It’s been a great spring . . . some gentle rains and amazingly mild temperatures. Our ryegrass cover has been great. We will leave the cover crop until it dies a natural death in May. Ryegrass does a good job of smothering woody weeds. It’s hard to believe that a year ago this was a privet-infested thicket!

Our small pavilion is taking shape. We have eight 4 X 8 cedar beams going up to hold the structure together. Plans include a flagstone floor, seating and a comfortable place to take a break.

Duke Pittman, Andrew Bright and Ryan Cupit wrestled, drilled, and bolted the beams into place.
Ryan Cupit tightening up the lag bolts.

Notice that the beams are mostly red heart wood . . . which is much more rot resistant.

How’s that for some East Texas mitering! A nice clean joint and those lag bolts say we’re here to stay.
The Gayla Mize Garden is now home to three emergency call boxes. Each station is also equipped with a 360 degree camera that is live to the University’s Police Department. Vandals and young amorous college kids beware – someone may be watching you! Take only pictures and leave only footprints!

An image 4/01/12 illustrating what our management strategy will be for the first year on the south side of the garden. Basically a high planted tree or shrub with a circle of mulch and attention paid to weed control around the plant. That’s Rhododendron ‘High Tide’ in the foreground.
Rhododendron X OF – the orange fringe azalea in the garden 04-02-2012

We have planted the new Bloom-A-Thon azaleas at the main entrance to the Gayla Mize Garden. Double pink, lavender, white, and red – four brand new patented varieties that are touted for their short stature, dense foliage cover and repeat blooming. We have jockeyed them into spots along the rock strewn ramp that leads visitors into the garden.
View in early April 2012. What a difference a year makes. Rains have returned. Ryegrass has been a perfect forest floor cover.

We’re all set for the dedication ceremony of the Gayla Mize Garden, Monday, April 16, 2012, at 1:30 PM! Hope to see you there!

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