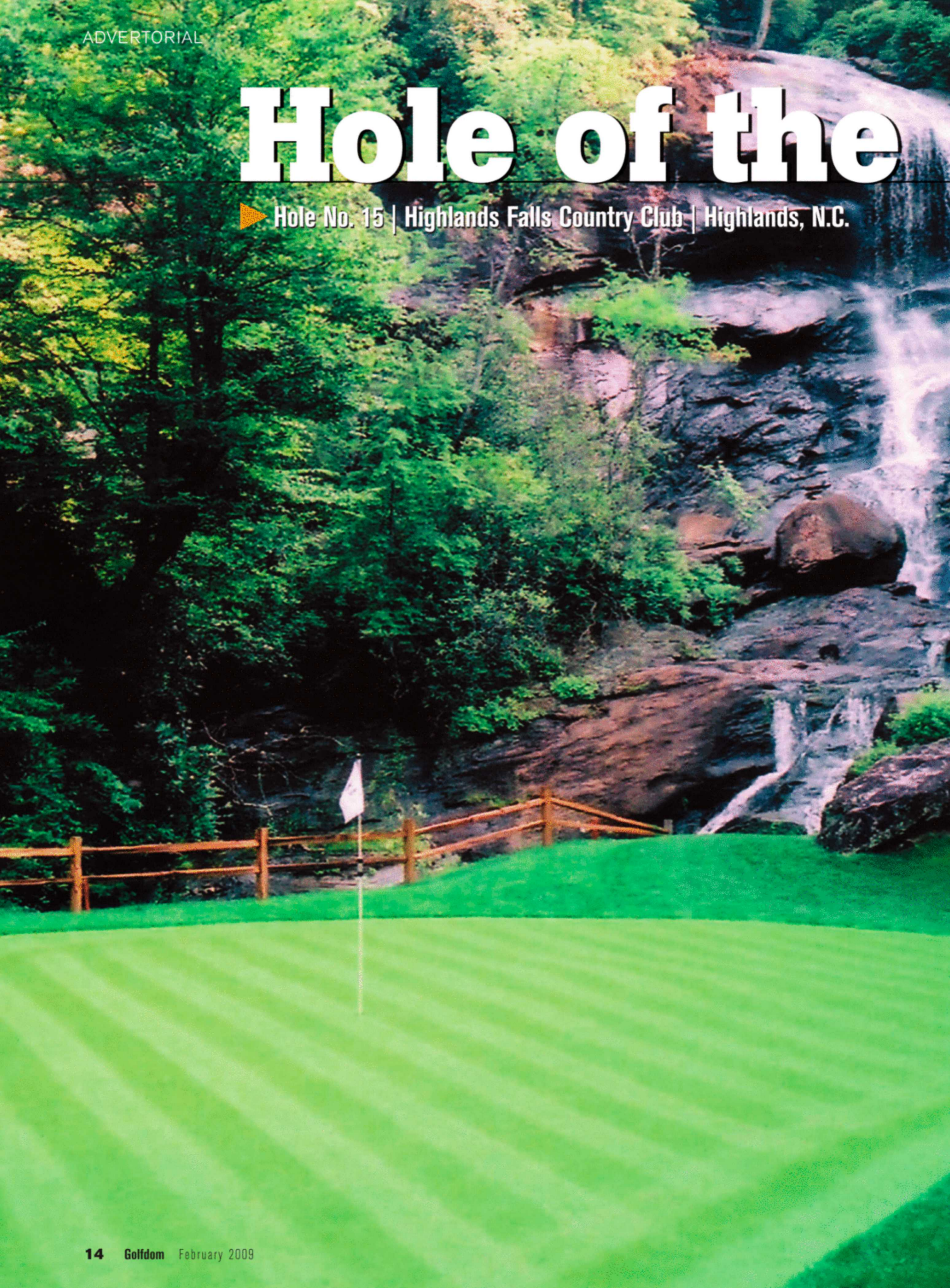


Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 15 | Highlands Falls Country Club | Highlands, N.C.



Month

Hole Stats

Distance: 125 yards

Par 3

The Turf

Penncross bentgrass

Appalachian spring waters flow down the Cullasaja River to Highlands Falls Country Club, where they fall steeply 120 feet behind the course's No. 15 2,500-square-foot green.

"Overshooting it will either get you wet or land your game at the bottom of a 40-foot cliff," said Fred Gehrisch, the club's certified golf course superintendent. "Hole 15 at Highlands is many players' favorite and the source of the club's name."

Historically used as an after-church swimming spot, the waterfall's shading height and misting waters create prime conditions for dollar spot during the club's six-month season. Beyond localized waterfall moisture, the club's 100-inch annual rainfall adds to disease pressure.

Gehrisch and his crew counteract the hole's disease-prone conditions by increasing the mowing heights, spiking the green every two weeks and rotating preventive spray applications of Emerald®, Curalan® EG, Iprodione Pro 2 SE and chlorothalonil fungicides at the label rates.

"I get 28 to 30 days of preventive disease control with Emerald and Curalan, and 14 days with Iprodione Pro 2 SE," Gehrisch said. "The labels don't lie — they work!"

In addition to meeting players' needs, the club is extremely sensitive to environmental protection because 14 of the club's 18 holes have natural water features that flow into the community's drinking water source. "We test all the water coming in and leaving the property to make sure that we're not leaching anything into the environment," Gehrisch said. "In nine years of testing, we haven't found anything. Water leaves cleaner than when it came in."

Gehrisch informs members of his turf management practices, writes a newspaper column and newsletter about the course, and invites the public to witness his environmental stewardship and best practices firsthand, including touring the new wash facility. "I find we're more involved in environmental issues simply because members, the industry and the community at large demand it," he said. "We're proud of our environmental values and welcome opportunities to share them."

To learn more about Emerald®, Curalan® EG and Iprodione Pro 2 SE fungicides and BASF visit www.betterturf.com and www.basfturftalk.com.



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