



Member Profile

Scott Petersen

Grandville, Mich., USA

It didn't take Scott Petersen long to fully embrace hickory golf. Having cultivated an affinity for vintage steel shafted clubs, the next iteration seemed to naturally be hickory clubs.

"I saw a Hagen hickory putter at a local antique shop and on a whim bought it," he says. "Soon after a friend cajoled me into dipping my big toe in, as it were, and purchasing a short set of hickories. Little did I know a monster was being created. I've been hooked since."

Petersen, who has lived in Grandville, Mich. for the past two dozen years, reached out to Jim Davis and Roger Hill who live in neighboring Grand Rapids, and has become a regular on the Michigan Hickory Tour.

Born and raised in the Grand Rapids area, Petersen has lived in West Michigan for all but a few years. He received an economics degree from Grand Valley State University and has been an internal auditor in the banking industry for most of his career. He is married to Marcia, also a West Michigan native, who fully supports his hickory passion, although, he says, "She generally rolls her eyes each time the mailman drops off another long, thin eBay package at the front door."

The couple have three grown children – a daughter, Courtney, and twin sons Christopher and Cameron.

Petersen played golf intermittently while younger, though never competitively. "After I had children I gave it up due to the time/money commitment."

Now with the kids grown he plays as often as he can and exclusively with hickories. Cameron often battles Dad on the course for golfing supremacy and bragging rights, but has a distinct advantage using modern clubs.

"Getting tough to keep up with him. Every now and then I hold my own," Petersen says.

Petersen has been active in public service in Grandville in numerous capacities including serving on the City Council as well as the District Library Board. Petersen also enjoys collecting and reading golf books and tinkering with an HO-scale model railroad. And, of course, he also enjoys cruising eBay for that next diamond-in-the-rough hickory treasure.

How often do you play hickories?

I just started playing hickories in 2018. So, I'm still a newbie, but I'm at 100% of the time now. I moved from moderns to vintage Macgregors, Hogans and Hagens to hickories pretty quickly. Probably no looking back now. I'm fortunate the Michigan Hickory Tour is quite active and affords me several event opportunities.

What's in your play set?

Roger Hill has been such a great influence and encourager that I've become a George Nicoll enthusiast. My bag is generally populated with some combination of Zeniths, Recorders, Braids and likewise. I'm also partial to Walter Hagen given his Grand Rapids connection and have a Hagen driver, brassie, and spoon all beautifully restored by Jim Von Lossow. My current putter – none of them really work – is an AG Spalding aluminum mallet MR model.

Current 1920s set: Hagen driver, brassie, spoon; Simpson bulldog brassie; Hagen driving iron; Nicoll/Braid mashie and jigger; Nicoll/Zenith mashie niblick and niblick; Spalding putter.
Current smooth face set: Gibson Kinghorn diamond back medium iron, a couple of Tom Stewart irons, Willie Park iron, Condie mashie, Spalding loftier, an unnamed rut niblick and a Wright & Ditson putter.

What ball do you play?

Wilson Duo. I also carry a few McIntyres.

Favorite event or course for hickories?

My experience thus far is limited but the 2018 Foxburg event was great fun. Being invited to the very esteemed McNabb Cup was a great 2018 highlight. I'm hoping to make at least one trip yearly to one of the many fine events held around the country to meet more players and experience more events. My home venue is the Pines Golf Course in Wyoming, Mich. They treat me like royalty.

Favorite hickory tournament?

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Scott Petersen channeling Donald Ross at the Ross-designed Muskegon CC during the 2018 McNabb Cup.

in Wyoming, Mich., makes for enjoyable hickory play at around 5400 yards. They treat me like royalty there.

Favorite club?

The brassie and Nicoll mashie. Very easy to hit and accurate.

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

The usual suspects: Old Tom, Vardon, Braid, Hagen, Jones. I enjoy reading books by or about these legends.

Best thing about hickory golf?

The people are great and always encouraging. I also enjoy refurbishing clubs, bringing them back to life and making them playable. If only they could talk!

Ideas to promote hickory golf?

I usually carry some demo clubs to the range. Quite often someone will inquire and I encourage them to have a whack. Their response is always "Thanks, that was really cool!" I also talk about what the SoHG is, the various regional play group opportunities, how/where to buy clubs to get started, etc. I really enjoy evangelizing on the wonderful joys of hickory golf.

Most recent golf book that you read?

The Complete Golfer, by Harry Vardon. I'm currently working my way through Kenneth Chapman's The Rules of the Green – A History of the Rules of Golf.