

2024 ONION CREEK HICKORY CLASSIC

March 24-25-26, 2024, Onion Creek Club, Austin, Texas



HIGHLIGHTS

An outstanding short-game clinic by World Golf Hall of Fame player TOM KITE!

Kicking things off on Sunday afternoon, TEXAS defeated NORTH AMERICA in the Swift Trophy Matches with Danny Holcomb (Texas) and Nick Flaim (North America) taking home the MVP awards.

Gary Youngberg of Ames, Iowa may have captured the Championship Division with a solid $80-83 = 163$, but it was the *older* (including Gary, 68) and *younger* players who stood in the spotlight.

Danny Holcomb (69), from Fritch, Texas, took the Senior Division with $80+74 = 154$; Dave Hanson (70), Iowa, won the Statesman Division with $80 + 79 = 159!!!$

Austin's Lori Wallace took the Ladies Division with $115+107 = 222$.

Scott Pilgrim (think *Knickerdog*), Blair Philip, Gary Krupkin and Michael Sloan won the Scramble Division with an outstanding $58+60 = 142$. That's 22 under par!

And now let's talk about the younger players!!! The Dallas First Tee team won the *TEXAS FIRST TEE HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP* for the fourth consecutive year with a two-under par 138. The First Tee format: Each First Tee chapter may send one four-person team. The kids play in twosomes in a scramble format. The total of the chapter's two scramble teams' gross scores is the chapter's tournament score. **THESE KIDS CAN PLAY!!!**

First Tee teams from Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin, San Antonio, Piney Woods (think East Texas!) and Houston played in Austin this year.

Without the generosity and good will of Golf Heritage Society Hall-of-Famer Bill Reed, we could not have staged the Texas First Tee Hickory Championship. Bill has hauled many, many sets of hickories to Austin since 2018 for the First Tee kids' use. All *gratis*! What a guy!!!

Full 2024 results, as well as historical results, may be viewed on the tournament web site, www.OnionCreekHickoryClassic.com

Thanks to Austin's Bob Bjerke for making our web site the best in all of hickory golf!!!

Our silent auction/flag and poster sales, benefiting Austin's Mobile Loaves & Fishes, grossed \$1,725. Coupled with two \$1,000 personal donations (from hickory players and a \$1,000 Shell Oil Matching Gift, our 2024 contribution to ML&F is \$4,725. Our ML&F account now stands at \$18,457 (with a goal of \$30,000 and a second mobile home to be placed within ML&F's Community! First Village). Want to learn more? Give me a call at 512-694-9904.

A special shout-out goes to long-time Onion Creek member VIRGIL SWIFT, who dug deep into his pockets since 2013 and kept us alive. The Swift Trophy Matches have been a key element of this tournament.

THE FUTURE: This was our final tournament at Onion Creek Club. With the exception of 2011 and 2012, when the late Rives McBee hosted the tournament at Los Colinas Country Club, we have played at Austin's Onion Creek Club since 2004 when Max Hill brought it from Houston to Austin. The tournament will be known in the future as the TEXAS HICKORY CLASSIC. Our great logo featuring an image of Harry Vardon, will be modified to reflect this change and to reflect the tournament's 1992 inception. Stay tuned for an announcement of the 2025 venue.

The 2025 TEXAS FIRST TEE HICKORY CHAMPIONSHIP will likely be hosted by the Dallas First Tee chapter. We understand that Pennsylvania and Michigan hickory players are discussing the prospects of a similar First Tee tournament in those states.

Pete League

Tournament Director

