

What started out as a walk with a couple of friends on November 30, 2021 at the Indian Lake Segment turned into completion of the entire trail with both bifurcations on December 5, 2024

This trail was more to me than just a walk in the woods. I was coming from a place of deep hurt in my life. Being out in the beauty and majesty of nature was exactly what the doctor ordered!

What I gained is hard to put into words. I was never involved in sports but doing this with a team taught me a lot about teamwork. I learned how to accept help and that wasn't easy for me. I also learned that I could face and accomplish hard things.

I followed a couple of journeys of thru hikers on YouTube, Huck, Chica & Sunsets, Hiking America and most recently Goob's Adventures. I enjoyed them but soon learned to Psych myself up for trails instead of Psych myself out!

In 2021 I hiked 66 plus miles in Dane, Columbia and Sauk Counties. I received my first patch on December 4th when I was privileged to meet The Snails. Theresa and Brock became more than fellow hikers.

In 2022 I hiked 452 plus miles and started my "Patch Life" completing Dane, Rock, Walworth, Jefferson, Washington and Ozaukee. I also completed the Chapter areas of Lodi Valley, Baraboo Hills, Waukesha and North Kettle Moraine. The two challenges completed were Walk the Waush and my first Mammoth.

In 2023 I hiked 427 plus miles and continued to add patches for Hikin The Hills, Ahnapee Tracker, Lakeshore Wanderer, Traprock Trekkers, Meandering the Central Moraianes, Muir'ander Marquette county and Superior Lobetrotter. I also completed my second Mammoth Challenge.

On December 5, 2024 I completed the trail with a total of 1,211.7 miles with my husband and the friends I started with. These friends are forever and what we went through together has forged a bond that will never be broken. I loved all the segments and connecting routes for different reasons. All of the animals and animal tracks filled me with childlike wonder. Highlights for me were Devils Lake where I worked through a fear of heights, Plover River where I laughed like a school girl with all the rock and root hopping, the accomplished feeling of getting through all of the hills of Parrish, Harrison, and Mondeaux, the incredible beauty and power of Dells of Eau Claire and Grandfather Falls. These are just standouts for me in what I will always remember as the Best of Wisconsin, "The Ice Age National Scenic Trail"

Many thanks to the Alliance and all the volunteers that make this trail possible.