

For Immediate Release

Contacts: Newt Hardie  
(864) 582-0990  
Barbara Daniels  
(864) 592-4702

### **Kudzu Kapers**

The Spartanburg Kudzu Coalition will host Kudzu Kapers on Saturday, April 21, 2007 from 9am – noon at the Magnolia Street Train Station (298 Magnolia Street). This event is designed to raise awareness of the efforts of students from four high schools and the Kudzu Coalition and will feature kudzu control demonstrations, kudzu games for kids of all ages, competition between high schools, and guest speakers. The winners of the Students Knocking Out Kudzu Art and Writing Contests will be announced.

Kudzu Kapers will begin with contests for and between high school students; a kudzu toss of distance and for accuracy at 9am. Simultaneously, there will be a presentation entitled “Kudzu Control without Chemicals” with hands-on kudzu removal. Additional demonstrations and more contests for high school students follow at 10am.

Juanitta Baldwin, an author of several books about kudzu, will speak. Ms. Baldwin’s books include “Kudzu Cuisine” a fun cookbook on how to use this plentiful legume for everything from tea to pasta salad and “Kudzu In America” with information on the history of kudzu and what can be done in the future. Mrs. Baldwin says, “About twenty years ago I became aware of the serious problem kudzu is causing to our environment, so I made a thorough study of the vine. I was pleasantly astonished to learn that in the Orient, kudzu is prized as a source of food, medicine and useful consumer products such as fabric and wallpaper.”

“We are excited about the upcoming Kudzu Kapers as an opportunity to share the fact that kudzu can be controlled without using herbicides and showcase the outstanding role that four high schools – Broome, Chapman, Day School, and Spartanburg – are taking in stopping kudzu at sites in the Spartanburg and Inman communities,” says Newt Hardie, volunteer with the Kudzu Coalition.

The purpose of the Kudzu Coalition is to inform and educate individuals, and organizations, that are interested in confronting the threat that kudzu presents to their community beautification investments. For additional information, please visit [www.KOKudzu.com](http://www.KOKudzu.com)

###