



Member Profile

Skip Platt

Keswick, Va.

Skip Platt grew up in Lynchburg, Va., the youngest of four children. When he was a teenager, his parents told him that either tennis or golf would help him succeed in the professional world and handed him a tennis racket. After college, he worked in the insurance and financial services field and found his way back to golf in his 20s while living in Williamsburg, Va. A fine golfer with a keen eye, Skip often played off a scratch handicap while competing in state and local tournaments. In 2005 he started Platt Financial and took some time off from competitive golf. In 2010 he was introduced to hickory golf by Eric Wagner and was quickly hooked. "Playing hickories has reinvigorated my love of the game," he says. He has converted his brother, Bob, and several others, to hickory golf. Skip is the current Captain and a founding member of the Virginia Hickory Golf Association (VaHGA). He and his wife, Elizabeth Ewing, live in Keswick, Va.

How often do you play hickories?

I have gone completely to playing hickories and I try to play 2-3 times a week. More when the weather is right. We try to have a monthly outing for VaHGA at different courses around the state.

What's in your play set?

I recently acquired a nice set of original George Nicoll precision irons. But I am constantly looking for clubs and trying new ones.

Driver – 12 degree Jeanie Deans replica driver

Spoon – 17 degree Master Model MacGregor original

Cleek – 21 degree replica

2 iron – 25 degree

3 iron – 29 degree

4 iron – 35 degree

5 iron – 39 degree

6 iron – 44 degree

7 iron – 49 degree

8 iron – 56 degree

Putter – Spencer Meister Schenectady style original

A new addition is the Bunny Putter, may become a new favorite.

I have a combined set of Tad Moore Star OA's and Louisville Golf wedges with other replica woods. However this set seems to be more of a loaner set for the new converts rather than me playing with them.

Favorite club?

I love my cleek. It works well from the fairway and is a great trouble club. I also love the 2 iron. It has a great feel when you connect with a solid shot.

What ball do you play?

Pro V1. I have tried others but this gives me the feel I want around the green. With that said I wish we could have one ball that everyone played.

Favorite course for hickories?

There is an old course in Richmond, Va., the Belmont GC, that was designed in 1916 by Tillenghast, and was redesigned in 1927 by Donald Ross. Great layout and was the site for the 1949 PGA won by Sam Snead. I really like playing the old courses, knowing that I am walking the same



Skip Platt helped organize the Virginia Hickory Golf Association. Above, he poses with the golfing frog familiar to players at the Mid Pines Hickory Open. It resides in the back yard of SoHG member Richard Schmidt who lives in the house overlooking the 10th green. Rich dresses the frog and places a bottle of scotch on the 11th tee box for the MPHQ.

path that many of the great golfers did.

Favorite hickory tournament?

The Mid Pines Hickory Open, but I really like all the ones I have played in. I am looking forward to playing in some new events in 2013.

Any particular player or aspect of golf history you especially enjoy?

I have enjoyed learning more about the history of the game especially from 1900-1935. I am also enjoying refurbishing old clubs and learning how sets were put together.

Best thing about hickory golf?

...is meeting with people of kindred spirit. It is nice to play with people who understand what it means to hit a good shot and feel it in your soul.

Ideas to promote SoHG, hickory golf?

I think the Society is doing a great job. What I think is needed, and we have done in Virginia, is to have more state or regional associations. It is nice to be able to get a hickory match close to home. We started the Virginia Hickory Golf Association in January 2012 with 12 members. In less than a year we have more than doubled our membership and I can only see it getting bigger.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

I am working on two right now – "Playing the Like" by Bernard Darwin, and "The History of Golf" by Robert Browning.

Note: The Virginia Hickory Golf Association can be found on the web at www.vahga.com.