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Hole no. 18 at Bartlett Hills Golf Course, site of our August golf meeting.
(Photo by Jim Trzinski)

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Bob Williams

The Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents (MAGCS), founded December 24, 1926, is a professional organization whose goals include preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge pertaining to golf turf maintenance.

We endeavor to increase efficiency and economic performance while improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige of the members.

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SEE YOU AT OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY!



ON COURSE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Kevin DeRoo Bartlett Hills Golf Course

It's All In The Family

As we enter the ninth week of our annual 100 days of heat and stress, also known as summer, it's time to reflect again on that age-old question, "What is it like living with a golf course superintendent?" Back by popular demand, here is yet another perspective on that topic. And who better to answer the question than those who live it, day in and day out. So to the Midwest membership, I introduce my family: Cheryl, Christopher, Kayce and Kyle. These are the people in my life who continually support me and my chosen profession. They are the ones responsible for me getting through another dreaded 100 days of summer.

My dad is great and loves his job. He is working all day supporting our family. I like my dad being the superintendent at Bartlett Hills Golf Course because we get to golf a lot. Not too many people go there at night even though it's a public course. I think it's because it's hidden. Some reasons why I don't like my dad's job are he works from 4:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and sometimes even later. He works all summer and can't go on vacations with us. Even after my dad gets home, he is so tired that we can't always play catch or practice my swing. He coaches my little league team though, and that's cool. That is what I think about my dad's job.

Kyle DeRoo
11 years old

*Our president's
children and wife
describe the
sacrifices—
and joys—
inherent to life
with a golf course
superintendent.*

My dad is a superintendent and always at work! We have one major thing in common—we both are busy all day long, he is at work planting and watering flowers, making everything perfect, and I am getting stronger at tumbling and dance. When I am home from my busy life, my favorite thing to do is go to the golf course and eat a wonderful dinner at the restaurant. Their food is great! Occasionally I golf. I am not too fond of it but I am getting better. The best part is watching my family hit really far while I sit riding around in the golf cart; that's always fun. I also like to go there because they have a nicely done workshop. My brothers and I like to sit in his chair and make our dad stand. We say we have been slaving around the house ALL day and he stands there and rolls his eyes. Even though my dad and I don't see each other as much time as I wish, the times we spend together are fantastic.

Kayce DeRoo
14 years old

Kevin DeRoo, golf course superintendent or father? To me he is both, a boss and a dad. I have been working for him for four weeks now and have gotten the privilege of seeing both sides of him. I have begun to realize that he cares for that golf course of his almost as much as us. He works harder than any man on that course. Every day, he is working day and night making sure everything is perfect for the golfers the next day. If he's not working, he is at

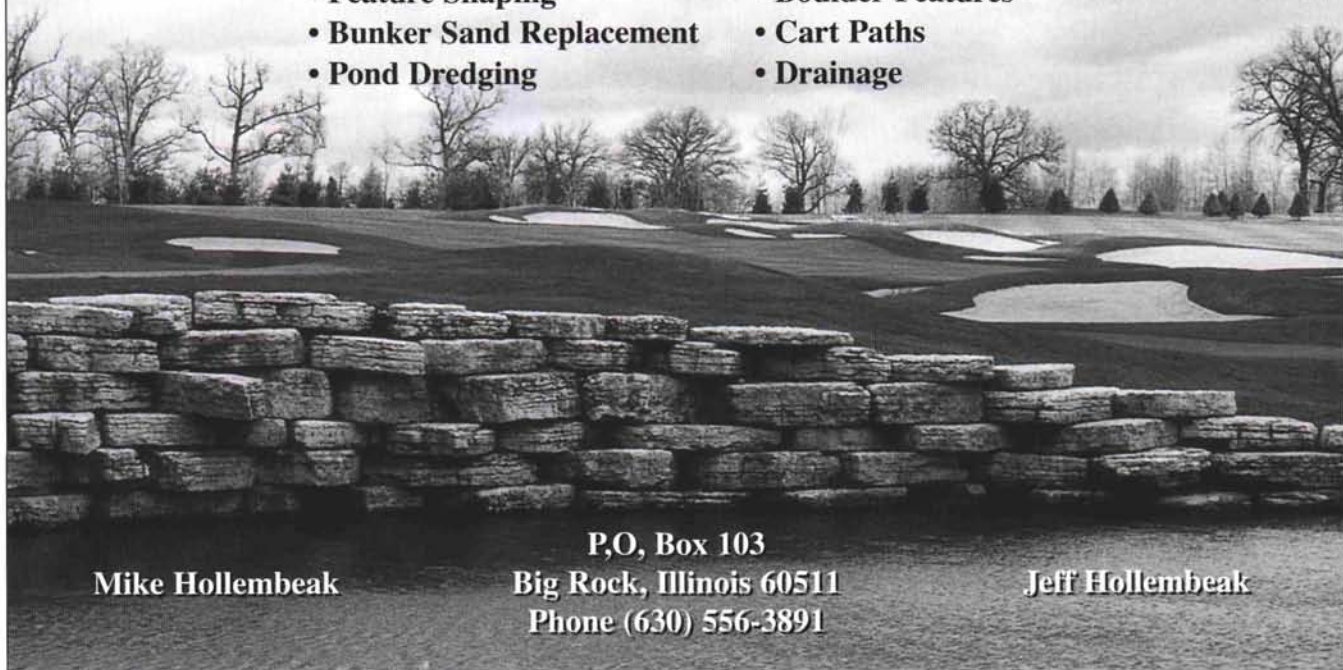
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People Make The Difference

For those of you who missed Paul Vermeulen's educational presentation at the June MAGCS meeting at Prestwick Country Club, I'll share an interesting insight Paul related in respect to the 103rd U. S. Open Golf Championship at Olympia Fields.

At Prestwick on the day after the U.S. Open's final round, [the USGA's] Paul Vermeulen said, "In my mind, the Open is all about the people . . . That's what makes the difference. That's what makes the Open meaningful." Paul's words made me think about the trust that the membership of the Midwest has placed in the Board of Directors to manage and guide the business efforts of our Association on their behalf.

As we all know, Paul is the director of the Mid-Continent Region for the United States Golf Association's Green Section. At Prestwick on the day after the U.S. Open's final round, Paul said, "In my mind, the Open is all about the people. It's about the staff and volunteers who through their hard work, dedication and skill made the Open special." Paul believes that above all, the Open Championship is not about the competition, nor about any individual player, nor about the champion golfer. No, the Open is about the assembled staff and volunteers who play their positions so very well when 'under the gun' to pull the thing off. "That's what I will remember most about this year's Open. That's what makes the difference. That's what makes the Open meaningful," Paul said.

As I listened to Paul's overview, it dawned on me that in many instances I had heard similar words before in some way, shape or form. Probably all of us have heard those same words before, somewhere, so many times, in fact, it's considered cliché. But for some reason, I took note of his words. They had real meaning and conviction. They made me reflect.

It seems so long ago since I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents. In fact, it was last November. As one of the "new kids on the block," I have found Board service interesting and rewarding. It will be some time before I am able to fully understand the "parliamentary procedures" of our meetings or the "behind the scenes" actions of our officers. I just listen to our president, Kevin DeRoo, and do as he asks. I don't have any personal goals or an agenda. Heck, on many Board issues, I don't have an opinion. I am looking for where I can best serve our membership, heed advice and follow directions.

Paul's words made me think about the trust that the membership of the Midwest has placed in the Board of Directors to manage and guide the business efforts of our Association on their behalf. We like to hear your opinions and comments regarding our management efforts. It's our duty as Board members to consider and decide the course of action on all business before the Board. However, it is membership's responsibility to "steer the ship," ask questions and offer suggestions to help improve the management and administration of our Association.

It is a pleasure to work with the many dedicated men and women within our Association, ranging from committee volunteers to commercial

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Kevin DeRoo -N-



The DeRoos (L to R): Chris, 16; Kayce, 14; Kyle, 11; Cheryl and Kevin.



This month's golf meeting takes us back to good old Bartlett Hills Golf Course, where MAGCS president Kevin DeRoo has been plying his trade for the past 12-plus years. The author has a personal interest in writing this particular article, as it was I whom Kevin replaced (and what a good thing for Bartlett Hills and its clientele!). If you had the opportunity to play at BHGC the last time we were there, fuggeddaboudit—thanks to Kevin and the folks at the Village of Bartlett, many changes await you on August 11. I'll get to those in due time—first, a little about the storied history of this village-owned daily-fee course.

The first nine opened in 1924 on the site of the Gloss Dairy Farm. In 1928, architect Charles Maddox added a second nine holes (Maddox also designed Old Wayne and Stonehenge, to name a couple). The original owner, Mr. Gloss (I'd love to say his first name was Lip or Semi, but that'd be too easy), was an avid card player and a tad eccentric to boot, and his pastimes were apparent in the design of the old course, with its heart-, diamond-, spade-, church keyhole- and star-shaped greens. These original greens stayed very much intact until much later, when in 1978 the Village of Bartlett bought the course and undertook a progressive improvement plan. In 1980, under superintendent Doug Papp, the ninth green (the heart) was removed in favor of a more conventional shape built (somewhat) to USGA specs. At that time, the first tee complex adjacent to no. 9 green was also rebuilt.

Later, in 1981-82, superintendent Joel Purpur, CGCS (currently at River Forest Country Club) installed a new pump station (replacing a diesel-powered, pain-in-the-butt-to-prime pump), a manual fairway irrigation system throughout the course with quick-couplers in fairways, and manual, valve-controlled greens irrigation to replace the center-sod-cup system of yore. Since he wasn't too busy, Joel also rebuilt holes 10, 11 and 12, and began work on nos. 7, 8 and 14, following architect Bob Lohmann's design.

The next superintendent, a young snot-nosed kid who was in WAY over his head (me), tackled the rebuilding of holes 14, 15, 17 and 18, along with the removal of the old no. 10 and no. 11 to make way for a practice facility. I don't know what kind of magic Kevin has been using, but upon his arrival in 1991—after a stint as Mike Bavier's assistant at Inverness—he has basically brought BHGC into the 21st century. The remaining greens were rebuilt

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Kevin DeRoo and Ginger behind no. 15.

(spelling an end to all the goofy greens), installation of an automatic irrigation system took place, a new clubhouse sprang up (replacing the old barn and silo), a new maintenance facility was erected (and a real beauty at that) and fairways underwent conversion to bentgrass.

During my visit with Kevin, we toured the course and took in the vast changes that it has undergone over the 25 years since its purchase by the village. It's difficult to describe the feeling I got while looking at the trees I planted (most in the wrong locations) and the holes I rebuilt—and then realizing how much better they look under Kevin's artful hand. When I left, I didn't know whether to shake his hand or punch him in the nose. Decorum, and consideration of my friendship with Kevin, took over, and the handshake won. You see, while I was muddling through my stint at



The new clubhouse terrace overlooking the 18th hole.

BHGC, I lived in the basement of the DeRoo household. Kevin and his wonderful wife, Cheryl, took pity on this bachelor without a clue and put me up (knowing full well the potential for the harm that could be caused to their marriage and to their impressionable son, Christopher, born in 1987). Seeing no signs of permanent

damage to his psyche (all he really ever did was keep repeating, "John go downtown, John get money first"), they decided to add to the family with the birth of Kayce in 1989 and Kyle in 1991. The kids, all negative outside influences considered, have turned out normal, with baseball, hockey, dancing and tumbling keep-



(Photo by Jim Trzinski)

Beautiful scenery and rolling terrain await us at Bartlett Hills.

ing them occupied, and Kevin is manager of Kyle's little league team. Cheryl, the more "cerebral" of the two, recently graduated with a Master's degree in education from Aurora University, and is pursuing a second Master's in education administration, also at AU. The couple also is the driving force behind this month's Kane County Cougar outing, as if they don't have enough on their plate.

Kevin and his staff look forward to hosting this month's meeting, and hope you all will enjoy the changes to Bartlett Hills as much as they have enjoyed implementing them. See you on the 11th!



(Photo by Jim Trzinski)

Some of the fruits of Kevin's and his staff's labors.

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