

## CAREER PROFILE

- Accomplished Golf Course Superintendent with a proven track record of excellence spanning over 9 years. Dedicated to optimizing course conditions, I have successfully managed 9-hole to 27-hole private, semi-private, and public facilities across diverse geographic regions, with a focus on delivering firm, fast and flawless playing conditions in the Northeastern United States.
- My expertise extends to effective leadership, team building, and clear communication in both English and Spanish, fostering a positive and productive work environment. I am passionate about staff development and have organized numerous employee appreciation events to foster a sense of comradery.
- My collaborative approach extends to building strong relationships with stakeholders, promoting a culture of cooperation and shared goals across all departments. Proficient in all facets of turf management, I consistently deliver tournament-ready course conditions, ensuring an exceptional member experience and upholding the course's reputation for excellence.

## PROFESIONAL EXPERIENCE

### HOP MEADOW COUNTRY CLUB, SIMSBURY, CT • GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT • DECEMBER 2023 – PRESENT

- Managed an exclusive 18-hole private course at Hop Meadow Country Club, originally designed by Geoffrey Cornish in 1961, situated in the heart of the Farmington Valley. Oversaw a \$1 million maintenance budget and a \$225,000 capital equipment lease package, servicing an impressive 22,000 annual rounds, while leading a dedicated peak-season team of 17.
- Managed a \$2.5 million irrigation system overhaul, including the installation of a new Rain Bird IC system, pumphouse, and dredged irrigation pond, completing the project under budget and in compliance with permitting regulations.
- Revitalized a small team by hiring a mechanic and assistant superintendent within the first 60 days, training existing staff, and recruiting key personnel to enhance team culture and performance.
- Improved playing conditions, resulting in 92% excellence rating for fairways in member survey, a significant increase from the previous year.
- Achieved Audubon Certified Sanctuary Program certification within two months, collaborating with members and employees to expand native areas by 7 acres, promoting sustainability and environmental progress.
- Partnered with the GCSAA and First Green to host Henry James Memorial Middle School's largest-ever field trip, engaging over 300 students and faculty to promote the game of golf and inspire future industry professionals.

### THE CREEK, LOCUST VALLEY, NY • SENIOR ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT • APRIL 2019 – DECEMBER 2023

- Managed an exclusive 18-hole private links course, originally designed by Charles Blair Macdonald and Seth Raynor in 1923, situated along the picturesque Long Island Sound on the North Shore. Oversaw a substantial \$2 million maintenance budget, servicing an impressive 17,000 annual rounds, while leading a dedicated peak-season team of 33. Notably hosted The Simpson Cup.
  - Ensured consistent, championship-level firmness and speed across the course's original pushup greens. Additionally, supervised the upkeep of tennis courts and a beach club. Led a diverse team, utilizing bilingual proficiency in Spanish to facilitate effective communication. Prioritized supportive leadership practices, including comprehensive training for new hires to ensure safety, efficiency, and productivity.
  - Initiated a strategic hiring campaign upon appointment, expanding the workforce from 15 to 30 members. This initiative significantly enhanced course conditions and played a pivotal role in reducing turnover. Personally identified, recruited, and mentored an individual lacking prior course maintenance experience but possessing a relevant construction background, eventually promoting them to the role of first assistant superintendent.
  - Pioneered innovative management strategies tailored to distinct areas of the golf course, such as shaded zones and compacted soil regions, resulting in optimized turf health and aesthetic appeal. This strategic approach led to a substantial rise in course rankings, advancing from #90 in 2019 to a commendable #61 in Golf.com's esteemed 2023 annual U.S. course rankings.
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- Attained remarkable greens rolling speed of 14.5 during the prestigious 2021 Spring Invitational through meticulous water management, precise spray applications, and diligent maintenance of low mowing heights. This accomplishment resulted in high member satisfaction and garnered numerous commendations from players.
- Demonstrated adept oversight of a substantial \$1.4 million driving range construction project, executed under the expert guidance of Gil Hanse. Successfully seeded and nurtured V8 and T1 creeping bentgrass varieties, showcasing strong project management and grow-in expertise.

#### **HARBOR LINKS GOLF COURSE, PORT WASHINGTON, NY • ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT • APRIL 2017 – APRIL 2019**

- Oversaw a 27-hole public golf facility designed by Dr. Michael Hurdzan & Dana Fry, featuring predominantly annual bluegrass with some bentgrass on greens, tees, and fairways. Distinguished as Long Island's inaugural Audubon Signature Sanctuary Certified golf course and one of only four in New York. Managed a substantial \$1.7 million maintenance budget, facilitating 60,000 rounds of play annually, while effectively leading a dedicated team of 30.
- Demonstrated astute project management by overseeing multiple construction initiatives, encompassing the installation of Better Billy Bunkers, new tee construction, fairway drainage enhancements, and fairway expansions. Led a highly successful \$500,000 bunker construction project, completing 50 new bunkers in-house within a year.
- Spearheaded precision spray applications across tees and fairways, optimizing efficiency through the adept utilization of Toro's advanced GPS technology. Remarkably reduced task completion time by 50% compared to previous applicators while consistently delivering high-quality results.

#### **WEATHERVANE GOLF COURSE, WEYMOUTH, MA • ASSISTANT IN TRAINING • MARCH 2016 – APRIL 2017**

- Stewarded a 9-hole, semi-private golf club designed by Mungeam Cornish Golf Design, further enhanced by Howard Maurer. Situated south of Boston, the course featured a blend of annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass. Managed a \$400,000 maintenance budget, facilitating 30,000 rounds of play annually, while effectively leading a dedicated team of 10.
- Spearheaded a transformative approach to labor management, motivating the crew to collaborate and strive towards a common goal. Resulting in a remarkable 40-hour weekly labor reduction, we efficiently accomplished essential mowing tasks around 150 condominiums in a single day.
- Successfully executed the eradication of Japanese knotweed from the property, undertaking a comprehensive investigation to identify and implement a strategic solution for its permanent removal. This initiative not only eliminated the invasive species but also substantially reduced labor, equipment, and fuel costs.

## **EDUCATION & AFFILIATIONS**

**PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY** - Master of Professional Studies in Turfgrass Management (GPA: 3.87)

**FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY** - Bachelor of Science in Biology

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS** - Certificate in Green School

**CONNECTICUT STATE COMMERCIAL PESTICIDE APPLICATOR (3A)**

**NEW YORK STATE DEC UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLASS A/B OPERATOR**

**GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Grassroots Ambassador – Government Affairs, Certified Assistant Superintendent (ASCS), Equipment Manager Certification Program (EMCP)

**CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS**

**2023 NUFARM EXCEL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

**2023 GREEN START ACADEMY**

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# Mark J. Petrie, Jr.

## TURFGRASS PROFESSIONAL

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### REFERENCES

#### ROD CLEMENT

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#### PETER CIRELLI

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#### JOE CORDANI

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