

We decided to hike the entire trail after running several segments and realizing how much we enjoyed it! We initially set out to run as much of it as possible. My husband runs much faster than I do, so he would give me a 10/15 minute head start, meet me in about the middle of the run and then wait for me at the car. We usually biked to the start of the segments. Typically this worked out well, other than the time we miscalculated and ran out of day light on the Parnell segment! We ended up walking the last half together using our phone flashlights to find our way.

As we got further along on completing segments, we took two vehicles, called for a taxi or Uber, or contacted trail angels more often than biking. The first Uber driver that gave us a ride for the Point Beach Segment was a little confused that there was nothing wrong with our car, but we wanted to be dropped off ten miles away to walk back.

We have met some wonderful trail angels in the last couple years! Buzz in Taylor county was a big help and we enjoyed learning a lot about glacier geography during a ride from Richard to Harwood Lakes Segment. Dennis was also very informative about the Janesville area when he helped shuttle us there. Down in the Madison area we met a fellow hiker from Merrill whom we had the pleasure to accompany later on some beautiful winter hiking in the Blue Hills. Carla became our special trail angel in the Merrill area.

There were many other wonderful people who gave us shuttles, offered us water (or beer!) and traveled the trails with us. One special companion had four feet, Corin our American Bulldog. He proudly wore his hiking vest that held his water bowl and water packs. Sadly, he is no longer living but shows up in many of our Ice Age Trail photos, continuing to bring us smiles.

It would be difficult to name our favorite segment, or even favorite time of the year for hiking! Spring brought discoveries of wild flowers just reawaking from winter - when we weren't hiking connecting routes to avoid spring mud! During summer, the wild flowers are amazing in the John Muir Segment! Sharing some incredible fall colors hiking along Timberland Hills and Lake Eleven Segments with friends was unforgettable. The winter snow on Harrison Hills taught us how much we enjoy snowshoeing, along with appreciating the snow glistening on the tree tops and the quiet.

Hiking the Ice Age Trail has been a great way to discover so many hidden gems in Wisconsin! We probably would never have explored some of the small towns, back roads and remarkable land forms if not for the Ice Age Trail!

Ron & Kathy Hayes