

# MESSAGES from MAX

Happy New Year! ....it's 2005 but here's a little knowledge I gained in 2004. With our current dues structure, Castlewoods CC needs around 600 (430 currently) members to operate the way most of our members, owners and staff would like it to. Castlewood's new owners are committed to this project and for the long haul. The members that we currently have are committed to the club for the long haul too. The staff that Castlewoods has today is the best that it can be at a club this size. The Internet is the best way to communicate with our members and this will be more evident in 2005. People do read this newsletter. Word of mouth is the best way for us to secure new members. Value added benefits help me sell Castlewoods memberships. Maybe Mike's article should be censored. And last but not least, golf course ratings are not fixed.

The new owners of our club have taken a facility that was dying on the vine and have turned it into Mississippi's best golf value. Just look around and compare. For under \$200 per month and no initiation fee this is what you get. A great golf course that Mike Stupica has whipped into great shape and is continuing to improve everyday. A new tennis facility that will provide a great tennis program for all ages under the tutelage of Buck Boyd. A place where handicaps are guaranteed to drop now that we have a real teaching professional, Jay Jordan. A place where you can get the best hamburger (and de-

pendable good food all the time) in town thanks to Ruby and Geri (Live Oaks has always been known for great hamburgers, but sorry Mr. Agent, Jay and I decided last week that Castlewoods has the best!). A pool that will be opened in May that will help more Dads justify memberships for golf while Mom and the kids are enjoying the sun and the water. A golf shop staff that provides clubs, clothes and balls while doing everything they can to get you the tee time that you want. A club that you can always find a game. A club that includes use of the practice facility in its dues structure. A club that puts members first most of the time and especially on Fridays, Saturday and Sundays. An affiliation with two of the finest club's in the southeast, The University Club and Dancing Rabbit Golf Club. A genuine effort to have a social atmosphere that has not been a part of the Castlewoods experience since Randy was the pro here, thanks to Melissa Hall's event planning and Wendy Putts' catering. A club that went through a tough year without assessing its members or raising its dues. A social atmosphere that is not snobby but rather relaxed. A club that has an extra nine holes so that you will always have a place to play no matter what else is going on. And a group of members that are the friendliest and best in the land.

As promised, Melissa and Scott Davis are hooking up again for another special night for dinner and wine tasting.

Mark down Thursday, January 27th on your calendar for this 6:30pm affair. This function shall have a Cajun theme timed to kick off Mardi Gras and the menu will include jambalaya, crawfish etouffee, Cajun crawfish pasta, and bananas foster. Please call Melissa by January 24th to reserve you and your guest a spot. Please remember that if you are signed up on the 24th, your account will be charged.

Upon a suggestion by a member, Castlewoods will host a Super bowl party that will include a golf tournament. Details have not been finalized at this printing, but when considering plans for the February 6th game keep us in mind. A schedule of events for this weekend should be posted in the club by the middle of January. Members will be encouraged to bring a guest so that they can see what Castlewoods 2005 has to offer!

Happy New Year!

*Max Maxwell*



## TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

It's January 2005 already and I haven't the slightest clue as to what happened to 2004. Last September I finished my first year as the Course Superintendent at Castlewood's Country Club. This month I sit with the experiences of a full year of season changes at this golf course. I must look back for a moment and soak in what I have learned in the past 12 months.

As hard headed as I can be at times I feel like I already know everything. But in all reality I learn more everyday. I'm sure I have made some mistakes that I will never admit to and probably did some good things which I give credit to my crew who does all the work. The course made great strides in 04 and the club as a whole is well on it's way to being the best in the land. I am proud for that and look forward to many more years at this club. I have compiled a top ten list of things that may be the most important things I have learned last year.

1. Treat your employees with dignity and respect and they will be willing to do anything you ask of them.
2. Listen to the concerns of the other people and do the best you can to resolve the problem.
3. Fix it now there is no tomorrow.

You can't afford to get behind it is too hard to get ahead.

4. Seek good advice and listen to the people who know.
5. Bunkers do need to be lined. Example 1-4 lined, 5-13 no liner, and 14-18 lined.
6. Good greens are all anyone really cares about.
7. Attitudes are contagious.
8. Be careful what you wish for, you might get it. Rain.
9. Smile in the face of adversity you will sleep better at night.
10. Baby girls are the most beautiful things God can give you.

You may have noticed in December we completed several drainage projects that should improve certain areas of the course. There are several reasons why these areas stay wet throughout the winter. Sun angle and the lack of evaporation along with the plants not using as much water at this time of year are probably the biggest contributors to this problem. We are fortunate to have experienced several dry days in a row, which allowed us to take carts off the cart path. Unfortunately there are still several areas that will remain soft throughout the winter. This is a com-

mon problem on all golf courses even the ones with the best drainage. I would encourage all golfers to be mindful of these areas and to keep carts away as much as possible. Please use the 90-degree rule at all times. Carts leaving the cart path to go around players ahead cause severe damage to the course. Please help us keep our course beautiful and remain on the cart path between greens and tees.

It was a great year full of exciting challenges. I am looking forward to another year of the same. I can't say we have nowhere to go but up anymore but I can assure you one thing, the sky is the limit out here and the air is starting to get thin. So come out and play, the past is gone and the future is bright. With your support we will get the job done

### Landscape tip:

Your lawn may need to be watered in the winter. What, have I lost my mind? No I haven't. Even though the grass is dormant for the next 3 months it is still doing its thing under ground. The book says in dormancy turf needs 1 inch of rain per month to sustain itself through winter. It is unlikely this won't happen but you may consider watering areas of your lawn that may be dry like under trees and high spots. This will help insure a better transition in the Spring.

## Golf NEWS



### REMINDER☞:

**All members need to check in with the Pro Shop (even those with their own carts). We need to know who is on the course in case of emergencies.**

Beginning in the month of February any member who is 60 days delinquent in their payments, will have their names posted in the Clubhouse on the bulletin board.



### How can you as a member help keep dues low during the year of 2005?



1. Pay promptly. Please remember that anyone who has not paid their statement by the end of the month it was received will be charged a \$20 late fee.
2. Securing a new member to the Club.

## Employee Spotlight— Robyn Reynolds, Assistant Golf Course Superintendent

Robyn comes to us from Greenville, MS where he learned the value of a hard days work from his agricultural upbringing. He attended Mississippi State University where he obtained a degree in Integrated Crop Management. After stints at Valent Chemical Research Station and MSU

Golf Course Robyn came to Castlewoods Country Club in March of 2002. He made an immediate impact upon his arrival and still to this day is an important figure in the work we have done here.

Thanks goes to Robyn for his hard work and determination.



## Pool & Tennis NEWS



### SUPER BOWL SUNDAY CHILI COOKOFF & ROUND ROBIN TOURNAMENT—

Bring your favorite chili and tennis racket for a fun afternoon of football, tennis and eating! Cost \$20 per person. We provide tennis balls, beer and soft drinks. You can bring a friend or spouse, as this will be a doubles format. Singles are welcome too because several have non-playing spouses. Prizes will be awarded for the best chili and most wins! Teams will be divided to insure a fun format for tennis.

**TENNIS PRO SHOP** is offering 25% off normal rates on ALL strings! Other specials on clothing and shoes will be starting mid-January.

As always, if we don't have what you need, we can special order!

### JUNIOR TENNIS ACADEMY:

has new sessions for January. Cost is \$65 per 4 week/2 hr. sessions. Beginners @ 12:30pm and Intermediates/Advanced @ 2:30 pm each Saturday of the month.

### BALL MACHINE RENTAL:

Available at \$10 per hour.

### HOURS of TENNIS

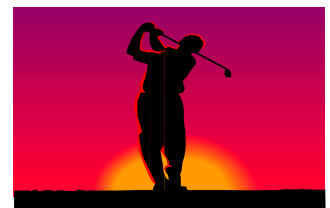
#### OPERATION:

M-Th 9am-9pm

F—Sat 9am-6pm

Sunday 1pm-6pm

\*last reservation 1 1/2 hrs before closing.



## Tips from the Golf Pro by Jay Jordan

The Importance of the Legs in the Golf Swing...There is confusion about what the legs can and can't do in the golf swing. For example, you may have heard and read of fine players who attribute their length off the tee primarily to their legs. They may feel this, but it's a misconception of the extent to which the legs can actually deliver power to the club and subsequently to the ball. Let's repeat, "The legs in the golf swing are primarily the platform for balancing the trunk and swinging the arms." True, without the stability of the back foot and leg anchoring the swing, the power which comes from the motion of the arms, the turning of the powerful hips and trunk, and the ability of the wrists to hinge and release would greatly be diminished. With a solid base these four elements normally make up 70-80% of your power package. The momentum developed by the legs in the weight shift accounts for the other 20-30% of your distance, significant but not dominant.



**CASTLEWOODS**  
C O U N T R Y C L U B

**DIRECTORY:**

ACCOUNTING—Joyce Gray 992-5334  
 EVENTS/MEMBERSHIP—Melissa Hall 992-5334  
 FOOD & BEVERAGE—Ruby Miller 992-5337  
                                   Geri Norris  
 GENERAL MANAGER—Max Maxwell 992-1942  
 PRO SHOP—Bill Trout, Pat Stephens 992-1942  
                                   Jim Weems  
 SUPERINTENDENT—Mike Stupica 992-1937  
 TEACHING PROFESSIONAL — Jay Jordan 992-1942  
 TENNIS CENTER—Buck Boyd 992-5993



**We're on the Web!**

[Castlewoodscountryclub.com](http://Castlewoodscountryclub.com)

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

January 1st, Saturday	CLUB CLOSED
January 13th, Thursday	Ladies Golf Association Meeting—6:30 pm
January 15th, Saturday	Wedding Reception 11:30—2pm
January 16th, Sunday	Fantasy Golf League Meeting—6pm
January 27th, Thursday	Member Dinner/Wine Comparison—6:30pm

**Dates & times are tentative; please call the Pro Shop at 992-1942 for more information.**



**Castlewoods Ladies Golf Association  
ANNUAL MEETING**

6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 13th  
At Castlewoods Clubhouse

**DUES notice: \$30 by 1/15/05**

**Make checks payable to CLGA & Mail to:**

Maggie Clark, 139 Bent Creek Drive, Brandon, MS 39047