

# SUPER-N-site

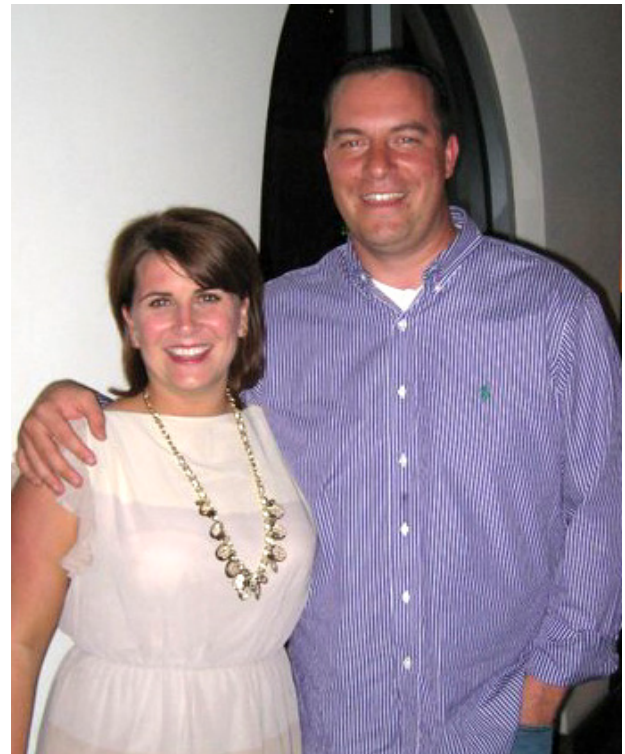
PHOTO CREDITS: KIRK SPIETH

## Kirk Spieth and Beverly Country Club

Willam Meyer, *Park Ridge Country Club*

All of us in the golf business tend to end up in this industry in the same way. We get a summer job at a course and love it so much; we decide to make a career of it. Kirk Spieth's story falls right in that line. Kirk grew up in Ohio and naturally he attended The Ohio State University. While at school, he worked at Wedgewood Golf and Country Club in the summer for a little spending money.

This is where the story takes a quick and unexpected turn; Kirk graduated OSU with a degree in broadcast journalism. After graduating, Kirk looked back and thought about those summers on the golf course and made a decision that puts his story back on track. He then proceeded to work toward his two-year turf degree from Rutgers University. After Rutgers, Kirk went back to Wedgewood and was hired on as an Assistant Superintendent. After five years in this position, Kirk got the opportunity to move to this neck of the woods. He secured a position at Olympia Fields as an Assistant Superintendent, eventually working his way up to the North Course Superintendent. After another five years, Kirk got the opportunity to move on, where two seasons ago Kirk took over responsibilities as golf course superintendent at Beverly Country Club.



*Kirk and his wife Katie*





Beverly Country Club and the property itself are quite intriguing and unique. The club was founded in 1908; ten years after opening Donald Ross was contracted to make a master plan and renovate the course. Ross' thumb print has stood the test of time, although it has had a little bit of help. In 2002 a master plan and renovation was put into action that refreshed many of the still existing Ross trademarks and incorporated others that were part of Ross' original plans. Most recently, a bunker renovation project was finished in the fall of 2011. This renovation focused on replacing the existing sand with better sand and addressing drainage within bunkers.

The property itself is an interesting 120 acres. It is split in two by 87th Street, with the front nine and maintenance facility on the north side and the back nine and clubhouse on the south. The front nine is in the city of Chicago, however just across the street the clubhouse and back nine are in unincorporated Cook County. One prominent feature on the property is a ridge that runs across some of the front nine; it is the prehistoric shoreline of Lake Chicago. This prehistoric past makes for interesting contours on the property that can be unexpected so close to downtown.

When talking to Kirk about this upcoming season he couldn't help but express his excitement "This is the first season that we are starting with a crew that has been trained in the way that the management team wants." This season, Kirk's main goal is going to be dialing in the Poa greens and Declaration/Poa tees and fairways in preparation for next year's Western Amateur. This will

not be Beverly's first large tournament; it is as a rather storied past when it comes to tournaments with champions such as Francis Ouimet, Arnold Palmer, and Jack Nicklaus. Beverly has hosted a dozen notable tournaments over the last 112 years, these events range from a U.S. Amateur to Western Opens.

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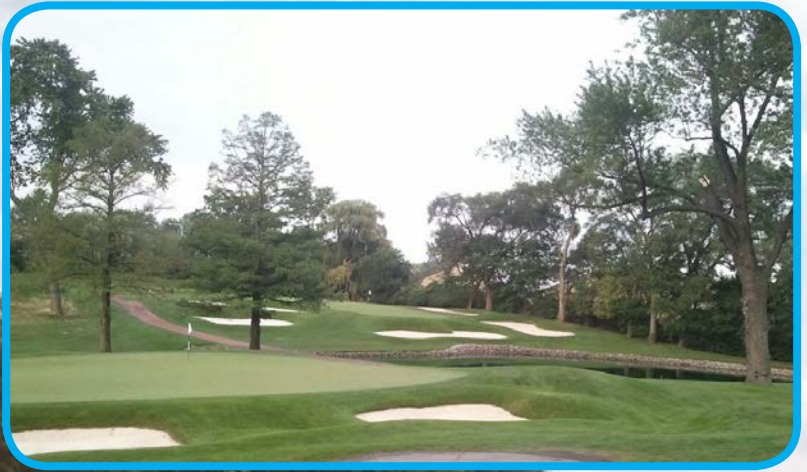
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In his down time Kirk enjoys spending time relaxing with his wife Katie at their home in Flossmoor. Kirk describes himself as a large sports fan, especially when it comes to college football and his alma mater The Ohio State Buckeyes. He is also a golfer and, like everyone else, feels like he doesn't seem to play enough with everything that happens in life. @







### **History of Beverly Championships**

- 1910 – Western Open (Chick Evans, Jr.)
- 1930 – Western Amateur (Jack Westland)
- 1931 – Nat'l Amateur Championship (Francis Ouimet)
- 1943 – Chicago Victory Nat'l Open (Sam Byrd)
- 1963 – Western Open (Arnold Palmer)
- 1967 – Western Open (Jack Nicklaus)
- 1970 – Western Open (Hugh Royer)
- 1998-2000 Chicago Open
- 2009 – US Senior Amateur Championship

Course Record: 64, 1967 Tom Weiskopf