



## Member Profile

# Richard Boggs

Sanford, Fla., USA

Despite being born in Bobby Jones' hometown of Atlanta, Ga., Richard Boggs describes his route to hickory golf as "circuitous."

In the 1960s, his family moved to Titusville, Fla., to work at what would become the Kennedy Space Center.

"We became 'Space Coast' residents," he says. "My grandfather began a compressed gas and welding supply company, Boggs Gases in 1967."

At 10, Richard started golfing with his grandmother.

"She took up the game at the advice of her doctor for her heart, and we would walk and play nine holes every Saturday at a run-down little par 3 course called Sam's Executive Golf in Sharpes, Florida," he says. "My parents got me a junior membership at Royal Oak Country Club in Titusville, and I played steadily if unspectacularly through high school. I knew my future as a golfer was pretty limited, when I shot a 38 in a 9-hole qualifying match and didn't make the top six on my own high school team. Oddly enough, the only two high school golf matches that I remember playing in were at New Smyrna Municipal and Mayfair Country Club, both Donald Ross courses that are great for hickories."

After graduating from Furman University in Greenville, S.C. and working a few years for Arthur Andersen and Ernst & Young, Richard returned to the family business in 1993.

"I was still playing regularly and played at Winter Park Country Club, now known as the 'WP9', every Sunday morning for about four years, because my wife worked on Sundays at the nearby Arnold Palmer Hospital."

A native of Augusta, Ga., she and Richard have attended the Masters on several occasions where the tournament's legendary founder made a keen impression.

"I have easily gotten swept up in the legend of Bobby Jones and the Golden Age of Jones, Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen," Richard says. "Golf in neckties and plus-fours evokes in me a love of history and tradition. So it is no surprise that I eventually bought a set of hickories from Louisville Golf and entered my first hickory tournament, the Winter Park Hickory Classic, in January 2020. To meet so many other enthusiasts and lovers of tradition was an incredible experience for me and I am looking forward to playing in more hickory events."

### How often do you play hickories?

*To date, I hardly ever play hickory and have only used my hickory set a half dozen times or so; but I have enjoyed it so much that I will try to play hickory as often as possible, even if I have to move up to the forward tees!*

### What's in your play set?

Jeanie Deans Driver	Louisville Golf
Brassie	Louisville Golf
Wooden Cleek	Louisville Golf
Mid-Iron	Louisville Golf
Mashie	Louisville Golf
Mashie Niblick	Louisville Golf
Niblick	Louisville Golf
Wedge	Louisville Golf
Putter	(Looking for another one!)

### Favorite club?

*Definitely my driver! I wish I had half the confidence with my wedge as I do my driver.*



**Richard Boggs prepares for a round at Winter Park CC in Winter Park, Fla.**

### What ball do you play?

*Callaway Chromesoft, though I am interested in trying out a gutty-percha ball.*

### Favorite course for hickories?

*Winter Park Country Club is perfect and the reason I bought the set of hickories was the knowledge I could use them at Winter Park. Mayfair Country Club is also great for using them and only 5 minutes from my house. But I am looking forward to trying them out at many new venues.*

### Favorite hickory tournament?

*Winter Park Hickory Classic, my only one so far.*

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

*Reading about the history of golf is a passion for me and I feel like I have gotten to know the legends from my favorite golf books: Walter Hagen and Bobby Jones from The Legend of Bagger Vance; Old and Young Tom Morris from Tommy's Honour; and Francis Ouimet and Harry Vardon from The Greatest Game Ever Played.*

### Best thing about hickory golf?

*The people. I have met golfers from so many diverse backgrounds whose priority is certainly one thing – hickory golf.*

### Ideas to promote hickory golf?

*Having only played in one event, it might be presumptuous of me to offer any ideas. But I was struck by how much attention and how many curious looks we all received at the Winter Park Hickory Classic. Getting seen is key, which makes me think that social media and Instagram might drive interest. I also listen to the "No Laying Up" Podcast and if we could get a great hickory spokesperson interviewed by them, that would create even more interest.*

### Most recent book on golf that you read?

*Three of them – Tommy's Honour, by Kevin Cook; The Lay of the Land, by Pat Ward-Thomas; and A Course Called Ireland, by Tom Coyne.*