



MEMBER PROFILE

Mike Stevens

Tampa, Fla., USA

Mike Stevens was only 9 years old when his dad brought him to a golf course and gave him a Sam Snead Blue Ridge seven iron and Spalding Dot golf ball to whack around. That's when he says he "became enamored with golf."

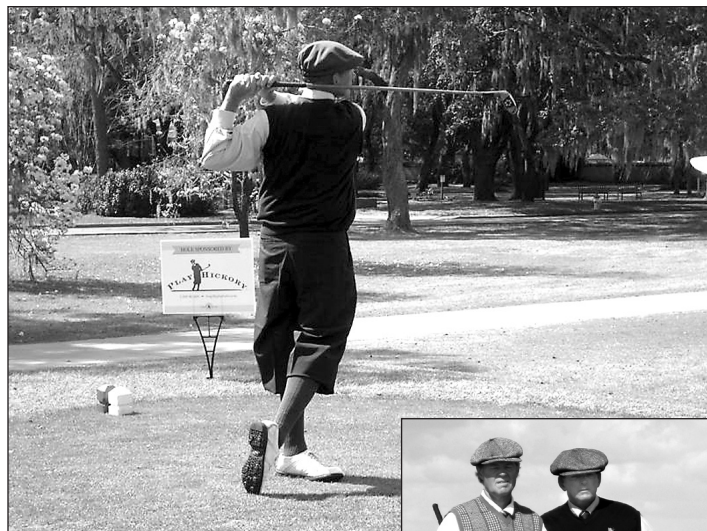
Mike, who was born in Springfield, Mass., became one of the top junior golfers in the area before migrating to Florida to attend the University of Miami. Upon graduation he was drafted into the Army and spent two years at Picatinny Arsenal in Dover, N.J. After his honorable discharge, he returned to Florida where he has lived since.

"I first discovered hickory golf at a Golf Collectors Society annual meeting in Louisville, Ky.," he says. "Although a hurricane washed out the tournament that year, I did get to play nine holes with some clubs I had collected."

That day inspired him to continue playing hickory golf whenever the opportunity arose. With his natural golfing skills he has risen to the top ranks of the hickory game.

Mike played in the first National Hickory Championship and every one since, winning the championship in 2005, 2010, and 2012. He has staunchly supported the hickory game and has attended several events both in the U.S. and Europe. A member of two Hickory Grail (a fixture of the British Golf Collectors Society) teams, he helped Team USA recapture the Grail at the Dormie Club in North Carolina in 2011.

Also in 2011, Mike originated the United States Professional Hickory Golf Championship in Temple Terrace, Fla. to honor the



Mike Stevens, above, teeing off on the first hole of the Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club during the 2014 U.S. Professional Hickory Championship. At right, Mike (at right) is shown with Randy Jensen, his partner in the four-ball matches at the 2009 Hickory Grail in Falsterbo, Sweden.



professionals of the hickory era and raise awareness of hickory golf among the professionals of today.

"Remembering our history and passing it on to future generations makes us better as people and members of society," he says.

Mike and his wife, Ann, currently live in Tampa and have three grown daughters, Andrea, Beth, and Sarah.

How often do you play hickories?

I only play with hickories and whenever or wherever I can.

What's in your play set?

Louisville Golf Driving Brassie, Spoon and Vardon Cleek
Tad Moore OA Irons
Tom Stewart Hand Forged Driving Iron
Wright & Ditson Hammer Forged Putter

Favorite club?

The Stewart driving iron.

What ball do you play?

McIntyre Quimet Mesh Pattern

Favorite course for hickories?

Oakhurst Links – U.S.

Musselburgh Old – Scotland

Favorite hickory tournament?

The World Hickory Open (Carnoustie, Scotland)

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

Walter Hagen is my all time favorite. If I could only play with one person in history, he would be the one. I find his life and stories about him fascinating.

Best thing about hickory golf?

The friends I have made over the years and places I have had a chance to visit.

Ideas to promote SoHG, hickory golf?

Continue to encourage and form regional groups.

Most recent book on golf that you read?

"Hints on the Game of Golf" by Horace Hutchinson

Note: Mike is a teaching professional on the golf courses at MacDill AFB in Tampa. He also is a member of the SoHG Board of Directors. His leadership has helped the organization continue to develop and to be more responsive to its members. As founder of the U.S. Professional Hickory Golf Championship, he is definitely taking the sport to new levels.