



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

*Golf Course Superintendent
Admiral's Cove G.C.*

Some have said that our new bridge maybe 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.

Super Sod Nursery

BY KEVIN FITZPATRICK

*Golf Course Superintendent
University Country Club*

How would you like to have six acres of a Tifdwarf sod nursery on your golf course? Instant access to sod for repairing any damaged areas that you may encounter on your greens! Or possibly the ability to renovate your greens completely to remedy mutations, contamination or encroachments that have occurred over time. This is the unique situation that I currently enjoy at University Country Club.

I became superintendent at University Country Club (formerly Calusa Country Club) in August, 1996. New owners Jim Hall and Paul Visaggio had just purchased the course and wanted someone to restore the manicured and well-maintained appearance of the club.

This was no small task since the previous owners had let the course deteriorate



This 6-acre Tifdwarf nursery at the University Club gives superintendent Kevin Fitzpatrick plenty of sod for renovations, repairs and some to sell. Photo by Kevin Fitzpatrick.

into what I would call a "goat pasture."

But with an infusion of capital and a lot of work, we have been able to bring back this championship course to respectability. We are currently the home course of the University of Miami golf team.

In conjunction with restoring the golf course, I have been given the responsibility of overseeing the grow-in and maintenance of six acres of Tifdwarf sod being grown on a plastic base.

We have a total of 170 acres so six acres was readily available for this project.

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Installation of these fields was done under the supervision of Bill Collins who has over 30 years of experience in the turf field. Maintaining these sod fields has been a learning experience along with a great deal of added responsibility.

Due to the shallow rooting medium, water management has been the main problem. These fields tend to dry out

very quickly on those hot, clear, windy days. Needless to say this requires constant monitoring by a trained eye.

Isolated dry spots are hand watered as needed. Mowing is currently being done twice weekly at 5/16" with a 3/16" height anticipated as the field gets closer to harvest.

Spraying is done as needed for pests

including sod webworms and periodic leaf spot or brown patch fungus. Tissue samples are analyzed on a frequent basis to determine any fertilization requirements.

Of course six acres of Tifdwarf sod is not solely for my use on the golf course (What a shame!). It is available for purchase by the owners here at the club. I can vouch for the quality and purity of this sod since we have constructed a new putting green and two chipping greens from the same sprigs. It is an excellent strain with which any superintendent would be proud to have on his or her greens.

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Turtle Ridge is an Exclusive Challenge

BY TIM KILPATRICK

*Executive Vice President
The Kilpatrick Company*

Turtle Ridge is the most exclusive new golf club in the world. Membership is by invitation only and there is technically only one member and only one hole at this new golf club.

The Kilpatrick Company set out to design and build a new headquarters facility for distribution of irrigation, landscape and turf equipment products in South Florida, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Because a good amount of its total business is golf-related, the company decided to build a single par-3 golf hole on the grounds of The Kilpatrick Building.

"It allows us to test products; train our people; and demonstrate our products," commented Harold Kilpatrick, Sr., president of The Kilpatrick Company.

"And we can go out and play some, too."

The new facility has many state-of-the-art features including a water filtration and recycling wash down system that assures that no contaminated water will drain off and a 1/4-acre natural preserve planted in Florida slash pines on the beautifully



The Kilpatrick Company in Boynton Beach has a new facility which includes the one-hole Turtle Ridge Golf Club. The hole runs behind the building. Photo by Smith Aerial Photography.

*It allows us to test products;
train our people; and
demonstrate our products*

landscaped 3.79-acre grounds.

Turtle Ridge was designed by Hal Kilpatrick II, a noted irrigation designer and consultant who does a majority of his work for golf courses.

It was christened "Turtle Ridge" because it is on a ridge or coastal dune and the company had to relocate seven gopher tortoise nests to the Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge prior to construction.

It is 85 yards long from the blue tees, with a large waste bunker on the left.

The green is a challenging 2,000 square feet with a pot bunker in the front right. It has three different grasses on it: Zoysia on the tee; 419 bermuda on the fairway; and Tifdwarf on the green.

Though it is exclusive, getting a tee time is no problem.

All you have to do is visit The Kilpatrick Building and you can take your best shot at hitting a hole-in-one on Turtle Ridge.

-submitted by Paul Crawford

Editor's Note: The Florida Green never promotes one company or product over another. Since we're all in this business together and we share "Best Practices" from golf courses, we felt the innovative and environmentally responsible new venture by The Kilpatrick Company was worthy of mention.

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