

FLORIDA NATURE CONSERVANCY
310 BISCAYNE BLDG., MIAMI 32, FLA.

October 8, 1964

Mr. Paul Bruce Dowling
3505 Cameron Hills Road
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Bruce:

I was happy to hear from you after so long. Good luck in your change of position.

No longer am I the president of the Florida chapter of the Nature Conservancy, but I seem to be doing as much as ever with all my activity concentrated on the Fakahatchee project. Jim Neville is the president of the Florida Nature Conservancy. I hope he turns out to be a good one.

When Dick Poe was at the annual meeting at Estero last April, he suggested that I approach the Sec. Udall about a possible national monument status for the Fakahatchee. Rather than a direct approach to him, I decided on an indirect approach through our senators and two key representatives. Senators Smathers and Holland and Reps. Fascell and Rogers, responded immediately with vigor. Subsequently Sec. Udall instructed the National Park Service to undertake a study of the area and report within 60 days. During August 19-22, I participated in the field study with Robert Squire and Ernie Schultz out of the Richmond office.

We are really moving now. Pushing hard for a FANKAHATCHEE STRAND WILDERNESS PARK under the Florida Outdoor Recreation Act passed last November 10, 1963, and also pushing hard for a FANKAHATCHEE STRAND WILDERNESS NATIONAL MONUMENT under the Interior Dept.. we are unremitting in our efforts. My guess is that over 100 news releases have been printed on the Fakahatchee, not the least of which appeared in the New York Times dated September, 27, 1964.

One day last summer right after our Estero meeting, a lovely looking lady from Naples, Florida, dropped into my office to inquire about "conservation" and particularly about the Fakahatchee, which she had read about in my pamphlet. She turned out to be the most energetic and influential person person on this project that I could possibly hope for. Her name is --

Mrs. Ben (Jane) Parks
865 Fifth Avenue South
Naples, Florida

Her husband is a well regarded attorney in Naples and she runs an office engaged in real estate in downtown Naples, known as Gulf Realty Co. I tell you this, because she is a dream come true, both beautiful to look at and beautiful in spirit. She has organized the Women's clubs, Jr. Clubs, realty organizations, Chambers of Commerce, etc., in a mass support of "saving the Fakahatchee". You and Dick can do no better than to write to her on conservation matters especially with regard to the Fakahatchee project.

Jane Parks, with her energy and enthusiasm, and I, will succeed in preservation of the Fakahatchee. Of this I feel certain.

If you are not up-to-date, Florida enacted its outdoor recreation act last November, known as the Florida Outdoor Recreation Act of 1963, it is headed by a planning committee headed by Ney C. Landrum, Director.

Florida Outdoor Recreational Planning Committee

Roster

Ney C. Landrum, Director
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Hon. Ferris Bryant, Governor
Chairman

Hon. Doyle Conner, Commissioner of Agriculture
Vice Chairman

Hon. Randolph Hodges, Director, Fla. Board of Conservation

Mr. Wendell Jarrard, Chairman, Fla. Development Commission

Mrs. G. T. Smith, Chairman, Board of Parks & Historic Memorials
Route 5, Box 202, Ocala, Fla.

MR. John Phillips, Chairman, State Road Department

Mr. Marcus Rawls, President, Fla. Board of Forestry
P. O. Box 4910, Jacksonville, Fla.

Mr. Ed Madill, Chairman, Fla. Game & Fish Comm.
401 North 7th Street, Dade City, Fla.

Note: All addresses are Tallahassee, Fla. unless otherwise indicated.

Since natural area acquisition is part of the outdoor program, 700,000 acres, mentioned in the publication, Florida Outdoor Recreation At The Crossroads, it would be appropriate if you and Dick would pitch in whenever you can to propagandize the planning committee.

I had been planning to write Dick Pough for some time. Perhaps you will permit me to send him a copy of this letter.

Sincerely

Melvin Finn
MELVIN FINN

P. S. You and Dick Poe are both on the Fakahatchee Strand Committee, in any capacity that you like to serve.