



## Member Profile

# Zane Smith

Long Island, N.Y.

Though he started out in North Carolina, Zane Smith touched in California and Colorado with his wife, Michele, and dog, Bogart, before the trio landed in Long Island, N.Y., where they now reside.

Born in 1970, Zane did not seriously pick up golf until the fall of 2020. "I played on and off as a teen and young adult, but during Covid I picked up the sticks again," he said.

"Hickory golf started for me shortly after that due to my wife who was kidding me about playing Old Timey Baseball as my over-50 sport (there is a league that plays in the old baseball uniforms and old equipment at a park by our house). I had no interest in that, but on a whim Googled Old Timey Golf and there it was! I did some research and being a history nerd, I decided to give it a go. I became hooked immediately."

Zane is a chef and part-time meditation facilitator. "I was a student of Zen Buddhism for many years, so the spiritual side of the game resonates with me," he says. "*Golf in the Kingdom* is my vibe for sure."

Hickory golf, Zen Buddhism, meditation and *Golf in the Kingdom*... can there be more? Of course there can.

"I am a huge Jazzhead and Deadhead (Grateful Dead) fan and collect vinyl records," he says.

Welcome to the hickory community, Zane. You're a natural!

### How often do you play hickories?

*About 70 percent of the time. The other 30 percent I play mostly vintage blades and persimmons (a new obsession).*

### What's in your play set?

*I have many more (I tend to be obsessive about things I get into. My wife is very patient, LOL!) but this is what's in my bag currently.*

Louisville Golf Jeanie Dean driver

Davega spoon

Louisville Golf mid iron, niblick and spade mashie

Kroyden mashie

Spalding Kro-Flight jigger

Wright & Ditson "Saint Andrews" putter

### Favorite club?

*The Kroyden mashie is my go-to club. It feels amazing in my hands and is my most consistent club.*

### What ball do you play?

*Recently I have been playing the Bridgestone E6 and loving it. I also like the McIntyre Golf "Goodman" ball. But I only play it on courses without too much water.*

### Favorite course for hickories?

*Well, I haven't played too many different courses yet, but my usual is a 9-hole course called Dix Hills Golf Club. A mix of par 4s and 3s that are perfect for hickory golf. Also, the Bethpage Yellow and Blue courses offer a longer but still good track for hickory.*



***New hickory player Zane Smith is eager to start testing those clubs with like-minded golfers.***

### Favorite hickory tournament?

*I am getting ready to play my first at the Inaugural Connecticut Hickory Golf Association's "Smith-Collett Classic" event in June. More to come!*

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

*I am a big fan of Gene Sarazen. He gives us not so tall guys some hope.*

### Best thing about hickory golf?

*For me it is the history aspect of the game. My original clubs have lived a life and probably seen many ups and downs in those years. When I hold a 100-year-old club in my hands I can feel that life. No one gets that special feeling from a modern club. I do look forward to meeting fellow hickory players to share the gospel with as well.*

### Ideas to promote hickory golf?

*More social media presence to get younger players into the game and more exhibitions (not just tournaments) to introduce modern players to the equipment and history of the game we all love.*

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

*Gene Sarazen's Better Golf After 50. Some sound advice in there plus some fun photos of Gene in action.*