

Lasting Impressions

SUMMER, 2019



Oooh
Baby,
Baby
It's a
Wildlife

tombrady2017



HISTORICAL CHARM.
NATURAL BEAUTY.

Extraordinary Living

Lasting Impressions

Editor's Letter

Well here we are again, me waxing poetic about Dataw Island and you being so kind as to allow me to do so.

This edition of Lasting Impressions was originally slated to be called "Sweet Tea: And Other Things We Love About the South." And, don't get me wrong - I love me some Southern sweet tea - but, as we started compiling the stories it seemed that one of the things we love MOST about living in the South and near the coast is the wildlife. The flora and fauna that surround us are nothing short of mesmerizing. How romantic is a moss-draped oak? How relaxing is the lap of ocean waves on a trip to Hunting Island? And HOW MUCH do you love being surrounded by natural beauty Every. Single. Day..?

This time of year I am reminded frequently by the seemingly endless stream of house guests who flock to our home like seagulls to an abandoned bag of chips (too much? haha, maybe they will not read this...and if they do, please know I mean it lovingly!) just how lucky we are to call the Lowcountry "home." A simple

trip to Publix with out-of-town guests elicits at least a few oohs, ahhs, and shouts of "look at that!" A cup of coffee or glass of wine on the back porch is another adventure - observing the colorful flowers alive with bees, butterflies, lizards and frogs, squirrels bravely leaping from palm to oak oblivious to the pups below, and the sunsets - ohhhh the sunsets! Followed by star-filled skies much more populated than my city-dwelling guests are accustomed to.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of our wildlife and other things we all seem to love. And, for the next edition ("It's Entertaining!") I hope to explore even more about what we all love...to do! Send in your thoughts and musings, I would love to hear from you!

With warm regards,

Laura Q. McCarthy
Laura Q. McCarthy
Dir. of Marketing &
Communications



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on the cover...

Photo by Tom Brady



COVER CONTEST *Announcement*

This month's cover art is a beautiful interpretation of the theme, "Wildlife," shot by Thomas Brady thank you for your contribution!

Would you like YOUR art to be featured in the next edition of Lasting Impressions? Images will be selected based on how well they meet the theme that month, along with how well they capture the beauty, history, and charm of Dataw.

FALL THEME: *It's Entertaining*

Please submit images at a minimum of 1 mb and a maximum of 10 mb to datawmarketing@islc.net.

Include your name as you would want it credited. *Submitting a piece for inclusion implies consent for Dataw Marketing to use your image in our marketing materials.*

Please note that all submissions will be acknowledged by reply email as "received" within two business days. If you do not receive a return email confirming your submission, please call (843) 379-3056.

THANK YOU to our volunteer contributors!!! If you, too, are interested in contributing to Lasting Impressions, please contact Laura McCarthy at (843) 379-3056 or at datawmarketing@islc.net.

Dear South,
We ♥ You!!
Love,
Dataw



Born and raised in the rural part of southwestern New York State and needing a change, my husband and I decided to move south.

compiled by Holly Mason

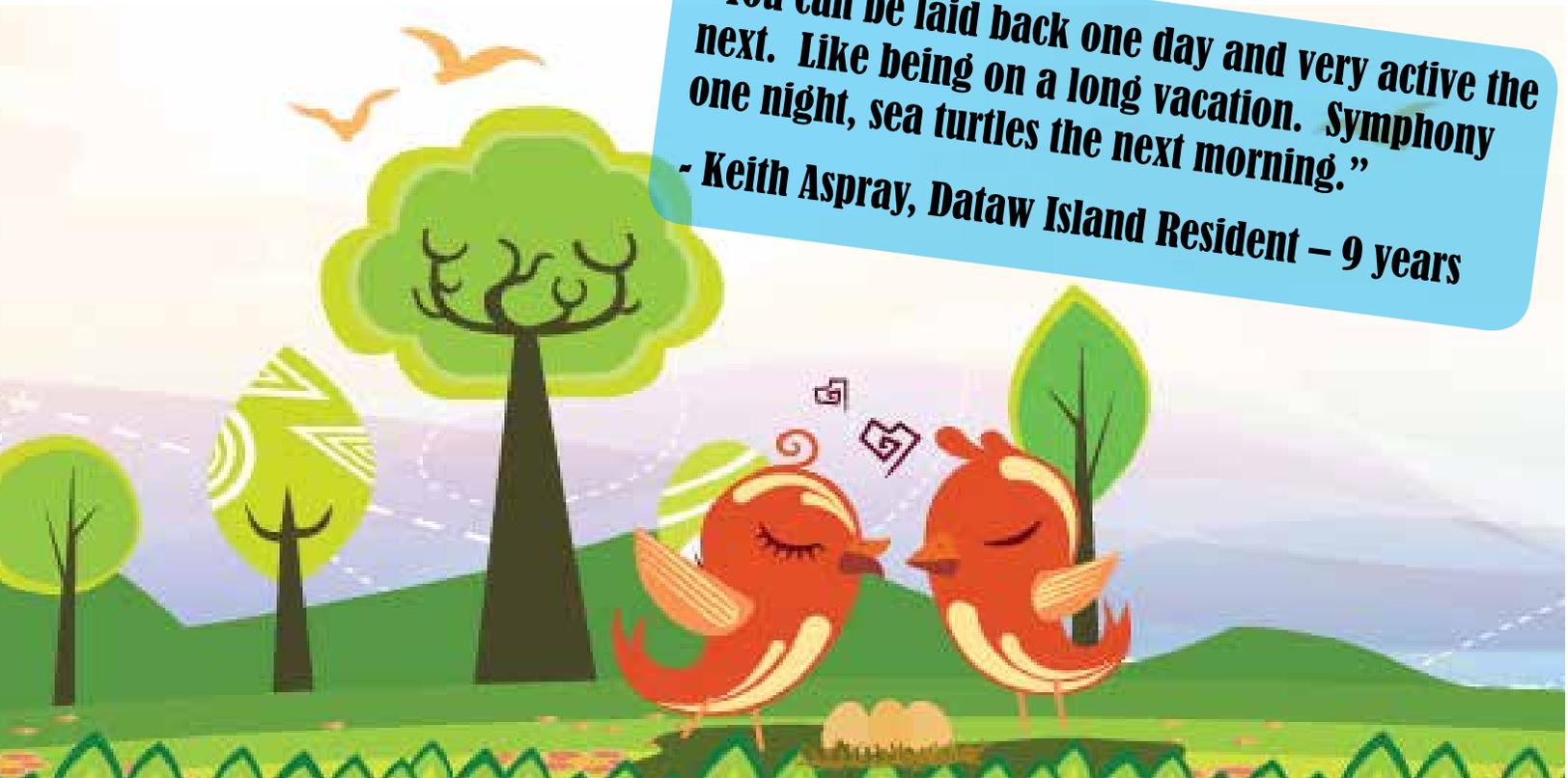
We immediately fell in love with the SC Lowcountry. Why? The nature.

Hundred year old live oaks with draping Spanish moss, the birds (oh the birds), beautiful water; what's not to love? We have now been here two years and absolutely love it.

Curiosity set in about what others loved about living here in the Lowcountry of Dataw Island. This is what some had to say:

“You can be laid back one day and very active the next. Like being on a long vacation. Symphony one night, sea turtles the next morning.”

- Keith Aspray, Dataw Island Resident – 9 years



"Never having to say 'I am bored.' Boating, beach, golf, bocce, tennis, the arts, historical culture - if you thought you were busy when you were working, watch out! Time spent with new friends, and your old friends that want to visit. The weather, the water, the welcoming hospitality and the wonder of it all. Truly living in paradise."

- Marj Shymske, Dataw Island Resident – 5 years

"Just like everybody else, we breathe a sigh of relief every April after our tax returns are finished. After all that hassle, what a welcome sight it is to look outside at the bird bath in the yard and find a gorgeous painted bunting splashing and preening in the afternoon sun! They seem to know when the deadline is, and appear right on cue to cheer us up."

- Becky Sprecher, DIC Board Member, Dataw Island Resident – 18 years

"We love living in the Lowcountry due to its beauty. From the color of the marsh grasses that change all year to the flowers that bloom year-round to the beautiful sky that is usually a gorgeous blue! Then you can include our wildlife- eagles, blue herons great white egrets etc. as another reason as to why we love the Lowcountry. Last but not least is where we live. Dataw Island has wonderful vistas and the residents are so friendly and helpful!" – Sue Zankowski, DIOA Board President, Dataw Island Resident – 14 years

Members' Voices

"The natural beauty and the Lowcountry's many habitats make our surroundings very special and very unique. The rise and fall of the tides, magnificent sunrises and sunsets, our many bird species, our critters and our beautiful flora all provide a magnificent setting we call home." - Mary Ann Foutch, Dataw Island Resident - 20 years

"Living in the Low Country is living in Paradise. It is a way of life that finds you and touches your soul. Far away from the bright city lights and 8 lane highways. Kind, gentle and hospitable, that is the Lowcountry" - Ted and Joanie Barber, Dataw Island Residents - 6 years

"We've lived on Dataw for almost eight years and have never spent one minute second-guessing our choice. We came from a crowded metropolitan area so living in the Lowcountry where there is plenty of room, friendly and caring people and a beautiful landscape surrounded by water and wildlife makes our home a very "civilized" place to be. Have not reason to go anywhere else!" - Al & Chris Dedel, Dataw Island Residents - 7 years.

"Patty & I have been here 19 1/2 years and would not give up one minute of it. Paradise is hard to come by and this is truly paradise."
- Bob Hopkins (Hoppy), Dataw Island Resident - 19 years

I can see that I am not the only one that enjoys the beautiful scenery of the Lowcountry! We are looking forward to many more years here in this exquisite sanctuary we are so lucky to call home.

Exploring Local Wildlife:

Going Coastal

by Laura McCarthy

Nothing quite compares to the crispness in the air on an early spring evening, with frogs chattering in the distance and the occasional whoooo whoooo of an owl. Stay still and watch – you may just catch some fireflies lighting up the trees.

Springtime awakens the more particular fauna and flora who chose to nap through our moderate winter, leaving the activity to the hardier species of each.

Colorful buds emerge into blooms, and the whole island feels an awakening. The tee sheet is looking fuller, the pub is alive with activity, and clubs and organizations are in full swing.

Perhaps most enchanting is the birth of the next generation of wildlife. The careful observer may spy a fawn, still unsteady on her legs, or a gaze of kits (baby raccoons!). Egrets and their offspring provide a show of plumage that rival Vegas show girls. And while the “cute factor” of adults may be questionable, baby opossums and alligators are nothing short of drool-worthy!

Generally speaking, the best course of action when



SEA TURTLE TRACKS

encountering wildlife is "Observe, don't interfere."

It can be heart-wrenching to observe a baby animal that looks frightened and alone. But wildlife experts ask us to take a very conservative approach before acting.

"Usually when you see young animals left seemingly alone, the mom has just stepped out for a bite to eat or is in the process of moving the family to a larger home," said Robin Boetke, founder of Grace Farm Animal Rescue and Sanctuary. "Also," she noted, "sometimes the mama is lingering nearby waiting for you to leave."

Boetke advised that the best course of action when you stumble upon a baby animal is to observe before acting. "Unless you see a dead adult animal nearby, give the animals 24 hours to reconnect." In the meantime, you might call a wildlife rescue to get further advice on what to do, but resist approaching or handling the animal too hastily.

In fact, several Dataw Island members volunteer with groups whose purpose is to protect and observe wild animal behavior, such as the Hunting Island State Park Turtle Patrol. The volunteers are entrusted with the protection of our sea turtle hatchlings, carefully traversing the beaches to mark and count nests and hatchlings.

"My wife, Terri, and I have just started volunteering with the sea turtles and we just love joining the many other Dataw Island residents serving the Hunting Island sea turtle project," said Roddy Diotalevi. "We had heard rave reviews from past Dataw volunteers but our experience thus far has exceeded our expectations. Our morning walks together on the beach watching the sun rise
SPRING PLUMAGE SHOW is breathtaking. There's just no better way to start the day!"



EARLY MORNING SEA TURTLE PATROL: TWO OF THE MANY VOLUNTEERS FROM DATAW ISLAND, TERRI ELLER AND RODDY DIOTALEVI



Another way to get involved with wildlife is to take part in the National Audubon Society Bird Count in December and the Great Backyard Bird Count in February. For the Decemebr count, volunteer birdwatchers assemble at the Community Center and, led by member Charlie Holbrook, they comb the island to identify the many species of birds that have chosen to winter here on Dataw Island. Homeowners, golfers, tennis, bocce and croquet players also join in and report on birds they see during the day as they work or play. This information is tallied on forms supplied by the Dataw Island Conservancy and combined with data gathered at Fripp Island. It is then sent to the Audubon Society national



THE MANY STAGES OF BIRDS ON DATAW ISLAND

office where it is combined with other winter bird count data for research and public use.

The February count is through the Cornell University Ornithology Lab. This is an opportunity for all residents to help gather important data about our island bird population by taking a few minutes on each day of the weekend (Friday through Monday) to count birds wherever they wish.

There are numerous additional groups and opportunities to get involved with wildlife, such as through the Dataw Conservancy's lectures and their annual Conservancy Memorial Dinner, the Adopt-A-Highway program, DIFF (Dataw Island Feline Foundation, which provides assistance to feral and free-ranging cats through spaying/neutering and adoption programs), management of the Butterfly Garden (through the Garden Club) and more.

Whether you are out on your dock watching a dolphin feed or an otter frolic, observing an osprey swoop up dinner or a bald eagle plotting his dive, or enjoying the delicate wings of butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds visiting your flowers and shrubs, take a moment to exhale, and appreciate the natural beauty that surrounds us here on Dataw Island.

Coming soon!
The Dataw
Conservancy's
**"Dataw Island
Ecology
Guide"**!



Property Lines



art submitted by Bill Tremetiere
written by Laura McCarthy

I am frequently asked about how Dataw Island sales are going and how we compare to similar local communities. I am also asked about the number of listings on the island currently. In this month's article, I am addressing both. However, for anyone hoping to walk away from this article with a new clarity – be forewarned, these are complex questions with complex answers.

First, sales. Our sales took a serious dip in the first quarter, which is never exciting to report. However, this was a trend that was felt nationally, and especially locally. A recent article in the *Island Packet** analyzed home sales price increases, noting that overall they were up but it varied widely from community to community. Some of the most affordable neighborhoods on Hilton Head Island (Folly Field – selling in the \$100s and Forest Beach – selling in the low \$200s) saw median increases since 2014 of 24.1% and 22.8%, respectively. The gated communities of Berkeley Hall and Spring Island, however, dropped in median sales price by 32.8% and 31.7% over that same period, with Callawassie coming in next with a decrease of 21.5% in median sales price.

Over that same time period, 2014 through the end of 2018, Dataw Island saw sales prices from \$230,000 to \$374,000 – an astonishing increase of 61%. In all fairness and for the sake of data integrity, 2014 was our weakest year in the last ten years. Going back to the pre-recession “hay day” of

Marketing & Sales Update

2008, our median sales price was \$400,500. So, have we fully recovered? Perhaps not, but getting back to a “bubble” is not positive; being in a balanced market, however, is.

The number of total closings (homes and lots) on Dataw Island in the first quarter of 2019 (12) was on par with 2017 (12), 2015 (12), and 2014 (13), but significantly lower than 2018 (25) and 2016 (22). The boom in 2016 is harder to explain, but Q1 last year followed the weakest quarter in all five years (7 closings in Q4 2017).

The recent increase in number of listings is most attributable to an increase in number of homes being listed, but it was also exacerbated by lower sales in 2018 Q4 and 2018 Q1 than we would hope. Anecdotally, I have heard from several members who have listed (and/or their Realtors) that they were “waiting for the market” to come back, and there have also been reports of members wanting to move closer to family, members who moved on for health reasons, and members who cite the cost of living in a private community.

Another interesting consideration to how prices and listings work together was explored in a recent USA Today article that cited an ATTOM Data Solutions study. Using tax records to determine vacancy rates, they found that Hilton Head was #2 in the nation in vacancies ... but, this metric is one where you'd rather not rank. Hilton Head was second (16.9% homes vacant) only to Gary, Indiana (19.4%), and ahead of Flint, Michigan (15.7%) and Detroit (11.2%). From there, you see Baltimore sitting 8.1% vacant, and the rest on the list are at 5% or less. An increase in vacant homes can drive down prices as sellers are more anxious to sell. Some of these homes may be vacant due to people having to move for jobs, but as we also see in areas that attract a lot of retirees that sometimes an aging parent will move to a care facility and leave a home vacant, only to then see the kids “dump it” for a low price and to get out from the carrying costs ... this can create some

buying opportunities but also can hurt seller's pricing. Fortunately, consumers are smart and can see by the photos online if a home is freshly updated, brand new, or in need of a facelift or an overhaul and decide for themselves which home is the right fit for them.

(Note: Although some may question if we should compare ourselves to southern Beaufort County, the gated communities throughout the Lowcountry are probably the most similar comparisons we can consider.)

So far, the second quarter has been buzzing with Realtor activity! Since we began tracking the metric in 2015, we have had more off-island real estate agent showings month-over-month and year-over-year. We are setting records in numbers of Experience Dataw packages, Marketing has toured and trained dozens of Realtors, and there are quite a few homes under contract.

Although the market looks sunny as I write, there is also ongoing trade negotiations that Realtor.com are predicting may cause a sluggish market through 2019 and 2020, and possibly even a small recession (but not in 2008 proportion.)

So, what do I recommend? Enjoy life! You cannot control the market, you cannot control the tariffs, but you CAN enjoy this little slice of Heaven we are lucky to have here on Dataw Island. And when the time comes for you to sell, you'll know that you have enjoyed the best life!



Wood Storks

DELIVERING BIRD-WATCHING JOY

submitted by Carla Marsh, and written by the late Alex Marsh,
Emeritus Professor of Ecology at Florida Atlantic University

photography by Thomas Brady



Wood Storks, also known as Wood Ibises, or more colloquially as “Leadheads”, are one of the most common and conspicuous birds on Dataw. These large, white birds with the bare, dark-colored heads and thick, grey down- curved bills, are commonly seen resting on the shoreline of our lakes and ponds or roosting in the overhead trees. These are the only true storks which breed in North America and are the largest of our wading birds. | As goofy-looking and awkward as they appear on land, they are strong and graceful flyers, often seen soaring overhead with necks outstretched and long legs trailing behind. In flight, the trailing edges of the wings are black

Wood Storks are primarily tropical and subtropical in their distribution, ranging from South and Central



America, the Caribbean, and into Florida and several other southern states. These birds were formerly listed as “endangered” in North America due to the widespread drainage and destruction of their wetland habitats, particularly in South Florida, the historic heart of their breeding range. In recent years their numbers have rebounded somewhat and they are now classified as “threatened.” They also appear to be extending their range northward, with several breeding colonies recently reported in coastal South Carolina south of Charleston.

Wood Storks feed in open wetlands on small fish, frogs, snails and other aquatic animal they capture by wading slowly in shallow wetlands with their bills in the water and

mouths slightly agape. Any prey animals that come in contact with their bills are very quickly snapped up. This foraging strategy is known as “tactile feeding”. The birds are often seen stirring up their prey by “pawing” the bottom sediments with first one leg and then the other as they advance through the marsh.

Wood Storks commonly mate for life and often nest in tall cypress or Black gum trees within flooded forests, apparently to avoid predation by raccoons and other animals. These are colonial nesters and as many as a dozen or more nests may be found in one tree. Breeding colonies within the ACE Basin

average about 100 nests. 3-5 eggs are laid per nest and incubated by both parents for 27-32 days. The young birds leave the nest for short periods approximately 8-9 weeks after hatching, although they

may continue to be fed by the adults for some period of time before striking out on their own.



Summer Fun - Calendar of Events

Having friends or family visit this Summer?
Here are some great events to enjoy together!

43rd Spoleto Festival USA

May 24 - June 9

For 17 days and nights each spring, Spoleto Festival USA fills Charleston, South Carolina's historic theaters, churches, and outdoor spaces with performances by renowned artists as well as emerging performers in opera; theater; dance; and chamber, symphonic, choral, and jazz music. Now approaching its 43rd season, Spoleto Festival USA is internationally recognized as America's premier performing arts festival.

spoletousa.org



Dataw Splash!

June 14 - June 16

SPLASH into summer competitive tennis at the Dataw Island Club Tennis Facility! Tennis is a very exciting spectator sport - we welcome you to join Dataw Splash to kick off the summer! To top it all off - admission is free, and guests are welcome!

Interested in competing?

Register online: <http://bit.ly/2pUP9eU>

USTA number: 700114019

Players must register by Sunday, June 9.



77th Hampton County Watermelon Festival

June 14 - June 23

Join the family fun by participating in South Carolina's oldest continuing festival. Events include Youth Parade, Children's Day, Taste of Hampton, Pet Show, 5K Run, Watermelon Eating Contest, Watermelon Judging Contest,

Arts and Crafts, Street Dance, Parade that stretches from Varnville to Hampton and much more.

www.hcmelonfest.org/

Friday, June 14 - Sunday, June 16, 2019



Splash into Summer Competitive Tennis at the Dataw Island Club! 

Tennis is by far one of the most exciting spectator sports and the *Dataw Splash* will be no exception! It is one of the few summer coastal tennis events, is a USTA Sanctioned Tournament and promises to be the summer *Splash* of the season!

If you enjoy spectating, we welcome you to join us Friday, June 14 through Sunday, June 16 at 10:00 am to watch these excellent athletes play the game! To top it all off - admission is free!

Proceeds from this tournament will benefit *Special Olympics* through *SOAR Special Recreation*.

Sign up now:
<https://tennislink.usta.com/Tournaments/TournamentHome/Tournament.aspx?T=237213>

100 Dataw Club Road, Dataw Island, SC 29920
(843) 838-8416

Summer Fun - Calendar of Events



Dragonboat Beaufort Race Day

June 22, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

This event raises funds used by Dragonboat Beaufort to assist cancer patients who live, work or receive treatment in Beaufort County, South Carolina. This fun-filled day long event at Waterfront Park is enjoyed by participants and spectators alike. Dragonboat racing is over 2,000 years old and is one of the fastest growing sports enjoyed by all ages.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1869471769835058/>

Salute From the Shore 2019

July 4, 1:00 pm

Gather on any Lowcountry beach to witness the 10th Annual flyover to salute our armed forces. Go "BIG!" Get a huge flag or get creative. Then GET TO THE BEACH in red, white and blue! Record your Salute on camera and share it with the world – on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, a blog, or any other place you want. Tag your Salute images and videos with #SalutefromtheShore

salutefromtheshore.org



Beaufort Water Festival Arts & Crafts Market

July 12 - July 21

For over 60 years, the Beaufort Water Festival has been celebrating the local traditions of water, sports, and entertainment. With a new theme and a different Commodore every year, the 10 day festival takes place like clockwork in mid-July at downtown Beaufort's Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park. Amazing waterskiing shows, dances, concerts, Shag dancing, a teen dance, sporting, and many other events take place at The Beaufort Water Festival with more than 400 dedicated volunteers banding together to bring the events to approximately



50,000 attendees who converge on Beaufort from all over the southeast, and the rest of the U.S.

www.bftwaterfestival.com