

Antique Tractor Shows

Tractor Rig Hauls Rocks, People

Michael Naus converted an old Deere 116 garden tractor into a rock hauler that he can also use to transport riders.

He stripped the tractor down to the frame and then lengthened the frame by 1 ft. to make room for a new garden tractor seat and platform. He relocated the steering wheel to the front, mounting it on a vertical steering column. He also moved the tractor's hydrostat transmission forward. A lever located alongside the seat is used to shift the transmission.

He had a local machine shop build a 3-ft. sq. steel rock box with 6-in. high sides, which bolts onto metal brackets welded on back

of the tractor. The box is lined with a poly bedliner and is dumped using an electric actuator.

A homemade 2-wheeled trailer with a seat mounted on it can be pulled behind the tractor. The fiberglass chair sets on welded-together metal supports that pin onto the trailer's wooden floor. "I just pull a pair of pins whenever I need to use the trailer to haul something else," notes Naus.

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Converted Deere 116 garden tractor sports a dump-style rock hauler on back. A 2-wheeled trailer with a seat mounted on it pulls behind the tractor.



Lonnie Smith used steel tubing to build a pair of 2-wheeled "sulky trailers" that are pulled by a 1951 David Bradley walk-behind cultivator.

Ride-Behind Cultivator

Riding behind a 1951 David Bradley walk-behind cultivator, Lonnie Smith and his son Jon can get around antique tractor farm shows with very little effort.

Lonnie used steel tubing to build a pair of 2-wheeled "sulky trailers", each with its own cast iron tractor seat and its own set of foot-operated, paddle-type brakes. The trailers can be used independently or hitched together.

The front trailer rides on big 12-in. wheelbarrow wheels while the rear trailer rides on smaller 8-in. wheels. The front

trailer hooks up to the David Bradley where a cultivator, or other kinds of garden attachments, would normally go.

"Jon likes driving it around at shows, and even gives people rides. Either driver can put the brakes on depending who feels it's needed the most," says Lonnie. "The David Bradley is powered by a small Continental 2 hp gas engine, but power isn't a problem."

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"Self-Propelled Outhouse"

"I have loads of fun taking it to shows and parades," says Pat Prom, Eden Prairie, Minn., about his self-propelled outhouse.

Prom, a retired farmer and self-taught mechanic, repowers Deere garden tractors as a hobby. "It's made primarily of wood from old pallets and house siding. I tried to make it look like hillbillies had cobbled it up," says Prom.

The outhouse is built on the chassis of a Reelmaster golf course riding mower and is powered by a 16 hp Kohler engine off a Jacobson golf course mower. The engine shaft-drives the Reelmaster's hydrostatic transmission. The controls include a foot-operated hydro drive and a hand-operated brake lever.

The rider sits on one of 2 cushioned toilet seats fastened to a wooden bench. Nearby is a coffee can with corn cobs in it, a yellow pages catalog, and a chamber pot. The steering wheel is an old toilet seat, and another toilet seat frames a window on back of the cab. The cab has a shingled roof, and has quarter moons on both sides and a pair of antique lanterns on back.

The front end of the rig has 3 different "ooga" horns, a siren, an old-time tractor radio, a mosquito hood ornament, and model T headlights.



"I tried to make it look like hillbillies had cobbled it up," says Pat Prom about his "self-propelled outhouse".

"I even installed a windshield washer jug and 2 nozzles on each side so I can squirt people on both sides as I drive in parades," says Prom, who notes that he'd like to rent the machine to anyone who might like to use it in parades, such as plumbers.

Prom also converted an old National riding mower into a "bathtub ride". It's complete with a stool on front and a snowblower engine on back.

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Snowblower Pulls "Chariot"

Bob Scheffer has more fun at antique tractor shows since he built a 2-wheeled "chariot" to pull behind an old walk-behind snowblower.

The Rush City, Minn. man stands inside a 50-gal. barrel with the back half cut out of it. The barrel sets on a metal platform mounted between 2 wheelbarrow wheels. A hitch made from a 1 1/4-in. dia. pipe connects the barrel to a bracket that bolts on back of the snowblower.

If Scheffer wants he can remove 2 bolts and replace the barrel with a toilet bowl, eliminating the need to stand up.

"It gets a lot of chuckles at shows, but I like it," says Scheffer. "The snowblower was built in about 1940 for the military by Maxim Silencer Co. of Hartford, Conn., and is powered by a 3-in. bore, 3 1/4-in. stroke gas engine. It's built very heavy. One disadvantage is there's no reverse gear, so I have to be careful I don't box myself into a corner."

He had a little misfortune at a recent show. "I was driving through a muddy area and the hitch popped out of the bracket on the snowblower. I ended up stranded in the barrel while the snowblower kept going ahead of



Bob Scheffer built this 2-wheeled "chariot" to pull behind an old walk-behind snowblower.

me. I had to jump off the barrel and run up to the snowblower to stop it."

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The rider sits on one of 2 cushioned toilet seats fastened to a wooden bench. On front are 3 different "ooga" horns, a siren, an old-time tractor radio, and model T headlights.