Getting ready for the Dedication!

Our new Gayla Mize Garden sign is beautiful – and it’s heavy. It’s rock. Here we are very carefully moving it from the truck to the construction site.

Even though Barbara was nervous as a cat about moving the sigh – she was sure it might drop and break.. It’s a big rock, Barbara! Ray seemed to think things were working out just fine.

Duke Pittman and Lee Stapleton keep an eye on things as Craig Herman of East Texas Stone – who built the sign - carefully lowers it into position. The sign was designed by Point A.
Lee Stapleton providing a little elbow grease.

Here comes the concrete truck!
Lee Stapleton, SFA Physical Plant, and Craig Herman, East Texas Stone, working the concrete in a little bit at a time.

Concrete covers the bottom 18" of the rock sign. Brock Vinson with a concrete shovel and bracing.

Sid Walker, Vice-President Development, Barb Stump and Ray Mize enjoying the shade. Sid is lecturing Ray on how things work at SFA. Barb is feeling a bit jaunty and Ray's pretending to listen.
OK, we’re ready for the Dedication!  SFA Foundation created this beautiful invitation!

In announcing the Gayla Mize Garden Dedication to the SFA Gardens Volunteers, Sara Bowie, President, provided this eulogy to Gayla Mize for her vision. No doubt Gayla’s smiling in heaven about all the excitement!

She Walks Among Loveliness
She walks among the loveliness she made,
Between the apple-blossom and the water -
She walks among the patterned pied brocade,
Each flower her son and every tree her daughter.
--V. Sackville-West, 1892-1962
It’s April 16 and its Dedication Day! SFA’s Board of Regents and administration arrives via the SFA bus.

It was a beautiful day and the crowd was cheerful and excited.

Dr. Steve Bullard, Dean of the Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, and Dr. Baker Pattillo, President of Stephen F. Austin State University, spent time at the Podium making remarks for the Dedication.
Lysa Mize Hagan and Jimmie Mize, Ray’s children, did the unveiling!

And, then, there it was! Our exciting new sign honoring one of the great ladies of Nacogdoches!

Ray Mize and Dr. Baker Pattillo celebrating the beginning of a great new garden at SFA!

Whew! We’re glad this is over and we’re oh-so-eager to get back to gardening!

Until next time, let’s keep planting.

Dr. David Creech, SFA Gardens, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX.