

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The *Florida Chapter of the Wildlife Society* sponsored two students, Hailee Quintero (2022 Recipient, and recent UCF graduate) and Lentil Evergreen (2020 Recipient, and recent FAU Honors College graduate), to attend the Southeastern Section Field Course held May 26-June 10, 2022, in Georgia. One of the students, Hailee, sent us this short summary of her experience.

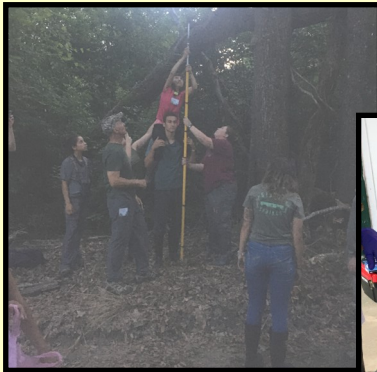


Hailee with corn snake.

The two weeks I spent at the Jones Center in Ichaaway for the SETWS field course were magical and transformative to say the least. Driving into the 30,000 acre long-leaf pine reserve, I felt like I had entered another world entirely! Dr. Daniel Greene and Dr. Mike Conner, among many others, made sure this course was worthwhile and I can't thank them enough for such an incredible experience. During our two weeks stay, we covered many things including but not limited to: small mammal trapping, owl & bat surveys, radio telemetry with quail, necropsies, and we even participated in a prescribed burn! We then used our accumulated skills to create a group project covering the data we collected.

Throughout the SETWS field course, I made so many connections with professors and professionals from all over the country while learning about their careers, some of which I had no idea existed beforehand. It was so refreshing to be surrounded by likeminded people that have the same passion for environmental conservation and to learn from one another. This experience truly rekindled the fire within me towards a career in conservation and made me hopeful for my future. Most of the material covered were things I never learned in my undergrad and getting to bridge the gap between the online classroom, due to COVID-19, and practical application was such a rewarding experience.

Finally, I would like to thank Monica Folk and the FL chapter of TWS for sponsoring me; it was an honor to participate in this field course and I will surely never forget my time spent in Ichaaway!



Setting up mist nets for bats..



Hailee at necropsy.



Lentil on ATV.



Lentil small mammal trapping.

All photos courtesy of Daniel Greene.

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