

# TOP Assistants

Michigan man finds professional, recreational and spiritual solace in the great outdoors

*Editor's note: If you'd like to nominate someone for the feature, please send an e-mail to Larry Aylward at [larylward@questex.com](mailto:larylward@questex.com).*

Kevin Breuker has worked in the golf course maintenance industry for 11 years, but it was his five months in an office that solidified his desire to pursue a golf profession.

"Toward the end of that time (tele-marketing lawn care services), I craved being outdoors again — away from the computer, telephone and that evil copy machine," Breuker says.

Now he's the assistant superintendent at the Traverse City (Mich.) Golf and Country Club, and he is an active member in the Michigan Golf Course Superintendent Association, where he sits on the assistant superintendent committee and helps coordinate continuing education events throughout the state.

**Kevin Breuker (right) discusses mowing strategies with an operator at Traverse City Golf and Country Club.**



■ **What's your favorite part of the job?**

The last 20 minutes before our August member/guest invitational. I take one last tour to check the golf course. Seeing the months of planning, decision-making and execution by our crew culminate with impeccable course conditions is extremely rewarding. That is what motivates me when I get up and head to work every morning.

■ **Who has been the biggest influence on your career and why?**

My father, through his instruction and actions, taught me the core values of honesty, dedication, hard work and ingenuity. I have used these skills to begin building my career in the golf course business, and I will continue to rely on them as I move forward. His encouragement and support for me has never wavered. Thanks dad, I owe it all to you.

■ **What's your favorite product or piece of equipment and why?**

Our Rainbird Nimbus II irrigation system. The ability to control water distribution so precisely on such a large scale is amazing. The possibilities for its use are limitless. It has enhanced our golf course playing conditions, improved the health of the turf and maximized our chemical applications.

■ **If you could change something about the industry right now, what would you change?**

The increasing cost and time commitment to play a round of golf. I think it is the main factor in golf's inability to consistently attract new players both young and old to pick up the game.

■ **Describe yourself in one word.**

Integrity.

■ **What is your favorite hobby and why?**

Trail running. For 45 minutes, I can focus all of my attention on nature's beauty, my physical performance and spiritual concerns; everything else fades away. Running keeps my mind sharp, my body physically fit and my spirit focused.

■ **What's your favorite vacation spot?**

Cedar Point in Sandusky, Ohio. It is the ultimate playground for anyone who loves the thrill of riding roller coasters.

■ **What's your favorite golf course besides your own?**

Forest Dunes Golf Club in Roscommon, Mich. It can be described in two simple words: pure golf.

■ **If a movie were made about your life, what famous actor would play you?**

Matt Damon.

■ **It's your last day on Earth. What would you do?**

In the morning I would make a large custom-ordered breakfast for my family. There would be ample princess playtime with my two daughters. I would spend time telling my family and friends how much they have meant to me. In the late afternoon, I would hit the trail for one last run. As the evening closes, I would listen to some of my favorite gospel hymns and prepare to meet my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. ■