



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

JANUARY 18, 2020

WILD AZALEA TRAIL  
EVANGELINE UNIT, CALCASIEU DISTRICT  
KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST



**BACK ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** DAVID MALONE, JORDAN WEST, CARL HARRISON, BRETT LAMBERT, PATRICK MAHAFFEY, CAROL CORBAT, BILL VERSWYVELT, PHILIP VANBERGEN, SEAN KRIEG, BEN GRIZZLE, CHARLES BATTAGLIA **FRONT ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT):** LAURA LEE, HAYLEE MALONE, DAVONNE GRIFFIN, CJ HILLARD, MARY VERSWYVELT, DAVID ORSO, CAT MCMAHAN, ERIN BRYAN, HARRIETT POOLER, BRAD 'BONES' GLORIOSO **NOT PICTURED:** JOSH NICKENS

## TRIP DETAILS

We met at 9:00 a.m. at the parking lot near Woodworth. It was a cool and cloudy day, but luckily the forecasted heavy rains did not fall on us during the trip. We set off on the Wild Azalea Trail to a bottomland area with small creeks. Herping was a bit slow to start, only finding some common frogs and lizards, but we eventually found some of our targets, including Marbled Salamanders and a Spotted Salamander. We had lunch at the parking lot before caravanning over to the second and final spot just up the road. Here we quickly got into an area where we found several Spotted Dusky Salamanders and Western Dwarf Salamanders in short order. A juvenile Red-bellied Snake was spotted out on top of a log on a hillside, a welcomed find on a cool winter trip. Further down the trail we came across some very impressive vernal pools, including one that was very long and shallow, filled with many dozens of Spotted Salamander egg masses and at least a dozen Mole Salamander egg masses. It also had dozens of closely laid Southern Leopard Frog egg masses. An adult Mole Salamander was observed but not captured in this vernal pool under a log in shallow water. Around this same pool we found both Northern Cottonmouths. On the hike back to our vehicles, someone flipped the Eastern Narrow-mouthed Toad. We left the area about 3:15 p.m. In all, we had 22 attendees, about half of which were first-timers to a L.A.R.E. field trip, and detected 15 herp species with several folks gaining one or more lifers on the trip!

## AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES DETECTED

|                             |                                  |                        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| SPOTTED SALAMANDER          | <i>AMBYSTOMA MACULATUM</i>       | 5, 100+ EGG MASSES     |
| MARBLED SALAMANDER          | <i>AMBYSTOMA OPACUM</i>          | 5, 20+ LARVAE          |
| MOLE SALAMANDER             | <i>AMBYSTOMA TALPOIDEUM</i>      | 1, 15 EGG MASSES       |
| SPOTTED DUSKY SALAMANDER    | <i>DESMOGNATHUS CONANTI</i>      | 18                     |
| WESTERN DWARF SALAMANDER    | <i>EURYCEA PALUDICOLA</i>        | 13                     |
| BLANCHARD'S CRICKET FROG    | <i>ACRIS BLANCHARDI</i>          | 13                     |
| EASTERN NARROW-MOUTHED TOAD | <i>GASTROPHRYNE CAROLINENSIS</i> | 1                      |
| GREEN FROG                  | <i>LITHOBATES CLAMITANS</i>      | 15, 16 TADPOLES        |
| SOUTHERN LEOPARD FROG       | <i>LITHOBATES SPHENOCEPHALUS</i> | 1, 60+ EGG MASSES      |
| SPRING PEEPER               | <i>PSEUDACRIS CRUCIFER</i>       | 3, CALLING             |
| CAJUN CHORUS FROG           | <i>PSEUDACRIS FOUQUETTEI</i>     | 12 EGG MASSES, CALLING |
| GREEN ANOLE                 | <i>ANOLIS CAROLINENSIS</i>       | 7                      |
| LITTLE BROWN SKINK          | <i>SCINCELLA LATERALIS</i>       | 12                     |
| NORTHERN COTTONMOUTH        | <i>AGKISTRODON PISCIVORUS</i>    | 2                      |
| RED-BELLIED SNAKE           | <i>STORERIA OCCIPITOMACULATA</i> | 1                      |