

## 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**

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*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 championship, learning about golf history and tournament 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.

