

Ernest (Kirk) J. Kirkland III

31045 Grassy Parke Drive, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 ☛ (904) 557-6557 ☛ Kirkkirkland1@gmail.com

CAREER SUMMARY

- Talented and passionate professional with over 20 years in the golf industry, including 10 years of proven success in golf course management, ensuring quality turf maintenance in the transition zone.
- Motivated, hands-on leader with effective communication skills while mentoring staff and promoting a positive work environment.
- Committed manager with integrity and dedication to building relationships with membership, employees, and leadership teams.
- Experienced with course grow-ins, renovations, and construction projects, with an ability to adapt to challenges and stressful situations while continuing to remain focused on timeline and budgetary constraints.

GOLF MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

Long Point Golf Course *Amelia Island, Florida*

2008 – Present

18-hole, member-owned course, designed by Tom Fazio and completed in 1987, acclaimed as one of the "Top 50 Courses in Florida" by Golfweek Magazine and one of the "Best Places to Play" by Golf Digest, hosted the Florida Women's Amateur, and the Men's U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur qualifiers.

SUPERINTENDENT

Accountable for all facets of course maintenance operations utilizing \$1.2 Million budget, supervising 18 full-time employees, and servicing golf membership of 470.

- Provide exceptional leadership through defining goals and expectations for crew, implemented policy and procedure training program to improve workers safety, as well as conditions of the golf course; received 92% satisfaction rating, the highest in the club, from 2013 internal survey, and named 2010 ValleyCrest Golf Management **Superintendent of the Year** when the course was under its management
- Consistently improve the health and playability of TifEagle ultradwarf greens by enhancing agronomic practices, including aerification, topdressing, verticutting, plant growth regulators, improving water management practices, disease suppression, and increasing fertility; dramatically decreased extensive weed population through the effective use of pre and post emergence herbicides on greens, tees, fairways, rough, and landscape beds
- Obtained consumptive use permit from Water Management District through assisting in the development of a multi-layered plan to reduce fresh water usage 92% by the year 2017; utilizes Scada system to help with CUP compliance by increasing effluent water usage, provides monitoring of soil daily, and adjusts turf management practices as needed to ensure no loss of turf quality
- Assisted the Golf Channel's show, Big Break Florida, when filming an episode on the course by preparing holes for shooting, coordinating with producers, and helping Head Golf Pro with membership
- Successfully manage course renovation and construction projects, including generating bids, budgeting, presenting to committees for approval, coordinating contractors, and scheduling materials and equipment; notable projects completed to date include:
 - ✓ Conversion of pro tees from zoysia to Celebration bermudagrass
 - ✓ \$126,000 new cart path construction and softening of course project
 - ✓ \$55,000 tee renovation and nursery green construction project
 - ✓ \$1.2 Million irrigation and bunker renovation, completed on time and within budget in 2015
- Maintain consistent communication with General Manager, Greens, Golf, and Finance Committees, and Membership to ensure seamless and transparent management, able to smoothly handle transition from managed course to member-owned equity club
- Assisted in obtaining the renewal of Audubon certification program through administering paperwork and resolving issues during the process

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Shadow Wood Country Club *Bonita Springs, Florida*

2003 – 2008

Member-owned, private club, features 54-holes of championship golf, with North and South Courses designed by Bob Cupp, and Preserve Course designed by Arthur Hills.

SUPERINTENDENT

Hired as Crew Leader at the North Course (2003), promoted to Assistant Superintendent at the Preserve (2003 – 2007), and completed tenure as Superintendent at the South Course (2007 – 2008).

- Responsible for supervision, management, and mentoring of 20 crew members, many Spanish-speaking, in daily tasks, included golf course setup, proper mowing practices, bunker preparation, equipment and irrigation operation, and proper integrated pest management; aided in weekly and monthly safety and training programs aimed to reduce work place injuries and to help protect the company's assets
- Involved in daily and long-term management of Champion ultradwarf greens, administered all material applications and documentation of pesticides and fertilizers, and maintained golf course at the highest possible standard during prolonged drought conditions and imposed water restrictions
- Assisted with various reconstruction and re-establishment of greens, tees, fairways and bunkers projects, including a complete grow-in on the Preserve course
- Managed irrigation system, including programming Toro Site Pro for daily irrigation applications, maintaining and repairing irrigation hardware including Toro E-Osmac satellites, and daily record-keeping and maintenance of Flowtronics pumping station
- Interacted and communicated daily with the pro shop staff to ensure open lines of communication, communicated with members
- Provided assistance in budget preparation including forecasting and monitoring, and aided in obtaining full Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Certification

NURSERY ASSISTANT Hyam's Garden Center *Charleston, South Carolina*

2000 – 2001

STUDENT APPRENTICE Legends Golf Course *Myrtle Beach, South Carolina*

1998 – 1999

SUMMER INTERN Dataw Island Club *Beaufort, South Carolina*

1998

SPRAY TECHNICIAN Secession Golf Club *Beaufort, South Carolina*

1996 – 1997

CREW MEMBER Secession Golf Club *Beaufort, South Carolina*

1995 – 1996

CREW MEMBER South Carolina National Golf Club *Beaufort, South Carolina*

1993 – 1995

EDUCATION & LICENSURE

Associate Degree in Agricultural Technology, Golf Course Management

Horry-Georgetown Technical College *Conway, South Carolina*

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

College of Charleston *Charleston, South Carolina*

Florida Turf and Ornamental Pesticide Applicator License

Hazardous Material Operations/OSHA Level II

Adult CPR and AED certified

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

North Florida Golf Course Superintendent Association

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REFERENCES

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