

What is *The Rivergator*?
Rivergator
Lower Mississippi River
Water Trail

The Rivergator describes the Lower Mississippi River Water Trail. *The Rivergator* is a website full of stories, maps, photos and accurate information concerning the BIG RIVER!

What is Lower Mississippi River Water Trail?

The Lower Mississippi River Water Trail described by *The Rivergator* is the longest free- flowing water trail in the continental United States, over 1100 miles from St. Louis to the Gulf of Mexico (including the Middle Miss from the Missouri River confluence). There are thousands of islands, backchannels, side channels and oxbow lakes to explore. The trail connects cities, states, public lands, festivals and all of the people and businesses found along the Lower Miss.

Who is *The Rivergator* written for?

The Rivergator is written specifically for paddlers who want to explore the wilds of the Lower Mississippi River. Canoeists, kayakers and stand up paddle boarders will all find it to be the definitive guide to the BIG RIVER.

Who is *The Rivergator* written by?

The Rivergator is written by John Ruskey with consultation from a team of regional river experts including Ernest Herndon, “Big Muddy” Mike Clark, Paul Hartfield, Bryan Hopkins, Dean Klinkenberg, Mark River, Layne Logue, Braxton Barden, Joe Royer, Colton Cockrum, Layne Logue, Adam Elliott, Mike Beck and Paul Orr and others. This team varies with the section of river being described.

Why is *The Rivergator* important?

The Lower Mississippi River is possibly the most spectacular and yet also the most unrecognized wild river in North America. It should be one of the classic paddler destinations alongside the Boundary Waters, the Okeefenokee, or the Alagash. Big volume water, towboats and industry have scared paddlers away. Until now there was no good written description of how to navigate the powerful waters. Enter *The Rivergator!*

When will *The Rivergator* be completed?

The Rivergator is now live at www.rivergator.org. We have been working on this since 2011, adding sections on as we complete them. In December 2015 the website will be completed with the addition of the river stretches from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico, including New Orleans and Venice, and another section devoted to the Atchafalaya option.

Where does the name *The Rivergator* come from?

The name *Rivergator* is adopted from the best seller *The Navigator* first published in 1801 by Zadok Cramer, with the hope that Americans will rediscover their “wilderness within,” the paddler’s paradise created by the Middle/Lower Mississippi Rivers.

How do I get involved with *The Rivergator*?

Any knowledgeable river rats are welcome to join in! The more eyes the better. Write me john@island63.com and I will include you in the circle of reviewers. Upcoming trips:

**October 19th- November 4th 2015:
Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico**

How do I find out more about *The Rivergator*?

For more information please Contact john@island63.com for more info. Go to www.rivergator.org for an idea of what we’re creating along the Lower Mississippi River, and join us in making it come to life!