

Took me about 9 weeks but I finished. September 12 to November 17th,

1143 miles (according to FarOut), and about 11 books. I beat gun deer season, which quickly became my goal after I started, though the week I had to take off when my phone decided to die made it a closer call than I would have liked.

I met a lot of cool and friendly people on the trail, and even a couple fellow thru hikers, but at the end of the day my favorite person was Bill, the first (and only) person who let me sleep on his yard. I also loved Cafe Wren, who also let me sleep in their yard, and who have the nicest little document they send to you when you ask.

And I gotta shout out to both my parents, who visited me while on the trail, helped me restock when I was far from civilization, and who came to my rescue when I called at 7am one morning from a stranger's phone.

I hope the trail one day gets finished, and I appreciate all the work that the IAT Alliance puts towards that goal. I do think this trail is probably more fun to section hike than to thru hike, but the Alliance is already working on fixing the problems that it has and making it better.

Well, that's all I really got to say, so enjoy the pictures that I took while on my hike 😊

P.S. Other people I ran into did offer me food and shelter, but I didn't take them up on it, normally cause I had just restocked and I had a campsite to sleep already that night. I did still appreciate the offers though. Bill was just a guy whose door I knocked on when I didn't have a campsite I could stay at, and who was very nice to a stranger

-Jake Braun