



Member Profile

Jim Wilhelm

Paris, Ont., Canada

Jim Wilhelm grew up in the small southern Ontario town of Woodstock where he was very active in any sport imaginable. He started his career as a stock broker 32 years ago with a small company in Woodstock and has worked for several brokerage firms over the years in Woodstock. "It is a job I have always found exciting with a different challenge every day," he says.

Jim and his wife, Lynn, have been married for 30 years. They have one son and one granddaughter with another one on the way in January.

How often do you play hickories?

Is there really any other type of club to play? I have played with steel shafted clubs once this year. I usually play twice a week and try to play in one hickory tournament a month through the summer.

What's in your play set?

I love playing smooth face pre-1900 clubs with the McIntyre gutty. Here's what's in the bag:

Louisville Golf Long Nose replica

24° - Auchterlonie

33° - Auchterlonie

40° - Nameless

46° - Nameless

56° - Gold Seal

Left handed Louisville Putter

Favorite club?

The 24-degree Auchterlonie.

What ball do you play?

The McIntyre gutty.

Favorite course for hickories?

The golf course I enjoyed the most this year was Downers Grove in Chicago.

What was your first set of clubs?

The first set of clubs I got was from a small golf store in Mississauga, Ontario. I originally got them 16 years ago for display in my office. I only played with them a couple times but was surprised at how well I hit with them. I still ended up putting them in my office. About five years ago I was getting bored with golf so I dug out the set of Forgans and started playing with them regularly. Then, to my surprise, I discovered a whole sub-culture of golfers who play hickory. I started playing with the local hickory group and then started playing in some of the larger events. By then I was completely hooked. This year has been especially good with four gutty tournaments. Pre-1900 golf is awesome!

Best thing about hickory golf?

All the great people who you meet at hickory tournaments



Gutty golf enthusiast Jim Wilhelm as portrayed on one of Pete Georgiady's famous National Hickory Championship playing cards. This was the 2010 event.

who all have a common passion. What else can beat the sound of the swoosh when hitting a ball with a hickory driver?

Ideas to promote hickory golf?

I think if we could supply a set of hickory clubs to our clubs' pro shops and let our fellow members play with them, we could get an up-tick in people interested in hickory golf.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

The current book I am reading is by Tom Coyne – "A Course Called Ireland."

Note: Jim began his 2011 gutty campaign by tying for 6th place with fellow Canadian Hugh Cameron in the Open Division of the National Hickory Championship. He then went on to win the inaugural All American Open at Downers Grove in Chicago and the Foxburg Hickory Championship in Foxburg, Pa. Jim then placed within the top 10 at the CB MacDonald Challenge at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario. In sum, he is the 2011 overall champ of the unofficial "Gutty Slam." Congratulations Jim!