

TABBY TATTLER

Dataaw Historic Foundation Newsletter

www.DataawHistory.org

Fall 2016



The President's Corner . . . MARILYN PECK

Fall has arrived on Dataaw this year with an unexpected bang, Hurricane Matthew! After packing my car and heading off to our evacuation location in Augusta, we were very happy to see other friends and neighbors in the lobby of our hotel all asking the same questions — when will the storm hit, how bad will it be, and when can we go home. As each day passed, we watched the weather channel and waited. Then we started getting updates from our fabulous and tireless General Manager, Ted Bartlett. He and his team were always on top of what was happening and taking care of our beautiful island. They spent many hours coordinating the recovery effort, taking pictures of damaged homes, and sending us daily updates so we had some idea of what to expect when we returned. I personally, and on behalf of the Dataaw Historic Foundation, want to thank him and his team for going beyond what anyone would have expected. We are certainly the most fortunate gated community to have Ted Bartlett leading us through this recovery. A large limb came down off the Cemetery Oak Tree, but I am happy to report that there was no damage to the ruins or to the History and Learning Center.



Marilyn Peck and Ted Bartlett, at the DHF Lowcountry Boil

The October Low Country Boil is the DHF's way of saying "thank you" to our members. We had a wonderful turn out for this celebration — I think everyone was happy to be doing something other than hurricane clean up! I want to thank Kathy Kelenski and Kathy McShane for deciding to go forward with this event. Thanks also go to Peter Pearks for repairing the Gazebo screen that was damaged in the storm as this kept the mosquitoes out!

In closing, I want to thank all of our DHF members for their financial and volunteer support throughout this year. It has been an exceptionally busy year with the opening of the History and Learning Center. For those of you who are not yet members, I hope you will join in 2017. Our vision that the rich Dataaw Island history will become an important part of the total experience among all residents of the Island is ongoing. Our mission to *foster the rich Sea Island plantation history and to be the custodian of Dataaw's entire history, from the prehistoric to the present*, is the basis for all of our efforts. Dataaw Island remains a unique and beautiful place to live, and I feel very lucky to be a part of it.

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SAVE THE DATE!

DHF'S 17th Annual OYSTER ROAST

Monday, March 27, 2016

LUMINARY NIGHT!

Monday, December 5

See details on page 3

Sponsored by the DHF FIRESIDE CHAT

Santa Elena: America's Untold Story THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016 All Dataaw residents are invited to attend!

The mission of the Santa Elena Foundation is the discovery, preservation and promotion of Santa Elena, a Spanish settlement on what is now Parris Island, and was the capital of Spanish Florida from 1566 to 1587.

The evening, which features Megan Meyer, Director of Development of the Santa Elena Foundation and Dr. Andrew Beall, Executive Director of the Santa Elena Foundation, is part of a continuing annual series of "Fireside Chats" sponsored by the DHF.

Cocktails at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM, in the Carolina Room

MENU (\$36 inclusive)

(We are nearing the end of the year. This event will count towards your minimum!)
Harvest Salad with Gourmet Greens, Julienne Apples and Pears, topped with Candied Pecans and Bleu Cheese and drizzled with Balsamic Vinaigrette; Pork Medallions with Cranberry and Apple Relish; Potatoes Au Gratin; Roasted Asparagus; Pumpkin Cheesecake; Coffee or Tea

Call Dataaw Reservations at 843-838-8282 to register by phone.

To register on-line, go to November 17 on the calendar section of the Dataaw website. Click on "Fireside Chat" to make your reservation.

Non-DIC members are welcome to attend this event. Contact Susan Jorgensen (843-838-6542) for information on how to make a reservation if you are not a DIC member.

See "The Amazing Pedro" article on page 2 for more on the Santa Elena Foundation.



The Amazing Pedro! . . . JOE RONEY

Pedro Menendez de Aviles (1519-1574) Admiral, Conquistador and the founder of the first lasting European settlement on the North American continent, Santa Elena, should be known by every American.

Pedro was not the first Spanish explorer in the new land. Hernando de Soto, Pedro de Quexos, and others explored the New World before him. Columbus sailed the blue in 1492. Two years later the Pope’s decree gave all undiscovered land in North and South America (except Brazil) to Spain. The Spanish called all of the east coast “La Florida.”

Pedro, from the West coast of Spain’s region of Asturias, ran away to sea in 1533 at age 14. Soon after he was commissioned by the Holy Roman Emperor (Charles V) to drive pirates from the coasts of Spain. Five years later he was appointed Captain of the Indies fleet.

Spain’s King Phillip II, disturbed by news that the French (Huguenots under Jean Ribault) were establishing posts in La Florida, picked Pedro to stop them. Pedro was titled “Captain General of the Ocean Sea” in 1565 and his military strategy destroyed the French Fort Caroline (near Jacksonville, Florida) killing 350 soldiers including Jean Ribault. Some accounts say he beheaded or scalped Ribault and sent his red hair back to the King as proof.

Pedro was an amazing sailor/Captain, setting the record of crossing the Atlantic in less than four weeks. In all, he made over 50 trans-Atlantic voyages. But, Pedro should be most known for establishing Santa Elena on what is now Parris Island, SC in 1566, 40 years before the English started Jamestown, Virginia. Pedro made Santa Elena the First Capital of La Florida and became the First Governor in North America, moving his family and staff there along with many other families.

To learn more about Pedro and the Santa Elena settlement on Parris Island, join us at the **Fireside Chat** on November 17, in the Carolina Room. The presentation by Megan Meyer, Executive Director, and Dr. Andy Beall, Chairman and CEO of the Santa Elena Foundation, promises to give interesting insight on this fascinating historical development, which could change our history books.

Songs & Stories Entertain Campers

More than 50 children attended one of the two sessions held in the History and Learning Center. Cissy Nichols explained the historical background for the plantation songs she taught each group. “General” Joe Roney, in his Revolutionary War uniform, read several stories — the ghost story being the favorite. Diane Roney assisted with the activities. Each participant left with copies of the songs and DHF water bottles.

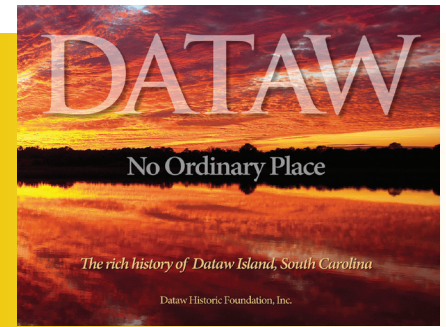
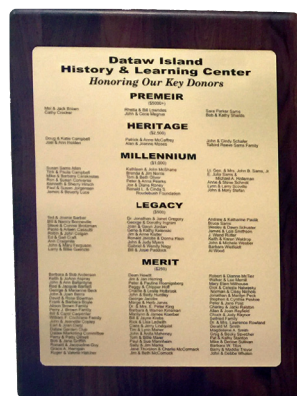
“General” Joe Roney and Cissy Nichols entertained the campers.



Visit the History & Learning Center

Bring your guests to the **History and Learning Center**. It’s open from 8 AM–8 PM, seven days a week. Landscaping has been added, thanks to a donation from the Dataw Garden Club. There is a new wall of photos behind the plantation house model. Among them is a composite donated by Bill Tyner and another is a photo by Donna Stearns. The new donor plaque has also been hung. Copies of the *Sams Plantation Walking Tour* and the *DHF Brochure* are available inside the front door.

The Donor Plaque, listing the many people who helped make the History & Learning Center possible!



Dataw, No Ordinary Place

Sales of this beautifully illustrated book about the rich history of Dataw Island have been strong. We ordered 1,000 copies and have less than 100 left. *We are not going to do a reprint of the book. So get your copy today!*

The book cost \$40 and can be shipped for \$45. All proceeds from sales will support the Dataw Island History and Learning Center. (For shipping, please contact Cindy Schafer at 843-838-7517 or cindyschafer21@gmail.com.)

To buy a book or check it out, contact:

- 1) Cindy Schafer (843-838-7517)
- 2) Joe & Diane Roney (843-838-4972)
- 3) Kathy Kelenski (843-838-3335)

DHF 2016

Officers

- President: Marilyn Peck
- Vice President/Treasurer: Ron Jacobs
- Recording Secretary: MT O'Brien
- Corresponding Secretary: Joe Roney

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- Fund Raising Co-Chair: Kathy McShane
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- Ruins Preservation Chair: John Huntley
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- Tabby Tattler Editor: Ann Craigmile
- Tabby Tattler, Layout/Design: Cindy Schafer
- Volunteer/Docent Training: Diane Roney

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- Financial: Ken Hirsch
- LR Plan./Ruins Preservation: John Colgan
- LR Planning/Fund-Raising: Marianne Beck

Other

- Technical Consultant: Larry Rowland
- DIOA Representative: Perry Gessell

If you are interested in working with the DHF, contact any of the DHF Board members.

DHF & Luminary Night

The DHF, along with the Dataw Garden Club and the Dataw Island Yacht Club, is again participating in *Light Up the Night* on **Monday, December 5**. This year, participants gathering together at the Sams Plantation Ruins will enjoy songs of the season sung by the Harbormasters with the ruins aglow in the background. Peter Pearks will once again coordinate setting up and placing the luminaries.



The Dataw Ruins, Luminary Night (Picture taken by Jim Williams)

Started by the Dataw Garden Club 25 years ago, the annual Luminary Night celebration is a gift to the residents of Dataw. Listen to beautiful music at the Ruins; then stop at the Dataw Marina and have a hot toddy courtesy of the Dataw Island Yacht Club; finish up at the Gazebo and enjoy chili and cornbread, donated by members of the Dataw Garden Club. Look for fliers on the Dataw net for details on this beautiful Island tradition.



The Dataw Heritage Walk

A living legacy to those who have made Dataw the very special place it is today

Have you seen the beautiful brick *Heritage Walk* that leads from the Cannery to the Sams Plantation Ruins? Take a close look the next time you are visiting our famous ruins. There are names on many of the bricks. The names include residents who came to Dataw Island over a quarter century ago, up to and including residents who recently moved onto Dataw, along with the names of many of our employees. Also included are the names of past

owners of Dataw, such as B.B. Sams and Kate Gleason, along with descendents of the Sams Family, all of whom are part of our Island's legacy. All the proceeds made from selling the bricks goes to support the Island's History & Learning Center.

Is YOUR name on the Heritage Walk? *Become a part of Dataw history and put your name on a brick!* Forms to buy a brick are included with this newsletter. Forms can be downloaded from the **DHF website at www.DatawHistory.org** and are also available at the Cannery. Or contact Peter Pearks (843-838-2506).

Docent Training Classes

Docent training classes are available for those interested in helping to staff the History & Learning Center and tour visitors around the Ruins. If you are interested, contact Diane Roney at 843-838-4972.



Starting a Life Together in the Dataw Ruins!

Our beautiful Sams Plantation Ruins have been the site of several wedding photos. The most recent was the wedding of Christopher and PK Barton, on September 24. Christopher is the son of Alison and Dan Barton. Their timing was perfect — it was the week before Matthew arrived!



Dataw Reunites at Low Country Boil

As a thank you to its members for their ongoing support for the preservation of the Island history and the Sams Plantation ruins, the DHF held its annual Low Country Boil on Monday, October 24. Close to 100 DHF members and their guests enjoyed a wonderful meal at the Gazebo, catered by Jimmy Fitts. The shrimp, chicken, kielbasa, corn on the cob, coleslaw and apple cobbler were scrumptious. Traditionally, this event reunites the Island after summer respites or travel. This year it was a celebration of our return to Dataw from our Hurricane Matthew evacuation. As DHF members reunited with fellow residents, many storm stories were shared.

Heartfelt thanks go to the staff of Dataw Island, whose extraordinary clean-up efforts after the hurricane were key to allowing this event to go ahead as planned. Chairs, Kathy Kelenski and Kathy McShane, also thank the DHF volunteers who helped set up, bar tend, and clean up.



Kathy Kelenski (right) and Kathy McShane (left) at the start of the Lowcountry Boil. Their hard work paid off with a very successful evening!



DHF President Marilyn Peck, steadied by Kathy Kelenski, welcoming everyone back to Dataw after Matthew's visit.

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The Tabby Tattler is a publication of the Dataw Historic Foundation, Dataw Island, South Carolina.

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2016 Dataaw Historic Foundation Members



Membership Categories

- **Lifetime Members** (Those whose lifetime contribution to the DHF is \$5,000 or more.)
- **Honorary Members** (Limited to those with an ancestral connection to Dataaw Island. Includes Sams family descendants and family descendents of other prior owners of Dataaw Island.)
- **Friends of DHF** (Those who have made a significant contribution to or have a special connection to DHF.)
- **Benefactors** (\$250) ■ **Patrons** (\$100) ■ **Supporters** (\$60) ■ **Members** (\$40)

Our history makes us unique among residential communities and our efforts to preserve and display that history are fun, educational and important to our future. Your support is important to us!

Look for our Membership Packet in January.

Help support our efforts to preserve this beautiful island that we all love!

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