

Michael Cunniff

TURFGRASS PROFESSIONAL



CAREER PROFILE

- Highly motivated individual with excellent communication skills and possess ability to develop strong rapport with membership
- Experienced with management of bentgrass and poa annua in native and sand-based greens
- Extensive golf course construction, irrigation installation, and renovation experience
- Experienced with capital improvements, budget management, and plant health programs
- Effectively inform and communicate with chairmen, golf professionals, and club officials at all times through email, newsletters, written postings, and by phone
- Proficient in tracking labor and golf course maintenance operations; fluent in Microsoft Office technologies
- Expert in water management with ability to correctly deliver the right amount of irrigation depending on grass type and greens construction

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CLEAR CREEK TAHOE
DIRECTOR OF GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE

CARSON CITY, NV
AUGUST 2011 - PRESENT

Designed by renowned architects Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, Clear Creek Tahoe officially opened in 2009 and has been featured in Golf Digest as a Top New Course. Since being hired, I have planned and implemented a new annual operating budget of \$1.5M.

- Restored conditioning in one calendar year after new ownership purchase in 2012; achieved through intense cultural practices such as aerification, deep verticutting, drill & fill, and heavy sand topdressing
- Worked closely with Coore & Crenshaw to add new tees, fairway expansions, bunker restoration, and irrigation additions to make the course more playable for different skill levels in conjunction with a 2 year master plan
- Achieved a Top 100 modern ranking upon re-opening the Club in 2013
- Hired 25+ new personnel and created a structured management team including assistants, equipment managers, irrigation technicians, assistant mechanics & developed internship program to attract long distance candidates
- Purchased over \$1M in new equipment to adequately maintain the course and keep pace with an intense cultural practice program
- Installed waste water recycling washbay to cut water use in a high desert environment and made updates to the maintenance facilities in order to run a high-end operation
- Opened up and restored native areas on all 18 holes through a 2-year process of selective native plant removal during the winter and shoulder seasons
- Worked closely with the Nevada Division of Forestry and Timber contractors on an 800-acre wild fire prevention & forest health thinning operation; improved the health of the forest and prepared us for wildfire suppression
- Planned and installed major drainage projects to move spring snow melt away from playing corridors
- Repaired and upgraded an irrigation system in disarray and made key upgrades to provide efficient irrigation in a high desert environment
- Installed a modern staff management system & task tracking software to outline specifics of where our labor and resources are spent

OLD SANDWICH GOLF CLUB
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

PLYMOUTH, MA
APRIL 2005 – AUGUST 2012

Designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, Old Sandwich Golf Club opened in 2005 and is currently ranked 13th by Golfweek in the top 100 modern.

- Assisted with the grow-in and final phases of golf course construction
- Played a major role in the development of infrastructure and golf course maintenance budget
- Prepared for and hosted the 2010 AJGA Canon Cup for the country's top junior golfers

CHARLES RIVER COUNTRY CLUB
FIRST ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

NEWTON, MA
MAY 2003 – MARCH 2005

18-hole private club designed by Donald Ross and opened in 1921. Charles River has over 500 members with 20,000 rounds annually.

- Assisted with the preparation for the 2003 USGA Men's State Team Championship

THE ORCHARDS GOLF CLUB
EDUCATIONAL INTERNSHIP

SOUTH HADLEY, MA

BERKSHIRE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
EDUCATIONAL INTERNSHIP

PITTSFIELD, MA

MAPLEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
EDUCATIONAL INTERNSHIP

MAPLEWOOD, NJ

EDUCATION & ASSOCIATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMHERST, MA

B.S. in Plant and Soil Science, concentration in Business Management

STOCKBRIDGE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

AMHERST, MA

A.S. in Turfgrass Management

CERTIFIED COMMERCIAL APPLICATOR IN MASSACHUSETTS

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF CAPE COD

SIERRA NEVADA GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

ADDITIONAL

- Selected to attend the 2007 Green Start Academy presented by Bayer Environmental Science for aspiring superintendents
- Maintain a handicap index of 9 with the USGA

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REFERENCES

SEAN MCCORMICK
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