

"THE HIDDEN JEWEL OF COASTAL CAROLINA"

From its discovery by the Spanish in 1514, history has been enamored with Dataw Island's allure.



DATAW ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA: When Dataw Island Club was established in the mid-1980s, wide swaths of the Lowcountry were undeveloped.

"The rural nature of the land and a developer who wanted the best allowed me to utilize areas that in today's world, would be off limits for a golf course architect. The views would be too valuable for homesites," lauded Tom Fazio. "I have fond memories of designing the course. I consider it the hidden jewel of golf in Coastal Carolina.

"Dataw Island is long and linear to allow routing that maximizes water views. The end result? It has three times the number of holes bordering water as nearby Harbour Town Golf Links."

A SLEEPLESS NIGHT

Today, Dataw Island Club includes Tom Fazio and Arthur Hills golf courses, a marina, a 40,000 square-foot clubhouse, eight Har-Tru courts (four lighted for night play), bocce courts, 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 club was ranked "No. 1 Best South Carolina Retirement Destination" and in the "Top 25 Places to Retire."

"Our private community's growth and stability were never in doubt. Dataw's subtle nuances from beautifully manicured streets to a complete amenity package sold us. We knew this was our place," said Walker Merrill, long-time resident at Dataw Island Club. "When our house was built, Arthur Hills was still crafting his design. In fact, I remember splitting firewood on what is today the 14th



Clubhouse with croquet lawn in foreground.

fairway of the Morgan River Course.

"I've been a beneficiary of Dataw's industry leading membership plan. We are able to buy 'buckets' of rounds ranging from 10 to 40 per year," explained Walker. "I'm now 91 years old and it has allowed me to continue to play golf on my schedule without incurring full golf membership dues, something that is appealing to me as I age. Many others feel the same way. The end result is increased club income that has allowed the community to maintain two courses on what is a small island."

Strong financials have allowed the club to reinvest in the member experience.

"Several years ago, Walker was selected to hit the ceremonial tee shot on our newly renovated Fazio course," recalled Mary Lee Merrill. "He didn't sleep a wink the night before, nervous about being on center stage."

"As I placed the ball on the tee, all I could think of was 'swing slow and please be good,'" smiled Walker. "Luckily, by God, I hit a good one and celebrated by acting out the Chi Chi Rodriguez famous sword move with my driver!" ■

For more information please visit Dataw.com.