johnson Family Reunion*

**2011**

- The Rockspire Carriage House was completed as a community building, housing Rockspire's offices and meeting space. It was dedicated as the MobbyMac Carriage House to honor Marjorie McDonald Jones. See *The Rockspirian* – April 2011 – *The MobbyMac Carriage House*

***Building Projects*****2012**

- The Trigger Gap LZ helipad was built near Rockspire's front gates. See *The Rockspirian* – January 2013 – *Trigger Gap LZ*.

**2013**

- Joan's Angel Trail was dedicated with angel sculptures placed along the trail to honor Joan Myers Norton. See *The Rockspirian* – April 2013 – *Joan Myers Norton*
- Eight graduating high school students celebrate graduation by camping, hiking, and canoeing at Rockspire. See *The Rockspirian* – May 2014 – *School's Out!*
- The wedding reception for Doug and Susan Kilman was held at the MobbyMac Carriage House after the wedding at Thorncrown Chapel in Eureka Springs with approximately 70 people in attendance. See *The Rockspirian* – January 2014 – *The Kilman Wedding Reception*

**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.

**2015**

- Rockspire hosts the unveiling of two large works of art created at Rockspire. The Erdman Conference Table by JordyM Studio and The Vold Vision Mural by Kings River Fine Arts. The event was attended by approximately 35 people. See *The Rockspirian* – May 2015 – *The May Festival of the Arts*. This event was followed by a larger event later in the year to celebrate the completion of the Vold Vision Stairway by Eureka Ironworks and the Vold Vision Mural by Kings River Fine Arts. See *The Rockspirian* – September 2015 – *Vold Vision Stairway and Mural Party*

**2016**

- Inventors Anonymous of Eureka Springs held three meetings, over a six-month period at The MobbyMac Carriage House to discuss the creation and efficacy of Eco-Villages. See *The Rockspirian* – November 2016 – *Inventors Anonymous*
- The National Public Radio station, KUAF visited Rockspire and conducted an interview for the *Ozarks at Large* radio program which was aired on December 12, 2016. See *The Rockspirian* – January 2017 – *NPR Commentary and Interview*.
- The two main roads at Rockspire were dedicated as *Rockspire Road* and *Orchard Ridge Road*.

## Meetings and Events

### 2017

- Multiple meetings with The Arkansas Nature Conservancy and their Kings River Preserve staff were conducted at Rockspire to discuss the relationship with this immediate neighbor to Rockspire.
- George Myers presents *The Rockspire Manifesto – Creating a sustainable lifestyle* to the Eureka Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. See *The Rockspirian – July 2017 – The Rockspire Manifesto*.
- The newly formed Eureka Springs Eco Council begins monthly meetings at Rockspire. See *The Rockspirian – July 2017 – The Eureka Springs Eco Council*.
- The Eureka Springs Independent Newspaper publishes the article – *Rockspire serving as think tank for sustainable eco-development*.
- The first annual Classic Mena Celebration was held at Rockspire with 25 people who grew up in Mena, Arkansas during the classic 1960's. See *The Rockspirian – January 2018 – Classic Mena at Rockspire*. The celebration happens every year in early November at Rockspire.

### 2018

- The first *Movies at the MobbyMac* featured the movie *Midnight in Paris* and the Ken Burns documentary on *Frank Lloyd Wright*. *Movies at the MobbyMac* have been shown monthly ever since, with attendance ranging from 15 to 35 people. After the first couple of months, The Rockspire Forum and potluck dinner were added to the movie night. See *The Rockspirian – April 2018 – Movies at the MobbyMac*
- Plein Air Painters of Eureka Springs met for the first time at Rockspire to paint the natural beauty at Rockspire and to plan their 4<sup>th</sup> *Eureka Springs Plein Air Festival*. See *The Rockspirian – July 2018 – Plein Air Painters of Eureka Springs*
- Roadwork begins at the first designated homesites. See *The Rockspirian – July 2018 – And so, it begins*.
- Rockspire meets with the Fay Jones School of Architecture + Design at the University of Arkansas. Dean Peter McKeith appoints Dr. Marty Matlock, Executive Director of the Arkansas Resiliency Center as the Rockspire liaison for the University.
- Rockspire hosted *The 5<sup>th</sup> Night of Christmas Celebration*. Approximately 35 people attended the potluck dinner. See *The Rockspirian – February 2019 – Rockspire's 2018 Holiday Celebration*

### 2019

- *The Northwest Arkansas Permaculture Study Group* had their Rockspire field trip to hike Joan's Angel Trail after a presentation by George Myers and Mike Johnson about the vision of Rockspire. The event attracted over 50 people. See *The Rockspirian – February 2019 – The Northwest Arkansas Permaculture Study Group*.
- *The Northwest Arkansas Native Plant Society* came to Rockspire to identify and discuss the native plants found while hiking Joan's Angel Trail. See *The Rockspirian – April 2019 – The Northwest Arkansas Native Plant Society*.
- The Myers Family held a week-long series of events at Rockspire and surrounding venues. See *The Rockspirian – April 2019 – The Myers Family Gathering*
- Rockspire's George Myers and Mike Johnson were invited back to the Eureka Unitarian Universalist Fellowship for an updated presentation about Rockspire.
- Rockspire hosts the initial meeting of approximately 50 concerned citizens and organizations who were wanting to learn more and organize a response to a proposed limestone mining operation on approximately 600 acres near Rockspire.
- *The Plein Air Painters of Eureka Springs* returned to Rockspire to paint during the early morning light followed by lunch and a meeting at the MobbyMac Carriage House.

## Coping with a pandemic

### 2020

- Rockspire's ten advisory boards begin meeting via conference calls and the internet, in lieu of in-person meetings, due to Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings. See *The Rockspirian* – January 2020 – Rockspire's Advisory Boards.
- *The Rockspire Forum* and *Movies at the MobbyMac* are canceled from March to the end of the year, due to the pandemic. Rockspire uses this time to make physical changes to the MobbyMac Carriage House to allow for social distancing by adding more covered outdoor meeting space. The MobbyMac Carriage House also added a bedroom and expanded the existing kitchen and bathroom to accommodate the growing demand for guest housing and dining events.
- Rockspire initiates the *Eureka Springs Sustainable Eco-Community Initiative* collaboratively with the City of Eureka Springs and the University of Arkansas.
- In October 2020, Rockspire hosts the first meeting organized by Dr. Marty Matlock, Director of the Center for Resiliency at the University of Arkansas. Due to the pandemic, attendance was limited to 12 local people from Carroll County.

### 2021

- *The Rockspire Forum* was reinstated with CDC guidelines in place. Attendance was limited to between 25-35 people. Guest speakers from the Eureka Springs community led discussions centered around creating a sustainable lifestyle and/or initiatives being implemented in the area.
- *The Plein Air Painters of Eureka Springs* holds their first *Fine Art in the Ozarks Exhibit* at the MobbyMac Carriage House at Rockspire.
- The 50 feet tall microwave tower and communications/power bunker are constructed near the MobbyMac Carriage House. Underground fiberoptic internet is extended from the bunker to the MobbyMac Carriage House and Betty's Birdhouse Cabin.

## Community Involvement.

### 2022

- The monthly *Rockspire Forum and Potluck* continues with a wide range of speakers and subject matter.
- Construction begins on the Pumphouse Internet Booth near the front gates at Rockspire.
- *Opera in the Ozarks* performs at the MobbyMac Carriage House as part of their community outreach.
- Construction starts on the 4,000 square foot wood working shop - *Studio C*. When completed and added to the previously constructed Studios A & B, the combined studios will have over 6,000 square feet of space housing over \$500k worth of state-of-the-art tools and machinery.
- *The Plein Air Painters of Eureka Springs* holds their second *Fine Art in the Ozarks Exhibit* at the MobbyMac Carriage House at Rockspire.
- *Rockspire, L.L.C.* is restructured to make membership at Rockspire easier by giving members more traditional ownership of their homes at Rockspire.
- Soil restoration begins at Rockspire's Agricultural Center. Hugelkultur mounds are installed in the orchards.
- Photovoltaic Solar Panels are installed at the MobbyMac Carriage House.
- Two more families became members of Rockspire.

### 2023

- As part of *Rockspire, L.L.C.*'s restructuring, the *Rockspire Advisory Boards* are replaced by *Rockspire Advisory Forums* to allow more community involvement in the advisory role for Rockspire.