

Decided to go out in the swamp this morning for a couple of hours. Water was low, temp was right, and I could see a long way in the woods since it is winter...perfect conditions.



This is how I get into the swamp. Depending on where you are on the walkway, it is about 5-6 feet off the ground. I started out about 800 feet down the boardwalk.



This is the walkway from the ground. It rests on 10' concrete pilings. One guy built this. It took him five years. That is what I call determination.



This is what it looks like going in. I have asked Anabel to go with me several times, but her answer is always the same...HELL NO. This is past Anabel's limit. Walkway ok. In the swamp on the ground, hell no.



You must carry a walking stick to probe the ground in front of you. It should come up to your chest like you see here. I use an old garden rake handle. Why? I will show you. I promise this is the only selfie.



This is my walking stick on the other side of a little tree in the mud. Bad idea not carry a stick. Stepping next to a tree is usually the way to go, but sometimes you can be fooled. You must use the stick to check in front of you. It is slow going. But I am in no hurry.



See the water line on the stick? This is how far down it went on the other side of that little tree trunk. One step back and you were ok. One step more and you would sink up to your chest in the mud. You must carry a stick.

This palmetto palm looks like something from out of a commercial landscape. I was really surprised to see Boston Ferns growing on the trunk. I looked it up and guess what? “Boston Ferns” are a native of Florida. They are called sword ferns. I had no idea. Pretty cool.





There were a bunch of swamp lily plants all round the tree as well. I bet this will look neat when they start blooming next year in the spring. Nature is the best landscaper.



This is another one, but it is wayyyy taller. The palms in the swamp are beautiful.

We have tons of woodpeckers out here.
Check out these trees. You see trees with
woodpecker holes all over the place.





Didn't see any animals this time. But I did see a lot of tracks. This is one from a raccoon. I took pictures of others, but they didn't come out so good.



Three things I didn't expect to find:

1. Cool turtle shell
2. Duck decoy
3. Wooden paddle





Went old school on this picture and did it in black and white. Sometimes the beauty of the woods themselves makes you stop and admire them for a little bit. It is why it is so cool being in them.

Till next time...