



Volume 3
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GREEN WOOD

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Dataw Island Conservancy



Spring 2018



A Look Back . . . JOHN COLGAN

As I “retire” from the Conservancy board, I want to say that it has been a great honor for me to serve as the Dataw Island Conservancy’s first President for the past six years. I want to thank all of our supporters and volunteers. Without their inspiration, energy, ideas, and financial support, prospects for Dataw’s flora and fauna would not be as promising as they are today.

I would like to give you some history as to how the Dataw Island Conservancy was formed. In 2009, as I was completing my second year on the board of the DIOA, my fellow board member, Gabe Nagy told me about an ambitious idea that he and his wife Wendy were developing to start a nature conservancy here on Dataw. They reasoned that, with the growing national popularity of the Beaufort area, development pressures on communities such as ours would be increasing. The incredibly pristine, natural beauty of our island and its surrounding waters would be threatened.

In 2011, Wendy and Gabe’s idea was presented to both Boards and won the necessary approval. DIC board member John Schafer and DIOA board member Bruce Anderson, Co-Chairs of the Joint Long Range Planning Committee, spearheaded the development of bylaws to govern the new group.

In early 2012, a call went out island-wide asking for interested parties to submit resumes to the Joint Board committee to review. Six people were selected and confirmed as charter board members of the Dataw Island Conservancy! Joining me on that first Conservancy board were Earl Dietz (Vice President), Dr. Evan Reese (Treasurer), Dr. Lanny Krause (Secretary), and Dr. Alex Marsh and Charles Holbrook as Members-at-large.

The Nagy’s expended a great deal of time and legal expertise to set the Conservancy up as an IRS-approved 501c(3), a process which took more than a year. We will be forever grateful to them and to the efforts of John Schafer, Bruce Anderson and others who breathed life into our fledgling organization.

Since its inception, the Dataw Island Conservancy has tried to live up to the high standards set for it. Projects started then and continuing today include:

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The President’s Corner . . . GUY APICELLA



Don’t take Dataw’s natural environment for granted.

As I begin my presidency of the Dataw Island Conservancy, I am honored yet also concerned because I see the island at a crossroads in its development. The situation reminds me of the lyrics of Joni Mitchell’s song, Big Yellow Taxi:

*Don’t it always seem to go
That you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone
Paved paradise, put up a parking lot*

There are a number of drivers that pose threats to our local natural environment, including:

- Climate change and extreme weather – two hurricanes in consecutive years and sea level rise damage not only the natural environment but also our man-made infrastructure.
- Economic and financial deals – while Hurricane Matthew obliterated the Marina, financial issues are delaying its rehabilitation. Denial of access to Oak Island by The Nature Conservancy (*an international organization, headquartered in Arlington, Virginia*) is frankly for their financial gain, and its development will affect the wildlife of both islands. Build-out of the remaining properties on Dataw strengthens the island financially but puts pressure on conserving natural areas for wildlife habitat.
- Invasive species – the presence of more than a thousand Chinese Tallow trees on Dataw Island prompted the Conservancy to launch its removal program in 2014 and its continued operation is gaining control of the tree’s infestation. However, other species, including the pine bark beetle (e.g., black turpentine beetle), which is native to our area, pose a serious threat to pine trees here.

The Conservancy is challenged to develop plans and to take appropriate actions in a timely way to reduce or eliminate each threat. However, the tasks go well beyond the Board’s capabilities. It will be up to each property owner and club member to pitch in and do their part to protect the island from these and other threats. Don’t sit back and think Dataw will somehow keep its natural beauty, because if you do, you may realize that “*you don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone.*”

Wildlife Preserve and Preservation of Natural Areas . . . DAVE DOLAN

With the passage of time since Alcoa developed Dataw Island we have experienced a great deal of growth which means more housing and more people on our island. It is necessary to revisit some of the underlying philosophy that gave us this beautiful spot on the SC estuary. While there are state and federal laws and rules that limit littoral intrusion by anyone without necessary permits, the other natural areas on the island are only governed by the planning done by Alcoa, the necessary review of the pertinent government agencies and the covenants that were formulated to control these areas and other aspects of life here on Dataw. Specifically, Article 11.06 of the covenants deals with a Nature Preserve for the protection of natural resources and the conservation of wetlands, wildlife, game and migratory birds.

The loss of some areas that reflect the natural appearance, as well as flora and fauna characteristic of a barrier island, is understandably a direct outcome of new home construction. However, we are close to losing the quail as well as the Chuck-Will's-Widows populations which used to be abundant on the island. Other critters that used to make Dataw their home such as mink are also getting scarce.

I am not a Luddite nor do I wish to begrudge the success we have had in building our community but I would like to make a plea that the Boards and the ARB be mindful of our undeveloped areas such as the Nature Preserve at Pee Dee Point and land adjacent to Malilly Road and North Boone. Specifically, I would ask that we do not rush to landscape every piece of common property and guard what habitat and natural areas we have remaining here on Dataw. The Dataw Conservancy will be developing a Wildlife Protection Plan to provide further guidelines on conserving natural habitat on Dataw.

Conservancy Recycling Survey Results . . . GUY APICELLA

A recycling survey was sent to 1,409 DIOA members on January 26, 2018. By February 380 people had completed the survey, for a response rate of 27%.

Almost 99% of the survey respondents stated that they recycle. This may indicate sampling bias, which needs to be taken into account. If we assume that those who opened the email but did not complete the survey do not recycle, then 44% of Dataw Island residents recycle. Even this lower estimate greatly exceeds the figure of 11% of Beaufort County's waste produced that was recycled (*according to Beaufort County Solid Waste and Recycling Division of the Public Works Department as stated in a Beaufort Gazette article dated 11/22/15*). Paper (newspaper, magazines), plastic (#1, #2), glass and metal cans are the most commonly recycled materials. The primary reason cited for not recycling is lack of space or containers. This was followed by the responses "it's too difficult" and "don't have enough recyclables."

The Conservancy has two recycling receptacles (*see photo on right*) that we will loan to Dataw clubs for events on the Island. If you are want to borrow the receptacles for a Club event, please contact Guy Apicella (843-838-0965).



Title of 'Director Emeritus' Awarded

John Colgan (past-president) and Evan Reese (past-treasurer), who were two of the Dataw Island Conservancy's six founding board members, have retired after serving for six years. At an April farewell party, the Conservancy awarded the title "Director Emeritus" to John and Evan, as well as to Alex Marsh (who died in 2015) and Earl Dietz (who left Dataw in 2017) for their service on the Conservancy Board. The Board recognizes these four founding directors for their accomplishments in establishing the Conservancy and putting it on a successful course to protect the natural beauty and ecology of the island.

(Left to right): George Cartledge, John Colgan, Evan Reese, Herb Stackhouse, Charles Holbrook, Guy Apicella and Dave Dolan. (Not pictured is Deb Staub, who was traveling)



New Conservancy Board members

We welcome two new members to the Dataw Island Conservancy Board. David Dolan is a retired oral surgeon who was born, raised and educated in the Northeast. He and his wife Holly have lived on Dataw for 20 years, during which he has been a dedicated member of the community, serving on the Common Grounds, Sports and Recreation, House and Social Committees, the Tallow Tree Removal Project, and the DIC Board. His recreational interests include fitness, golf, tennis, and fishing. He completed the Beaufort County Senior Leadership course which highlighted the importance and delicate balance of the Sea Islands' habitats.

Deb Staub is relatively new to Dataw Island. Raised in Pennsylvania, where she developed her love for nature, she and her husband Jeff moved here three years ago from Massachusetts. She was a life and environmental science teacher and a 'stay at home mom' prior to taking a position in the research and development lab of a biotech company. She completed the Lowcountry Master Naturalist program and serves on the Lowcountry Master Naturalist Association Board. In her spare time Deb enjoys tennis, all outside activities, and working in her art studio. She discovered clay when she moved to Dataw and now creates and educates with ceramic pieces that reflect her passion for art and nature.

David and Deb bring with them a deep appreciation of Dataw Island and the Lowcountry ecosystem. Both come to the Dataw Island Conservancy with a strong desire to actively protect and nourish what natural habitat remains on the Island, despite development pressures. They will encourage stewardship on Dataw enabling future generations to enjoy the natural beauty of the island.

Looking Back (continued from page 1)

- Tallow tree control (75% of the island has already been surveyed and treated)
- Osprey nests (5 installed)
- Fertilization of Endangered Specimen trees (50 trees to date)
- Tree Plantback Program (necessitated by Hurricanes Matthew and Irma)
- Purple Martin houses and faithfully monitored by Bill Krebs (5 installed)
- Bluebird houses (13 installed and monitored)
- Bat houses, hand-crafted by Peter Pearks (three installed with one large house yet to go!)
- Owl boxes, hand-crafted by Peter Pearks and Bruce Anderson (3 installed)
- Electronics Recycling Program
- Christmas Bird Count
- Great Backyard Bird Count
- Camp Dataw Ecology programs
- Educational Nature Talks
- Marsh Memorial Environmental Dinner and Lecture
- Dietz Environmental Library at the St. Helena Library (over 400 books and DVD's)
- Waste Recycling Containers (**available free for all events, see article on page 2**)
- Plastic Waste Reduction Program (In cooperation with Club and House and Social Committee)
- Oktoberfest and Celebrity Bartender fundraisers

I am especially grateful to Ted Bartlett, Phil Satterfield and Chef Matt Felix for their forward-thinking approach to reducing the Island's carbon footprint at the source. This entailed switching from styrofoam "to go" cups and take-out boxes to eco-friendly natural fibre products and instituting a "plastic straws on demand" policy in the Clubhouse.

Replacing me and Dr. Evan Reese, who is also retiring, are Deb Staub and Dave Dolan. Both are highly qualified and enthusiastic to take on their important roles. They will be ably led by Guy Apicella, our new President. He is joined by George Cartledge, Herb Stackhouse and Charlie Holbrook. This new board is strongly motivated with exciting ideas and the energy to bring them to fruition for the benefit of our residents and Club members. ***Please give them your support as the challenges will demand it.***

Eagles Nesting Produce Two Eaglets . . . CHARLIE HOLBROOK

For the first time in recent memory eagles have built a nest on Dataw which has resulted in two eaglets being born. The saga of this pair of eagles started when residents noticed eagles building a nest in the vacant lot across from Therese and Tom Korey's home at 1707 Longfield Drive. The Koreys, along with other Longfield residents, witnessed the construction of the nest in early 2017 with great anticipation but no eaglets were produced. The question was would the eagles return to their nest and produce young? The first question was answered during the winter of 2017-2018 when the adult eagles did return and expanded their nest.

In February 2018, residents began to observe increased activity at the nest site but could not confirm that young were present even though there were different sounds originating from the nest. By early March, residents were sure that young eagles were in the nest but still could not see them. Then, on St. Patrick's Day, Therese called me to say that two young eaglets were perched on branches adjacent to the nest. I raced over to witness the eaglets for myself. I was surprised how large they were and how quickly they had developed. The eaglets did not have a white (bald) head because it takes at least three to four years to acquire full adult plumage. The next day I called local birders Jeff and Debbie Kidd, to come and see the nest and the eaglets. They were very impressed and took a number of photographs.

A month later, the eaglets have continued to thrive and grow. Although still dependent on their parents for food, they are almost ready to fend for themselves. George Cartledge (Conservancy Board member) has registered the nest with the SC DNR and the Conservancy is going to explore the possibility of placing a video-cam to watch over the nest as is common in many parts of the US. Obviously, permission of the property owner will be needed before moving ahead with this project. In the meantime, Dataw residents continue to marvel at the young eagles. Since eagles have a tendency to use the same nest year after year, it will be interesting to see if they return and produce more young. You can be sure Longfield residents will be watching and keeping all of us informed.

Conservancy SCORE Project to be Delayed

The Conservancy supports and promotes using natural, non-invasive methods to achieve desired goals. On April 30, the Conservancy was scheduled to participate in the SC Oyster Restoration and Enhancement Program (SCORE), a program managed by the SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

An oyster reef was to be added along the Morgan River at MR golf hole #14, to protect the river bank and the golf course from future erosion or storm damage.

All the materials for the reef were to be provided by the DNR at no cost. All the Conservancy was required to do was provide volunteers to form a "bucket-brigade" to transfer the bagged oyster shells to the reef area as directed by DNR.

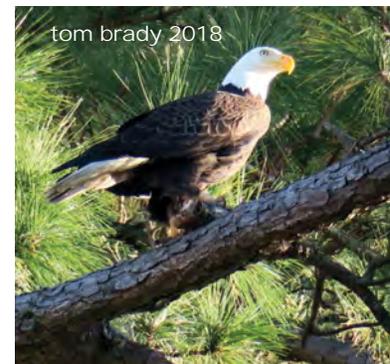
Unfortunately, the SCORE project had to be re-scheduled since the required Army Corp of Engineers permit has not yet been issued. The Conservancy is working with SC DNR to reschedule the project. Thanks to all who volunteered for the April 30 project and we hope that you can participate when we are able to re-schedule the project.



Jeff Kidd

Photo above of the young eaglets taken by Jeff Kidd.

Photo below of a mature Bald Eagle with his dinner, taken by Tom Brady.



tom brady 2018



SC King Tides Initiative

The SC Department of Health and the Environmental Conservation (DHEC) is enlisting the public to document the effect that extreme tides have on our coastal waterways, private property and public infrastructure. The term “King Tide” is a non-scientific term to describe the highest tides that occur in a year. These tides coincide with spring tides, which occur naturally when the sun, moon and earth align during a new and full moon.

The SC DHEC needs your help to take photographs of King Tides showing the water in perspective to familiar landmarks such as shorelines, roads, buildings or bridges. The predicted King Tides for the remainder of this year are:



To submit photos from your smart phone, please use the DHEC’s mobile app on **MyCoast:SouthCarolina**



The Conservancy had a booth at the well-attended Dataw Expo in February. Visitors to our booth put their name in a drawing for a Dataw Island

Conservancy T-shirt. In the photo above, Herb Stackhouse is picking out the winning name as Guy Apicella holds the bowl. Congratulations to the winner, David Graybeal, and our thanks to Melanie Gentile for taking this picture!

Electronics Recycling

The Dataw Island Conservancy collected four truck loads of electronics on February 17. This was the fourth electronics recycling event for the Conservancy. For the previous events, we were overwhelmed by the quantity of electronics which led to some hopeful participants being turned away. We had five pickup trucks available this time and only filled four. It appears that Dataw residents may have cleaned out their garages and attics of old electronics inventory. Special thanks to Joe Burt and Mike Valadez for their time and trucks.

The Conservancy encourages all residents to recycle and to take advantage of free-of-charge special events provided by Beaufort County. The next electronics recycling event is scheduled for May 19, 2018. The date of the next 2018 Household Hazardous Material Roundup which is for the collection of chemicals has not been announced. For assistance with proper disposal of unwanted household medicines, you can contact the non-emergency number of the Beaufort County Sheriff’s Office at 843-255-3200.



Mike Valadez and John Colgan.

George Cartledge, John Colgan, Herb Stackhouse, Guy Apicella, Joe Burt and Evan Reese.



Dataw Conservancy Helping to Keep Dataw Beautiful . . . HERB STACKHOUSE

To promote and preserve the beauty of the island, the Conservancy has made a donation the past two years to Dataw Landscaping for the planting of the fast growing Emily Bruner hollies and cedars at the entrance to Big Dataw Point. Both of these vigorous species will eventually provide screening and produce berries which in turn will supply food for numerous species of birds. Additionally, a donation has been given for tree replacement on the golf courses. In the past two years, \$4,000 has been provided by the Conservancy for tree replacement.



The entrance to Big Dataw Point, made beautiful by Christi Henry with donations from the Dataw Island Conservancy.

Keep up with the Conservancy! Our website is located on the Dataw website, under the “Clubs & Organizations” tab (located under SPORTS & REC). You will find past newsletters and information about the Tallow Tree Removal Project, a key area being worked on by the Conservancy. Want to support the Conservancy and our efforts to make Dataw even more beautiful? Fill out the form below. If you want to volunteer to help us, there is a space for that. **We welcome your support!**

Please support the Dataw Island Conservancy and our efforts to make our beautiful island even more beautiful!

The Conservancy’s mission is to assist in the preservation of Dataw Island’s environmental character by attempting to permanently conserve, maintain and manage the natural areas and habitats of the Island and its surrounds; and encourage an appreciation of, and interest in, the Island’s natural resources by the residents of Dataw Island.

If you are a 2018 supporter, we thank you. Your support allows our band of volunteers to expand programs to enhance this special place we call home. Not a supporter? Why don’t you join us and become a member?

YES, I would like to support your efforts. Enclosed is a check for \$50 (made out to the Dataw Island Conservancy). ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

Want to help us more? Check below and we will call you to talk!

YES, I am interested in joining you. Call me and we can talk about possible ways I can help.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____

(Drop Membership form off to George Cartledge’s message box at 1048 Curisha Point South.)

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Green Wood is a publication of the Dataw Island Conservancy, Dataw Island, South Carolina
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