

A New Era

ALCOA purchased Dataw Island in 1983, determined to build a premier residential community. Meticulous attention was given to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the island and its moss-draped live oaks, ponds, and saltwater marshes. This beauty and bounty continues to make the island a unique and special place to live. The gracious clubhouse and the Tom Fazio championship Cotton Dike course opened even before Dataw's first residents arrived in 1985. In addition, there was tennis, fishing, boating, swimming, the Cannery, and a public garden. The new residents quickly developed a warm and caring community spirit that continues to endure on Dataw.

ALCOA sponsored numerous excavations to recover information from important Indian and plantation sites. Archaeologists conducted excavations to learn about life at the B. B. Sams plantation. Architects studied the ruins to develop a stabilization plan. Dataw's residents formed the Ruins Committee to help with preservation. In 1997, this group became the Dataw Historic Foundation. The foundation serves as steward of Dataw's history and has inspired a passion for island history in many residents. There is no doubt Dataw Island's pristine marsh, winding tidal creeks, and deep connections to the past have made it one of the most successful private golf, tennis, and boating communities in America.



1990s archaeological investigations.



Dataw's clubhouse.

The causeway to Dataw in the 1940s.

