

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 manger 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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**GOLF COURSE
NEWS**
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Seed companies

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WinterStar.

"There was extensive work on BrightStar SLT for salt tolerance over at Pure Seed Testing [Hubbard, Ore.]," said Tom Stanley, marketing manager. "What they did was place all the NTEP perennials into a salt water bath. They subjected them to the bath, at 17,000 parts/million, for nine weeks."

Most of the varieties were destroyed. "Some, however, still had green and growing tissue," Stanley said. "BrightStar SLT was one of the top survivors. It also has a good resistance to red thread. It will work well in areas with cool, moist, maritime winters."

Citation Fore will require less mowing, according to Stanley. "It has reduced steminess and reduced vertical growth in the spring and summer," he said. "It also has a 54 percent endophyte content, so it will be fairly resistant to above-ground feeding insects."

WinterPlay and WinterStar, two Poa trivialis varieties released by Turf Seed in limited quantities last year, will be more available this fall. "They'll be ideal for the South, where they're just going to be temporary grasses," said Stanley. "Also, the Northeastern and upper Midwest regions where there's wet, shady areas difficult for growing turf or even in shade mixes for permanent turf."

PENNINGTON SEED

Pennington Seed, in Madison, Ga., is offering two new perennial ryegrasses that were both bred at Rutgers University.

"Applaud provides great color and has a very nice leaf texture," said Russ Nicholson, national sales manager. "We've found that it transitions very well. It's not one of these varieties you plant and have concerns about next spring in the South. It doesn't take the heat very well."

The other variety, Integra, will be available in limited quantities this fall for commercial use. "Next year, we'll step up production," Nicholson said. "It will still be in limited supply, but we'll have a few million pounds of it by then."

"Like the Applaud seed, Integra

Montgomery CC

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Invitational. The Southern Women's Amateur is scheduled for 2002.

Future plans are being laid for improving the landscaping around the clubhouse and enhancing the "no play" areas of the course. "It's got such a great history, not just in Alabama but in the Southeastern United States," said Greg Plotner, vice president of business development at IGM. ■

GOLF COURSE NEWS



was also bred at Rutgers for disease resistance, a dark green color, and good texture," said Nicholson. "In trials, we've found it to be a strong performer for the overseeding market."

JACKLIN SEED

Plant breeder Susan Sumudio at the Jacklin Seed Co. in Post Falls, Idaho, was one of the driving forces behind two "spanking new" perennial ryegrasses, Extreme and Galaxy.

"Extreme features excellent spring green-up, high density, and a dark green color," said Sumudio. "It also exhibits good pink snow mold resistance. It's been tested in company trials since 1997 and was entered in the 1999 perennial

ryegrass NTEP trial. It's done very well in northern trials."

Galaxy was especially developed for the Midwest, according to Sumudio. The company has tested it since 1998 at sites in Ohio, Maryland and New Jersey. "It's characterized as medium-fine texture, high density and a medium-dark green color," said Sumudio. "It also has demonstrated moderate resistance to leaf rust and gray leaf spot [GLS].



A test plot of Galaxy used in NTEP trial.

On a scale of one to nine, it's closer to a five or six in GLS resistance. But it's not being completely wiped out." ■

Our fertilizer comes with a built-in insurance policy.



UHS Signature Brand Fertilizers with Prospect® Plus not only provide quality nutrients, they also work to:

- Help turf establish or withstand environmental stresses
- Develop a more fibrous, extensive root system
- Enhance early plant growth and vigor
- Build greater shoot mass
- Increase uptake of soil nutrients and moisture
- Increase photosynthesis

UHS Signature Brand Fertilizers with Prospect® Plus have been impregnated with a proprietary nutrient solution that has shown a remarkable ability to improve vigor, quality and stress tolerance in turf, trees and ornamentals. The patented additive in Prospect® Plus has been tested extensively on many crops, including turf, in laboratory, greenhouse and field studies in the U.S. and several other countries.

Those studies have consistently shown a positive effect on early plant growth and development and with mature plants under stress. Sod farms results show that turf can be harvested earlier due to increased root mass and quicker establishment from seed or sprigs. Mature turf has greater root mass with a noted "tighter" visual appearance and less susceptibility to stress.

The same benefits can be found in Prospect®, a liquid micronutrient for foliar application or for use in fertigation systems.

Effect of Fertilizer with Prospect Plus on Creeping Bentgrass Density

Ohio Turfgrass Foundation Research and Educational Center - 2000

Treatment	Rate	% Turf Density
Check		60.00
Fertilizer (46-0-0)	0.014 lb. N/1000 sq. ft.	72.00
Fertilizer (46-0-0) + Prospect Plus	0.014 lb. N/1000 sq. ft. + 48 oz./acre	77.00

Seeded on August 4, 2000 with G-2 creeping bentgrass at a rate of 2 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. Density measurements were based on % cover taken visually on 10/4 (8 weeks after treatment)

Study Results: "... a significant increase in creeping bentgrass establishment two months after seeding with the application of fertilizer and Prospect Plus compared to the untreated control." A 22% improvement over check and more than a 12% increase over fertilizer alone!

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