

SUPER-N-site

Dave Kohley & Silver Lake Country Club



Nate Bolhous, Briarwood Country Club

PHOTOS: SILVER LAKE COUNTRY CLUB

As spring finally approaches we look to get rolling with course clean up, first cuts, and course improvements. Some places have these goals in addition to getting the course open early for golfers that rely on daily fees. Superintendent Dave Kohley and Silver Lake Country Club (SLCC) fall into this category and will be the host site of the MAGCS April meeting and first golf outing of the 2014 season.

Dave started to feel the turf itch in high school where he spent his summers working at Curtis Creek CC in Rensselaer, Indiana. He then attended Eastern Kentucky University to play golf and where he made the decision to pursue a degree in turf/horticulture rather than the professional side of the business. He obtained



The Kohley's: Pam and Dave and children Megan and Brandon.

his degree and took a position at SLCC working for the late Dudley Smith for 11 years until his retirement and has been managing the large property with his longtime assistant John Sullivan since.

Silver Lake Country Club is a 45 hole public club located



in Orland Park, IL that has evolved over the years to make it the 300 acre facility it is today. In 1927 Euclid Hills opened as a private country club and in 1929 Silver lake opened up as a daily fee course adjacent to Euclid Hills on old farmland. Then in 1938 Bert Coghill, a partner in Cog Hill Golf Club, came to Silver Lake and purchased both it and Euclid Hills in 1939. Both courses were consolidated to become Silver Lake Country Club in 1940; Euclid Hills became the North Course and Silver Lake the South Course. The final piece of the property was constructed in 1962 as Rolling Hills, an executive 9-hole course; all three courses offer a different perspective of the game to meet everyone's needs and abilities. The north course is long off the tee but features less hazards; the south course is shorter but with more trouble and requires



more shot making. Rolling Hills has 7 par 3's and two par 4's with top playing conditions making for a great experience. Recently, a portion of the property has been passed down to another Coghill relative entering the 4th generation of management at Silver Lake Country Club.

Dave and John keep busy throughout the season caring for the 300 acres of SLCC. During the last couple of years Dave has been busy renovating the bunkers to new condition. The work is done in house and includes: new sub grades, new tile, shape, face slope, erosion control, and sand. In 2012 SCLL opened a driving range that was designed by MAGCS member, Bob Lohmann. One big challenge for Dave and staff are the number of outings SLCC hosts each year.

Dave explains, "it's an outing course, finding time and gaps to squeeze projects and work into can be a handful at times but there's always a way."

When away from the course Dave spends time with his family and dog Bosco whom you may recognize from the Lebanon Dog Days of summer calendar. Dave and his wife Pam, who are about to celebrate their 20 year anniversary, have two children Brandon 15, and Megan 12. The family

likes to take vacations to places with warm beaches as well as places like Vail and Breckenridge to hit the slopes with their skis. Dave also likes to do some hunting with his father and son Brandon, and like all of us, tries to keep his golf game in tip top shape when able.

Dave, John, and the SLCC staff are getting the course ready for the first golf event of the 2014 season and hope everyone has a great time! Let's hope the weather will cooperate better this spring for us and we can all prepare for what 2014 brings us. @





The top photo is #18 on the South Course, a 163 yard par 3. The middle photo is hole 10 on South Course, a 326 yard par 4 and the bottom is the 8th.

