

Moose Memo

Rain, Rain go away! As everyone knows by now the amount of rain we have had over the past several weeks has limited us golfers to playing just a few times this past month instead of our normal routines. Of course we can always use the rain whenever we get it, but enough is enough. I guess the best part of all the rain is that we now have a green course to enjoy and play. The maintenance staff has been doing all they can to get out and mow the course and upkeep the bunkers and the result is a lush golf course regardless of where you are hitting from. In my opinion the glass is half full because we don't have to worry about those errant drives rolling into the woods, out of bounds or into those hazards. I would also like to thank all the members for observing the cart path only rule during these rainy conditions. I understand that sometimes it is a pain but the end result is apparent every time we play and of course we can all use the exercise even if we don't really like it.

Just to bring everyone up to date with our current search for a new head golf professional, I have been interviewing many candidates and although I still have a few to conduct, we feel we have narrowed it down to a couple very qualified professionals and will soon be introducing everyone to the new pro at Castlewoods. This process has been very time consuming but we want to make sure we hire the right person for this position and thanks to all who have gone through the process of interviewing. Now that September is here many of us are very excited about football starting up and hunting seasons are closing in too. Please don't forget about your golf because this upcoming Fall season is one of my favorite times of the year to play golf and the weather is always a plus here in Mississippi. This month we have several outings scheduled at the club and I hope you can find the time to participate in some of them.

Some of the upcoming events that are scheduled include the Senior and Junior Club Championship on the 6th and 7th of this month. Members age 50 and over are eligible as well as junior members who are under age 26. There will also be a super senior division for those age 65 and over so please sign up in the pro shop and good luck to all who participate. Other outings this month include the Jackson Lions Club outing on the 4th, the Castlewoods Men's Golf Association will conduct "The Trout" on the 14th, The CLGA interclub is set for the 17th, The Jackson Eye Association Golf Classic is scheduled for the 18th, Rayethon has an outing set for the 23rd and on the 27th, The Taste of International Event is scheduled for that Saturday evening. This promises to be some good food and entertainment for the evening so don't forget to buy your tickets from Jeanhee at the club. I have been told that this event will feature some dozen different types of cuisines from around the world and includes free beer tasting from several vendors.

While on the subject of parties at the club, as most of you know, we are currently in full swing reserving many events at the club. If you are thinking about any type of event for your company or association, please give us a call for more information. With the new additions to the club, we can now entertain small to large groups for meetings, receptions, reunions, business functions, weddings, parties or just about any other type of function you can think of. It is also not too early to reserve the club for your Christmas party this year but hurry as the reserved dates are first come first serve. For more information call Jeanhee at the club at 601-992-1942 or 601-955-0240.

I would also like to take a moment and thank several of the senior men's golf association members for all the

Help these past several weeks around the course. I have noticed that many of your projects on and around the course have really made Castlewoods Country Club a better place to play and the appearance of these completed projects is enjoyed by many of our members as well.

Keep up the good work and Mike Stupica and his crew are glad to have your assistance. While on the subject of keeping our course beautiful and enjoyable to play. Please remember to fill your divots with the sand provided in each golf cart. When you get to the putting greens please repair your ball mark and try to repair one other. That along with ranking the bunkers after play will ensure that Castlewoods will be fun and always fair for all players. Practice is not allowed on the course at any time and if you see someone doing this, please call the pro shop and we will take whatever action is deemed necessary to stop this practice. We also want to stress that your club is for members and their guests. Should you know of anyone who is playing that is not a member and has not checked in with the pro shop, please report this to the golf shop and we will take it from there.

Welcome this past month's new members to Castlewoods Country Club: Katherine Lane, Timmy Gilbert, David Parris, Bobby Stigler and Jim Pate. Please introduce yourself when you get the chance.

One last note, The Pool closed this past Monday (Labor Day) but we will continue to upkeep the area for the next several weeks due to some pool parties that are scheduled. Fall Tennis is now in full swing and league play has begun. Mark Elliott and his staff will be glad to help everyone get involved there if you just give them a call at 601-992-5993. As always thanks for all of your support and I hope to see you on the course soon.

Moose

TURF TALK by Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

Last year at this time we were wondering if it was ever going to rain again. If you recall last summer we went 54 days and 33 days without a drop of rain with a 10 day period in between which we had 7 inches of rain. We have recorded over 14 inches of rain this August and are waiting to see what the rest of the hurricane season will bring us. You might talk to a so called expert and they will have some weird way of thinking that the world is coming to an end as we know it and global warming is to blame or George Bush pushed some button or the golf courses use too much pesticide, while the truth is that the weather is as unpredictable as anything we experience on earth. So the real question is what we can do to optimize our opportunity and minimize the negative affects of such changing weather patterns.

Believe it or not I would rather see drought than too much rain. I'm not knocking rain mind you, but as water can be our best ally, too much can be more devastating than drought. Excessive amounts of water with no time to dry causes infestations of disease and insect pressures to rise above the threshold for which the turf can handle.

Consistent pressures of that magnitude can actually cause irreversible damage to the turf where a little drought can be alleviated with a good shower or other source of water. Remember the news letter outlining the origin of the most common southern turf grasses. Drought is a condition which the grasses are well adapted. Too much moisture I am not so sure. Doom and gloom reins just around the corner, not so fast. We can help a disastrous situation before it can rear its head.

Proper fertility is our best ally against any stress situation our turf may face. Fertility, particularly potassium fertilizer, is our best defense. Biannual applications of fertilizer high in potassium will help the plant weather the storm, so to speak. Potassium is a key component in the plants ability to fight off stress. I won't get deep into the why's so you will just have to take my word for it. We fertilize the course twice per year with potassium fertilizer once in the spring and again in the fall. This program is the best thing we can do to help us through these stressful times for our turf. We will even use it bimonthly on our greens to help keep us healthy and growing. The reasons for that is a whole other newsletter but for now if you feel the need to give your lawn a shot of potassium, Planning for tomorrow is what the turf game is all about.

Mike Stupica, Golf Course Superintendent

Tennis News

Upcoming Local Junior Tournaments: (1)Cascades Junior Novice - Sept. 12—13, Deadline –Sept. 9, BG (18-8)s

(2) River Hills Junior Open –Sept. 20—22, Deadline –Sept. 10. BG (18-10)s (3) Ridgeland Fall Junior Novice –Sept. 26-27, Deadline –Sept. 23, BG (18-10)s

Castlewoods Fall Junior Program begins September 9. **Court Stars –Ages 7-13, Time 4:00—5:00, Tuesday & Thursday.

Six weeks Cost: \$130 Members / \$145 Non-Members.

** Future Champions—Ages 4-6, Time: 4:00-4:45, Tuesdays for Six Weeks. Cost: \$60 Members / \$70 Non-Members.

Head Pro, Levi Patton, was currently named head coach for the Jr. Davis Cup team for Mississippi. Only two coaches in the entire state are selected to represent and coach the state's top ranked juniors in a team event to be held in Chattanooga, TN this month. This is a great honor and his experience from this can only enhance his coaching skills here at Castlewoods. In addition to that, Levi was just recently selected to be the head coach for the Belhaven College Tennis Team. Congratulations and keep up the great work Levi!

Tennis Tip Of The Month: How To Keep Your Serves Out Of The Net.

1. Hard, flat serves have a tiny margin of clearance over the net. Hitting some topspin on the serve will allow you to hit over the net by feet instead of inches.
2. Just as meeting the ball too low can make you hit long, it can also make you hit the net, because it reduces your margin of clearance over the net and disrupts the mechanics of a proper serve.
3. You might be fooled by the illusion that you can hit down on a serve and get it over the net. You would have to be well over seven feet tall for this to be physically possible. Most of us have to hit up to get a serve over the net.
4. Make Sure to keep your head pointed upward until at least a split second after you've hit the ball. If you pull your head down too early, you'll pull your racquet down with it.

Mark Elliott...USPTA...Director of Tennis, Levi Patton-Head Pro, USPTA, A. Brooks Buffinton-Head Pro, USPTA