

On October 30th, 2021 I finished a personal goal to section hike the Ice Age Trail across Wisconsin. I began this 7½ year journey seeking the deep forests and off-road trails that are a passion in my life. While I discovered and savored all that, I found much more.

I found an abundance of like-minded new friends and acquaintances. While spending a couple hundred volunteer hours maintaining and building new trail I've met countless cheerful and active outdoor enthusiasts taking this path into the future. Time on the trail went lightly when walking with companions, old and new. I also enjoyed solitude and the peace nature has to offer when alone.

I found a geography and history lesson about the state I love, Wisconsin.

I found small towns with the classic hometown diners, grills and brick & mortar stores of America.

I found local craft brews, wines and perfectly blended old-fashioned's.

Thanks to the IATA and all the volunteers for creating and sustaining this pathway, showcasing a beautiful cross-section of Wisconsin. I appreciated the professional chainsaw classes offered by the IATA where I learned new techniques and gained an appreciation for using PPE. Thanks to my shuttle drivers: Buzz Meyer, Joe Jopek, Ruby Jaecks, Dave & Jeanie Georgson and Nancy Pepp.

1225 total miles hiked, both sides of the bifurcation.

314 miles backpacked with 28 of that in winter snow.

800 miles of bike shuttles.

As a side note, during the same time period I have section kayaked the 430 mile length of the Wisconsin River for a similar cross-state experience.

See you on the trail!

-Jeff