

View Through a Camera Lens

“Dataw Island Club is one of the first, and remains one of the finest master planned communities in the Southeast.” — TOM FAZIO, GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT

RESIDENTS ARE A MELTING POT of America with diverse careers, religions, and geographies. Its membership includes noted authors, MIT graduates, and even an Oscar winner.

DATAW ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: The avifauna of South Carolina is estimated at over 400 bird species, from the colorful painted bunting to the patient wood stork. Dataw Island Club, surrounded by water and marshes, is a haven for wildlife. Tom Brady, staff photographer for the Dataw Island Conservancy, is responsible to document the barrier island’s diverse flora and fauna.

“When I moved to the Club eight years ago, I became a shutterbug to note the wonders of Dataw. I have been able to photograph 25 of the 76 most prevalent bird species on Dataw, a number I consider remarkable considering the size of our community,” said Brady.

BUFFET TABLE OPEN

Dataw Island Club features Tom Fazio and Arthur Hills designed courses; a marina; a 40,000 square-foot clubhouse; eight Har-Tru tennis courts (four lighted for night play); a fitness center and yoga studio; a pair of championship croquet lawns; a resort-style pool and an indoor lap pool; a community garden; miles of walking trails, and a neighborhood library.

The island’s long and linear landform maximizes water views. “Jenkins Creek bisects the community,” detailed Brady. “During warmer fall months when bait fish are active, small pods of dolphins work together to drive fish onto the mudflats, providing an easy meal worthy of a Thanksgiving dinner.”

Dolphins aren’t the only wildlife with a keen eye toward a fish dinner.

“Our eagle population continues to grow. We have a pair that nests at nearby DuPont Estate and hunts our grounds,” said Brady. “One afternoon I was out with my camera in search of an eagle perched in one of our majestic oaks. As I watched one eagle

maneuver acrobatic twists and turns,

another eagle swooped down and grabbed a fish straight from the mouth of a blue heron. It happened so fast I couldn’t capture the moment. I’m sure the blue heron wasn’t in the best of moods after losing its meal.” ■

For membership information, please visit Dataw.com, or phone (843) 888-3838.



PHOTO BY TOM BRADY

Juvenile and female osprey nesting on a boat lift.

DATAW ISLAND CLUB is Audubon Sanctuary certified and has built osprey nest platforms, purple martin nests, and bat boxes to foster a hospitable environment. Members have taken the extra step and formed the non-profit Dataw Nature Conservancy to fund perpetual projects.