

# NEWS+VIEWS

GREEN INDUSTRY EVENTS, TRENDS AND TIPS



John Deere donated \$400,000 in equipment to the National Park Service to restore the National Mall.

## Deere makes major donation to National Mall

BY SARAH PFLEDDERER

**G**lance at the National Mall from an aerial view and you notice a divide in the grounds—a lush greenery on the east side in front of the U.S. Capitol building and a lawn in need of a face-lift on the west side in front of the Washington Monument.

That unbalance will soon come to an end.

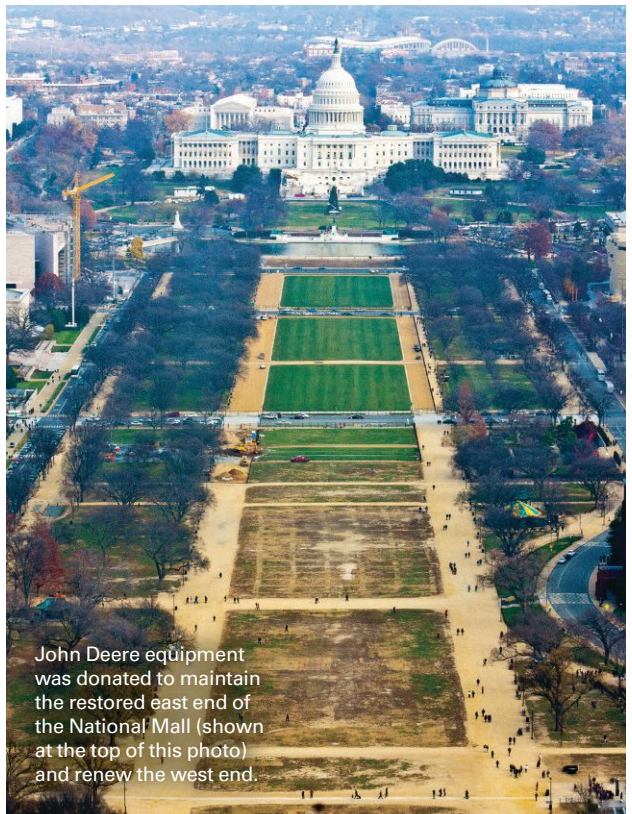
John Deere donated \$400,000 in equipment to the National Park Service (NPS) to maintain the restored areas of the National Mall (from 3rd to 7th Street) and to migrate that restoration west (from 7th to 10th Street). The renewal of the latter side of the mall was set to begin in October at the start of the 2014 fiscal year.

In an early celebration of National Public Lands Day, John Deere personnel as well as representatives from the Trust for the National Mall and NPS gathered at the National Mall Sept. 27 to unveil the donation.

“We recognize as a company that public lands are the cornerstone of our society and they serve many people in many ways,” said Denver Caldwell, manager of turf marketing and marketing support for John Deere. “Through this donation we hope to ensure the National Mall will continue to thrive as an enduring green space for generations to come.”

John Deere’s partnership with the NPS, Caldwell said, has been in the works for about 10 months and goes hand in hand with the National Mall plan.

Instituted in November 2010 the plan was set in place to revive and continually sustain the National Mall, making it functional for nearly 30 million visitors per year.



John Deere equipment was donated to maintain the restored east end of the National Mall (shown at the top of this photo) and renew the west end.

PHOTOS: JOHN DEERE

# Briggs unveils new mower engine BY MARISA PALMIERI

**B**riggs & Stratton Commercial Power unveiled a new zero-turn mower engine—the Vanguard V-twin 810cc Engine, available in 24 to 26 gross horsepower models with engine displacement of 810 cubic centimeters (cc).

“For the ZTR market, contractors want durability, reliability and most of all displacement,” said Dan Roche, marketing manager of commercial power for Briggs & Stratton, at a launch event and plant tour for the trade media in Auburn, Ala., in September. “We believe 810 cc is the optimum.”

There has been “displacement creep” in the ZTR engine market—to the tune of about 50 cc over the last four years, but increasing displacement often means increasing the footprint of the engine, Roche said. That’s not the case for this model.

Briggs officials were tight-lipped about which mower manufacturers will debut these new engines, except to say there are “launch customers” lined up that will be introducing mower models



A new Vanguard 810cc commercial engine rolls down the production line at Briggs & Stratton’s plant in Auburn, Ala.

featuring the engine in late 2013. However, Roche said mowers with cutting widths between 54 inches and 60 inches dominate the ZTR market, and this new engine fits those sizes well.

The new engine carries the Vanguard three-year commercial warranty.

This introduction marks a new “mid block” category for the Milwaukee-based

company, Roche said. The Vanguard 810cc falls between the company’s V-Twin Big Block engine line, which includes a range of engines from 25 to 35 gross horsepower and features engine displacements as high as 993 cc, and its “small block” V-Twin line with gross horsepower ranging from 13 to 23 and displacement in the high-400 cc to low-600 cc range.

## MAILBOX



### Right plant, right place

Thanks to Gregg Robertson for the great article on *Landscape Management.net* describing the pros and cons of using native plants (read “Native plants: Are mandates the answer?” at [wp.me/p2BT0U-8is](http://wp.me/p2BT0U-8is)). I hope you don’t mind me sharing this with my students at Michigan State University. One of the courses I teach is landscape maintenance, and at least three times each week I remind them about the importance of “right plant, right place.” This article fits perfectly with the message I try to get across to these future leaders in the Green Industries.

**Marcus Duck**

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### Saving the ash

You had an excellent editorial in the July *Landscape Management* magazine (“In the long run,” page 4, or [wp.me/p2BT0U-7Gp](http://wp.me/p2BT0U-7Gp)).

Our local radio gardening talk show just addressed this issue and said landscape managers who sell ash protection are scabs. We have three known ash tree deaths in Kansas City and the neighborhood where the first Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) tree was found has dead ash all over the neighborhood.

It is our feeling at Ryan Lawn & Tree that we need a head start. We have started selling ash protection this year. All our people who will do ash protection have degrees in forestry or horticulture. We take what we do seriously.

When we look at an ash as a Ryan representative, we evaluate the tree’s value to the homeowner. If the tree is in a poor location, is of poor quality or for any reason is inferior in quality, we are not going to sell ash protection. But, we do not want to be playing catch up in three years when our city is losing 10 percent of the ash every year. Just the logistics of getting people trained to sell and apply tree protection products takes some time.

**Larry Ryan**

*President  
Ryan Lawn & Tree  
Overland Park, Kan.*

Kudos? Complaints? Share your thoughts with the *Landscape Management* team by emailing [mpalmieri@northcoastmedia.net](mailto:mpalmieri@northcoastmedia.net).

