

## Dave Braasch -N-



*Dave Braasch will be hosting his fourth MAGCS golf event in September. He hosted two meetings at Hughes Creek Golf Club in Elburn, Illinois, and one at Glen Erin, in Janesville, Wisconsin, in 2004.*

The golf course at Glen Erin Golf Club requires a unique set of management practices. The soils on the property are sandy and rocky gravel. Dave has found that wetting agents are an important tool in managing those rocky, sandy soils. He stressed that water management was a key to taking care of the course. With the soil types and windy conditions he has found that he has to water a lot more than other superintendents in the area. Dave likes to keep the course looking green. The irrigation system has been expanded to water areas that previously were unirrigated.

When it comes to aerifying the sand L-93/Providence greens at Glen Erin, Dave uses quarter-inch tines four times a year. He does two aerifications in both spring and fall, with the aerifications spaced two weeks apart.

Dave tells me the 12th green is performing much better after a company was brought in to consult on the amount of light that was hitting the green. Some tree removals allowed more sunlight and air movement. He seemed to be very happy about the improvement.

The 30 acres of fairways and two acres of tees are predominantly low-mow bluegrass maintained at one-half inch. The fairways are sprayed with hardly any fungicides. Dave has done some experimenting with different rates of the herbicide Tenacity™ to control bentgrass in the bluegrass fairways.

Dave also stresses that communicating to the golfers about certain management practices is important. The membership at Glen Erin Golf Club has been very supportive, especially during the first few seasons as the young course was establishing and maturing.

June 23rd was the fifth anniversary of the opening of Glen Erin Golf Club. Several of the staff of 11 have been at Glen Erin since the grow-in, including the assistant superintendent/equipment technician, Dave Hale. A staff appreciation season-end cookout is held annually. Dave says the staff seems to want to cook what they want and cook it their way.

Fishing is a hobby that Dave enjoys in his leisure time away from work. He is planning a post-Labor Day fishing trip to northern Wisconsin. He has also found out that some local superintendents have opened the golf course lakes to fishing due to overpopulation. He is looking forward to introducing his three-year old son, Logan, to fishing and golf.

Dave hopes those who attended the 2004 golf event at Glen Erin will return this year in order to see and enjoy how the course has established and evolved. He is tempted to set up hole #2

as a challenging 225 yard par 3. Also, not back, by popular demand, is the toll booth at the front entrance gate. The relaxed Wisconsin country setting of the course at Glen Erin Golf Club won't disappoint anyone who comes out this September. **-OC**



*MAGCS President, Dave Braasch and three year old son, Logan.*