In mid-March we contracted a tub grinder to take our mountain of debris and turn it into mulch. This is not a chore for sissies. This rig costs over $250,000 and from what I understand, it costs us about $3000 per day.

This huge machine can grind up anything

I wonder what the insurance and bonding on this comes to?
To do the job right, you’ve got to bring one of these friendly industrial sized track hoes to the site. It can grab and haul anything.

From brush to big logs

Anything that can be shoved into that funnel
Comes out as a mountain of compost gold!

$4900 contract job

As for our plantings, the North three acres is stable and cheerful. It may not look like it, but there’s about 400 plants already set into this woodland. We will leave the ryegrass unmowed and allow it to accumulate some biomass. It will die later in the spring. It retards weed growth substantially and has a positive impact on nematode reduction.

We’ve planted a wide assortment of new landscape plant materials. They are mulched, fertilized lightly, and a wide circle of roundup applied to keep weeds at bay. We have yet to water . . . irrigation is nearby and it can be done without a lot of hassle. Barbara is working on getting everything mapped, but she’s been a bit busy right now on the other side of the street . . .
Barb Stump in the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden lecturing one of our visiting groups in late March.

This is our Mike Stump allee –

*Chionanthus retusus* ‘Tokyo Tower’, a rare form of the Chinese fringe tree that is very columnar and tight . . . this is same species as the Chinese fringe trees on Wilson Drive – it’s a candle in the landscape and should reach 20’ tall in a few years. Very drought resistant by the way!
Barb Stump and Ray Mize in one of our planning sessions!