

Super & Site Profile

by Don Cross, CGCS
Public Relations Committee

It's time to get out your sticks, dust the cobwebs off, and join in the fun and camaraderie of another year of MAGCS monthly golf meetings. This month's meeting will be April 26, 1993 at Geneva Golf Club and our host will be Ed Braunsky.

SUPER

Ed is currently in his 13th year of employment at the private Geneva Golf Club. A protege' of the beloved Albie Staudt, Ed was his assistant for 4 years before becoming the superintendent 7 years ago. Ed's experience before Geneva was working on the grounds staff at Prestbury Golf Club, when his father, a superintendent for over 20 years, was the superintendent. At one point in time there were three active superintendents in his family: Ed, his brother Ron, and his father.

The Braunsky household, residing in Batavia, includes Ed's wife Sue, his 5 year old son Benjamin, and a 1 year old daughter Emily. This keeps his free time to a minimum when he is not on the course.

Ed received his formal education at Joliet Junior College where he graduated with a two year degree in Turfgrass Management. He attended Joliet while working at Geneva Golf Club. He has been active for the past 3 years on the Board of Directors of the MAGCS, serving on, and chairing, several committees.

In discussing this article with Ed, I found a man who truly enjoys his profession, is very happy at his club, and plans to stay for a long time. Remarkably, Ed is only the 3rd full time employee in the 93 year history of Geneva Golf Club. (see the news clip below). So if history holds true, he's very likely to get his wish. His club is quite unique in that it is literally a "hands on" club with members doing much of the work. From setting tables and serving meals to tending bar, every one of the clubs 165 members serves at some time or another and all seem to enjoy it.

SITE

"The Geneva Links are said to be the finest of any small field in the state, nearest to a station" — The Twice-a-Week Republican, March 8, 1907.

Geneva Golf Club was founded in 1900 and today is one of the oldest 9-hole clubs in the country. The course measures 2700 yards with Par 34 for 9, Par 68 for 18. The Course Rating is 68.8 and the Slope is 130. Course characteristics include "postage stamp" greens and narrow fairways and if that's not enough to make things interesting, the second and third holes are the only two without a water hazard.

In 1986, after playing a relatively unchanged course (architecturally speaking) since being founded, the membership felt it was time for a "new look". Dick Nugent was hired to design a Master Plan and over the following few years numerous changes were made.

With help from Bill Boyd of Timberline, as the primary contractor, Ed supervised the rebuilding and/or resurfacing of most of the tees, several bunker renovations, and new berm installations. The Master Plan is now near completion and the club was quite pleased with the results. Additional beautification programs, implemented at about the same time as the Master Plan include pond improvements, flower bed installations, and a continuing memorial tree planting program.

(continued on page 28)

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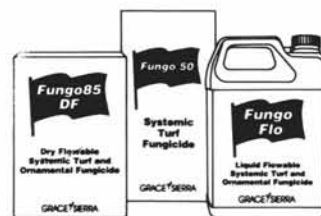
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("Super & Site Profile" continued)

Ed has been a busy man over the past several years and all who play at the April meeting are sure to find an enjoyable and challenging course at Geneva Golf Club.



During the 90 years of the Club's existence . . . there have been only 3 full-time employees!

Because committees made up of members do much of the work, the Club has never had full-time cooks, waitresses or bar tenders. Setting tables, arranging flowers, serving meals buffet-style, tending bar,

and handling financial matters are all performed by whatever Club members happen to be serving on the committee for any social activity. Every member serves at some time or other. And all seem to enjoy it.

No. 1 Frank Mastroleo:



Frank was the first full-time employee the Club ever had. He started in 1922 and stayed until he retired in 1960. Frank could do anything. For starters he was in charge of grooming the course itself, keeping the clubhouse spruce and managing the golf pro shop. In spare moments he used his "green thumb" to enhance the clubhouse grounds with lush flowers and shrubs. He even taught children how to swing a club. Indeed for nearly 40 years Frank was considered a member of the Geneva Golf Club family.

No. 2 Albie Staudt:



Albie inherited all of Frank's duties and added a few more over the years. Since his arrival in 1959 Albie has given his strength, know-how and good cheer to all the daily problems and seasonal functions of the Club. He has shared his family with us . . . wife Bertha, daughter Rosalie, her husband John and children, in-laws, brothers and cousins. He has even found time to serve as President of the Midwest Course Superintendents Association . . . and to become a grandfather. Possessor of a remarkable memory, Albie knew every member . . . including member's children and even some grandchildren by name.

On his retirement in the Fall of '89, Albie and his family were given a well-deserved farewell dinner by Club members. The event which included speeches, toasts and gifts was even covered with words and pictures in the local press. To know Albie was to love him.

No. 3 Edward G. Braunsky, Jr.



And now there's Eddie . . . Edward G. Braunsky, Jr. to be precise. Ed started his association with Geneva Golf Club on November 1, 1981.

It is sometimes difficult to locate Ed because he seldom stays in one spot very long. He's here, there, everywhere . . . all in the space of a few minutes. Even going from his truck to a sprinkler, he doesn't walk. He runs.

Ed is married and has a 3-year-old son. He also has a 2-year degree from Joliet Junior College on "Turf Grass Management." And yes, he plays golf and likes it.

Incidentally, if you should call the maintenance shop at the Club and Ed is not there, you'll get a recorded message that starts out . . . "hi, this is Ed Braunsky at the Geneva Golf Club. We're always in the fairway, never in the rough . . .". That seems to sum everything up.

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Total U.S. Golf Course Supply / 1992

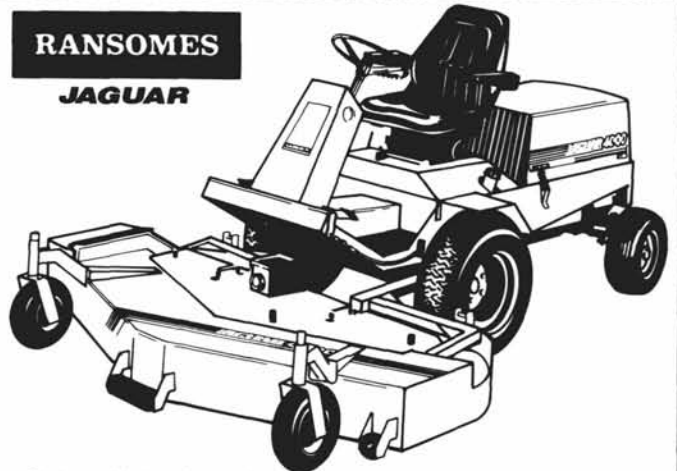
STATE	DAILY FEE*		MUNICIPAL		PRIVATE		TOTAL	
	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Rank	Number	Rank
Alabama	78	27	33	T-28	115	18	226	25
Alaska	10	49	3	T-47	1	51	14	50
Arizona	139	T-16	34	27	71	29	244	21
Arkansas	50	36	15	41	90	T-23	155	32
California	379	6	178	1	304	3	861	2
Colorado	70	30	71	9	53	33	194	26
Connecticut	55	33	35	26	79	26	169	29
Delaware	6	50	2	50	21	40	29	49
District of Columbia	1	51	3	T-47	2	50	6	51
Florida	492	2	100	5	460	1	1,052	1
Georgia	139	T-16	42	T-20	151	9	332	18
Hawaii	52	T-34	8	45	19	43	79	44
Idaho	44	39	27	34	14	T-45	85	41
Illinois	260	T-9	160	3	293	6	415	21
Indiana	235	12	65	11	101	20	401	12
Iowa	193	14	54	14	121	T-14	368	13
Kansas	73	29	50	T-15	118	16	241	T-23
Kentucky	110	T-21	42	T-20	91	T-21	243	22
Louisiana	33	T-42	23	35	91	T-21	147	34
Maine	91	24	9	T-43	20	T-41	120	35
Maryland	45	38	30	30	90	T-23	165	31
Massachusetts	180	15	40	24	122	13	342	14
Michigan	545	1	85	T-7	149	10	779	4
Minnesota	256	11	85	T-7	74	28	415	33
Mississippi	52	T-34	13	42	89	25	154	33
Missouri	125	19	47	18	121	T-14	293	17
Montana	38	41	20	T-36	22	39	80	43
Nebraska	76	28	41	T-22	66	30	183	T-27
Nevada	31	44	20	T-36	10	48	61	45
New Hampshire	84	25	4	46	14	T-45	102	39
New Jersey	80	26	50	T-15	130	12	260	19
New Mexico	33	T-42	28	T-31	23	38	84	42
New York	406	4	121	4	257	4	784	3
North Carolina	272	8	33	T-28	186	8	491	9
North Dakota	28	45	46	19	30	T-36	104	38
Ohio	435	3	97	6	193	7	725	5
Oklahoma	62	32	62	12	59	31	183	T-27
Oregon	113	23	16	T-38	37	35	166	30
Pennsylvania	381	5	39	25	229	5	649	7
Rhode Island	25	47	3	T-47	20	T-41	48	48
South Carolina	210	13	9	T-43	117	17	336	15
South Dakota	43	40	28	T-31	42	34	113	37
Tennessee	95	23	41	T-22	105	19	241	T-23
Texas	260	T-9	162	2	336	2	758	5
Utah	26	46	49	17	17	44	92	40
Vermont	48	37	0	51	11	47	59	46
Virginia	110	T-21	28	T-31	134	11	272	18
Washington	132	18	55	13	58	32	245	20
West Virginia	89	31	16	T-38	30	T-36	115	36
Wisconsin	286	7	70	10	75	27	431	10
Wyoming	24	48	16	T-38	9	49	49	47
U.S. Totals	7,080		2,308		4,980		14,368	

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Source: NGF Golf Facilities in the U.S. / 1993 Edition

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