

# Kevin DeRoo -N- Bartlett Hills Golf Club



*Christopher, Kayce, Kyle, Cheryl and Kevin DeRoo.*

*John Gurke, CGCS  
Aurora C.C.*

The August MAGCS meeting will be held at Bartlett Hills Golf Club in Bartlett, with Kevin DeRoo serving as our generous and courageous host. Agreeing to host an August meeting sounds like a great idea in March when snow is still flying and the arrangements chairman is buying you drinks, as Kevin will attest; however, we all know what a Midwest summer can bring us, which makes Kevin DeRoo a brave superintendent indeed.

Kevin's been a Bartlett boy his whole life—he grew up a stone's throw from the course along with his eight—yes, eight—siblings. While in high school, Kevin went to work for Ed Joerns at Villa

Olivia, which began his career in the golf business. Kevin attended Harper College where he received his degree in 1984.

From '83 to '88, he worked with Joel Purpur at Bartlett Hills during an extensive course improvement operation. A new manual irrigation system was installed in-house along with the rebuilding of several holes. In 1988, Joel went to River Forest, leaving the course to ME, of all people. Having worked with enough seasoned veterans like Joel and myself, Kevin decided to go to work as assistant to the no-name, up-and-coming youngster at Inverness named Mike Bavier, a move Kevin calls, and I quote, "The single most important move I've ever made in securing a good future for myself in this



business. But don't take it personally, John."

By fall of 1990, I had done all the damage one guy could possibly do to Bartlett Hills, so I gracefully snuck away in the night, leaving the door open for Kevin. The reconstruction was—and still is—in progress, and Kevin has been doing it ever since. Building greens, tees, bunkers, flower boxes, a driving range, and a new clubhouse are just a few of the projects which have kept Kevin busy since his arrival. The latest project approved was a new automatic irrigation system slated for this fall.

On the homefront, Kevin, 35, has been married to his beautiful wife Cheryl (a truly fine cook and landlord, from my own experience) for 13 years. They have three great kids—Christopher, 9; Kayce, 8; and Kyle, 5. Kevin is an avid family man, considering them his main hobby along with hockey and an occasional game of golf. For those of you who have not been to Bartlett Hills Golf Club recently, be ready for something special. From the gorgeous new clubhouse (no silo, however) to the vastly-improved golf course, it'll be a great day. We thank Kevin DeRoo and Bartlett Hills in advance for hosting the August meeting. See you there! ■