

May 29, 1964

Mrs. Ben Parks
140 Second Avenue, South
Naples, Florida

Dear Mrs. Parks:

The day I talked to you, I sent you about 500 copies of the Fahkahatchee pamphlets.

This letter confirms your appointment as Co-Chairman of the Fahkahatchee Strand Committee of Nature Conservancy. I am extremely gratified that you are taking the initiative in promoting support of the Fahkahatchee Strand project.

Several newspapers have published articles on the Fahkahatchee recently. Alex D. Hawkes, distinguished botanist and editor of the Tropic magazine, in an editorial to be published soon, writes, "Fahkahatchee ... is the home of weirdly beautiful Pond-Apple thickets where almost all of Florida's one hundred native orchids, eighteen native bromeliads and one hundred fifty kinds of native ferns grow. A considerable portion of these can be found no where else in the United States...". Dr. Leonard J. Brass, Authoritative botanist, describes the Fahkahatchee as an oasis, where West Indian, Central American and Temperate flora intermingle, protected from fires in a watery environment, resulting in great variety and concentration of species like no where else in North America.

My wife and I plan to be in Naples Friday, June 12th. If you would like to call a meeting anytime during that weekend of the Fahkahatchee Strand Committee, perhaps to meet at the Big Cypress Nature Center, I think it would be fine.

Mrs. Ben Parks
May 20, 1964

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Enclosed is a list of those people who have contributed to the Fahkahatchee Strand fund.

Sincerely,

Melvin Finn
South Florida Director
Florida Nature Conservancy

MF/ma
Enclosure