This is Ben Christopher, a fine young man majoring in HealthScience with a farm background. Gets an A+ in smiling.

Here’s our crew for the summer 2011. Left to right, Charles Maraggio, Ben Christopher, and Brock Vinson. All three understand that they’re on hallowed ground. One hundred years of neglect turning into a hundred years of nurture. Here we’re repairing another mainline break at a tee. Not sure who to blame. We’re heading into what may be the record hot, dry summer.

Barb Stump and Ray in one of our meetings – we rock! I think Barb is holding brownies.
The planting on the north side – drip irrigation in place. In spite of worst drought in many, many years, plants are thriving.

Our Drip system is based on ½ gallon per hour NetaFim emitters. Our strategy is to run the system two hours per day for a total of one gallon of water per plant per day at the trunk. A+ in water conservation.

We are using an inexpensive Orbit controller. Runs off four double A batteries. Pressure regulator after controller keeps pressure at 30 psi in the drip line.
Wood Debris removal

Getting a little more sunlight

Ryan creates the entrance to the Gayla Mize Garden.
Work on the entrance to the Gayla Mize Garden in early June 2011

The entrance takes shape and the first trails are laid out. We are planning to shape and smooth the trails and apply a layer of crushed decomposed granite. Boardwalks planned over two stretches of “wetland”.

Rock placed on edge of entrance. Via Ray Mize. These will be repositioned, backfilled and planted. Trail entrance base will be crushed decomposed granite.
More rock arrives.

Ray and Ryan arrive with more rock. These rectangular rocks are from the farm of John Young – century old hand sawn rock - used to support an old pier and beam farm house. Barbara is going to get the written history on the source of this rock.

And here comes more rock!
Barb Stump and I flagging the trail network on N side.

June 8, 2011 – L to R, Jeff Abt, Barb Stump, Ryan Cupit, and Ray Mize. Planning and planting for a better Nacogdoches!

Cleaning up the dump . . . continues with assistance from SFA’s Physical Plant and a portion of the original TP and W grant funding the operation.
Cleaning up the debris field is no chore for sissies.

A hundred years of neglect is now a hundred years of nurture!