

Hollis Hatfield

"Ding" Darling Wildlife Society
Development & Communications Intern

To the 'Ding' Darling Wildlife Society,

I am beyond grateful for the skills I learned while working as a development and communications intern. I learned how to design graphics, manage social media accounts, and plan events. My undergraduate and graduate degrees were both in "Wildlife Conservation and Management" and I believe that the experience I gained with the Wildlife Society will prepare me to be successful in the professional world. Previous to this internship, I had lots of field work experience but had not worked for an environmental nonprofit before. I feel that I am a much more well-rounded candidate now that I have development and communications experience, to couple with my field work. The Wildlife Society also gave me the unique opportunity to assist with the WoW (Wildlife on Wheels). Getting to teach the younger generation about the environment was an absolute privilege.

Even though the skills I developed were priceless, what I am most grateful for are the friends and co-workers I met at 'Ding.' I was originally afraid that moving to a new state during the pandemic would be isolating, but that was far from the truth. The people I met at 'Ding' made Sanibel feel like home.

I cannot stress how grateful I am for my experience.

With gratitude,
Hollis Hatfield