

## Enjoy the Journey

The scorecards at Trillium Links urge players to "Enjoy the Journey." Some suggest that visitors to this mountaintop beauty should be warned to "Prepare for Adventure."

Designer Morris Hatafsky carved the course from the dense western North Carolina forests that still bound the layout. He used aerial-topographic maps to get a feel for the site before creating at least 20 different potential routings. "Then I walked the property a number of times," he said. "You have to have some imagination and visualization to carve the routing of what you think the golf course can be."

What he eventually routed was a course that followed, rather than changed the terrain. "My philosophy was to design the course within the lay of the land and move the least amount of dirt," Hatafsky said.

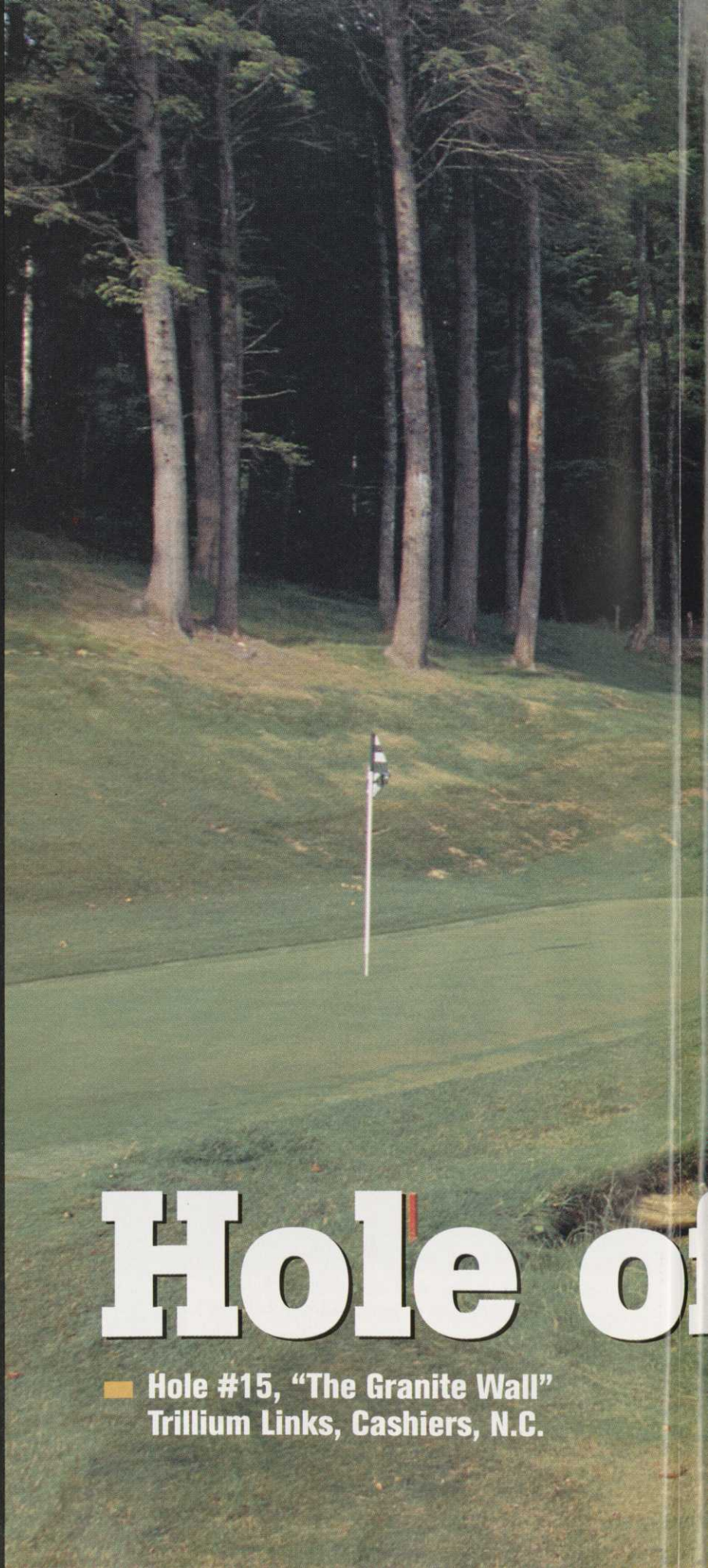
"Except for a few holes that were designed in sensitive wetland areas where we had to move the hole near the side of the mountain – the majority of the golf course was created without disturbing a lot of land."

That creative design posed some unique challenges during grow-in, according to superintendent Eric Shomaker. "We average 88 inches of rain a year," he said. "That total is second only to the Pacific Northwest."

So, how did they establish turf on the side of a mountain in one of the wettest spots in the nation?

"Ninety-five percent of the course was seeded," said Shomaker. "Where there was seed, we used jute-mesh matting. The matting helped hold the seed and soil in place. Under these conditions even sod will wash away if you don't have something to help hold it."

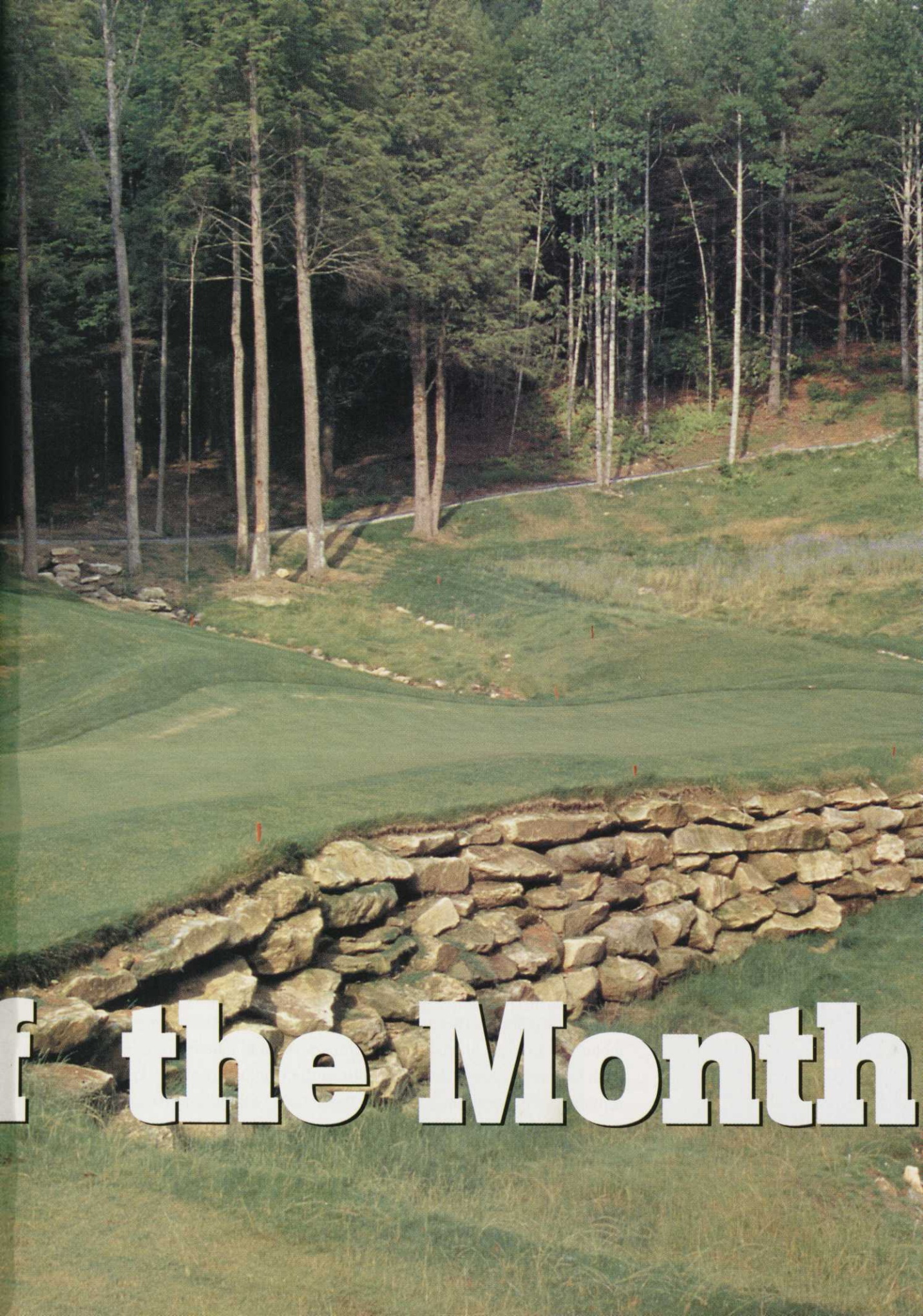
Installing the mesh was labor-intensive. At times, more than 30 crew members were required to place the 12-foot-wide



# Hole of

■ Hole #15, "The Granite Wall"  
Trillium Links, Cashiers, N.C.





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rolls of mesh, each of which covered nearly 450 square feet of newly seeded ground. Every inch of the fairways and roughs was eventually covered.

The short growing season posed another turf establishment challenge. "The first year, we had to stop seeding early in October because of cool temperatures," Shomaker said. "In the winter of 1996, we put down winter ryegrass to help prevent erosion. It wasn't until the first week of April 1997 that we could start seeding again."

And then there was El Nino. "Just six months before we were scheduled to open, we got hit with 16 inches of rain in 36 hours," said Shoemaker. But thanks to the matting and an outstanding drainage plan, the facility opened on schedule last year.

## F E B R U A R Y

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

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