

Blaze of Glory

After hitting their drives at the par 5, 518-yard 6th hole at Glen Ellen CC in Millis, Mass., golfers may be excused if the view from their second shots take their breath away.

The fall foliage emerges from its hibernation in Massachusetts this time of year, and superintendent Marc Baker says the foliage on No. 6 takes a back seat to none.

"The full force of the foliage doesn't hit you on the tee because you can't see the green from there," Baker says. "As you're approaching your second shot, however, you look up and see the trees. It's a pretty amazing sight."

The explosion of reds and yellows also provides a breathtaking backdrop for the third shot to the green. Baker says most golfers lay up on their second shots to avoid the creek. Then it's an easy sand wedge from there to the green.



Marc Baker

Since No. 6 is a low-lying hole, Baker says keeping the fairway dry is his biggest maintenance headache. Water collects on the fairway, and crews must remain ever vigilant

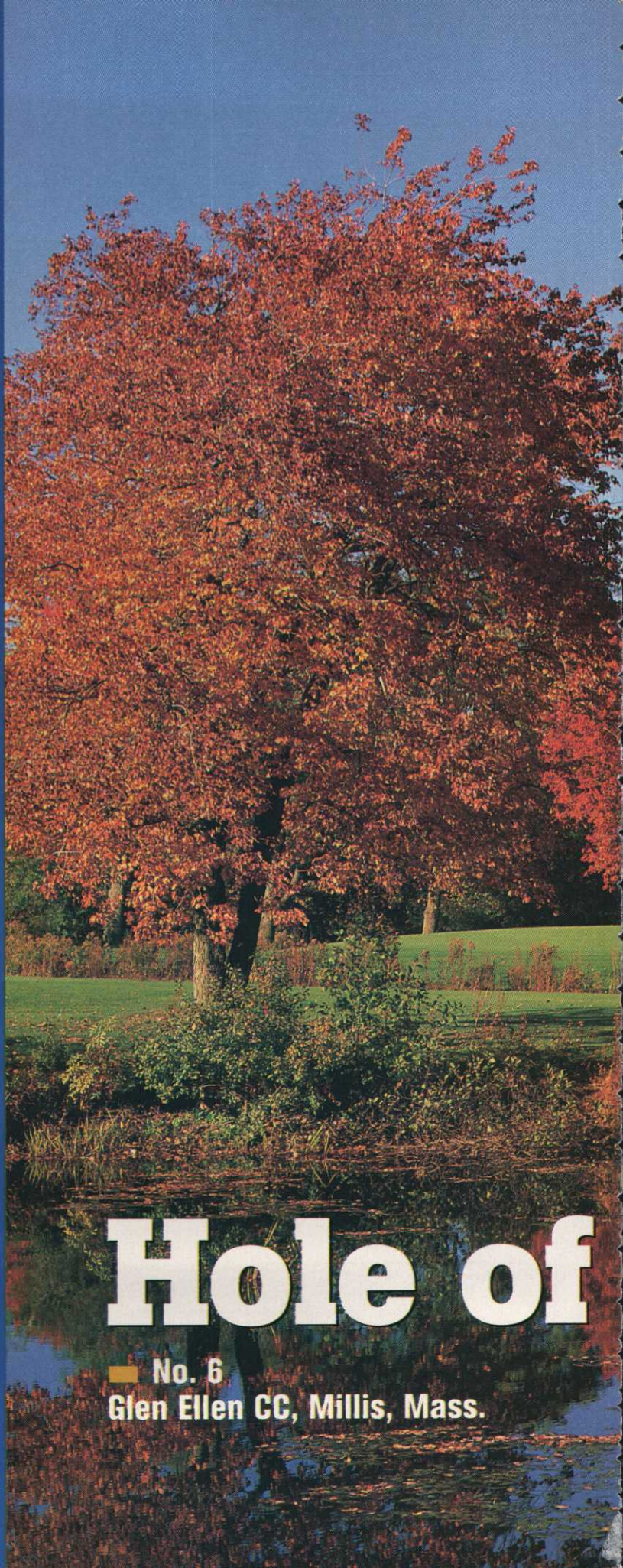
so they don't leave deep ruts as they mow. An excellent cart path system allows maintenance equipment to move around the hole with relative ease, but sometimes damage can't be avoided.

"The fairway's wet all the time," Baker says. "We use plant growth regulators on the fairways so we don't have to mow as often, but sometimes a rut is inevitable."

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Hole of

No. 6
Glen Ellen CC, Millis, Mass.



the Month

MIKE KLEMM