

in *Saturday Evening Post*, produced as the movie "Swamp Water," and the resulting increase in interest by automobile tourists insured not only the survival of the Refuge, but its growth in stature as well. By 1947, a decade after its creation, the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge had become an institution in the American mind as well as in American law.

In 1974 the sanctuary that had been sought and created was secured. The Okefenokee Swamp was designated a National Natural Landmark in September 1974. A month later President Gerald Ford signed the law creating the Okefenokee National Wilderness Area.⁴⁹ In 1981 the wilderness canoe trails in the Okefenokee were designated to be part of the National Wilderness Trail System.

The U.N. International Wetlands Convention meeting at RAMSAR in Iran in 1987 designated the Okefenokee Swamp to be a Wetland of International Importance. When the U.S. Senate ratified this treaty the Okefenokee Swamp also became an international institution.

⁴⁹ An Act to Designate Certain Lands in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia, As Wilderness. Public Law 93-429, 93rd Congress, H.R. 6395, October 1, 1974. Savannah *Morning News*, October 2, 1974. National Natural Landmark Brief, National Park Service, September 1974. Proposed by Richard H. Goodwin, William A. Niering, and Gary S. Waggoner. W/ Map. Sharon C. Keene to John D. Schroer, October 8, 1986.