HOMEMADE LEAF VACUUM

This 1950s vintage Toro general tractor (gasoline engine) was transformed into a vacuum/blower used primarily for leaf cleanup around the clubhouse at The Manor Country Club in Rockville, Md., where Randall Pinckney is the superintendent and Richard Bassett has been the equipment manager for the past 26 years. Bassett used a gasoline-powered, low-blow blower/vacuum with a 12-inch-diameter suction hose mounted in front of the radiator after the frame was extended. The HVAC heavy-duty ductwork was extended from the blower to a plywood box. The 3/4-inch-plywood box measures approximately 8 feet by 10 feet with a metal mechanical tailgate made from tubular steel and flat steel. It has four 9-inch-diameter holes with screens on either side to release the volume of air from the vacuum. It took about 10 days to build and most of the parts were in inventory.