



This 405-foot-long bridge at Admiral's Cove may be one of the world's longest wooden golf cart bridges. Photo by Bill Brousseau.

World's Longest Wooden Golf Cart Bridge?

BY BILL BROUSSEAU

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Some have said that our new bridge may be the longest wooden golf cart bridge in the world. Considered at least to be the longest wooden golf course bridge in Florida, the low-profile design, close to water bird sanctuaries, caused a minimum of construction disturbance. Our members use and enjoy it, but only our team knows how much planning, work, and concern for the environment went into its creation.

Admiral's Cove Community, where I am the golf course superintendent, decided to reroute a golf cart path which was infringing on home building sites.

We faced several challenges. Our mission was to create — before the winter season — an aesthetically pleasing, 450-foot-long bridge which would provide a panoramic vista from the homes, while not disturbing the environmentally sensitive lake area or disrupting our members' golf games.

Our secrets of success were design, pre-construction planning and teamwork with Marine Construction, an experienced and quality builder that has built many other bridges, docks, and retaining walls in Admiral's Cove since 1985.

Admiral's Cove and the Golf Village at Admiral's Cove is a 45-hole golf course

and luxury home development of 1000 acres on the east and west sides of Alternate A1A in Jupiter.

The golf course was designed to meander through the canal systems, homes, and wildlife nature habitats. We wanted the bridge to project that same design philosophy.

Designing the bridge was a coordinated effort of Thomas Frankel, the developer of Admiral's Cove, the golf course maintenance staff, and Marine Construction. It was engineered by Mary Dwan.

The area was surveyed and plotted so that the bridge was placed in the most aesthetically pleasing area in harmony with the environment.

With the spirit of "Environment First," Marine Construction built the bridge with totally pressure treated, marine-treated wood in the fresh water setting.

All equipment was trucked in on the golf course and assembled at the building site. Ed Riggins, president of Marine Construction told me, "We have a portable boom barge which enables our crew to go from our salt water construction projects such as seawalls and marinas to work on golf course projects like retaining walls and bridges."

Mr. Riggins' experienced crew did an excellent job, on time and on budget. After construction, the equipment was dismantled and removed with no damage or interruption of the course.

Prior to setting the pilings, we relocated the irrigation lines and sprinkler heads in the immediate area. During construction, we were able to use the former existing bridge and cart path from No. 9 North Green leading to the clubhouse, so there was no disruption of play or problems with cart traffic.

After completion of the new cart path bridge, the old bridge was dismantled, and landscaping was designed for the old cart path site. Our developer, residents, and club members are all delighted with the sturdy bridge.

Members now enjoy the ride over the lake, which provides a wonderful view of the birds and wild life. One of our residents says, "I am a member of the Audubon Society and an amateur bird watcher. I also like to photograph wildlife. The bridge is over a large expanse of the lake, which offers close-up views of the birds, turtles, and other animals."

The residents enjoy the unobstructed panoramic views and the reflections of the bridge on the lake. They also have more privacy, since the old golf cart path was eliminated.

I am happy that we were able to successfully complete such a difficult and challenging project before the start of our busy season. To achieve this success, we put together a great team — our golf maintenance staff, engineers, and our builder Marine Construction.