For the geocaching lab, I went to www.geocaching.com and searched for any geocaches in my same zip code. I was so excited to find one geocache hidden about 0.7 miles from my house down the bayou. It was called Zorro, and when I mapped it using Google Earth, it appeared to be just past the bridge at the entrance to my neighborhood.

My dad and I set off in our pirogue on Friday afternoon, intent on finding Zorro. I had converted the given longitude and latitude into degrees, and then changed the settings on my GPS to correspond. I tracked our path using my GPS and when we got to the bridge, we slowed the boat down in order to closely monitor my GPS readings. However, we were trying to find N 30° 18.077 W 089° 49.653, yet the numbers on my GPS were changing much slower than I had expected. According to the tracker, we were still pretty far away from the geocache. We kept going for about 20 minutes and came to another bridge, much farther away from my house. I checked my GPS and at that time we were still a few miles away, judging by the distance we had already traveled. It was then that I realized that I had been looking at the wrong coordinates-those coordinates were for a geocache about 3 miles to our East. I should have instead been looking for a cache called “Beside Bonfouca.”

Upon realizing my mistake, we doubled back in the boat to the point where I had originally thought the cache was hidden at N 30° 17.116 W 089° 47.496. I confirmed our location with my GPS and climbed into the bayou and onto a wild piece of land. I attempted to hike inland, but about 12 feet onto land I realized that it was nearly impossible. There were huge cypress knees, downed trees, stumps, and weeds higher than my head, not to mention the possibility of snakes and other swamp creatures. I gave up hope of finding the geocache and instead decided to plot my location and leave something behind. There was an enormous tree that had been uprooted in Hurricane Katrina, and its roots were sticking high out of the ground. I had brought a long a bright neon green arrow to leave in the geocache, so I stuck the arrow on top of the roots, where there’s little danger that it will float away. The coordinates for this are N 30.28524° W 89.79173°. After leaving the arrow behind, we continued our boat ride back to my house.

Seeing the difficulty I had in finding this particular geocache, I assume that there was an easier/safer way to access this patch of marshland that I didn’t notice during my trip. There are a few little channels that run through the dry ground that may have enabled me to get on land a less treacherous way. All in all, it was quite an adventure!
Map of trip down bayou and back:

Where I hid my geocache:
The giant tree stump with green arrow at N 30.28524° W 89.79173°