

# Ed Braunsky, CGCS -N-



*On July 28th, MAGCS members will converge at the Geneva Golf Club in Geneva, Illinois to play in the MAGCS Scholarship Golf Outing. MAGCS member Ed "Basamid Boy" Braunsky, CGCS will host this fun filled event. The 9-hole private course located in the heart of the western suburb is 5,853 yards from the longest tees and holds par at 68. The course was designed by James Foulis and renovated in 2006 by Dave Esler.*

## Early Ed

Ed's path to Geneva began early. He started his career in agronomy working for his father who was the golf course superintendent at Bliss Creek where Ed "got fired every Saturday morning" from carousing on Friday nights. Thankfully for Ed, his boss needed the manpower and forgave him by the end of the day. Ed earned his turf degree from Joliet Junior College and used that knowledge along with his father's hard work ethic to build his career. Ed moved north to stops at golf clubs in Wisconsin and later to Minnesota where a fondness began for his beloved Minnesota Vikings! About 30 years ago, Ed moved back to the Chicagoland area to work at Geneva Golf Club and has been happily employed there ever since. In 1986, he became the Golf Course Superintendent, and in 1994, he became certified by the GCSAA.

## On to Geneva

Ed is only the third Golf Course Superintendent in the club's 108 year existence. At Geneva, Ed wears many hats. He is the golf course superintendent but is also in charge of the pool, club house, and paddle courts ... as if that is not enough.

Much has gone on at Geneva Golf Club in the past several years. Not only has the clubhouse been completely renovated, but a new pool was built and major renovations were made to the golf course. All of this work was overseen and managed by Ed. In 1999, Ed got his nickname "Basamid Boy" when he went out and fumigated all his fairways with Basamid to switch over to low-mow bluegrass.

Ed was a "Guinea Pig" because the use of the product for renovating fairways was not done before. There wasn't any information in research or from other superintendents or university studies about the product. This project also included a new irrigation system and was a huge success. From then on, anyone in the area who was thinking about a renovation and using Basamid knew that Ed was their man.



*Ed Braunsky, Certified Golf Course Superintendent of Geneva Golf Club stopped moving for a half a second to take a picture for the magazine.*

In 2006, Ed was up to the challenge again with another major renovation of Geneva Golf Club's bunkers and tees. Ed turned to St. Charles native Dave Esler of Esler Golf Designs to architect these changes. This renovation included the leveling and squaring off of all tee surfaces and renovating all of the bunkers to give it a jagged turn-of-the-century look. The golf course and its grounds are in immaculate shape, and with the recent renovations, Ed can be credited with bringing back the original feel of this 108 year old gem.

## When the Work Day's Done

When not immersed in work, Ed loves to spend time with his first love...his family. "My wife, Sue, is a teacher, and although our schedules are conflicting, she has always understood my schedule and supported me". Ed is also a proud father of two. He has a son, Ben, who is a junior at DePauw University as well as a daughter, Emily, who is a junior at Batavia High School.

Anybody that knows Ed would say that is a lot like Norm Peterson on the sitcom "Cheers". Everybody in the MAGCS knows his name from the number of years he has served on



various committees, being a past president, attending many events throughout the years, and writing articles for the magazine. But I like to think that he is like Norm in that he is the type of person you can go up to and have a conversation with about anything, a person that would give his shirt off his back, and would help a fellow superintendent with whatever they needed. Most of all, he would make you laugh. Ed puts it best, "Work hard and play hard." Those are his words to live by. Ed and his crew at Geneva Golf Club hope that all participants find Geneva Golf Club a challenging but worthy track to play. One more thing, bring your straight game. **-OC**



*Images of Geneva Golf Club*