

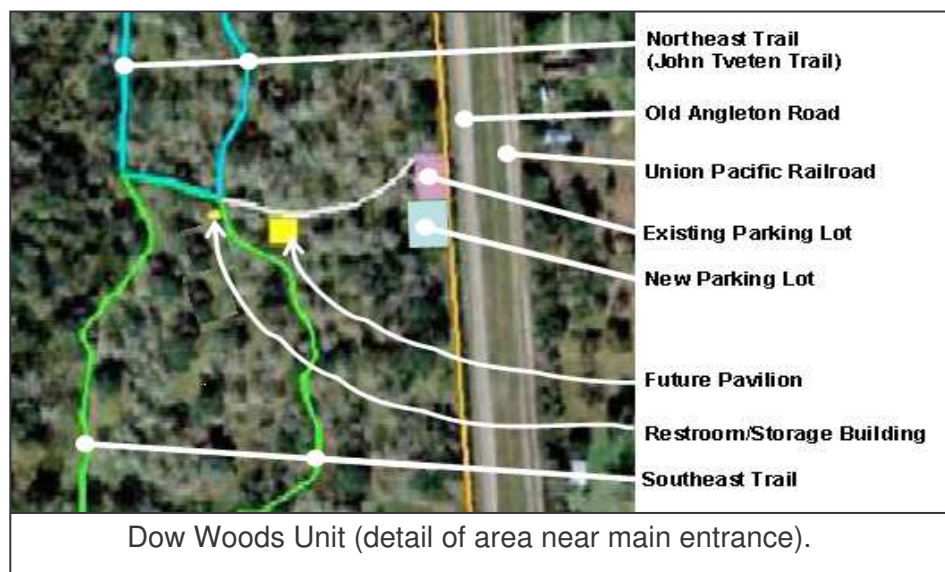
DOW WOODS REPORT

By Neal McLain

Here's another monthly report about our Chapter's efforts on behalf of US Fish & Wildlife Service in support of the new Dow Woods Unit of San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge.

The Dow Woods Unit is located in Lake Jackson, north of FM2004 near Old Angleton Road. The entrance gate is off Old Angleton Road about a half mile north of FM2004. This property was donated to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service by The Dow Chemical Company in December 2008. Bastrop Bayou crosses the property, flowing north to south. The property is covered by extensive old growth forest—Live Oak, Water Oak, and Hackberry.

USFWS plans to develop this property for public use. Here's a map of planned facilities:

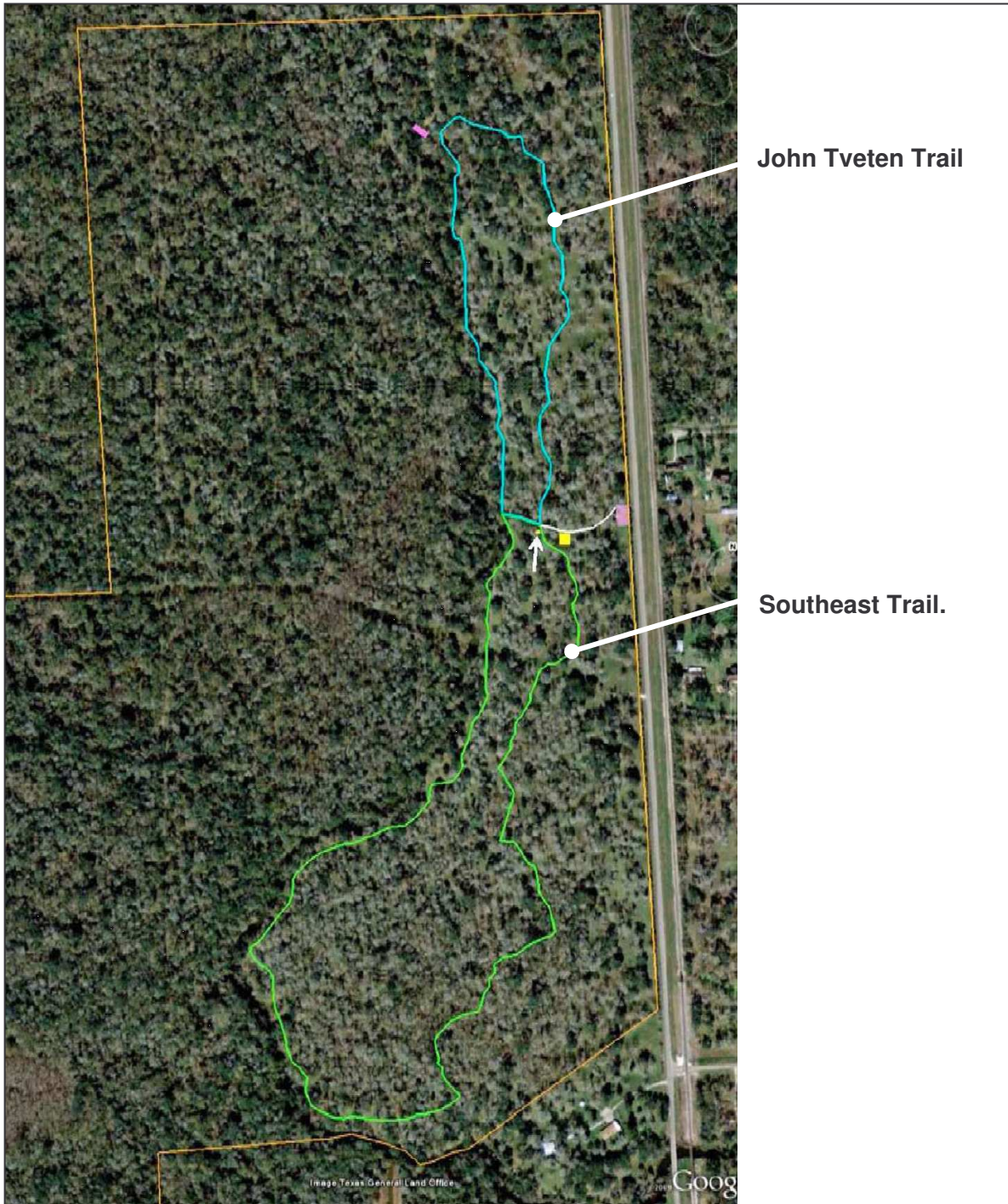


And here's a list of the planned facilities:

- **Restroom and storage building.** This project is under contract, and we expect construction to begin within a month or so. It will incorporate two restrooms and a storage room for mowing equipment.
- **Larger parking lot.** USFWS staff has already started construction. The new parking lot will provide parking for three school busses, and enough space that busses can enter and leave without having to back up.
- **Trails.** Several TMN-COT members are already helping design the trails. At the moment, we're still in the planning stages, but we hope to get started with actual construction as soon as possible.

See the next page for a trail map of the entire property.

Dow Woods Report



Dow Woods Unit Trails. The west side of each loop trail hugs the shore of Bastrop Bayou, affording visitors a close-up view of the bayou. Map by Denis Mudderman from information collected in January and February 2010.

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We have divided our efforts into two groups:

- **The hard-surface group.** This group recommends the design and specification of trail segments constructed of concrete or compacted granular materials. This group includes TMN-COT members Phil Huxford, Archie Pratt, and me. Also serving on this group are Don VanDragt (a retired Dow employee) and Tom Schneider (USFWS). Shane Kasson, Manager of San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, serves as chair.
- **The boardwalk group.** This group designs and constructs boardwalks in areas where the trail crosses over swales and wetlands. This group plans special structures such as viewing platforms overlooking Bastrop Bayou. This group includes TMN-COT members Billy Heck, Gerald Forrest, Kirby Rapstein, Marty Cornell, and me. Shane Kasson also chairs this group.



The Boardwalk Bunch. Cradle of Texas Chapter members Kirby Rapstein, Billy Heck, and Gerald Forrest serve on the boardwalk group. They're anxious to get started hammering!

Dow Woods Report

THE FIRST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Here's an opportunity to earn some volunteer hours! We'll start construction on the southeast trail on May 8, 2010. We'll be joined by volunteers from Southwest Airlines and The Dow Chemical Company.

We plan is to start construction on the "upland" (east) side of the southeast trail. Before we start, USFWS staff will clear the trail route, scraping off the top layer of top soil down to a depth of 2 or 3 inches. Then on May 8, volunteers will place steel edge strips and crushed concrete. Lunch and water will be provided. Marty Cornell and his world-famous food crew will be cooking hotdogs for lunch.

Bring along a hammer, a garden rake (not a leaf rake), and a wheelbarrow if you have one. And better bring mosquito repellent!

See you on May 8!

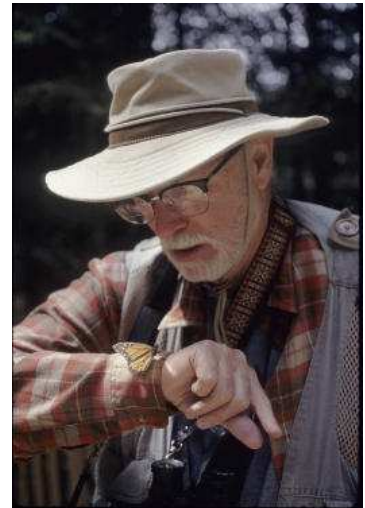
WHO WAS JOHN TVETEN?

The John Tveten Trail was named in honor of John L. Tveten, a naturalist, author, photographer and longtime *Houston Chronicle* columnist. Tveten died of cancer on October 12, 2009.

For more than 30 years, Tveten wrote about and photographed creatures of nature and wildflowers. He wrote numerous books and co-authored five with his wife of 51 years, Gloria. The Baytown couple traveled widely in pursuit of nature and shared their adventures in [Wildflowers of Houston and Southeast Texas](#) and [Butterflies of Houston and Southeast Texas](#), both published by University of Texas Press.

He also was a naturalist and tour leader for the Smithsonian Institution, National Audubon Society, Houston Museum of Natural Science and the Spring Branch Nature Center. ^[1]

Although John Tveten was not a member of our chapter, he was a guest speaker and a source of inspiration. He will be fondly remembered by the members of our chapter.



Tveten examines a butterfly at the El Rosario Monarch Reserve in central Mexico in 1997.

[1] Obituary of John L. Tveten. By Kathy Huber, *Houston Chronicle*, October 17, 2009.