

River To River Trail Log  
April 2021

Day 0 Friday April 9

Spent the night at a relative's home in Ridgway.

Day 1 Saturday April 10

My wife drove me to Elizabethtown. Got a breakfast sandwich at the local gas station/convenience store. Met hiking companion JF at the sheriff's office around 8am. Took some photos at the riverfront and started hiking. Overcast sky. There Was a little rain just when we stopped for lunch break at the quail habitat area. Made camp for the night around mile 14, just south of Karbers Ridge Rd.

Day 2 Sunday April 11

Stopped for a short morning break at the High Ridge Campground store, spoke with JoJo. Had a long lunch break at Garden of the Gods campground and another break at the Baptist church in Herod. The trails in this area had heavy damage from horses. Camped at an established site around mile 30 along a creek off Raum Rd. Overnight temperature in the low 40s made for an uncomfortable night.

Day 3 Monday April 12

Skipped the One Horse Gap section by hiking Raum Rd. to near New Hope Church. Passed through the Lusk Creek Wilderness and camped at Circle B trailhead parking lot around mile 50. This trailhead has a vault toilet/latrine.

Day 4 Tuesday April 13

Stopped for breakfast at Shotgun Eddie's in Eddyville (steak & eggs breakfast, the best). Picked up food resupply at Eddyville Post Office. JF departed due to multiple blisters and bruising on his feet (he got a ride from Bart Lane back to his car at the sheriff's office in Elizabethtown). I offloaded extra food to JF and continued solo. Had lunch in the Crow Knob area. Passed Millstone Lake Dam and the Tin Whistle. (See Kevin Gottlieb's R2R hiker story for a mention of me: "another hiker".) Camped near Fink Sandstone EA, just past East Trigg trailhead around mile 66. Had rain overnight.

Day 5 Wednesday April 14

Passed through Max Creek (where I took a break and laid out my tent to dry out) and past the halfway point at Goddard Crossing. Camped on a hill near Little Cache #1 overflow, just past Tunnel Hill trail around mile 82. Another cold night with a low around 40 degrees.

Day 6 Thursday April 15

Crossed I-24 and past Dutchman Lake. Long road walk ending at Ferne Clyffe State Park, mile 92. Skipped the R2R trail section in Ferne Clyffe to get to the main campground around 2pm. Rented a campsite with electricity and access to restroom, water, and shower. Made phone calls

to family and had good long discussions. Another night with a low temperature around 40 degrees.

#### Day 7 Friday April 16

Picked up food resupply at Goreville Post Office in the morning. Stopped in a convenience store to buy a Gatorade and candy bar. Continued on R2R trail out of Goreville; long road walk over I-57 and then through Panther Den Wilderness. Got turned around in Panther Den City; Avenza got me back on track. Continued to Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. Camped near Fire Place at mile 115.

#### Day 8 Saturday April 17

Hiked through Giant City State Park and ate my lunch at the lodge. Continued to Makanda at mile 124 and got a ride from trail angel Lindsey to the Super 8 motel in Carbondale. Hot shower, Pag's pizza and a bed to sleep in. Hand washed clothes in the sink and laid out all my gear in the motel room to dry out.

#### Day 9 Sunday April 18

Got an Uber ride from the motel to Makanda and continued on the trail past Cedar Lake to Alto Pass. There was steady light rain in the late afternoon and again in the evening just after I set up my tent. Spent some time in Alto Pass and camped on Quetil Trail about mile 137. Overnight low temperature around 40.

#### Day 10 Monday April 19

Packed tent still wet from the previous evening. Hot breakfast of biscuits & gravy at Duty's Country Store in Alto Pass. I offloaded excess food at a free little pantry before leaving town. Stopped for a morning break at Godwin East trailhead to hang my gear on a fence to dry in the sun. Had a nice conversation with Dan Faust while resting at the trailhead - he started the same day I did, passed me at this point, and finished a day before me. Hiked through Bald Knob Wilderness and Clear Springs Wilderness to Inspiration Point. Set up camp at McCann Springs around mile 147. Hiked back to top of Inspiration Point to watch the sunset. My last night on the trail, and the temperature again was a low around 40. I wore multiple layers of clothes to keep warm.

#### Day 11 Tuesday April 20

Walked the levee road from McCann Springs to Grand Tower. Stopped for a morning snack break along the road. Arrived at Grand Tower trailhead around 11am. My wife picked me up around 12:15pm. Had lunch at Cardinal Corner convenience store, then drove to Quality Inn in Carbondale. Wife went shopping while I packed away my dirty clothes, showered, and slept for a couple hours. As predicted, a strong cold front came through late afternoon bringing temperatures in the 30's and snow. Pag's pizza & cold beer for supper.

Notes:

Every evening when I had camp set up, I pinned my location on Google Maps and sent that pin to my family so that they would know where I was.

Most mornings I heated water and made instant oatmeal for breakfast.

Most evening meals were Mountain House dehydrated meals.

I got drinking water from sources in towns & camps & parks when possible, and filtered natural water sources other times (with Sawyer Mini filter). Water was plentiful at this time. I carried two 1L water bottles.

I had no problems with bugs: saw a couple of ticks on my pack but none on me. I treated all of my clothes with permethrin before the hike.

The trail was not overgrown at all. In some sections there were lots of wildflowers in bloom.