

This journey all started when I mentioned to my wife, Sarah that I wanted to hike the PCT. She suggested I start with the Ice Age Trail, seeing that it was in our own backyard. We live very close to the Kettle Moraine State Forest and have enjoyed Lampham Peak, Ottawa Lake and Scuppernong for years.

I finally retired and was able to do something for myself. Sarah and I went to Lampham Peak the end of April or beginning of May, for a hike when we saw the Walk the Wauk flyer. After we completed that, it just made sense to continue!

We would drop one vehicle off at the end of a segment and she would take me back to the beginning. This worked until the distance would take longer than a couple of hours to get to where we needed to start. We continued from the Waukesha area to the Baraboo area. I would do the hiking and Sarah would take our dog, Moe, to parks, lakes and local coffee shops. After Devil's Lake, we continued going east. Sarah found a pet friendly motel that we stayed at for a couple of days when the drive started taking longer than the hike. We made it to the Eastern Terminus on July 6, 2023. I have included a picture. I can even say we found a place to get the best smoked salmon on our eastern adventure. LaFond's Fish Market, 216 Milwaukee St, Kewaunee, WI 54216 was the absolute best place to get smoked salmon. We enjoyed it in the little park across the street near the Giant Grandfather Clock.

From here, we continued to tackle the trail heading west. We went back to Baraboo and picked up the connector roads. One segment, I was the last person to be able to use the trail before it was rerouted. I even had my picture taken by a trail volunteer!

There were many highlights and wonderful experiences and outstanding people we met along the way, that I wish I would have taken notes! From hiking through Wisconsin, to meeting some of the wonderful volunteers and chasing away a bear, this is one experience I will never forget!

Dave Michalsky