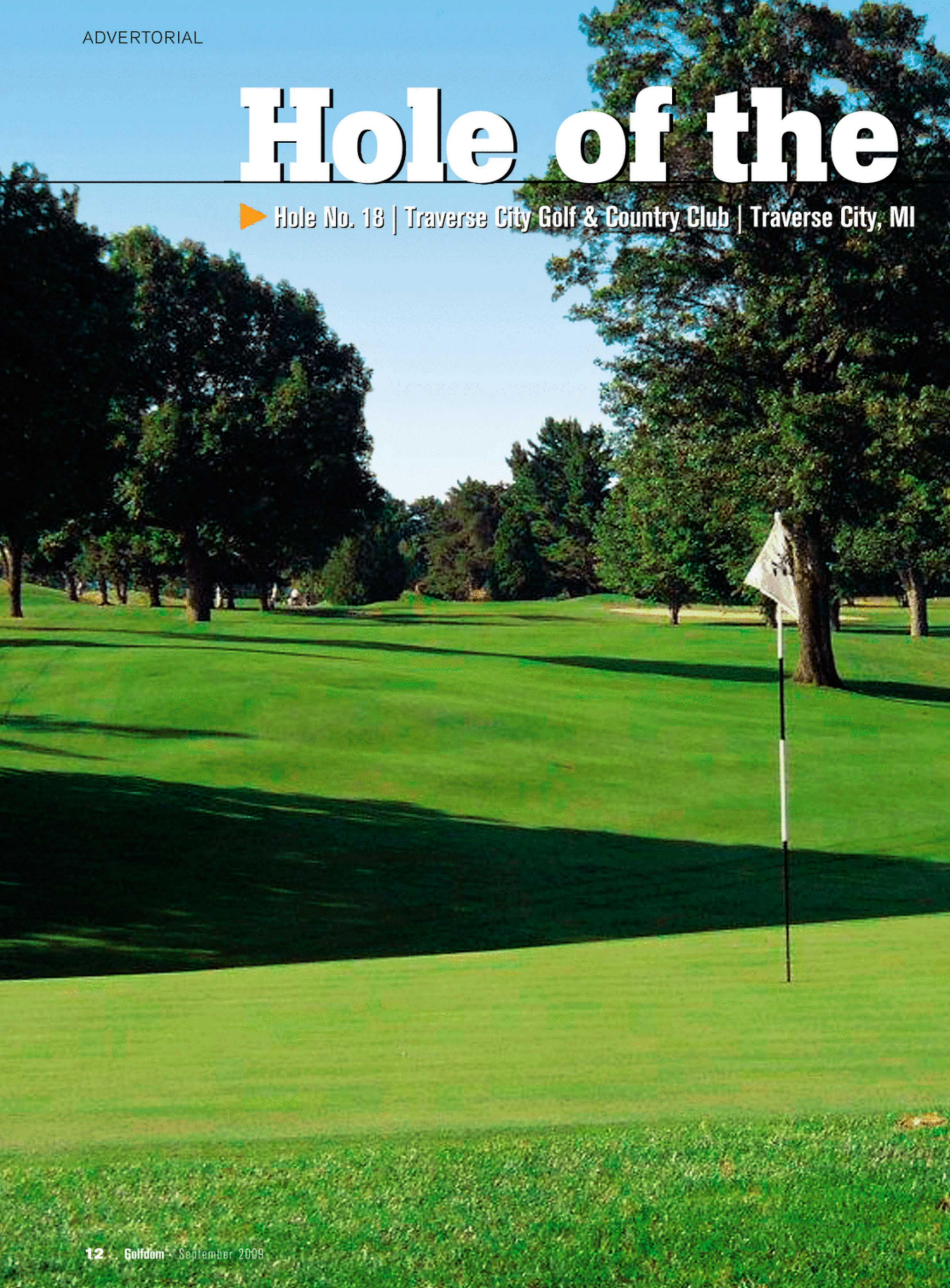


Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 18 | Traverse City Golf & Country Club | Traverse City, MI



Month

Hole Stats

Distance: 377 yards

Par 4

The Turf

Bentgrass/Annual Bluegrass

Built in 1915, Traverse City Golf & Country Club played host to yesteryear's golfing ambassadors from Gene Sarazen to President Gerald Ford. As times changed, so did the course's need for a renovation that intensified play and rivaled current competition.

"Our club has always been a home away from home for local families and summer residents, but as tourism and golf in northern Michigan increased, so did the need to up our game," said superintendent, Steven Hammon, who's worked at Traverse City for 13 years.

For example, in 2006, the club transformed its aging driving range into a state-of-the-art practice facility equipped with seven game-like target greens, bunkers and fairways.

The practice facility will come in handy for golfers needing to careen their balls around a massive century-old tree on the par-4, 377-yard Hole 18. The oak obstacle sits slightly left of the middle fairway, challenging both short and long hitters. Short hitters should lay up along the right side of the fairway to avoid the tree with their second shot, but big hitters should power shots high to clear the tree top.

"Players often ask how much it would cost to have the tree struck by lightning," Hammon said.

Hammon and his maintenance crew of 14 realize their limitations when it comes to controlling nature. They may not be able to summon lightning, but they have innovative tools when struck by turf disease. In June 2008, Hammon struggled with a serious brown ring patch (Waitea patch) outbreak.

"My 94-year-old annual bluegrass greens were getting hammered with irregular yellow rings," he said.

Hammon applied Trinity[®] fungicide at a curative rate of 1.5 to 2.0 ounces per 1,000 square feet. "I was so pleased with the results that I've incorporated Trinity into my preventive program for all patch diseases," he said. "I trust Trinity to perform when I need it most."



To learn more about Trinity[®] fungicide and BASF visit www.betterturf.com and www.basfturftalk.com.

GOLFDOM'S HOLE OF THE MONTH IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

