

# Turfgrass Matters



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Mid-Atlantic Golf Course Superintendents Newsletter

## John Haley and WestWinds to host April 14 meeting

John Haley, superintendent of WestWinds CC in Frederick, welcomes MAAGCS members to the April golf outing. The dinner meeting will be at nearby Ceresville Mansion.

Although WestWinds was built in 1970, the last two years have seen major changes in this 18-hole championship course. Twenty-four new tees have been put in, and 15 sand traps have been rebuilt. John, his assistant Brian Zickafoose, and their crew have also done extensive drainage work on two holes. In addition, they have removed a number of trees and elevated 1200 others.

When John became superintendent in April of 1990, construction of residences for this planned community was just underway. Within a year and a half, the company installed 60 percent of its roads, many of which went right through the golf course. Along with the roads went lines for water, sewer and electricity.

"This required major re-routing," says John. "When I got here, the construction people were pretty much doing their own thing, so you quickly learned how to protect yourself from too much damage. There were no as-builts as to where the irrigation was. We had to find out through irrigation breaks, by guessing and by piecing things together—like a jigsaw puzzle. It was nightmarish for a while. We had no water the first year until June 1; we had to water by trucks. Even after the system was finally turned on, it wasn't automated until July.



*John Haley shows his turf to golfing legend Billy Casper during one of Billy's visits to WestWinds.*

We've all learned about five years worth of information in about two years."

Upcoming projects include tee-to-green continuous cart paths slated for construction this spring—this may be underway before the April meeting—and the start of a proposed three-year, \$90,000 master landscaping plan.

WestWinds is a privately owned facility with approximately 400 members who come from as far as Washington and Baltimore to play golf and/or tennis. Plans call for 400 upscale homes interspersed around the course. Originally designed by William Mitchell, the course is now managed by Billy Casper Design and Management company.

The course measures 6,482 from the blue tees. Greens are bent and poa; fairways and tees are ryegrass. They are mowed at 5/32" and 5/8" respectively.

John, a native of Potomac, earned a degree in business and

finance at Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md. and a turf degree from Maryland University. Before coming to WestWinds, he assisted at Lakewood and Burning Tree Country Clubs. Time for his favorite extracurricular activities, golf and skiing—both snow and water skiing—may be trimmed a little next August because he and his wife Stephanie are expecting their first child.

Because the club does not yet have dining facilities to accommodate a group the size of MAAGCS, the evening meeting will be at Ceresville Mansion.

**Directions.** Washington to WestWinds : I-270 N to Frederick, take Rt. 85 N to connect with I-70 E. Note "I-70 Truck Stop." Follow 70 E signs on left. Take 70 E toward Baltimore about 10 miles. \*\*Take 75 N toward Libertytown about 3 miles. Left onto Central Church Road. Right on Gas House Pike. At top of hill, make left into WestWinds.

*Baltimore to West Winds:* 70 W. toward Frederick. Follow from \* above .

*Washington to Ceresville Mansion:* 270 N to Frederick. I-270 turns into 15 N (Gettysburg). \*\*Take 15 N to Rt 26 to Libertytown. Cross Monocacy River Bridge. The Mansion is 100 yds on right.

*Baltimore to Ceresville Mansion:* 70 W to 15 N (Gettysburg). Follow from \*\* above.

*WestWinds to Ceresville Mansion:* Left out of club entrance, go 2.4 miles. Go right on McKaig Rd., go 1.2 miles, left onto Rt. 26, note High's on right, go 2.1 miles. Left into Ceresville Mansion before the 1st light..

**Attention!**  
**New Dinner Reservation**  
**number: 301-490-6202**