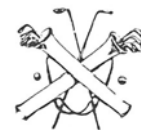


**Incredible!!**

**20th  
Year!!**



## Ball Information

For the 2017 NHC three balls are approved for play. Please read this carefully.

All balls are available from Dave Brown at McIntyre-Brown Golf Company. (402 305-1773, mcintyregolf@hotmail.com, www-mcintyregolf.com)

**Open Division:** The only approved ball is the McIntyre **Park** gutty ball.

**Reserve, Women's & Sporting Divisions:** All three approved McIntyre balls permitted — **Park, Braid and Bramble.**

Balls can be ordered directly from Dave Brown or can be ordered with your NHC entry. If you order balls with your entry they will be in your arrival packet when you arrive at Oakhurst in June.

Newsletter #1, January

## NHC History

Yes, this is the 20th time hickory golfers will convene to compete for the title of Champion Golfer of the year. The first NHC was held at Oakhurst in 1998. With the exception of 2006 (Pinehurst) and 2013 (Phila. Cricket Club) all NHCs have been played at Oakhurst Links. In all there have been 8 different players who have emerged as NHC Champions in the 19 championships. Billy Wardwell, Turners Falls, MA will return in 2017 as the defending Champion. Hickory Golfers Russ Ravert, Ross Snellings and Mike Stevens have competed in all 19 prior championships. Thanks to our partner organizations: The Greenbrier Resort and American Beer Company of WV.

## \*\* Important: \*\* Rule Revisions

Two new revisions will appear in the NHC Rule Book for 2017.

1. Balls landing in the drainage gutter along the gravel road on holes 1 and 9, the gutter made with large chunks of stone, can be removed and dropped within one club length from the edge of the ditch, no closer to the hole under penalty of one stroke. This will replace the penalty of unplayable lie for that condition.
2. The out of bounds condition along the right side of hole number 5 will no longer be O.B. Balls hit over the split rail fence will continue to be in play. (The house has been razed, the property is now part of Oakhurst)

For exact specifications on these two new rules please consult the Rule Book when you arrive at Oakhurst.



*A portion of the starting field for the 1998 NHC, the first Championship. The dress code was not yet in place. Course owner Mr. Lewis Keller stands in center. Pete and Mike Stevens are to his left.*



## Name Change

For the last fourteen years the Elmore Just Foursomes Competition, held on Thursday morning, has been referred to on many occasions simply as "The Elmore." With the regrettable passing of Mr. Mike Just we shall now respectfully refer to the competition as **"The Mike and Elmore."** Elmore was one of the most enthusiastically supportive persons in the event's early days. After his demise his brother Mike continued support of the championship in countless ways.



*Caddies are permitted at the NHC. The Greenbrier can supply players wishing caddie service if required. Russ Ravert (center) has employed his daughter, Alexandria, as a caddie in several past NHCs. Bob West (right) carries his own clubs.*

## Important Note

One of the NHC items in your arrival packet will be a golf shirt with the NHC logo and a special 20th Championship designation on the sleeve. Don't forget to indicate your size preference on your entry form.

Please observe the new NHC office address



**NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP**

PO Box 3851

Mansfield, OH 44907

419.709.9746 / 336.707.8376

[nhc-golf@earthlink.net](mailto:nhc-golf@earthlink.net)

[www.hickorychampionship.org](http://www.hickorychampionship.org)

**Hotel List Lewisburg, WV:**  
(About 8 miles from Oakhurst Links)

**Fairfield Inn ..... 304 645-7999**

**Hampton Inn ..... 304 645-7300**

**Holiday Inn Express . 304 645-5750**

**Quality Inn ..... 304 645-7722**  
(Pet Friendly)

**General Lewis Inn ... 304 645-2600**  
(Built 1834)

**Greenbrier State Forest Cabins**  
(Caldwell, WV)...304 536-1944

Make your reservations early, weddings, reunions and other gatherings fill local hotels quickly as summer approaches. There is no single NHC hotel. Use the brand that best suits your awards program participation. The four hotels listed above are very close to the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine where the Friday dinner is held.

## Hotel Note



We are working with the Greenbrier Resort to get an NHC golf package for those wishing to stay in the lap of luxury during the championship. An update will be presented in Newsletter #2 in February.

### 2017 NHC Agenda

**Monday-Wednesday, June 5-7**  
**Oakhurst Course open for green fee play**

**Thursday, June 8**  
**Elmore Just Foursomes Competition, 11:00 AM**  
**Course open for practice after Foursomes**  
**Welcome reception 6:00-8:00 PM**  
**Clubhouse Grounds**

**Friday, June 9**  
**NHC Competition 7:30 AM-5:00 PM**  
**Championship Dinner**  
**WV Medical College, Lewisburg 7:00 PM**

**Saturday, June 10**  
**NHC Competition 7:30 AM-5:00 PM**  
**Award Ceremony following golf**



## THE NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

was established in 1998 to bring together golfers who enjoy playing golf as it was before the turn of the century. Nineteenth century equipment and rules make the NHC the sternest test of hickory golf anywhere. Open to all, the NHC draws the most ardent and accomplished wood shaft golfers from across North America. Competitive, yet fun, it is America's hickory championship—the ultimate test of hickory golf.

*The three 2016 champions pose with their trophies and the Allegheny Mountains in the background. L-R: Billy Wardwell (Turner Falls, MA) National Hickory Champion; Sarah Helly (Enniscrome, Ireland) Women's Division, Bern Bernacki (Pittsburgh, PA) Reserve Division.*



**T**he National Hickory Championship is conducted over historic Oakhurst Links of The Greenbrier, first used in the early 1880s. Contestants play 36 holes over two days. Clubs must be original 19th century or approved replicas (available for rent if you don't have your own set) and all players use the same modern-made, line cut gutta percha-type balls available through the Championship. Tee shots are struck from sand tees. Golf bags are not permitted. Players carry clubs under their arm in the manner of the 19th century. There is a simple dress code. Although period costumes are not required, many golfers dress appropriately and prizes are presented to the "best dressed." The NHC is like no other hickory golf tournament in America, Britain or anywhere else in the world; it is authentic, competitive, historic, truly unique and, above all, fun!

## 2017 NATIONAL HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP

*The most authentic and challenging  
hickory golf competition in the world*

**Twentieth Year  
June 8-10, 20167**

*Historic*  
**Oakhurst Links**  
*of The Greenbrier*  
**White Sulphur Springs,  
West Virginia**

**NHC Tournament Office  
2374 Valley Rd.  
Ontario, OHIO 44903**

**(336) 707-8376**

**(419) 709-9746**

***nhc-golf@earthlink.net***

***www.hickorychampionship.org***



*Marsalis Brooks Davis  
(Liberty, NC) played in  
his fifth NHC in 2016.  
He is one of several  
junior interns that have  
come from the ranks of  
the First Tee program.  
In return for special, no  
-fee entries, the junior  
interns assist in the  
running of the champi-  
onship, learning about  
golf history and tourna-  
ment operations.*







The Championship offers competition in four divisions. The **Open Division** is a 36-hole scratch competition playing for the title of America's National Hickory Champion under 19th century equipment and rules. The **Men's Reserve** and **Women's Divisions** also use 19th century equipment and are scored on a handicap basis for 36 holes. The **Sporting Division**, open to men and women, features two nine-hole rounds for seniors and those not wishing to climb the hills twice in the same day. Additionally, the Mike and Elmore Foursomes Competition is staged on the practice day (Thursday) prior to the Championship rounds. Two-player teams play the historic format of alternate stroke for fun, prizes and an appreciation of how golf was played in the early 19th century. Practice time is also available on Thursday afternoon. Rule books are provided containing the 1891 unified code, the first general set of golf rules (with local Oakhurst provisions added). A welcome reception on Thursday and the Championship Dinner on Friday provide for socializing. Complimentary lunch is served on the clubhouse deck on both competition days.



*Left:* ready to play is the threesome of Deal Hudson (Fairfax, VA), Jim Koss (Green Bay, WI) and James Kaiser (Louisville, KY); food and fun are integral part of the NHC weekend. Alexandria Ravert (Columbia, MO), serving as a caddie for her father, samples some caviar; Patrick Just (Jackson, TN), Andy Just (Jeffersonville, IN) and Steve Simer (Madison, WI) shake hands after their round; US Open, Open Championship and PGA Championship winner Lee Trevino made a visit on Saturday, chatting with Mike Just (Louisville, KY) about club making; *Above:* Ross Snellings (Augusta, GA) and John Miller (Dallas, TX) share their passion for striped shirts; on the first tee Sarah Helly (Enniscrome, Eire) watches as Gillian Alexander (Carmichaels, PA) tees off; *Right:* Greg Smith and his son Jake (Deforest and Monona, WI) show what well-dressed turn of the century golfers wore.

