



4TH ANNUAL WINTER L.A.R.E. FIELD TRIP

JANUARY 21, 2017

HODGES GARDENS STATE PARK



(BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT): ANNIE TYLER, ROYAL TYLER, DOUG PIERITZ, SEAN KRIEG, NIKKI KRIEG, ERIC GRIMES **(FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT):** DYLANDEROUEN, ELISABETH PIGOTT, CANNON DAHLHAUSER, CHRISTINE DAHLHAUSER, JESSICA MILLER, BRAD 'BONES' GLORIOSO

TRIP DETAILS

We met at 10:00 a.m. at the visitor center of Hodges Gardens State Park. We began by herping around the formal gardens, picking up a couple of frog and lizard species. As it began to warm up we went to the Wild Azalea trail, but turns out I do not think we were on that trail at all. In any event there we found a nice small fishless pool of water where the egg masses of Spotted Salamanders and Southern Leopard Frogs were found. Sean also kicked up one of the Western Ribbonsnakes in the shallows of this pool. We heard the Pseudacris species on this trail calling in the distance and picked up another Western Ribbonsnake. The sun kept trying to peak out but never quite satisfactorily enough for the snakes to really come out, though the temperatures were mild. Lastly we took the short but gorgeous Longleaf Pine Stump Trail. Though we turned up very little it was deemed a place of great herp potential. As a bonus we saw and heard often a pair of bald eagles that had a nest on the lakeshore high in a pine tree. It was a beautiful day to be out in the woods with folks who share the appreciation for the outdoors, and in particular amphibians and reptiles. Seven of the twelve participants were first timers, including two visiting entomologists from Minnesota that helped us identify some of the 'bugs'. In all, we detected only 9 species, but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves!

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES DETECTED

SPOTTED SALAMANDER	<i>AMBYSTOMA MACULATUM</i>	3 EGG MASSES
BLANCHARD'S CRICKET FROG	<i>ACRIS BLANCHARDI</i>	4
GREEN TREEFROG	<i>HYLA CINEREA</i>	3
SOUTHERN LEOPARD FROG	<i>LITHOBATES SPHENOCEPHALUS</i>	2 EGG MASSES
SPRING PEEPER	<i>PSEUDACRIS CRUCIFER</i>	CALLING ONLY
CAJUN CHORUS FROG	<i>PSEUDACRIS FOUQUETTEI</i>	CALLING ONLY
GREEN ANOLE	<i>ANOLIS CAROLINENSIS</i>	2
LITTLE BROWN SKINK	<i>SCINCELLA LATERALIS</i>	5
WESTERN RIBBONSNAKE	<i>THAMNOPHIS PROXIMUS</i>	2