



## Member Profile

# Stan Spring

Baton Rouge, La., USA

Stan Spring, the son of a special agent of the FBI, grew up in Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Georgia, and Florida before enrolling at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in the heart of Cajun country. In his senior year of high school in Jacksonville, Fla., Stan added golf to tennis, surfing, and sailing.

He has lived in Louisiana since his college days save for a five-year period where he worked in the electronics field in Central America, Europe, and Asia. It wasn't long after watching the film *Bobby Jones: Stroke of Genius*, that his curiosity about wooden clubs and mesh balls gradually evoked a complete transformation to hickory.

Stan's two youngest sons, Stevie and Alek, who also live in Baton Rouge, are now the proud owners of his former Lynx Black Cat and Parallax set of clubs, bags, and gloves – all original Lynx.

"Once I picked up a hickory club and hit, I knew there was no going back," he says. "Just as Harry Vardon opined in his 1907 book, *How to Play Golf* – 'Golf will never be an easy game, nor will it ever again be quite the game that it was before the rubber-cored ball made its appearance'."

Stan loves the challenge of hickory golf, especially when gutties are involved.

"Just when I thought post-1900 hickory was the bees knees, I attempted to navigate Oakhurst Links with pre-1900 splice necks, smooth face irons, and gutta balls. I came in dead last that year."

Undaunted, Stan returned to Oakhurst Links, this time with his oldest son, Stan, who lives in New York.

"He bravely endured the same first year fate, or should I say, initiation I had into pre-1900 play," Stan says. "I finished happily somewhere in the middle of the pack that year."

As to his handicap, Stan says he has only two: irons and woods.

Stan has a BA and JD. Now a retired litigator, he is embarking on a new career in film and post-production and audio engineering. He has pending applications for study toward a Master's degree in television content at the University of Stirling in Scotland and Public Policy at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

Currently, Stan is collaborating with Lillie Gallagher, a Baton Rouge resident, toward obtaining National Register of Historic Place status for Baton Rouge's historic City Park Golf Course, designed and constructed by Tom Bendelow in 1927. It is the only links-style course in the Baton Rouge area.

The collaboration includes the Friends of City Park Foundation, and the BREC (Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge), with plans to produce a short film about the history and tradition of the course and wholesome life values transmitted through golf.

Stan has been invited to join the planning committee for City Park and hopes to host an all-hickory tournament next year.

Besides his sons, Stan has a daughter, Courtney, who lives in New Orleans.

### How often do you play hickories?

*I only play hickory.*

### What's in your play set?

*I've resisted using replicas because half the fun of the hickory clubs is the search for what works for you. So, the*



**Stan Spring is shown contemplating his next shot at the Oakhurst Links in West Virginia.**

*following are all originals:*

Tom Stewarts: driving iron, mid iron, 1 iron, 2 iron, mashie, spade mashie, mashie niblick, niblick, jigger  
Walter Hagen concave sand wedge  
Winton Calamity Jane putter  
Donaldson Rangefinder driver and brassie

### Favorite hickory tournament?

*It's always been the National Hickory Championship when at the Oakhurst Links.*

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

*My favorite player is Bobby Jones. To me he epitomizes the essence of golf at its best. As Jones said, "Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots- you get good breaks from bad shots- but you have to play the ball where it lies."*

### Best thing about hickory golf?

*It has always been the people. I love the camaraderie, fun and sportsmanship. At the end of day with every hickory experience I've had, if I've played well or not so well; it's not the people, the course, the weather, the clubs or the ball – it's just me. To me, it's just like life.*

### Ideas to promote hickory golf?

*In conjunction with my present projects, I think a series of short films concentrating on rendering particular clubs, their design and uses, yardage, etc. information. After getting a modern pro to compare it to a modern equivalent, let them see how they do. I'm still in the formative stages but that's the general idea.*

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

*I have lots of hickory clubs I've collected and never had time to look at. The other day, I found a Tom Stewart jigger that I tweaked and is now in my bag. In going through early 1900s Wright and Ditson and Spalding catalogs, I could find no mention of a jigger from such names as Harry Vardon, James Braid, Willie Park, Walter Travis, or Francis Ouimet. I finally found a description of the jigger and its use in *Success at Golf* (1913), an anthology with articles from Harry Vardon, Alexander Herd, George Duncan, Wilfred Reid, Lawrence Ayton, and Francis Ouimet.*