

The ROCKSPIRIAN

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The Quarterly Rockspire Newsletter

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PEOPLE often ask, "WHAT BUILDINGS ARE AT ROCKSPIRE NOW, AND WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE?" We've master-planned Rockspire as a place where enjoyment of nature and the arts is key to building a sustainable lifestyle. First planned and built were the underpinnings of that community. We needed a base camp while working and enjoying the natural beauty, so we have completed a Guesthouse ("Betty's Birdhouse"), a Drying Shed (for drying and storing harvested hardwoods for future projects), a Woodworking Shop, and we are almost finished with the MobbyMac Carriage House which will house an office, studio, kitchen, public restroom, and performing arts venue.



Woodworking shop and Shop Addition under construction
Rusty Rothgeb and Bob Sanders - on roof of addition
Photo by G. Myers 12.20.10

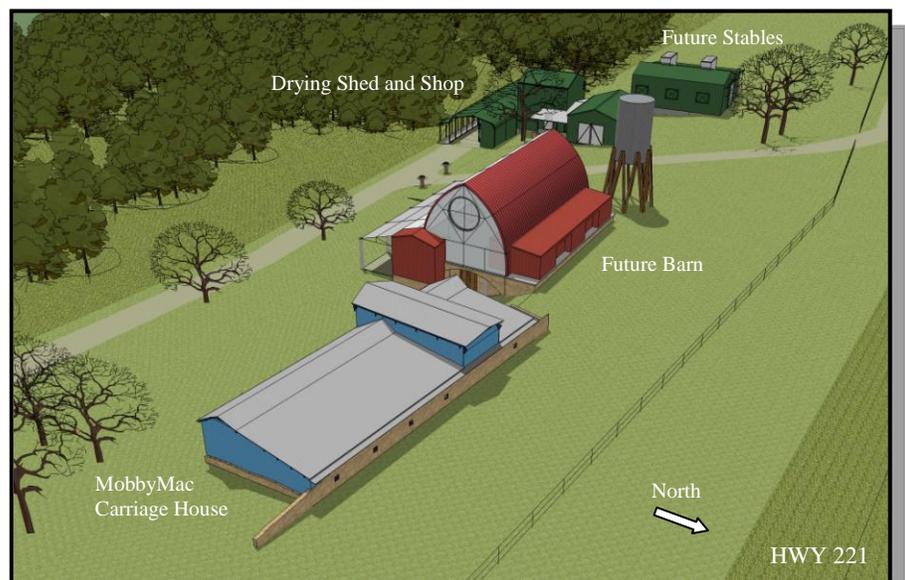
The next phase calls for two additional structures at the west end: a Barn (yet to be named) that will house a 3-story greenhouse and will be the nerve center for alternative energy storage and transmission; and a Horse Stable with seven stalls and a paddock. The timber frame structure of the Barn will be exposed through translucent wall panels that allow sunlight to nurture the organic gardens (verticulture) housed within. And the Horse Stables will become part of the existing "green" shop buildings complex.

The sketch below shows the Master Plan (existing and planned) for the west end community buildings. All are located within easy access of the highway, near the intersection of Rockhouse Road (CR302) and State Hwy 221.

West end community buildings
Sketch by M. Johnson 10.30.11

Shown in "red", the future Barn will eventually house a commercial-grade kitchen for preparation of produce from the greenhouse – literally providing freshly grown produce straight from the garden to the table. A water tower adjoining the Barn will supplement the existing underground rainwater collection system.

Even though these structures are designed with sophisticated, contemporary materials and systems, the architectural character is intentionally rural to complement the surrounding environment.

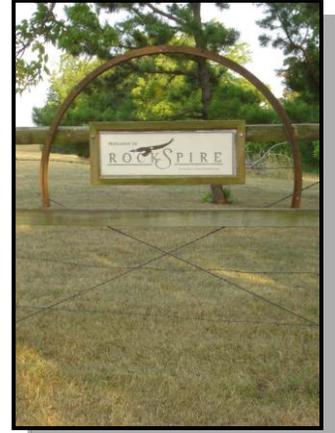


THE **W**EST **E**ND **C**OMMUNITY **B**UILDINGS are intended for public use well beyond the community of Rockspire.



Our neighbors at *Trigger Gap* stop by frequently to check on progress as we have an "open gate" policy. Eventually, we hope to link both culturally and economically to the "micropolitan" of *Eureka Springs* -- a small town with many of the same cultural and job opportunities as a large urban center but without the congestion, pollution, and inherent problems of densely populated areas.

Blue Bench on moss covered cliffs overlooking waterfall near Betty's Birdhouse
Photo by G. Myers 4.12.11



Welcome sign at the Front Gates
Photo by G. Myers 7.14.11

CONCEPTS **G**UIDING **D**EVELOPMENT at Rockspire are:

- *Time should not pressure any decision concerning major concepts. Good ideas cannot be pressured by time constraints.*
- *There are **no preconceived goals**, we only have concepts. The concepts should be allowed to evolve into goals, then reality.*
- *Once goals are established, the aim should be to make these goals **reality**, not to find reasons why they can't be done.*
- *Major economic decisions should be governed by **quality of life** and not their investment potential. Although it is hoped that all economic decisions will be good investments, and that they will happen in a timely manner, these should be seen as bonuses for creating a **sustainable** quality of life, not the most expedient or profitable path.*
- *Future buildings at Rockspire will be **clustered**, as the west end community buildings are grouped, so that the surrounding land is left as pristine as possible for all to enjoy.*



"ARGHITECTURAL **D**ESIGN at Rockspire is an 'open palette' that will evolve as our concepts evolve. Sensitivity to individual members, the community, and the existing landscape will drive future project designs. I am committed to design that not only functions as needed, but also creates forms that will stimulate creativity and advance the lifestyle we envision for all who come to Rockspire."

Michael Johnson
Portrait by N. Pledger
6.16.09