

cleanup crew

THIS AND THAT

The Last Laugh



Earnhardt remembered

Darin Chamberlin of Chamberlin Landscaping, Cedar Rapids, IA, always had a special place in his heart for NASCAR racing, so when NASCAR legend Dale Earnhardt died earlier this year in a crash, he knew exactly what to do.

Using his connections as a landscape professional, Chamberlin obtained a Norwegian spruce and donated it to his local race track, Hawkeye Downs Speedway in Cedar Rapids.

"We attached a tree spade (to our skid-steer

loader) with a six-foot Norwegian spruce inside," Chamberlin says. "This tree should grow a couple of feet each year. As fans come back to the track season after season, it's our hope that they look at it and are reminded of how Earnhardt helped the sport grow."

The presentation of the spruce, held during a race event on July 27, followed the "World's Largest Bobcat Equipment Parade," where more than 60 Bobcat machines rounded the half-mile track at an average speed of less than eight miles per hour.

Hot pink...and proud of it

Harry Collins' competitors snicker about his pink trucks, but he doesn't mind. As co-owner of Total Lawn Care, a \$300,000 landscape maintenance company in Tupelo, MS, Collins knew 11 years ago that driving pink trucks would be great advertising.

"It has worked really well because all we have to say now is we're the guys in the pink trucks," he says. And that's important, since there's another company called Total Lawn Care in neighboring Ponopoc.

Collins also used to make his six full-time employees wear pink baseball caps. One day they complained, however, and he quickly realized he should nix the idea in the interest of employee retention. He still wears one at the annual Green Industry Expo while serving as auctioneer, though.



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