

Taina A. Milán

2021 Suzanne Dubuc Education Intern, "Ding" Darling NWR

Dear "Ding" Darling Family

Thanks a thousand thanks for the opportunity and the privilege to work in such a beautiful place. "Ding" Darling is a place of wonder and surprises every day. From seeing alligators crossing by the Wildlife Drive to new born Yellow Crown Herons. Working with the Wildlife on Wheels (WoW) helped me to better understand what I want in life as a career. It was a beautiful experience filled with joy and pride in the job that I did as a Bilingual Educator and Outreach Intern. Bringing the refuge out to others was a blessed experience especially seeing the faces of the kids glowing with joy.

In times of limitations, like what we experienced with Covid, it was time to go out to our communities and show them the wonders of nature, the importance of conservation and everything that "Ding" Darling has to offer to our people. Just like Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling said: "Land, water and vegetation are just that dependent on one another. Without these three primary elements in natural balance, we can have either fish nor game, wild flowers nor trees, labor nor capital, nor sustaining habitat for humans." All of this is essential for our planet and for our communities. WoW is one big instrument to fulfill "Ding" Darling's mission.

With a joyful and thankful heart, I thank my supervisors and all who made it possible for me to be part of this beautiful refuge and of the WoW and serving as the Suzanne Dubuc Education Intern.

I will be taking skills I learned in my internship to the park system in North Carolina. It is my hope to find a permanent job in conservation in the United States or even back at my home of Puerto Rico.

I keep you all in my little heart and hope that you are all doing good and that the WoW keeps moving and bringing much joy and fun to our people, inspiring them to become conservation stewards.

Bless you all!

With much love,
Taina A. Milán