



# 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WINTER L.A.R.E. FIELD TRIP

FEBRUARY 10, 2019

FULLERTON LAKE RECREATION COMPLEX  
CALCASIEU DISTRICT, KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST



**BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** BRAD 'BONES' GLORIOSO, MEGAN DENENEA, CAT MCMAHAN, MICHAEL BALDWIN, MINDY BROOKS, JESSICA THORNTON, DA'VONNE GRIFFIN, JIM PARKER, SEAN KRIEG, KAREN TERRELL, CJ HILLARD, CLAY ARDOIN, KALLI PROFFITT, MIMI HEINTZ, JOEY HEINTZ, BRITTANY MALDONADO **FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** HARVEY PREJEAN, HENRY PREJEAN, ILIANA TRAHAN, ALAN TRAHAN  
**NOT PICTURED:** MICHEL OHMER, STEPHI DICKINSON, JEFF BEDNARK

## TRIP DETAILS

The group met at 10:00 a.m. Air temps were cold overnight but warmed up nicely into the upper 60s in the afternoon. Unfortunately it was cloudy and we did not find as many snakes as we would have liked. After we took our group picture, we began herping and immediately flipped a plump Fowler's Toad near the lake. Eventually we came upon the first of many breeding pools of Spotted Salamanders where we observed many egg masses. We typically target ambystomatid salamanders on our winter trips and this trip did not disappoint - we found 23 adults and 100+ egg masses of Spotted Salamanders, and 9 adults and 30+ larvae of Marbled Salamanders. We turned up seven species of frogs/toads, a few common lizards, and a couple of common turtle species basking in the lake. It was not until we emerged from the forest onto the levee trail that we found our two snakes. The sun had peaked out a bit and we found a Plain-bellied Watersnake basking near the lake. It unfortunately had gross signs of snake fungal disease. Just after that snake Sean found a juvenile Coachwhip, a first for a LARE field trip. Many attendees had never been to Fullerton Lake and were enjoying the historical aspect of the site. We ended the trip about 2:30 p.m. and some of us went over to the area where the former hotel, school, and pool once existed. The concrete swimming pool is now a great breeding spot for ambystomatid salamanders, as evidenced by the dozens of egg masses and larvae. Overall, the sixth L.A.R.E. winter field trip was a great success with 23 attendees (including four youths) and 19 species of amphibians and reptiles detected, some of which were lifers for some members!

## AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES DETECTED

SPOTTED SALAMANDER	<i>AMBYSTOMA MACULATUM</i>	23, 100+ EGG MASSES
MARBLED SALAMANDER	<i>AMBYSTOMA OPACUM</i>	9, 30+ LARVAE
THREE-TOED AMPHIUMA	<i>AMPHIUMA TRIDACTYLUM</i>	2
WESTERN DWARF SALAMANDER	<i>EURYCEA PALUDICOLA</i>	4
EASTERN NEWT	<i>NOTOPHTHALMUS VIRIDESCENS</i>	1
BLANCHARD'S CRICKET FROG	<i>ACRIS BLANCHARDI</i>	6
FOWLER'S TOAD	<i>ANAXYRUS FOWLERI</i>	1
EASTERN NARROW-MOUTHED TOAD	<i>GASTROPHRYNE CAROLINENSIS</i>	1
GRAY TREEFROG COMPLEX	<i>HYLA CHRYSOSCELIS/VERSICOLOR</i>	1
GREEN FROG	<i>LITHOBATES CLAMITANS</i>	2, 7 TADPOLES
SOUTHERN LEOPARD FROG	<i>LITHOBATES SPHENOCEPHALUS</i>	4 EGG MASSES, 4 TADS
SPRING PEEPER	<i>PSEUDACRIS CRUCIFER</i>	1
GREEN ANOLE	<i>ANOLIS CAROLINENSIS</i>	3
COMMON FIVE-LINED SKINK	<i>PLESTIODON FASCIATUS</i>	1
LITTLE BROWN SKINK	<i>SCINCELLA LATERALIS</i>	3
COACHWHIP	<i>COLUBER FLAGELLUM</i>	1
PLAIN-BELLIED WATERSNAKE	<i>NERODIA ERYTHROGASTER</i>	1
RIVER COOTER	<i>PSEUDEMYS CONCINNA</i>	2
POND SLIDER	<i>TRACHEMYS SCRIPTA</i>	3