

Rivergator

Lower Mississippi River
Water Trail

www.rivergator.org

The name "*River Gator*" is inspired by the best seller *The Navigator* first published in 1801 by Zadok Kramer. Mr. Kramer named the islands and installed the nomenclature system that we still use today.

The River Gator, www.rivergator.org, describes the 1155 mile trail of free-flowing water between St. Louis to the Gulf of Mexico. It is the first river guide written for paddlers on the Lower Mississippi River and includes beautiful photos, exciting text, and very-helpful and easy-to-read Google maps. Made public June 1, 2012, the River Gator will be under construction until final completion in December, 2015.

The River-Gator was written by John Ruskey who has been paddling, photographing, and documenting the islands, landings and channels of the Lower Mississippi River since 1982. A host of river experts have been reviewing and editing content including outdoor author Ernest Herndon (Canoeing Mississippi, Canoeing Louisiana), biologists Paul Hartfield (USFW), Cliff Ochs (Ole Miss), naturalist/painter Robin Whitfield (Grenada), historian Kevin Smith (Helena), canoe builder Bubba Battle (Tunica), Outdoor Ed. leader Todd Davis (Delta State U), wildlife consultant Tommy Shropshire (Terry, MS), naturalist James Cummins, environmentalist Hart Henson, kayaker Layne Logue, and big river guides Mark River, Layne Logue, Chris Staudinger, Braxton Barden and Adam Elliott. John Moore 305spin.com is designing & hosting website. Project partners include Audubon, LSU and the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee. The River Gator website is made possible with a grant from the Walton Family Foundation, which believes in "conservationomics": lasting solutions that make sense for the economy and the environment.

Proceeds from the River Gator prints support the Mighty Quapaw Apprenticeship program, a skills based apprenticeship on canoeing and canoe-building. The program's focus is to instill the attributes of zest, grit, self-control, optimism, gratitude, social intelligence, and curiosity enabling Delta youth to overcome the challenges of life through the rigors of the great outdoors.

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!