The Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club has undertaken a project to update the “Trail Guide to the Delta Country”. First published in 1980, the last major revision was in 1992, under John Sevenair, Editor in Chief. This new update has been undertaken by the New Orleans Group’s Outings Chair Colleen Morgan, with assistance from Vice Chair Natasha Noordhoff.

The Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club was in its infancy when Byron Almquist put together some mimeographed sheets and leaflets in envelopes and sold this under the name Outings Kit.

With the aftermath of Katrina changing the landscape in innumerable ways, and with a reemphasis to get people outdoors, the decision was made to enroll people to update as many of the 100 hiking, biking and canoe trails as possible, and add any new ones since 1992.

Scouting and Writing Procedure

**Step 1:** Check out the map of trails and pick a few you are interested in. Email Devin Martin (devin.martin@sierraclub.org) with your trail pick(s) and he will send you the pdf image of that page in the old Trail Guide.

**Step 2:** After you have seen the pdfs, decide which trails you would like to scout. Send Devin the trail name, your email and phone number, and the date by which you plan to finish the trail, so we can check in with you at your deadline and see how it’s going.

**Step 3:** The pdf will serve as a starting point to your research of the trail. Google map (get coordinates), call a ranger, and run a few internet searches to begin filling out your trail summary.

**Step 4:** Get out there! Take lots of notes, take some pictures, use the categories on the checklist.

**Step 5:** Fill in the checklist, add a brief article that describes anything not included in the checklist and that adds interesting information noted while on the trail or that you learn about the area. Email this draft with a few selected photos to Devin Martin at devin.martin.sc@gmail.com

Start with your next trail!
Before you take to the trail: All trail scopers should research their destination as thoroughly as possible before venturing out. In addition to the Internet, call property managers if applicable and seek out others who have been to the trail to get information and advice – be prepared.

Heading out: Bring a friend. Wear the appropriate clothes for the weather (and bring rain gear) and otherwise bring survival gear (i.e. map and compass, life preserver if boating). Tell someone else where you are going and have a plan if things go wrong. Be safe.

On the trail: Please use the following checklist to help you gather the information needed for the trail guide update. Bring all other information you have obtained (i.e. maps from the web/books) so your mission’s purpose, indeed, is ground-truthing. The intent is to be as efficient as possible in your quest to update each trail description so you can have fun the rest of the time!

CHECKLIST:
Type of Trail:
Region:
Name of Trail:
Site Scoper:
Parking:
  Level of difficulty:
Type of ecosystem:
Length of trail:
Normal duration of trip:
Cover (i.e. closed canopy, full sun):
Typical wildlife sightings:
Camping along the route?:
Getting there (directions to trailhead/put-in):
Suggested route with landmarks:
Interesting notes:
Resources:
Contact information for conditions:
Map:
Weather (bad weather for trail?):
Supply list (make sure enough water):
Safety information:
Dangers/important information:
Construction on the route (signage? Duration?):
What to do if you are in trouble:

Narrative Comments:

Specific information for canoe trips:
Route for moving car(s):
Phone number for water conditions/elevation:
Landmarks along route:

Specific information for hiking trips:
Marked trail or primitive:
Pointers on reading the trail
Suggested apparel (boots, pants):

Resources and suggestions to scopers:
Pack and Paddle – checklist for different types of trails
Locate the area on Google Maps. Copy the link to the Google map into your report