

# DO YOU KNOW?

## *Seabrook Island Nature Trails*

Seabrook Island is well known for the beauty of its natural beaches, salt marshes and maritime forest. Property owners and visitors are encouraged to witness this beauty first hand by walking the nature trails within the Seabrook Island Development and Camp St. Christopher. The trails are all maintained in their natural states and some have markers identifying the vegetation. They are for foot traffic only, and 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 screen may be needed in summer months. A brief description of the trails follows with a map.

### **Bobcat Trail**

The Bobcat Trail is entirely boardwalk with 2 sets of steps. This ½ mile trail intersects in the middle of Boardwalk 1 and ends on Oyster Catcher Ct. It can be accessed from either end. The trail is very sunny and extends through wax myrtle covered dunes and along the marsh. You will see sweet grass, sea oats, palmetto, yucca, prickly pear cactus, broom sedge, yaupon holly, groundsel, and dog fennel. Brown Pelicans, gulls of various types, osprey, egrets and crows are often seen flying overhead. The myrtles host beautiful painted buntings and great crested flycatchers in the summer while eastern towhee, yellow-rumped warblers and Carolina chickadees are among many birds seen at other times. Occasionally, a snake can be seen lounging on the boardwalk or sneaking out from under its shade.

### **Six Ladies Nature Trail**

Six Ladies Nature Trail is the most rugged of the trails and the most natural. Parking for this 1/3 mile trail is across Oyster Catcher Rd at the start of Bobcat Trail. It is very hilly because it traverses old dunes formed when the ocean came as far inland as Oyster Catcher Court. This trail climbs toward a lookout point with a panoramic view of the salt marsh and Cap'n Sam's Creek. There is a bench and picnic table located at the lookout. Do not go near the edge of the bank since it may give way. Wildlife sightings include herons, egrets and cormorants fishing in the creek. You may choose to retrace your steps or continue on as the trail gets steeper. Footing along this trail is sandy and sometimes slippery. After rains or high tides, wading through a small drainage swale may be required if you choose to not retrace your steps after the lookout. The trail is marked with gray signs with arrows on the trees to lead you into and out of this trail.

### **Old Drake Nature Trail**

Old Drake Nature Trail is the shortest trail. It is accessed off Seabrook Island Rd on Old Drake Dr. Parking is on Old Drake Dr. The trail begins at the pump station. It provides easy access to 2 benches for sitting and enjoying the salt marsh. Take the time to relax on one of the benches and watch herons and egrets fly above the 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 (left) and the equestrian trail (right). At this point, just retrace your steps to return to the beginning of the trail.

### **Hidden Oaks Nature Trail**

Hidden Oaks Nature Trail is accessed by turning off Seabrook Island Rd onto St. Christopher Ln. Turn right on Hidden Oak Dr. The trail parking area is immediately on the left. The trail parallels Hidden Oak Dr. while bordering Camp St. Christopher. This trail is semi-circular, leading from the parking area down through the woods and around a small lagoon before ending on Hidden Oaks Dr. There are 2 sets of steps

along the trail. Often deer can be seen in the woods and occasionally an alligator in the lagoon. At the end, you can either retrace your steps or return to the parking area via the road.

### Lake House Nature Trail

The Lake House Nature Trail is located near the Lake House and is accessed by parking in the Lake House lot near the pool end. As you walk past the playground and basketball courts, the trail entrance is on your right and crosses a bridge before going into the maritime forest behind the basketball court. The trail weaves through the woods before ending at a bench along the bike path on Seabrook Island Rd. Deer and various songbirds along with other wildlife are commonly seen on this trail. While not part of the trail, you can continue your walk on the path around the adjacent Palmetto Lake.

### Camp St. Christopher Trails

Camp St. Christopher also has several nature trails and scenic sights available. However, to access them, you **must** make a reservation 1-2 days ahead by calling (843) 768-0429 (M-F). When approved, you can then enter the Camp on your appointed date and check-in at the Welcome Center to receive your guest pass and a map of their trails. No pets are allowed.

