



## Member Profile

# Byron W. VanArsdale

### Greensburg, Ky., USA

Byron VanArsdale is a man with bluegrass blood in his veins. A lifelong resident of Kentucky, VanArsdale grew up in Greensburg where he enjoyed playing in his high school band, and for the golf team as well.

"I started playing golf when I was 4 years old," he says. "I've never had a powerful swing, but, in 2015 I started doing yoga to increase my flexibility. Now that I'm turning 50 in 2017, I hit the ball farther than ever and I'm an overall better ball striker."

VanArsdale earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Western Kentucky University; a master's from the University of Louisville; a Master and a Doctor of Divinity from Luther Rice College and Seminary in Lithonia, Ga.

Beginning in 1990 he has taught public school in Bardstown, Ky., and has been a Baptist minister since 2009.

"I'm looking to retire from public school teaching in 2018 and migrate to teaching online seminary courses," he says.

You might even catch VanArsdale on the airwaves. He is a Ham radio operator with the call sign K4BVA.

#### How often do you play hickories?

*I just started in 2016 and I love the sport. I play hickories about 25 percent of the time now. I'm still learning about the history and traditions of the game and look forward to playing for years to come.*

#### What's in your play set?

*It's a mix of original and modern replicas.*

Wilson McNamara; Tad Moore Chicopee putters  
Kroydon; Tad Moore Niblick  
Kroydon; Tad Moore Mashie Niblick  
Kroydon; Tad Moore Spade Mashie  
Kroydon; Tad Moore Mashie  
Tad Moore Deep-face Mashie  
Kroydon and Spalding Mid-Iron  
Tad Moore Jigger  
Kroydon Driving Iron  
Tad Moore Cleek  
McGregor and Tad Moore Brassies  
McGregor and Jeanie Deans Louisville Golf Drivers

#### Favorite club?

*I think I have finally found the perfect driver for me, the Louisville Golf Jeanie Deans. It has been an adventure, but this one seems to fit me just right. I also like my Tad Moore mashie niblick. When I draw a good yardage for that club, I can usually hit it close to the pin.*

#### What ball do you play?

*Wilson Duo Spin, Volvik Vivid and Ouimet Mesh pattern from McIntyre*

#### Favorite course for hickories?

*I haven't played enough to have embraced an entire course yet. But I do like individual holes on several courses. Basically I like a 300-yard par four with a run-up lane. I also enjoy green complexes that are well-executed, fitting into the natural surroundings like they were always there.*

#### Favorite hickory tournament?

*The only one in which I have played is the Southern 4-Ball. I plan on adding copiously to the list in the next few years.*



**Byron VanArsdale took up hickory golf in 2016 and says he looks forward to playing the game for years to come.**

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

*Anyone who knows me would have no doubt about this one: clothing. Though I do value golf's sartorial heritage, I enjoy mixing traditional golf attire with modern fabrics and colors. I think varied clothing gives the old game an avenue for younger people to express themselves individually without sacrificing adherence to traditional styling and equipment.*

#### Best thing about hickory golf?

*The feeling one experiences when hitting a few shots on the sweet spot each round. Modern clubs are extremely forgiving. But with hickory clubs, the player earns every good shot via a smooth swing and exceptional hand-eye coordination.*

#### Ideas to promote hickory golf?

*If you have an extra set of clubs, like I do, tell your friends that, unless they try hickory golf, they are not your friends anymore! Also, young players are fascinated by hickory clubs. Don't be afraid to let them try a few shots. There is no advancement in much of anything worthwhile without sacrifice.*

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

*Since I just completed eight-and-a-half years in seminary, I am catching up on some theological reading that I had to put aside during that time. Once I catch up a bit, I intend to pursue more recreational reading.*