



THE GREENERSIDE

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Doug Vogel, Editor
Newsletter Business Staff

Doug Vogel
973-696-6495 • FAX 973-696-8086

Contributing Writer
Shaun Barry

Please address inquiries to:
Editor, The Greenside
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523

For Ad Placement: Ineke Pierpoint
1-866-GCSANJ1

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973-692-9090 • FAX 973-692-9032

**Golf Course Superintendents
Association of New Jersey**
49 Knollwood Road
Elmsford, New York 10523
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Around the water cooler

We've all had our share of turf maladies on our courses this year. Unseasonably cool weather, rain, flooding, extreme heat, hyperodes and more. But don't let this one go any further than the water cooler. Seems one of our brethren struggled with both hyperodes and hemorrhoids. And we all thought our year was tough! • New Jersey State Golf Association President Jay Scott MacNeill of the Plainfield Country Club is the man of the year. Decade. Century. Read his column in the September 2006 issue of NJ State Golf Magazine. The one with Glenn Miller's handiwork on the cover. A big thank you is owed to Jay Scott. THANK YOU. • The Water Cooler man is busy setting up coolers at Crystal Springs for your bantering convenience. Hope to see you at the number one conference in the world. 



Captain Shaun Barry photographed the GCSANJ team that won the Met Team championship at the spectacular Fishers Island Golf Club. They beat out 13 teams from the Northeast. Congratulations gents!

On the cover:

The beautiful 10th hole of the Essex Fells Country Club maintained by the crew of Dick La Flamme.


Growth.....

Growing things.....

It's what we do. We grow things. We grow turfgrass, plants, people, careers, and our profession. What integrates all of those efforts together? The answer is GCSANJ. Your membership in GCSANJ says you have a vested interest in your profession and your career. The Board of Directors has been entrusted with managing your association and all of the activities that it provides. We endeavor to fulfill your expectations by providing meaningful, interesting and informative education, meeting platforms for professional networking and interaction, and even some great social activities for you and your family. Over the last thirty years, our profession has grown tremendously in terms of technology, tools, plant varieties, chemicals and educational opportunities to help us do what we do for a living. All of those things have also raised the bar of expectations dramatically. Most of us find less time to participate in our professional association than in the past. Therefore many of us try to find last minute time for a monthly meeting and we are more selective about the events we attend. GCSANJ has made every effort to meet those changing demands on personal and professional time by reducing the number of monthly meetings, adding a great summer social event, evening Roundtable meetings, off-season maintenance facility tours and providing an annual conference in November for comprehensive education. It's all part of providing tools for growth for our members.

The GCSANJ Annual Conference at Crystal Springs Resort and Spa is scheduled for November 7, 8, 9 and promises to be another educational blockbuster. This conference has grown in attendance each year primarily due to the strong educational content backed by some of the most sought after speakers in our business. When you couple this with networking, our annual meeting, a tremendous table top trade show, a great round of golf, camaraderie and a fantastic venue, "the conference at Crystal Springs" becomes a must attend event for every GCSANJ member. Make your plans now to be there for this once a year opportunity.

This will be my last President's Message and I want to thank the membership of GCSANJ and the great people we have on the Board of Directors for their support over the past year. I am proud of the progress the association has made and I am humbled by the potential of even bigger and

better things in the future. I encourage all our members to make a commitment to help your association grow in the future. Participate at some level, attend as many meetings as you can, volunteer for a committee, write an article for The Greenside, log on to the website and post a message, or take your staff to the maintenance facility tour this January. This is your association and you are the fuel that drives it. Thanks again for your support in the past and I look forward to being involved next year as your immediate Past President. 



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Too hot to handle

By James Snow

For those facing the chilly prospects of another snowy winter, late autumn might not seem a time when temperatures could heat up. Yet that's the case when golfers, course officials and course maintenance personnel discuss a sometimes contentious issue: winter play on greens.

Few subjects raise as emotional a response from superintendents, who wish to protect the course during its dormant months, and golfers, who view winter as another phase of the playing season and resent restrictions on their pastime. Who's right? As with many topics, qualifications must be attached to the answer. It is safe to say, however, that winter play does the greens no good and in only the rarest circumstances can it avoid having a negative impact on the health and playability of the turf during the following season.

A golfer escaping for a late-season round would not dare face chilling temperatures in shirtsleeves, but would

bundle up in several layers and know the location of the nearest coffee pot. By contrast, the turf has little protection. Cold weather halts turf growth, bringing the potential for significantly greater wear injury; during the growing season, the turf continuously replaces leaf and stem damage caused by foot and vehicular traffic. Then there is soil compaction: Soil moisture generally remains high throughout the winter, and traffic on saturated soil has a profound effect on soil density and turf roots.

With the loss of turf density from direct wear injury, and the loss of turf vigor caused by soil compaction, greens played during the winter tend to be hard, slow and bumpy for some time after spring arrives. Bumpiness is caused by footprints of winter players; players in the spring then tend to complain about the lack of trueness, even after several topdressings. In addition, weeds of various types are much more likely to invade turf that has received winter play.

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Too hot

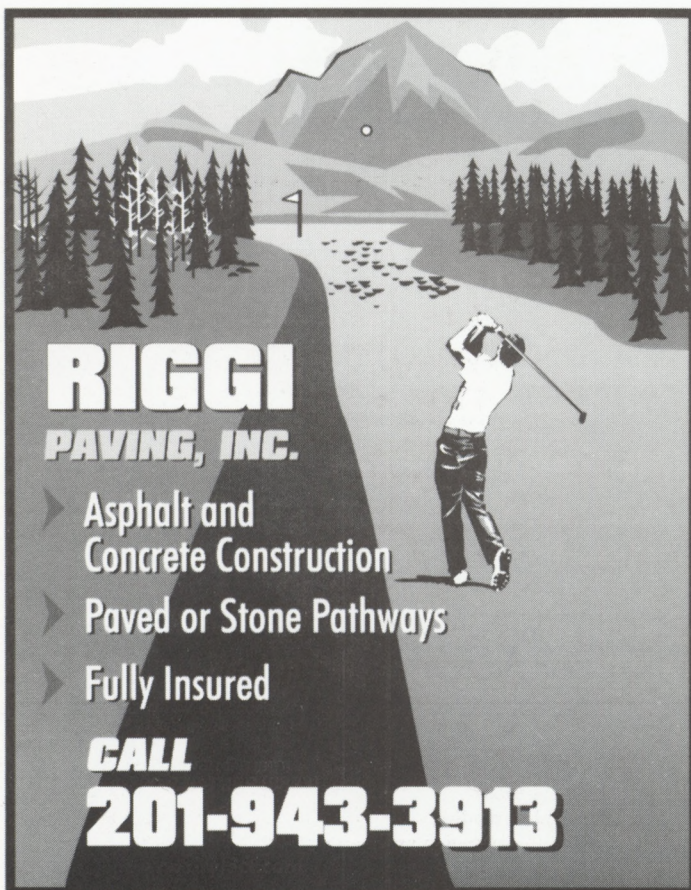
Continued from page 4

Skeptics say it is the superintendent's job to mitigate these problems, or they voice doubts about how much damage can be wrought by a few golfers during the winter. On the surface, these comments may seem valid, but in the end it's all a matter of degrees. Each course must consider a variety of factors to determine whether winter play should be allowed. They include:

- **Grass species.** If you're trying to grow bentgrass on greens, winter play will encourage the invasion of *Poa annua*.
- **Anticipated traffic.** Volume is a critical factor. Damage is directly proportional to the rounds played.
- **Soil type.** Do you have sand-based or old, soil-based greens? Sand-based greens drain better when the ground is not frozen, but the turf can suffer greater injury.
- **Weather.** What's it like on the day you play? Turf that is frozen early in the morning can soften on a sunny afternoon, increasing the damage to the soil and turf roots.

- **History of winter injury.** If there is a history of ice or other damage, winter play will make it worse.
- **Golfer acceptance of needed maintenance practices.** How well will golfers accept renovation work aeration, topdressing, overseeding - to repair damage done by winter play?
- **Recent stress problems.** If the greens took a beating from heat, flood, disease or other problems during the summer, it is best to stay off during the winter.
- **Previous weed problems.** If there has been a history of crabgrass, goosegrass, *Poa annua* (especially) or other weed problems on the greens, winter play will make it worse.
- **Tees.** If the greens are shaded during the growing season, it is best to keep traffic off during the winter.
- **Standards for the regular season.** If you want smooth, fast greens in the spring, skip the winter play.

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Calendar

October 23, 2006 GCSANJ Championship-
The Ridge at Back Brook
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November 7-9, 2006 Third Annual Crystal
Spring Conference-
Crystal Springs Golf Resort
Host: Brad Sparta, Mike Paluzzi, and Craig Worts

February 22-24, 2007 GCSAA Golf Industry Show
Anaheim, California
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Too hot

Continued from page 5

If a course faces extreme damage to its greens from winter traffic, it can remain open for limited play. Some courses establish cross-country holes that also take traffic away from high volume areas and greens.

Every course considering winter play should question whether or not it is worth the risk of damaging the greens and affecting playability for a significant portion of the regular season for the sake of a relatively small percentage of the its players. In the view of many turfgrass scientists, agronomists and course superintendents, it is not.

James Snow is the national director of the USGA's Green Section. This article, a real golden oldie, was reprinted from the October 1999 Golf Journal. ♣



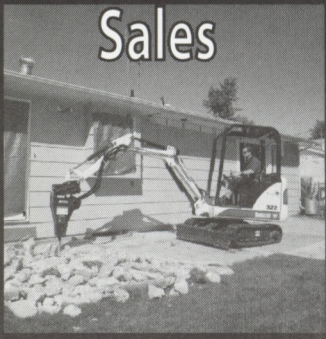
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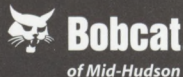
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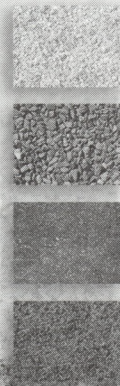
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Home sweet home at Toms River CC

For many years we have had our District III meeting at Toms River CC. It is sort of like returning home for a wonderful visit with the family after a year's absence. Each year everyone has many reasons to stay at their courses or making sales calls but we always have a full field. Matt Dobbie stated it best when he said that we need to get away from our courses for at least one day. We really look forward to this meeting. We get to spend a day with our friends not forgetting about our courses but also not worrying about them. We are better able to deal with our jobs because of the break. Ok that is not Matt's exact words but I do believe that it captures the essence of his thoughts and the other 54 people in attendance.

This day turned out to be different from our past visits. Ed McSeaman had no weather or environmental issues. It hadn't rained for weeks, the river hadn't flooded and all of the trees were still standing. I wonder if that is why Ed was smiling? As usual though, Ed was unable to break away from work as we headed out to play. Maybe we need Matt to speak to him because he missed a great day on a great golf course.

The only negative this day occurred when each group tried to play the short par three 6th hole. The new tee really changes the look of the hole and it makes a tough shot even tougher. The real issue however came from out on the river. 40 yards from the green were three modern day pirate ships.



Jeff Wetterling has the white shirt but not the white hair and won't be allowed to join the club.

These clever but cruel scalawags wore disguises that made them look like Dave Pease, Kerry Boyer and Tim Kerwin. Pretty ingenious on their part because we all know that these fine GCSANJ members would never do anything like this. These poor unfortunates seemed confused. They obviously did not understand the game because they used their air-horns while the players were swinging and not after a good shot. This bad timing caused a few different reactions. Some people wanted to call the Coast Guard and others just hit shots at the offending threesome because they hadn't brought any firearms with them. One fellow however had a different approach. Bill (a.k.a. Ducky) Murray decided to negotiate with these fellows but he had no boat available. He has been playing really well recently so I assume that he thought that

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Home sweet home

Continued from page 8

he might be able to walk on water. He couldn't but that didn't stop him. He entered the water and kept walking until he reached his destination. This determination intimidated the rabble and they were forced to give him some of their provisions so he would go away. That worked but this scenario was replayed when Bill returned on the second nine. He once again demanded payment and they acquiesced. This second encounter must have scared them because they soon set sail and were never seen again. Way to go Ducky!!

In spite of these strange visitors our group did manage to actually play some golf and as usual our skill prizes were sponsored from within our affiliate family. The contest sponsors are listed in parenthesis. Matt Anasiewicz (Philly Turf) 12ft 3ins, Chris Hasbrouck (Wilfred MacDonald) 11ft 1in, Roger Stewart (Storr Tractor) 8ft 1in and Coby Mattison (Vic Gerard) 5ft 9ins hit it closest to the pin. In addition to



"Ducky" Murray shot an 81 to John Alexander's 84 to take low gross at the District III outing.

this Vic Gerard gave away a month's use of a utility vehicle to the superintendent who hit it closest on their hole. That winner was Mark Peterson at 12 ft 1 in. Our long drive winners were Jeff Wetterling (Philly Turf), Tom Tucci (Chris Zelley), Ken Mathis (Atlantic Irrigation) and John Alexander (Storr Tractor).

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Home sweet home


Continued from page 10

Our low gross winners were Bill "Ducky" Murray (81) and John Alexander (84). The low net champs were Bill McAteer (71) and Dave Mishkin (73). It shows that even with the best weather and great conditions this course challenges all levels of golfers. The skins winners only came on the front nine. Ted Bessler and Matt Dobbie had one each while Dave Mishkin walked away with two. The last winner of the day was Skip Cameron. His name was drawn to win a \$50 gift card from a local restaurant. This was donated by Chuck Reynolds from Reed & Perrine. In a classy gesture Skip gave his winnings to our host. Ed refused but Skip can be persuasive.

Our long drive contest raised \$340 for the GCSANJ Foundation and these winners will compete for a larger prize at the Championship which will be held at The Ridge at Back Brook on October 23, 2006.



How many GCSANJ presidents has Ed McSeaman hosted at Toms River C.C.?

The day ended too quickly but not before we got the chance to thank Ed and the staff for all of their efforts. We know that the terrific food and the ambience of sitting by the pool with live music being performed in the background always makes this a day not to be missed so we will return in 2007. 

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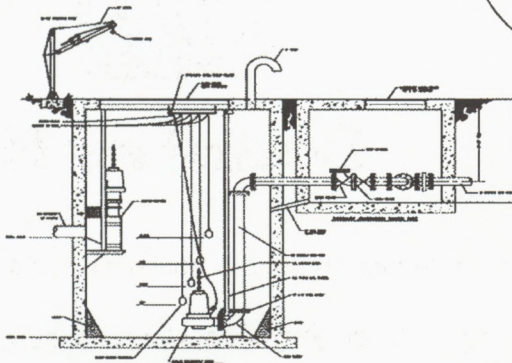
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A gathering of the District at Hyatt Hills GC

District II spoke with Joe Flaherty CGCS to see if he would be willing to host their district meeting and Joe was very receptive. Perhaps it was because the request came from one of his former assistants (Mark Griff) or maybe it was just because Joe is such a good friend of GCSANJ. I believe it was both of these and many other reasons.

Joe checked with the officials at the club and a date was picked and District II had a great site for their meeting. It took a little bit longer before we realized that this would be a great opportunity for a joint district meeting and so District I was invited and they quickly accepted.

Lunch was a great time because you had some real legends in attendance. The younger members had the opportunity to meet Skip Cameron, Bill Koonz, Sr., Wayne Foster, Ken Kubik, Jim McNally along with our host Mr. Flaherty and others. The nice interaction probably would not have happened at a larger meeting where people often only spend time with their friends. This is one of the reasons why we have district meetings.

On the golf course though it was strictly a young man's game. Mark Griff shot 76 for low gross. Atlantic Irrigation sponsored 2 long drives and Storr Tractor and Wilfred MacDonald had one each. The winner of all of these was Mark Berdine and that is a first as far as I know. The closest

Continues on page 14

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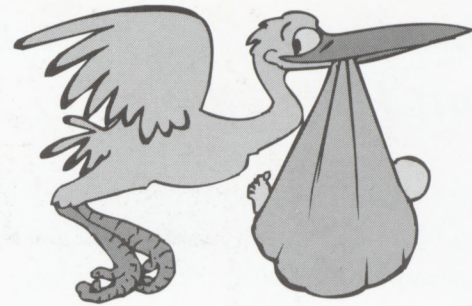
A gathering of the District

Continued from page 13

to the pin contests were sponsored by Storr Tractor twice and Vic Gerard and Wilfred MacDonald. Mark Griff had two closest to the pins and Mark berdine had one. The hole sponsored by Vic Gerard also gets the winner (if they are a supt.) a month's use of one of their utility vehicles. The winner of this was Mark Griff so congratulations on another victory Mr. Griff.

The day turned out great because of the location, our legendary host, the great food and the fact that the rain did stay away. I do hope we can meet their again.

Thanks again Joe for everything that you did and to everyone at the club who really went out of their way to make this meeting special. 🌱



Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Davida and Jim Thomas on the birth of their daughter and first child Logan Linnea Thomas. She was born on September 4, 2006 and weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 20 1/2 inches tall. All are doing well and enjoying the beautiful fall weather. Proud father Jim is the superintendent of the Deal Golf and Country Club. 🌱

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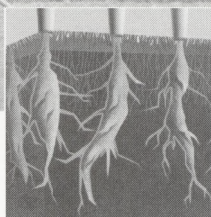
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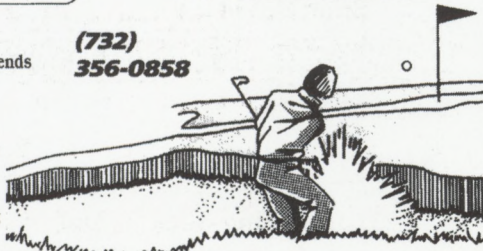
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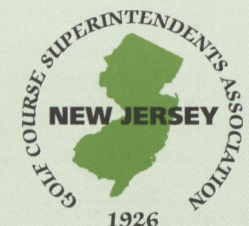
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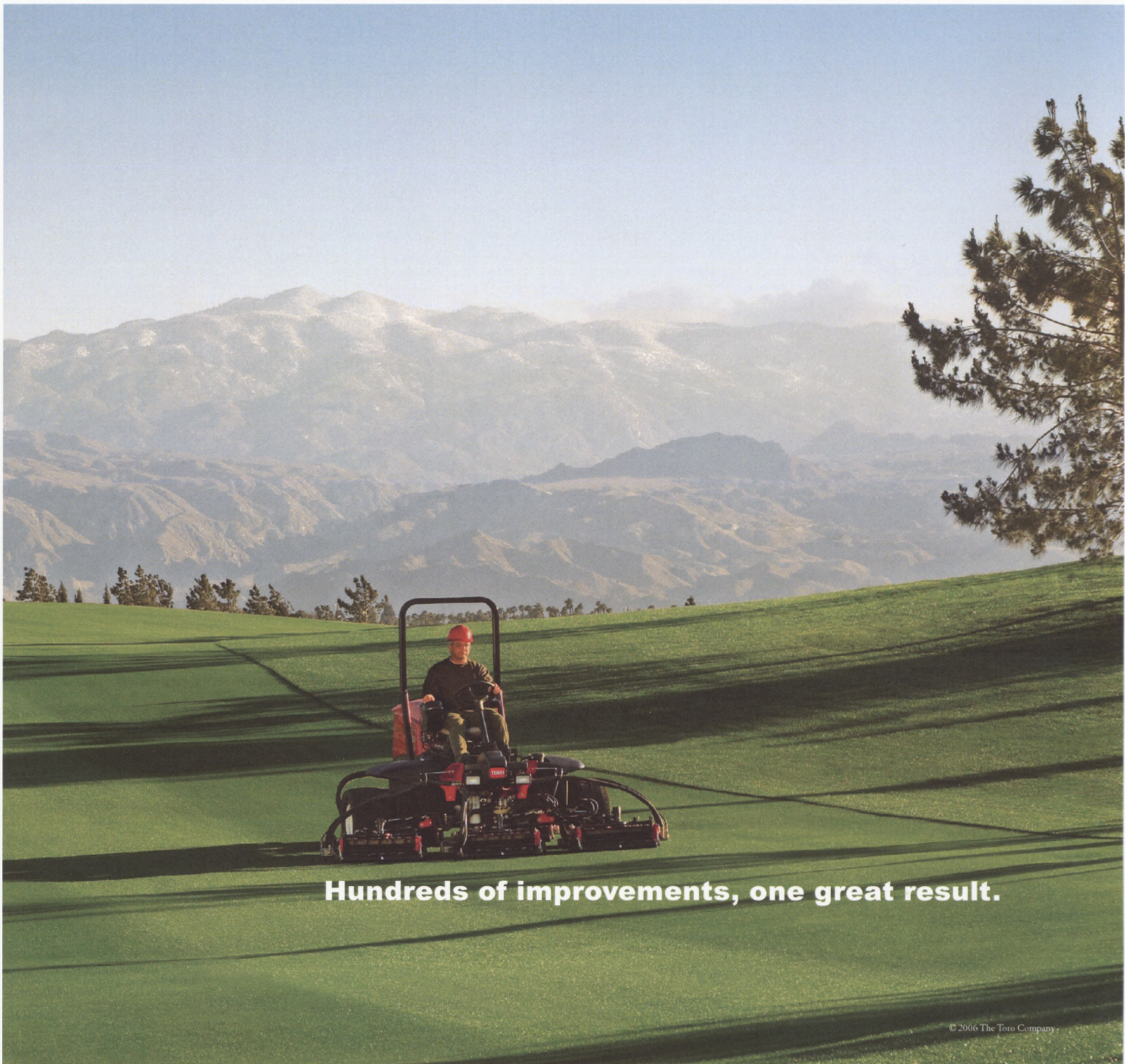
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