

Betty's Best Features



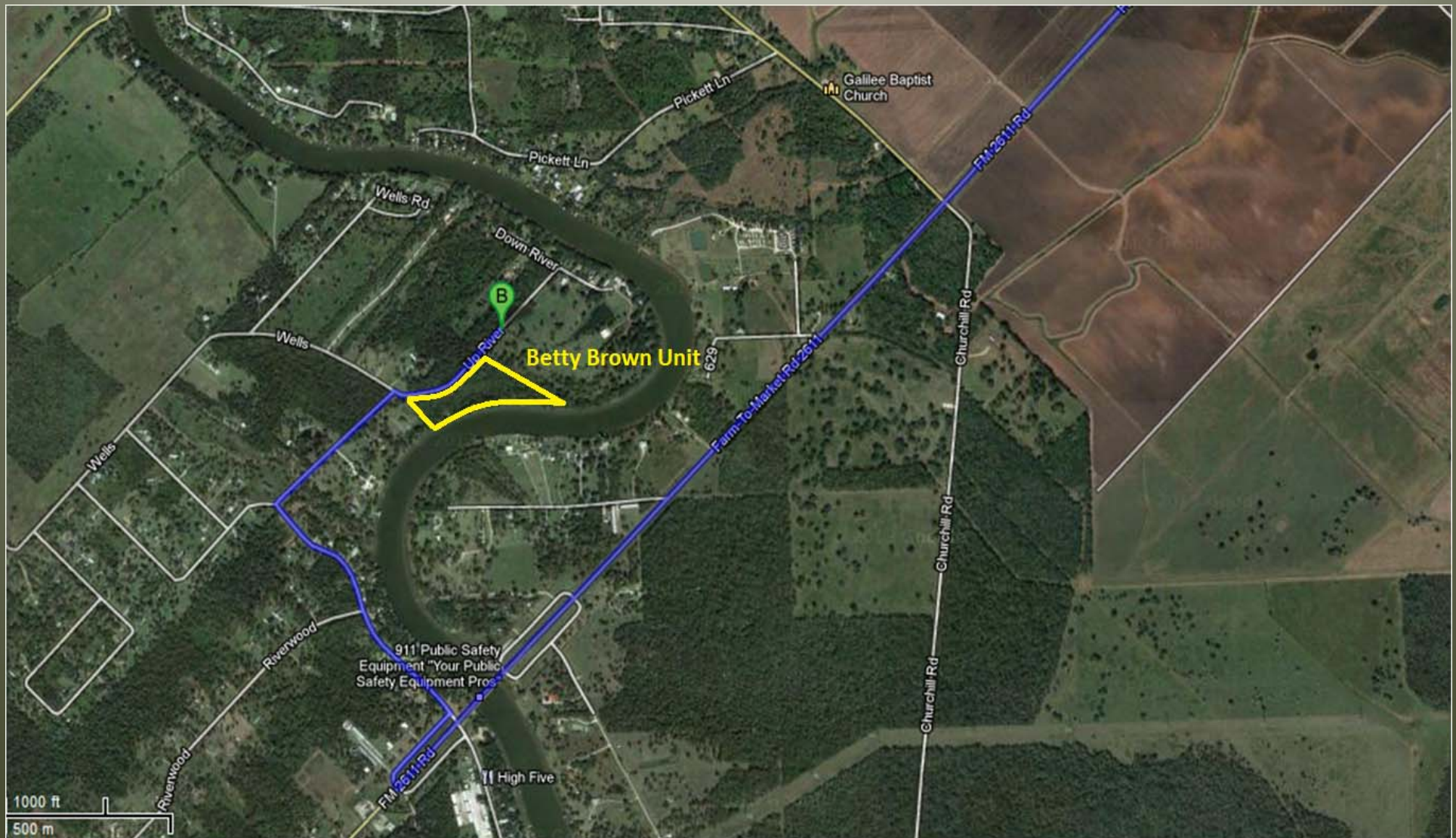
Project Team with Bob Muhm (aka Betty Brown's Bodacious Beaus)



Project Objective

- The main objective was to begin a flora and fauna list for the BBU.
- After four group visits & many individual visits, current inventory on the list is 10 tree, 16 understory, 16 vine, 42 non-woody, 10 grass, 3 misc. plant, 2 mammal, 28 bird, 1 reptile, 1 crustacean, 1 mollusk and 15 butterfly species.
- Secondary objectives include identification of unique features which would help draw visitors, and update of the existing web pages for the BBU.

Betty's Place in Satellite View



Bob Muhm tells of the recent history of the Betty Brown Unit



Ownership Chronology

Comments from Bob Muhm-

Prior to 1917 this area was all woods. Bought in about 1942 at a sheriff's auction.

At some point the 10 acres and surrounding sections were cleared and leased out for hay and grazing.

Aerial photo ~ 1980's showed area still cleared at that time.

The understory would now be ~30 years old or less.

9/27/1947 - Mary Reese McNeill will witnessed.

Grants BBU property in equal parts to children:

Perry Reese McNeill Sr. and Helen McNeill.

2/14/1959 - Geneva Bank of Illinois Grants Property (Lots 61 and 62) to Helen McNeill and Perry McNeill [Conveyance of Mineral Rights].

6/3/1972 - Mary Reese McNeill deceased.

9/7/1972 - Will Probated property Perry Reese McNeill Sr. and Helen McNeill.

11/18/1983 - Perry Reese Sr. deceased, grants several properties to Perry Reese McNeill, Jr. and Lolita McNeill Muhm.

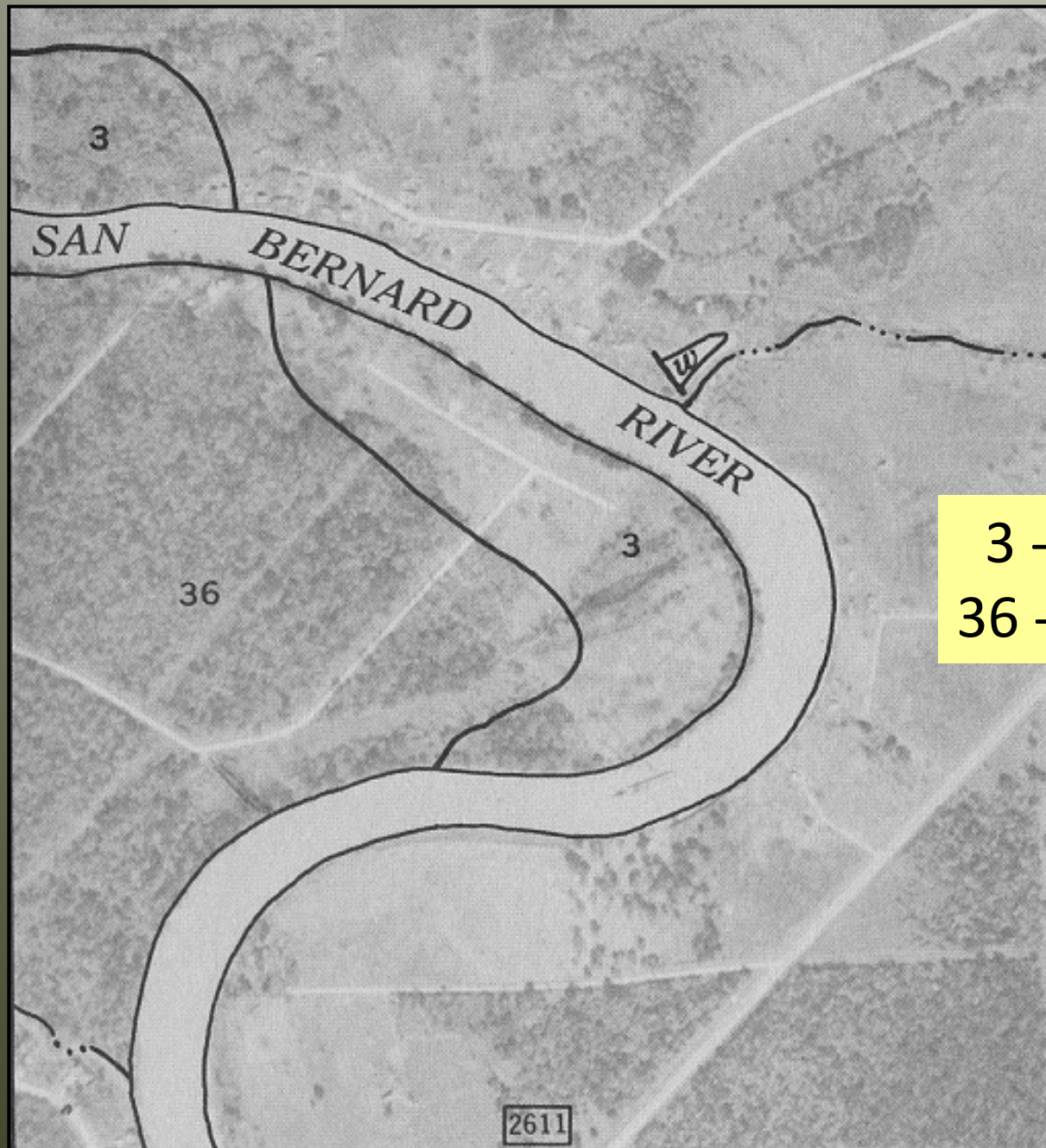
6/5/1995 - Perry Reese McNeill, Sr. property partitioned to heirs. Lolita McNeill Muhm receives ownership of BBU property.

6/13/2006 - Lolita McNeill and Robert E. McNeill convey BBU Property to United States of America (a.k.a., US Fish and Wildlife Service).

“No one knows why the slough or pond was named Betty Brown.”

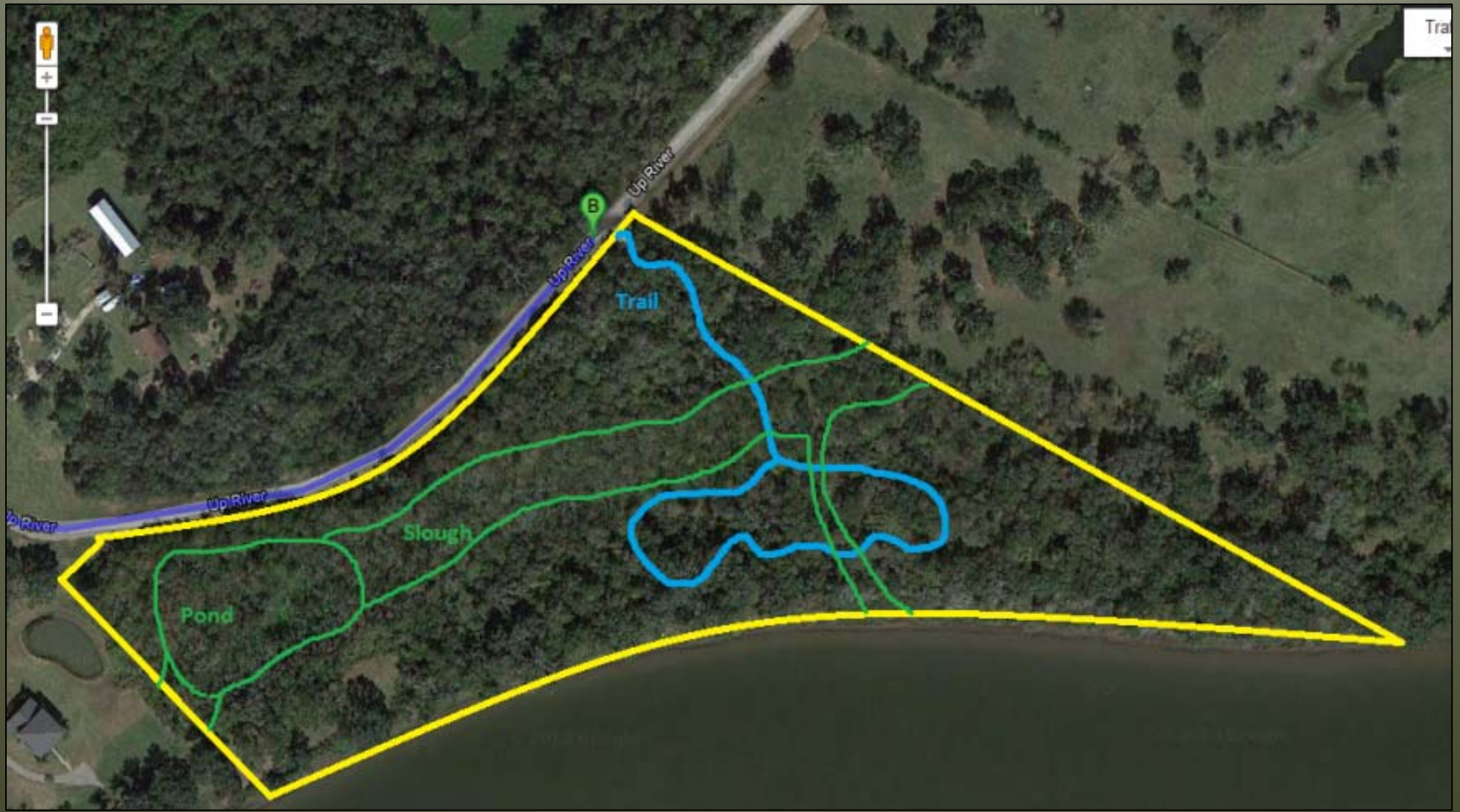
BETTY BROWN REMAINS A LADY OF MYSTERY!

Soil Survey Of Brazoria County (1981) reveals past geologic history



3 - Asa silty clay loam
36 - Pledger clay

The Betty Brown Pond and Slough



Views
of
the
unit



Views of the unit



Bushwhacking Off the Trail



Top 10 Reasons to visit the Betty Brown Unit

10. Purple Meadow-Rue



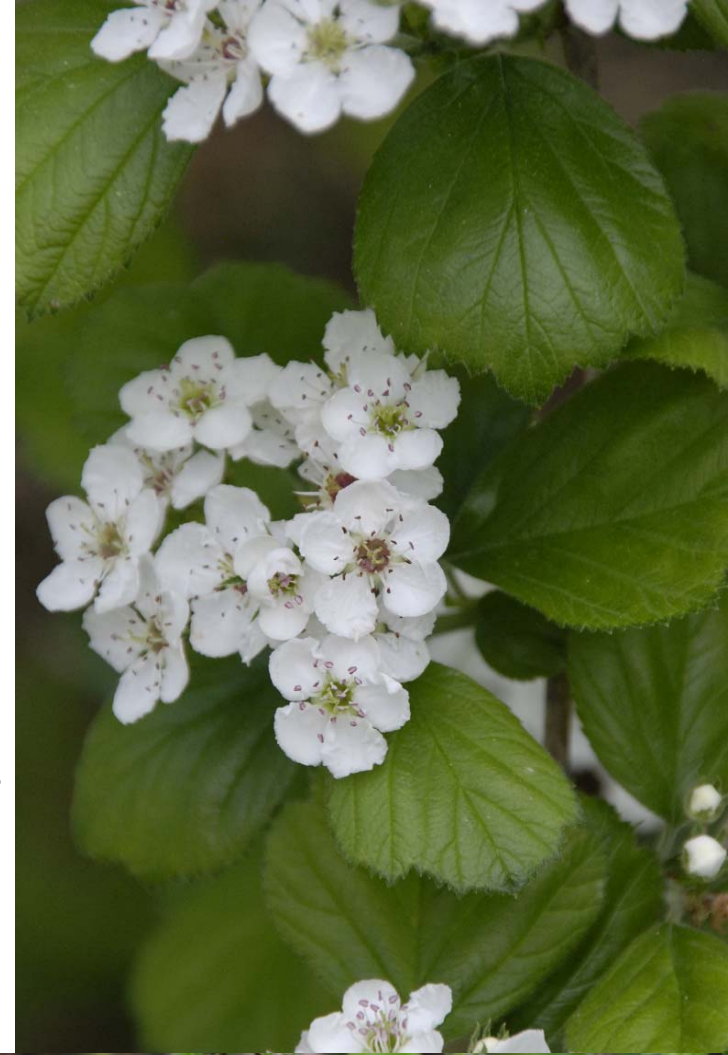
9. Clematis (2 species) [2,3]





8. Indigo Bush





7. Hawthorns

Green & Downy





Tropical Checkered Skipper



Little Wood Satyr



Phaon Crescent

6. Butterfly Hot Spot

*Larval Food Species
are present*



Dusky Blue Hairstreak + friend



Tiger Swallowtail (male)



Falcate Orangetip (male) [1]



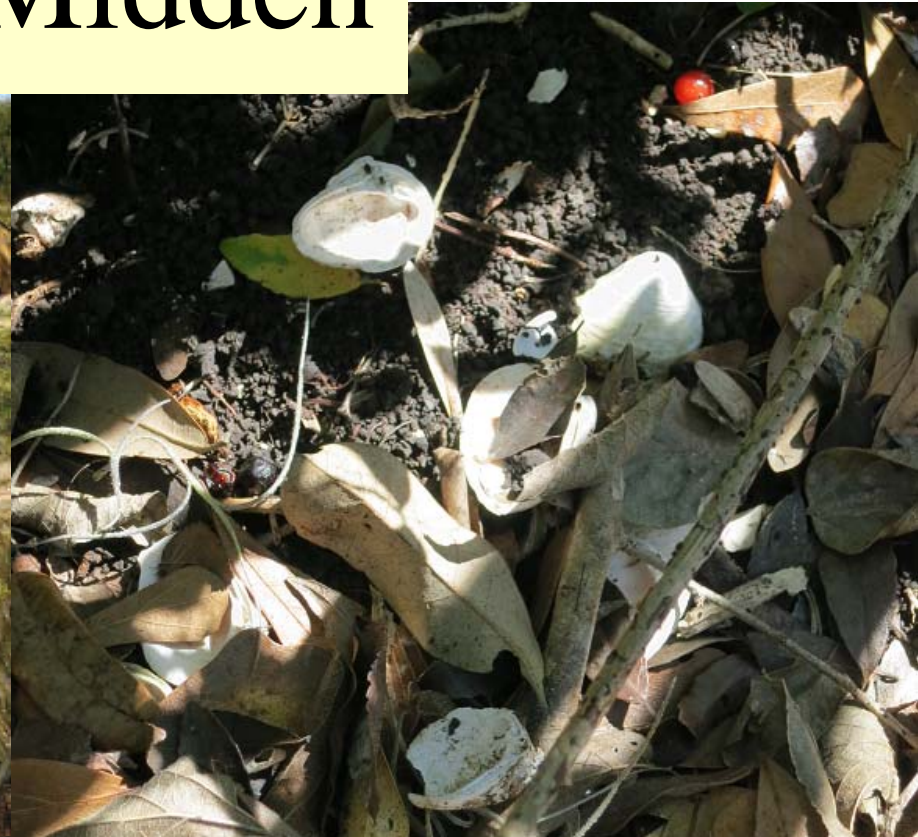
Pearl Crescent

5. Common Hop-tree





4. Prehistoric Shell Midden



3. Rusty Blackhaw *Viburnum*



2. Mexican Plum





1. Texas Umbrellawort



Advisers

Thomas Adams

Marty Cornell

Jerry Eppner

Ed Johnson

Tom Morris

Kirby Rapstein

James L. Smith

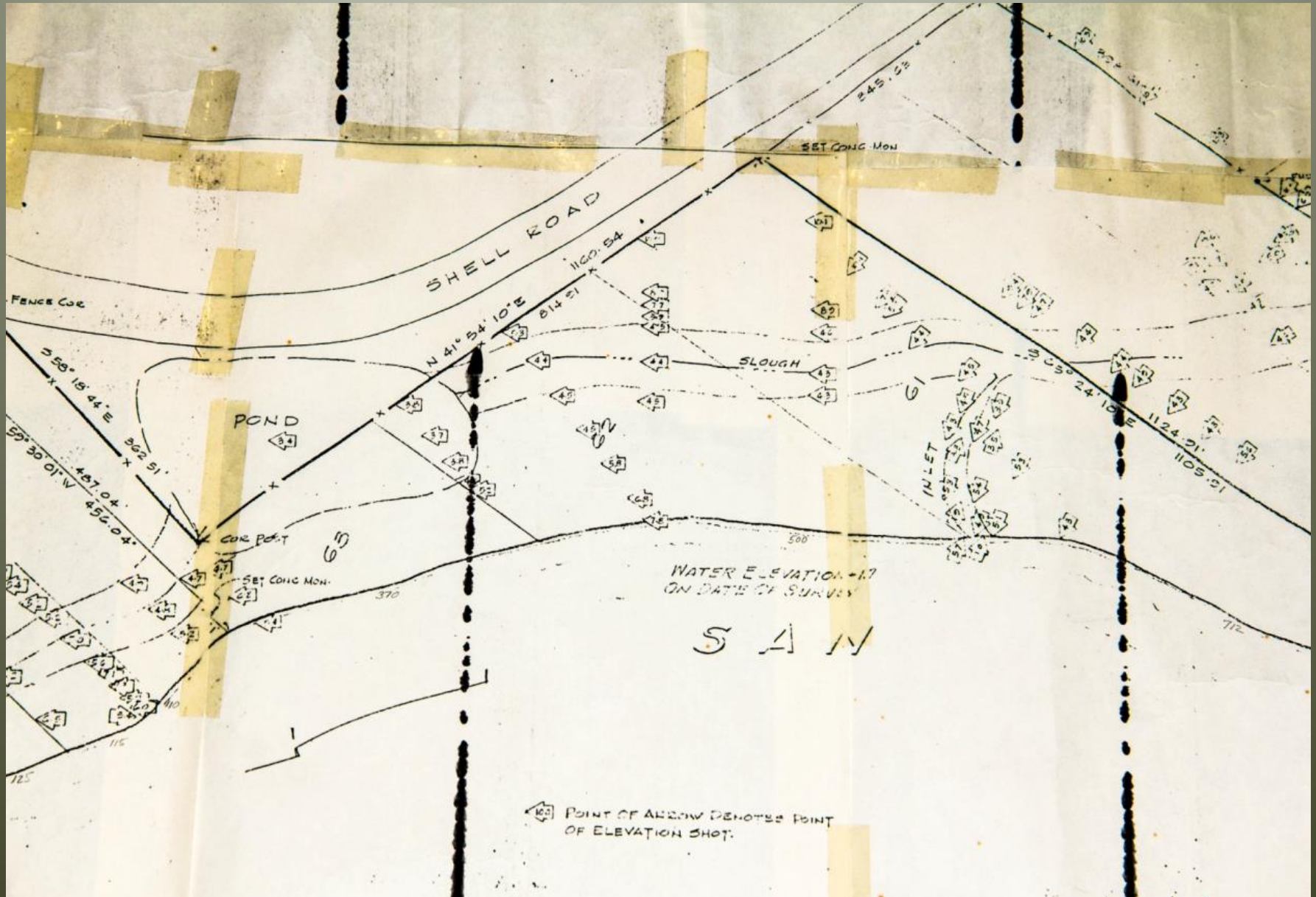
Directions to Betty Brown Unit

From Texas 332 & Farm to Market 2004, Lake Jackson, TX 77566†

Total distance **10.2 mi** – about **17 minutes**.

1. Head **south** on **Farm to Market 2004 S** toward **Texas 36** about 7 minutes. Go 5.4 miles; total 5.4 miles.
2. Continue onto **Farm-To-Market Rd 2611** about 6 minutes. Go 3.7 miles; total 9.1 miles
3. Turn right just after the Churchill bridge onto **Farm-To-Market Rd 2621**. Go 0.2 miles; total 9.3 miles.
4. Turn left onto **County Rd 659** About 1 minutes. Go 0.5 miles total 9.8 miles.
5. Turn right to stay on **County Rd 659** about 49 seconds. Go 0.3 miles; total 10.1 miles.
6. Turn right onto **County Rd 819B/Up River**. Go 0.1 miles; Total 10.2 miles.
7. The **Betty Brown Unit** will be on your right after the curve.

Section of Survey showing Flow Direction



References

- [1] Falcate Orangetip (*Anthocharis midea*). Gardens With Wings, 2013.
<http://www.gardenswithwings.com/butterfly/Falcate%20Orangetip/index.html>
- [2] *Clematis crispa* L. Swamp leatherflower, Curly clematis, Blue jasmine, Curlflower
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Native plant database.
http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=CLCR
- [3] *Clematis pitcheri*. Purple clematis, Purple leatherflower, Leatherflower, Bluebill
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Native plant database.
http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=CLPI