The leaf blower secret!

Many people do not use the leaf blower in the most effective and efficient way possible. They point the nozzle in the direction they want the debris to go and instead of all the debris going forward as expected, some invariably goes left and right. So now the blower operator must move over and blow again in order to get the rest. There is an intuitively obvious secret to getting the leaves to go where you want the very first time.

The principle is like that of running water from your kitchen faucet. As it hits the base of the sink, it is diverted equally in all directions.

Well, the same basic principle applies to the airflow from a leaf blower. The difference is that the airflow from a leaf blower is initially hitting the ground at a 30 to 45 degree angle where the water is hitting the basin vertically or at a 90 degree angle. Never the less, the airflow vectors are in the same directions, only the magnitudes are different. One can use this sideways airflow to move debris left or right as if you were using a broom.

So the secret is, if you want to cleanly and quickly move debris forward, first point the blower at a right angle to the debris pile or to one side and move the nozzle toward the
pile, stopping when you reach the center of the pile. Lift the blower nozzle high above the pile and place it near the ground on the other side and again move the nozzle toward the center. In effect you will be gathering the debris rather than dispersing it.