

Tools of the Trade...at Shane Nelson's Beaver Creek GC in Colorado

AVON, Colo. — Shane Nelson, superintendent here at the Beaver Creek Golf Club, came very close to spending his life mining for gold. Instead, he's maintaining for golf.

Growing up in nearby Leadville, about 40 miles to the south of here, Nelson was to be a seventh-generation miner after studying industrial arts at a junior college in his hometown. His family had operated several gold and silver mines in the area for decades.

"After the metals crash of the early '80s, I realized that a career change was in order," Nelson said. "That's when I came to work for Vail Resorts in 1984 as a snowcat operator in the winter. I also worked on a golf course during the summer for a few years."

Nelson eventually took a full-time position at the course as a mechanic. Four years later, he was pulling double duty as the assistant superintendent and mechanic. In 1992, he was promoted to superintendent.

Nelson expanded his knowledge of turf from on-the-job training and attending GCSAA seminars at the national conferences. "All of the supers in the Vail Valley attend every year," he said.



This 1971 Cushman tractor is the oldest piece of equipment used at Nelson's Beaver Creek facility.

"It's a great learning experience for me."

LOYALTY

One of the greatest rewards for Nelson at Beaver Creek is the relationship he's established with his staff. "I always credit my two assistants, Jerry Glissman and Bob Johnson," he said. "They grew up on farms, and their common sense approach and work ethic are something that I couldn't live without."

"It seems so uncommon in the profession today to have the kind of loyalty that I enjoy here," said Nelson. "There are not many superintendents that can say that his first assistant has been with him for 17 years, his second assistant for 12 years, greenkeeper for 14 years, flower person for 18 years and so on like I can."

E-SERIES OSMAC IRRIGATION SYSTEM

The Robert Trent Jones, Jr.-designed layout at Beaver Creek, opened in 1980. "It's 6,784 yards of fun golf," said Nelson about the Rocky Mountain track. "The first three holes are as breathtaking as any in golf."

Nelson and his team have been going all out this summer, installing Toro's narrow band, E-series Osmac irrigation system. The course also played host to the annual Jerry and Betty Ford's Artisans Golf Classic's benefit event as well as the Pro-Am leg of the Colorado Open.



Shane Nelson

NELSON'S TOOLS

GREENS MOWERS: 4 Toro
TEE MOWERS: 4 Toro
FAIRWAY MOWERS: 2 Toro, 2 Jacklin
ROUGH MOWERS: 3 Toro
RIDING BUNKER RAKE: 2 Toro
TURF UTILITY VEHICLES: 6 Cushman, 4 Toro
VERTI-CUT REELS: Toro, 2 sets
AERIFIERS: 2 Toro
TOPDRESSERS: 2 Toro
GROOMING REELS: Toro
TOURNAMENT SPEED ROLLER: Greens Iron
REEL GRINDER: Reel master
BEDKNIFE GRINDER: Reel master
IRRIGATION SYSTEM: Toro
GOLF CAR FLEET: 75 E-Z-GO, electric

FLAGSTICKS: Standard
COMPUTER & ACCESSORIES: Compaq
PRIMARY HERBICIDE: Trimec
PRIMARY FUNGICIDE: PCNB
PRIMARY SLOW-RELEASE FERTILIZER: Scotts

ONE THING YOU COULD NOT LIVE WITHOUT: My assistants

OLDEST PIECE OF

EQUIPMENT: '71 Cushman
TOTAL SQUARE FOOTAGE OF MAINTENANCE BUILDING(S): 4,500 sq. ft.

ANNUAL ROUNDS OF GOLF: 18,000

NORMAL GREEN SPEED: 9'

**CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT:
MY ASSISTANTS**

IGM signs contract with Montgomery CC

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — International Golf Maintenance has entered into a maintenance agreement with The Montgomery Country Club here.

The private, Southern-style Montgomery layout with tree-lined fairways and elevated greens was originally designed by Jock Ingles in 1903. The course underwent a redesign by John Lafoy in 1987, and greens were changed from bentgrass to TifEagle Bermudagrass in 2000.

"Right now, we're involved in improving the conditions of the course following our capital renovation project that was completed in the fall of 2000," said general manager Bruce Szafran. A new irrigation system, pump house, and new cart paths were also installed.

UNDERNOURISHED TURF

IGM superintendent Paul Haines found

turf conditions to be undernourished at the club and will be making agronomic adjustments. "We're working to get the turf color and health up to provide a better playing surface and help create visual height dis-



A view of the 4th fairway at Montgomery CC

tinction," he said.

The facility hosts the oldest invitational in the state, The Montgomery Country Club

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