

Dan & Ruth Dorrrough

My wife Ruth and I began hiking many years ago when we hiked the Erie Canal Trail in NY. We subsequently hiked the Finger Lakes Trail, the North Country National Scenic Trail, the Buckeye Trail and the New England National Scenic Trail. (All completed). When looking for a new trail to hike, the Ice Age Trail seemed a good choice and within our diminished hiking capabilities. We began at the Western Terminus at Interstate Park on July 21, 2018. Ruth and I had hiked solo for a couple of weeks, when we encountered another couple (Bob and Judy Geisler) at the White Tail campground who were also hiking the IAT and were hiking it the same direction as we were (West to East). After much talk, we decided that it made good sense to join together as we continued our quests to finish the IAT. We were all experienced hikers (us having completed the NCT and Judy having completed many trails including the AT, the NCT, the Mountains to Sea Trail and many others). Bob didn't hike but provided fantastic hike support (finding campgrounds, figuring out where we should hike the next day, dropping us off each morning before the start of the hike and picking us up each afternoon after the hike, etc). We hiked with Bob and Judy the summers of 2018 and 2019. We attempted to hike again in 2020 but Ruth and I had to leave after only four days of hiking to return to New York to deal with a family emergency. Bob and Judy continued on without us and Judy completed the IAT in 2020. Ruth and I returned to Wisconsin in 2021 so that we could complete the IAT ourselves. We completed our IAT hike at the Eastern Terminus on July 22, 2021. Not only did we finish, but we had applause and a cheering section. On the way up the hill, we met a family day-hiking to the terminus. We told them what we were doing and that this would complete the trail for us. They passed us but met met us at the top with applause and cheering. What a wonderful way to finish!