

## An Historic Treasure Finds a Home at Dataw Island Clubhouse

On Tuesday evening, April 15, 2003, a large crowd of over 150 Dataw Historic Foundation members attended the unveiling of a wonderful and very valuable piece of art at the Dataw Island Clubhouse. The art is a museum quality, historically accurate scale model of the B.B. Sams Plantation House created by Dataw resident Jerry Hubbard. The original Plantation house was constructed in the late 1700s, and today the house ruins are among the most valuable displays of remaining tabby structures in America.

At the special reception for Jerry and his wife, Linda, the model was placed in a museum-type setting in the Clubhouse. Some months earlier, the Hubbards had gifted the model to the Dataw Historic Foundation; and at the April 15th event, the DHF officially loaned the model to the Club. As DHF President, Cathy Crocker said: "We are honored that Jerry and his wife decided to gift the model to DHF. We plan to showcase it and will endeavor to be good custodians of this impressive new addition to our historic collection. We know it will provide much pleasure to the residents of the island."

The enthusiastic DHF crowd marveled at the meticulous detail of the model. Jerry told several members that "building things" has been a passion of his since childhood days in England. He built his first real sailboat with his brother when he was 14 and has built five catamarans over the years. His passion for "building things" continued after he graduated from MIT as a mechanical engineer. Now he gets great satisfaction out of sculpting and carving birds. Since 1998 Jerry has completed 10 sculptures and carvings and several have been exhibited in local galleries.

His "passion" for this special project began when he was approached by DHF Board member, Warren Dickson, and asked if he would do a small model for the foundation. As Jerry remembers, "I said yes because of my interest in the ruins and Dataw's history. I was willing to put some time into the project because I wanted it to be better than a similar model on Spring Island. But, I had no idea it would take me over a year and close to 600 hours to complete." Linda said that Jerry became immersed in the project because he is a "great stickler for detail and was determined to make the model as authentic as possible."

Jerry began the project in late 2001 and first built a cardboard version to gain some sense of scale. Researching the history of the house to make sure the final model would be as accurate as possible took almost six months. He was able to gain valuable insight from two books which covered the archeological evidence of the house, a mid 1800s sketch of the house, a late 1800s diary of one of B .B. Sams sons and several discussions with historians Colin Brooker and Larry Rowland.. He also made a trip to Retreat Plantation which was built in 1740-50 and which is nearly identical to the central, and oldest portion of the Sams Plantation.

Jerry began to build the actual wooden model in the spring of 2002 and completed it some months later. The model is 46" long x 24" wide by 14.5 inches high.

Now that Jerry has completed the model, he claims he will have more time for golf. Yet he remains very busy as a member of the Dataw Island Club Board of Directors and during his spare time he continues with a "passion for building things" by putting finishing touches on a new eagle sculpture and beginning a Carolina wren. Thank you Jerry caring about Dataw's history and for taking many hours out of your busy schedule to create a true historic treasure for the residents of Dataw Island.

*Jack Brown*