

The ROCKSPIRIAN

November, 2016
Volume 3, Number 26

HOLIDAY WISHES TO ALL FOR A SAFE AND HEALTHY THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR!

THE NEW FRONT DOORS to the MobbyMac Carriage House were officially unveiled in September. Standing majestically and prominently as the south entry, the doors are symbolic of Rockspire's dedication to the melding of Nature, Art, and Architecture. Nature supplied the wood, artisans handcrafted that wood using age-old techniques of milling, drying, and shaping to the final form conceived by architect George Myers. Special thanks go to Martin Fortenberry and Kenneth Wolfenbarger for milling the wood, Rusty Rothgeb and his assistant Kevin Talley for crafting the doors, and to David Cunningham, proprietor and artist at Eureka Ironworks for the hand-forged copper hardware.

Each four-hundred-pound door with its angled top, beckons you to a grand vista of trees, mountains, and clear blue skies. Rockspire's open-door policy has never been more inviting!

Our open doors now welcome you with a little more *panache*! Walk in anytime.



INVENTORS ANONYMOUS (IA) has recently been meeting at Rockspire's MobbyMac Carriage House to discuss the creation and efficacy of Eco-Villages. IA is a Eureka Springs based "Think Tank" of creative, inventive people who enjoy brainstorming new concepts on many different subjects. The members each contribute an expertise or skill that leads to some fascinating discussions around solar and other renewable power options, off-the-grid lifestyles, self-sustaining technologies, and many others related topics.

Jon Mourglia, a motivational speaker and inventor, organized the group to provide a venue for open discussion among people who have invented something, or are in the process of solving some issue that they have identified. Some of the members come just to spend time thinking creatively with people who are working on interesting projects. If you are interested in participating, you can email Jon at jonthepotter@sbcglobal.net. IA's next meeting is Friday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the MobbyMac Carriage House.



TNC's Oxbow Project – October 2016
As seen from Rockhouse Road

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (TNC) is working to improve the quality of the environment in and around the Kings River watershed near Rockspire. Their Kings River Preserve has recently expanded with the purchase of the nearby, Whispering Wings Ranch.

Mike Johnson and George Myers represented Rockspire at a meeting held by the Arkansas Chapter of The Nature Conservancy to inform and consult neighbors as to the direction and plans for the Kings River Preserve, and more specifically the Whispering Wings Ranch property. About 30 neighbors and TNC staff members attended the meeting which generated a meaningful discussion about the future of the area. In general, the group liked the idea of opening the area for public hiking, biking, and canoeing. However, there was some concern about allowing overnight camping.

In addition to discussing the future use of the Kings River Preserve, TNC updated the group on its progress to restore the riverbank known as the Oxbow Project. The natural course and riparian corridor of the river have been significantly modified over several decades, leading to channel instability and decreased habitat and water quality. The Arkansas chapter of The Nature Conservancy has been working on this large-scale restoration project to help reduce sedimentation and improve habitat for several species. The restoration site is one-half mile long, and is located on one of the most heavily used canoeing stretches of the Kings River. This project was made possible by funding from the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Walmart Stormwater Compliance Program, and Tyson Foods, Inc. For more about this project and much more, visit TNC's website at <http://nature.org/arkansas>.