

# Lawn Tractor Goes Long Way in Cutting Medical Expenses

**W**hile little Parker Shoun was making noise around the house in his fire engine, the Triangle Turfgrass Association was making an even louder statement with something else on four wheels.

Superintendents and industry members from the Raleigh, N.C., area raised \$56,065 in a raffle of a John Deere LT 150. The money was donated to benefit Parker, the 2-year-old son of Raleigh Country Club Superintendent Michael Shoun.

"This is just overwhelming," Michael Shoun said after the check presentation at the club. "We can't begin to tell you how grateful we are for the difference you have made in Parker's life. And in our lives."

Born with an inability to hear, Parker underwent cochlear implant surgery during the summer. The total cost of surgery, therapy and specialized schooling is expected to run between \$60,000 and \$80,000.

Parker's doctors and parents are encouraged by early results, although introducing Parker to the world of sound has presented a headache or two of its own for his mom and dad.

"He's had this little fire engine he loves to ride for a long time," Shoun said. "Since he's had the surgery and he's discovered that the buttons make noise, well, it's all we hear. Before that you could yell in his ear at the top of your voice and it wouldn't register."

Ed Wheeler, an employee of Harrell's Inc., won the raffle and immediately re-donated the prize, which had been offered by Revels Tractor Co., to the fund-raising campaign. The tractor may go back into a 24-hour raf-



The Shoun Family (from left): Macie, 5, Holly, Parker, 2, and Michael Shoun, superintendent of Raleigh (N.C.) Country Club.

fle during the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association and USGA Regional Seminar at Pinehurst, N.C., in March, meaning the \$56,065 price tag could go even higher.

## Quotable

**"We know enough to know that we don't know everything."**

— Todd Ingraham, director of golf for Bunker Hill Golf Course in Brunswick, Ohio



**"My pro doesn't have anything to do with my course. He sells Mars Bars,**

**drinks and shirts. He's pretty good with that."**

— An Australian superintendent commenting on the superintendent-pro relationship at his course Down Under. (What's the message when you read between the lines?)

**"It looks like somebody who works — and not at golf."**

— Jon Jennings, certified superintendent of the Chicago Golf Club, describing what his golf game looks like. (We can all relate.)

