



Member Profile

Larry Woods

Louisville, Ky., USA

Larry Woods, a native of the Bluegrass State, was born in Louisville and grew up across the street from Bellarmine College, which had a nine-hole course.

“As soon as I and my neighborhood friends could cross the street by ourselves, we spent entire days on the course,” he says. “My father, Charlie, taught me to play, and everyone in the family is a golfer.”

His father must have been a fine teacher, or he had a talented pupil, or both. Woods has played all his life and even qualified for the 1998 U.S. Senior Open at Riveria County Club.

“My 16-year-old daughter, Caroline, was caddying for me,” he says. She still hasn’t picked up hickories yet, he adds.

Woods plays his golf at Valhalla Golf Club and Big Spring County Club in Louisville and the Sea Island Club in Georgia.

He has a BS and MBA from the University of Kentucky and law degree from the University of Louisville. A partner with Frost Brown Todd in Louisville, Woods concentrates on labor and employment law, representing management exclusively.

Woods and his wife, Suzanne, make their home in Louisville. They have two daughters, Caroline and Maggie, and three grandchildren. Both daughters played high school golf and both still play with their parents.

“We are very lucky,” Woods says.

How often do you play hickories?

I have been playing hickories about three years. My daughter was in Philadelphia working the USGA Women’s Amateur at Rolling Green Country Club and, while visiting, I went to see Merion which was hosting a hickory event. I was impressed with how the players could hit shots with the old clubs, so when I got home I bought a starter set online.

I’ve traded up at each hickory trade show/swap meet connected to an event, so I now have a set that’s approaching half old and half new.

I concentrate on hickories whenever I have a tournament approaching. It’s hard for me to go back and forth between wooden clubs and hickories. The best hickory ball strikers I have seen are inside/out sweepers. I tend toward outside/in trapping.

What’s in your play set?

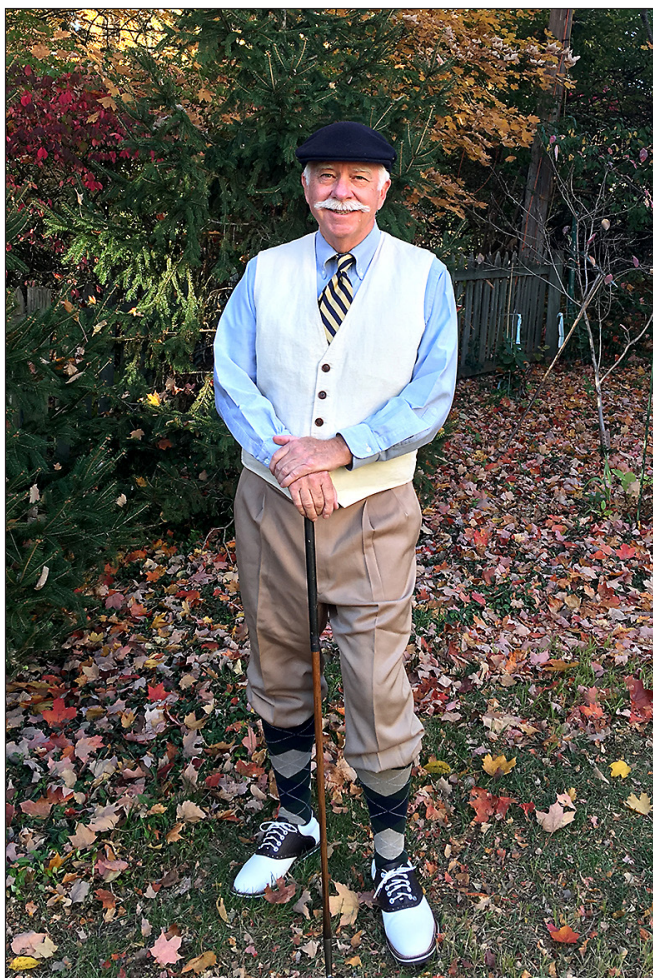
Louisville Golf Wilsonian Brassie
Spalding spoon (old)
Spalding iron cleek (old)
“Willie Still” midiron (old)
Tad Moore mashie
Tad Moore deep ace mashie
Tad Moore spade mashie
Tad Moore mashie niblick
Tad Moore niblick
Tad Moore sand wedge
Louisville Golf “broomstick” Kempshall putter

Favorite club?

The Willie Still mid iron.

What ball do you play?

Wilson Duo Urethane



Larry Woods once qualified for the U.S. Senior Open. He plays his hickory golf mostly in Kentucky and Georgia.

Favorite course/tournament for hickories?

I have played Mid Pines three times, but really liked Sedgefield. Those are the only “hickory” courses I have played, but plan to play Belevvedere and Notre Dame next year (2019).

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

I can never get enough of reading about Bobby Jones and the early 20th century. We all know how hard it is to find a play set, the time necessary to develop your confidence and then rely on those clubs in a tournament, when you must hit a good shot. Bobby Jones’ play set (except Calamity Jane) burned in a fire at Eastlake in 1925. Nevertheless, he won the Grand Slam in 1930. Incredible.

Best thing about hickory golf?

It reminds me of when I started playing – walking the course with seven or eight clubs, eyeballing distances, and the satisfaction that comes with a solid hit. I tell my friends that good shots are surprisingly good, but the bad ones are so bad, you can hardly believe it.

Ideas to promote hickory golf?

I just joined the board of the First Tee of Louisville. I’d like to see if we can interest the young people in history by showing them hickory clubs and talking about what was going on in the world when all shafts were wooden.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

The Grand Slam, by Mark Frost.