

“Cobblestone” Driveway Made With Farm Rocks

“Some people say it looks lovely. Others are polite and don’t say anything at all. They wonder why I would ever want to ruin a perfectly good driveway,” says Mike Judge, Nevada, Iowa, who made a driveway out of rocks he collected on his and his neighbors’ farms.

The driveway is 200 ft. long and 12 ft. wide. The rocks were laid on top of an existing limestone driveway.

“It was a retirement project that I thought would take only a month or so to do, but it ended up taking three years. I started in 2002 and finished last fall. However, I enjoyed doing the work - it got me out of the house and was almost like therapy,” says Judge.

He got the rocks free from neighbors who, through the years, had piled them up in field corners or near the entrances to roads. He picked up all the rocks by hand and hauled them home in his pickup. All the rocks he used were about the size of a basketball or smaller, and had at least one flat side.

He fit the rocks together like a jigsaw puzzle. To make sure the surface was level he sometimes had to dig holes in the limestone. For thin rocks he had to first mound up a limestone base. A single layer of concrete blocks along both sides of the driveway keeps the rocks from bulging out too far.

Last fall he dumped a couple pickup loads of crushed limestone over the driveway. Eventually, the traffic from vehicles will turn the limestone to powder and fill in the cracks



Judge made this driveway out of rocks he collected on his and neighbors’ farms. To keep weeds from growing up between the rocks.

“I got the idea when I saw a movie called The Crown Affair, where a house is shown with a cobblestone driveway,” says Judge. “I wasn’t taking a big chance because I have another driveway nearby, semi circular in shape, which I could have used if this one didn’t work out.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mike Judge, P.O. Box 175, Nevada, Iowa 50201 (ph 515 382-5121).

Big Skid Steer Grapple

Got brush to move? The Robo-Grapple lets you do it fast and easy with a skid steer loader. The handy 72-in. and 96-in. brush grabbers are available with either single or double grapples. The 34-in. depth and 64-in. opening means the Robo-Grapple is built for volume.

“Having seen how most grapples are built, I felt you could haul as much brush with a wheelbarrow,” says Robert Smith, a metal fabricator who designed and now builds the units. “I designed this so when you get a load, it’s worth taking it to a pile. I have done demos where I picked up entire trees and people just shook their heads to see it.

“They fit any skid steer with universal quick-tach mounts, but I recommend at least a 65 to 70 hp machine. They weigh 1,100 lbs. without a load.”

Smith will custom-build units for articulated high horsepower tractors and tractor-mounted front-end loaders. He recommends 96-in. wide grapple bucket combinations for 90 + hp skid steers and for high horsepower tractors and loaders.

The bottom tines from tip to hinge point are made from one piece of solid 3/4-in. steel. The hinge point or jaw of the grapple is 48 in. above the lower teeth. It is this spread that gives the grapple its large mouth. The two heavy-duty hydraulic cylinders work in unison, or independently in the case of twin grapple units. The twin grapples adjust for variable loads such as a grabbing a tree trunk and crown and holding both securely. Expanded metal screening protects the driver and skid steer while providing the driver with good visibility.

The standard 72-in. grapple is priced at \$4,000 and the 96-in. grapple is priced at \$4,800. Prices are subject to steel price fluctuations.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Robert Smith, 2836 Limestone Rd., Longford, Kan. 67458 (ph 785 388-2550; robert@circle3welding.com; www.circle3welding.com).



Skid loader-mounted brush grabber is available with either single or “split” grapples.



“It gets a lot of second looks from boaters and passersby on the road around the lake,” says Harlan Beek about the John Deere boat dock he made out of salvaged parts.

John Deere Boat Dock

Former Deere dealer Harlan Beek of Paynesville, Minn., used parts salvaged from old Deere tractors and combines to make a John Deere boat dock.

“It gets a lot of second looks from boaters and passersby on the road around the lake,” says Beek.

The 44-ft. long, 5-ft. wide dock is painted Deere green. There are two seats salvaged from 1950 Model A and Model B tractors located at one end of the dock on a 10-ft. long platform, which has a metal ladder leading down into the water.

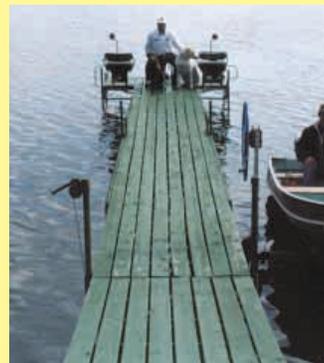
There are lights, guard rails, and a ladder on the platform that were taken off several Model 55 Deere combines. The wheels and frame under the dock are from a Deere 1280 corn planter. Rubber boat cushions located on the dock sides were made from belts off an old Deere baler.

Once in the water, the dock is stabilized by a metal frame with legs with old Deere disk blades on the bottom.

The lights are operated by a 12-volt battery that fits under the tractor seat.

“I also mounted three seats off 1954 Deere 60 2-cyl. tractors on the shore. The seats are bolted to a wooden frame that sets on top of a series of concrete blocks,” says Beek.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Harlan Beek, 516 Maple St., Paynesville, Minn. 56362 (ph 320 243-4945 or 320 249-3396).



Deck measures 44 ft. long by 5 ft. wide and is painted Deere green.



He mounted three seats off 1954 Deere 60 2-cyl. tractors on the shore.

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