

Bill: How did you get involved with the designing of Eagle's Landing?

Dr. Hurdzan: *Tom Perlozzo, the young director of Recreation and Parks for Ocean City, was the one who contacted us, and with whom we worked closely once we were hired. He had a vision for what the golf course could be, and worked with the airport and coastal folks to solve some of their concerns. Without him I don't think that we could have resolved the issues enough to get the golf course that we did. He deserves lot of credit.*

Bill: What were your initial thoughts of the property and its walkability?

Dr. Hurdzan: *In typical golf course architect style, I look for problem areas and lord knows that this site had a bunch of them with the wetlands, wet woods, salt marshes, airport and FAA requirements, etc. I wasn't sure we could solve all of them. I said we because the person on my staff that I would call Senior Designer was Bill Kerman who was a civil engineer by training, has lots of patience, and loves solving seemingly impossible problems. So, Bill and I worked together and one by one we found either a solution or a compromise that allowed the golf course to get built on a rather small parcel.*

Bill: How long was the process?

Dr. Hurdzan: *I think that the planning took about 6-9 months to get a solid plan that everyone was agreeable to. The bidding process only took about a month but the construction didn't move very quickly because of working around the constraints and protecting the natural features like the wetlands and salt marsh.*

Bill: What were your greatest challenges?

Dr. Hurdzan: *Like most projects the greatest challenge was routing golf holes that could be reasonably built and maintained. Once we got the routing done, which required perhaps 20 different options, then the mechanics of putting together construction documents and building went well. Our concern was that the golf course might be too difficult for weaker golfers which was what made finding the best routing so hard.*

Bill: How does Eagle's Landing stack up with other courses you have done since and what did you learn from the experience there?

Dr. Hurdzan: *We learned a great deal on this project starting with dealing with the FAA, folks concerned about salt marshes, and working within the Town of Ocean City budget and constraints. However, that is what I love about this craft for no two projects are ever the same so it is a constant learning experience. Eagle's Landing was and is very special to me because of the challenges that we overcame. Some of the compromises we had to make made it difficult for the course superintendent Joe Perry, so I think that he is underappreciated for the job that he does. The golf course is not big but it is complicated. I have worked on over 400 golf course projects on five continents but Eagle's Landing is in my top 15 because of the golfing experience it offers. The Town of Ocean City also treated us very well so that helps make the job special.*

Bill: Do you remember having a favorite hole or part of the golf course?

Dr. Hurdzan: *Everyone remembers #17 & #18 because of the carries over the marsh, but #7 is a demanding par 5 for being relatively short by today's standards. There are lots of cool holes but those 3 are special.*

Bill: Do you have any interesting stories from the project?

Dr. Hurdzan: *There are lots of stories about dealing with the wildlife in and around the place during construction, but one of my best memories was on opening day for the course. The Town wanted to attract attention to the place so they hired Craig Stadler, who was on top of his game at that time having won the Tour Championship and earlier the Masters, to give an exhibition and play the first round. I played in the second group off the tee with his 13-year-old son, Kevin, who birdied 2 out of the first 3 holes I think, and of course Kevin now plays the PGA Tour. Two years ago, I saw Craig at another exhibition and I reminded him about that day and he said that he, too, remembered the golf course, and how nice the folks at Ocean City were. That is pretty good when someone who has traveled as much as him remembers the day and the golf course.*

Bill: What was the inspiration of famed hole No. 18, the Beast of the East? Who named it that?

Dr. Hurdzan: *That was Tom Perlozzo, if I recall correctly. He was a smart guy and he did a lot to promote the whole project.*

Bill: Have you been back on property since you completed the work?

Dr. Hurdzan: *I was last there about 15 years ago when I had to be in that area for some reason and I wanted to see how the golf course is aging---and it is well. Joe Perry has done a terrific job of making the place as good as it can be despite having to occasionally fight storm tides.*

Bill: Anything else you can remember of intrigue from across the landscape there?

Dr. Hurdzan: *No, that was about it but I do remember most of the holes despite it being nearly 30 years ago that we did that work. Not long after we finished the golf course, I would take my family to Ocean City in the summer for the beach and the boardwalk. It is a great vacation spot for a family.*