

# SINHG/SIPOA

## Nature Trails

Seabrook Island Natural History Group, in conjunction with SIPOA, maintains 4 walking trails on Seabrook Island. These trails, on SIPOA property, have been established and are maintained as a joint project of SINHG and SIPOA.

Most of us enjoy the beauty of Seabrook Island's unspoiled beaches, panoramic salt marshes, and quiet streets lined with majestic live oaks. But many of us are not aware of the opportunity the trails provide to have a peaceful walk through natural areas.

The 4 trails are all maintained in their natural states and some have markers identifying the vegetation. They are for foot traffic only, not bicycles. And they should only be used from dawn to dusk.

For safety purposes, people are requested to stay on the trails and not interfere with the wildlife or vegetation. Bug spray and/or sun



photo by Diane Nations

screen may be needed in summer months.

**TRAIL**  
**RATING:**  
*1 = easiest*  
*5 = most difficult*

photo by Dr. Philip Bach

### Old Drake Nature Trail



photo by Lisa Vituliano

**Difficulty level: 1**  
**Location:** Turn off Seabrook Island Road onto Old Drake Drive. The trail begins at the pumping station. Parking is along Old Drake Rd.

#### Trail Description:

This is the shortest trail. It provides easy access to 3 benches for sitting and enjoying the tranquility of the salt marsh. The trail is in the shape of a T. It goes through Loblolly pines and skirts the salt marsh before ending at clearly marked private property and the equestrian trail. At this point, just retrace your steps. Take the time to relax on one of the benches and listen for the sounds of pistol shrimp snapping and oysters clapping. Do not walk on the equestrian trail – it is not a place for people on foot, especially since

the pine needles muffle the sound of a horse's hooves and both of you may get a surprise!

### Hidden Oaks Nature Trail

**Difficulty level: 2**

There are several wooden steps.

**Location:** Turn off

Seabrook Island Road onto St.

Christopher Lane. Turn right on Hidden Oak Drive. The trail parking area is immediately on the left. The trail exits the parking area and parallels Hidden Oak Drive

#### Trail Description:

This is the most well known trail. It is semi-circular, leading from the parking area down through the woods and around a small lagoon before ending on Hidden Oaks Drive. At the end, you can either retrace your steps or return to the parking area via the road. There are 2 sets of wooden steps at steep areas of the trail. Often deer can be seen in the woods. The



photo by Dr. Philip Bach



photo by Diane Nations

lagoon has a resident alligator and several pond sliders. There are plant

identification markers along the way. This trail borders Camp St. Christopher. The Camp has named one of the live oaks the Kissing Tree. Look at the back of the tree and you will see what's left of the mouth!

## Six Ladies Nature Trail



**Difficulty level: 5**  
The trail starts as level 3, but changes to level 5 past the overlook  
**Length: 1/3 mile**  
**Location:** The

parking area for this trail is off Oyster Catcher Court or you can park at the POA Community Center, and access from the street or Nature Walk.

**Trail Description:** This is the newest and most rugged trail. It is very hilly because it traverses old dunes. These dunes were formed long ago when the ocean came as far inland as Oyster Catcher Court and covered what is now the Ocean Point community. This trail climbs toward a lookout point with a wonderful view of the salt marsh

and Cap'n Sam's Creek. If you approach quietly, you may see an otter family on the creek bank. Do not go near the



photo by Mary Torallo

edge of the bank since it may give way. Other animal sightings include herons, egrets and cormorants fishing in the creek. You may choose to retrace your steps or continue on as the trail changes to a level 5. You are now climbing the old dunes as you enter a young palmetto forest and start upward toward Oyster Catcher Court. The footing is sandy and sometimes slippery. The trail is marked with white squares on the trees to lead you into and out of this trail.

## Bobcat Dune Nature Walk

**Difficulty level: 1** It is entirely a boardwalk although 2 sets of steps do occur  
**Length: 1/2 mile**

**Location:** Park in the SIPOA Community Center parking lot. Go through the short path at the back of the parking lot and follow the beach boardwalk toward the ocean. The nature trail boardwalk splits off to the left.

**Trail Description:** This trail runs through the dunes and is very sunny. Take the left fork to arrive at Oyster Catcher Road across the street from the Six Ladies Trail. Turn left on the street and the parking lot is 1000

yards away. You will see sweet grass, sea oats, palmetto, yucca, prickly pear cactus, broom sedge, yaupon holly, groundsel, and dog fennel. Birds and



photo by Charles Veister

snakes will add to your enjoyment.

**Enjoy the trails! Let nature engulf you. Take your time and keep your eyes and ears open. Your next great wildlife sighting could be right around the corner!**

brochure by Lynda Fox and Beverly Baird

for more information visit

[www.sinhg.org](http://www.sinhg.org)

[www.sipoa.org](http://www.sipoa.org)

# SEABROOK ISLAND NATURE TRAILS



photo by David Ginder



Seabrook Island  
Natural History  
Group

and



Seabrook Island  
Property Owners  
Association