



# Pimiteoui Trail Association

## Hiking Club

### July – Sept 2016

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President – Cindy Alexander – 309-231-2190  
Vice President – Mike Bohn – 309-688-2791  
Secretary – Angie Madison, 309-453-2097  
Treasurer – Linda Kent – 309-263-8500  
Newsletter Editor – Jerry Gegel – 309-266-7533

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES**

#### **Gear Swap Site**

Check the PTA website ([ptahike.org](http://ptahike.org)) for hiking or camping gear offered for sale by fellow PTA members. If you would like to sell something, submit a short description, price, your name and contact number to John Jackson at [j.jackson1954@yahoo.com](mailto:j.jackson1954@yahoo.com). The PTA reserves the right to reject or edit all listings.

#### **Notice: SPAM Emails**

Recently Pimiteoui members have received some spam emails. Even if the sender name looks familiar, look carefully at the whole address. Most spam email addresses will look different with unusual endings. Valid endings will be [comcast.net](http://comcast.net), [gmail.com](http://gmail.com), [hotmail.com](http://hotmail.com), [mediacombb.net](http://mediacombb.net), [mtco.com](http://mtco.com), [sbcglobal.net](http://sbcglobal.net), [yahoo.com](http://yahoo.com), and others. As a club, PTA will only send the newsletter and event reminders to its members, and these will be listed in the subject area. The safest thing to do if you receive an unfamiliar or suspicious email is to not open it and delete it. Best to play it safe.

#### **Funds Donated**

Last year, when long-time PTA member and past president Mark Klokkenga passed away, his family gave \$200 of the memorial gifts to the PTA. Since then we have been considering various options for utilizing those funds. In April of this year, the Friends of the Rock Island Trail contacted me to see if the PTA would like to jointly purchase a picnic table to be placed at the Alta trailhead of the Rock Island Trail. It would be dedicated in memory of Mark, since he had also been a FRIT member and an enthusiastic outdoors advocate. The PTA board agreed to donate the \$200 plus an additional \$100 for this purpose. The table was ordered and arrived in time to be displayed at Trails Day. A plaque will be placed on the table reading, *"This table has been provided in memory of Mark Klokkenga, a great friend and volunteer of Friends of the Rock Island Trail and Pimiteoui Trail Association. 2016"*. The table will be set in concrete sometime soon and will be available to the many trail users biking, hiking or picnicking on the Rock Island Trail.

#### **PTA Hiking Club**

1. Hikes shall start promptly with no more than a 10-minute grace period for late arrivals.
2. The newsletter will be "published" quarterly. Hike leaders; please email your Event Reports to [geraldgegel@comcast.net](mailto:geraldgegel@comcast.net) within two weeks after completion of your scheduled events. A single photo (jpeg file format) for inclusion in the Newsletter may be attached to your report.

3. Hike Leaders are to register all attendees for a hike/bike/paddle event using the “official” Pimiteoui Trail Association Liability Waiver form. These may be obtained on our website at [WWW.PTAHIKE.ORG](http://WWW.PTAHIKE.ORG).
4. If an area allows dogs, they must be on a leash at all times. Also, please be prepared to pick up and dispose of pet excrement
5. In case of bad weather, contact the hike leader to see if the hike/event has been cancelled.

## **EVENT SCHEDULE**

### **2016, July 15, Friday 6:00 PM, Granite City Social**

Join your fellow hikers for an evening dinner on the riverfront. We will dine on the patio. Following dinner you can take a stroll along the river or just watch the boats go by. We will be dining at Granite City Food and Brewery, 230 Conference Center Drive, East Peoria. We have tables reserved, but please let us know if you are coming so we will be sure to have enough. RSVP by Tuesday July 12.

**Event Coordinators:** John & Bonnie Jackson (309-645-0263 or 309-696-1955)

### **2016-17, Saturday, July 30, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, Jubilee Prairie Tour**

Meet at 9 a.m. at the observatory, 14700 W. Brimfield-Jubilee Road, 2.5 miles west of Princeville-Jubilee Road (just west of the equestrian campground). Look for signs. The Jubilee Prairie Dawgs will lead an easy walking tour of prairies in bloom in the far north of Jubilee College State Park. Complimentary refreshments will be served at 9 a.m., there will be a short walk, then we will tour some beautiful prairie ending about 11 a.m. No cost. Insect repellent provided. Dress for tall grass. Prairie plants will be for sale.

**Contact:** Cindy Alexander, 309-231-2190, [cahiker@mtco.com](mailto:cahiker@mtco.com) or Doug Franks, 309-868-9180, [franks.doug@gmail.com](mailto:franks.doug@gmail.com)

### **2016-18, Saturday, August 13, 8:00 am, Merwin Preserve Hike,**

Meet in the Washington Kroger parking lot near the gas station. We will drive about 45 min. to the preserve located east of Lake Evergreen near Hudson, IL. The Mackinaw River runs through this wooded property. Some years ago the cable bridge got washed away, so we will hike the north segment first, then move our cars a short distance to explore the south segment. Easy hiking totaling about 4-5 miles. No restrooms. Bring water. Lunch optional afterwards at Lake Road Inn.

Hike leader: Cindy Alexander, 309-0231-2190, [cahiker@mtco.com](mailto:cahiker@mtco.com)

### **2016-19, August 28, Sunday, 2:00 pm, McNaughton Park, Pekin, IL**

Let's revisit McNaughton Park in Pekin and hike some of its outstanding wooded and prairie trails. We'll walk about 2 hours with one shorter, easier option available. Plan on climbing hills and crossing creeks. Hiking shoes and trekking pole(s) will be helpful. Also bring water, bug spray, cap/hat, cell phone, and a strong bladder since there are no bathrooms. Leashed dogs are allowed. Go there directly. McNaughton is south off of RTE 98 just east of N. Parkway. Drive as far as you can in the park and meet at the end; look for the hike leader's white Prius. Afterward, optionally, we'll determine where the group will eat.

**Hike Leader:** Jay Meinrich 309-472-0165 cell (voice or text), email [jmeinrich@comcast.net](mailto:jmeinrich@comcast.net)

### [2016-20, Saturday, September 10, 10 am - 12 pm, Rocky Glen Hike.](#)

Meet in the gravel parking lot next to Jimmy's Bar on Farmington Road. If you have not yet visited this unique area, join us on Sept.10. Hikes are led by the Friends of Rocky Glen only on specific dates once a month. Due to limited parking space, we will carpool from Jimmy's Bar to the hiking area on Kickapoo Creek Road. Be sure to dress in proper hiking gear. We follow a creek and cross it several times, and may climb over or under a few downed trees. Along the way our guide will point out evidence of past coal mining as we progress toward the box canyon, our destination. **No pets.**

**Contact:** Cindy Alexander, 309-231-2190, [cahiker@mtco.com](mailto:cahiker@mtco.com)

### [PTA Board Meeting, Monday, Sept. 19, 6:00 pm, Morton Public Library, 315 W. Pershing, Morton, IL](#)

Come share your ideas about hiking locations, social and service events, and club business. Volunteer to lead a hike! Our schedule for July, August and September will be created at this meeting. If you are unable to attend, pass your ideas on to a board member before the meeting.

**Event Leader:** Cindy Alexander, 309-231-2190, [cahiker@mtco.com](mailto:cahiker@mtco.com)

### [2016-21 Grand View Drive Hike, Saturday, September 25. 2:00 pm](#)

Meet at Forest Park Nature Center parking lot by 2:00 pm and hike the trail that leads from the Nature Center to Grand View Drive. We will climb 1.1 miles up, sit & enjoy the view from Grand View Drive and then descend back to the Nature Center. We might want to check out the Nature Center to see if they have added anything new to their already interesting outdoor exhibits. Although the length of the hike is not very long, the steep will make the hike difficult. Bring hiking poles, water & a snack. If you have any questions about this hike, please phone the hike leader. We will dine and socialize after the hike at Crusens Restaurant on War Memorial Drive just off the corner of Prospect and War Memorial. Even if you don't hike, join us to eat and socialize!!!!

**Event Leader:** Linda Kent, 309-264-6156, [samandlindakent@yahoo.com](mailto:samandlindakent@yahoo.com)

## **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

[Illinois River Sweep, Saturday, September 17.](#) Free. Registration: 8 am - 9 am, Sweep hours: 9 am - 12 pm. Meet at Forest Park Nature Center, 5809 N. Forest Park Dr., Peoria Heights, for this annual Illinois River clean up day, which has grown since its inception in 1999 to attract hundreds of volunteers all along the shores of the river, from Chicago to Grafton. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. **Call Kristi Shoemaker at 686-3360 to register.**

## **EVENT REPORTS**

### [2016-7, April 9, Saturday 10:00 AM, Hennepin Canal Parkway Hike](#)

Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> 14 people met at the Hennepin Canal trail head in Bureau. The sun was shining, the wind cooperated as the group set off on an "out and back" hike. We hiked for 2 hours a total of approximately 6 miles. The canal's tow path was originally intended for animals to pull the boats thru the canal, but was never used for that purpose. The first boat went through the locks in 1907, the last in 1951. The path is gravel and level, allowing one to enjoy the scenery without too much fear. We walked

past a few of the 33 locks making for great photo ops.

**Attendees:** Brenda Muner (new member), Judy Bartow, Pamela Brandt, Arthur Ching, Jerry Gegel, Bonnie and John Jackson, Angela & Loren Madison, Jay Meinrich, Peggy Reese, Laura Van Riper and Lavern Wilson

**Hike Leader:** Roger John

### [2016-8, Saturday, April 16, 9 AM, PPD Rock Island Greenway – Pimiteoui Section Clean Up – Community Service Event](#)

Three volunteers met at the Heritage Square in Peoria Heights for this community service event to remove litter from the PTA adopted section of the trail. The primary portion of the club's trail section, which is mostly fenced in on both sides, continues to remain in very good condition with very little litter. However, despite some years of periodic cleaning there continues to be litter in the ravines on both sides outside the fences. We inspected and cleaned our section and beyond within the fenced portion of the trail. However, most of our time was spent in the ravines particularly on the south side of the trail where the historical Rouse Hazard bicycle factory building is being renovated for Trefzger's Bakery. We worked until 11:30 am and collected 6 bags of litter.

**Volunteers:** Mike Bohn and Ellen Vosberg

**Event Organizer:** Brian Cunningham.

### [2016-9, Sunday, April 24, 2 pm, Black Partridge Park Hike](#)

A hefty bunch of Pimiteoui members hiked Black Partridge Park on a beautiful, warm April Sunday. Hints of spring green were everywhere as well as remaining winter sightlines across the landscape. We circled the trail on the plateau and continued along the creek a ways before returning. One deer was spotted—Loren got excited—and several morel hunters were seen scouring the hillsides. However, no one saw a black partridge. Some followed the hike with dinner at The Flame restaurant in Metamora.

**Attendees:** Susan Hood, Gerry Gegel, Joyce Gegel, new member Jill Wahl, Laura Van Riper, Judy Bartow, Roger John, Loren Madison, Angie Madison, Bonnie Jackson, John Jackson, Barb Gurtler, Homer Gurtler, Sandra Burrier, George Burrier Jr., Dave Grebner, Scooby Grebner, Peggy Reese, Kimiko Osamoto, Tom Hieser, Rob Alexander, Cindy Alexander, Cherie Shull, Andy Shull

**Hike Leader:** Jay Meinrich

### [2016-10, Saturday, April 30, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Great American Cleanup](#)

Thank you to the seven volunteers who came to help pick up trash along N. University St. on April 30 for the Great American Cleanup. Despite the gray skies and occasional drizzle, we were able to fill nine garbage bags in a 2-hour time span. Thanks to Brian C. and George Schini for loaning their trailers, which made transporting the bags to the Richwoods High School dumpster much easier. Afterwards, several of us went to Peeps to dry out and enjoy a late breakfast

**Volunteers:** Carole Ackerman, Cindy Alexander, Rob Alexander, Sandi Burrier, George Burrier, Brian Cunningham and Barb Gurtler.

**Event Coordinator:** Cindy Alexander

### [2016-11, Saturday, May 7, 8:30 AM, Lake Thunderbird Hike.](#)

Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>; a group of 14 people hiked the 5.5-mile road around Lake Thunderbird recreational area, located off IL route 29 between Henry and Princeton. The foliage was at the height of bloom; the scent was enjoyed along the entire hike. The road around the lake is

paved, and has gently rolling to steep hills. Stopping along the way the group had the opportunity to view the lake from different vantage points. It was a perfect day, the weather cooperated; cool, partly sunny. The hike offered the option of cutting across the dam, it did reduce the miles but, offered a great view of the lake. For those who chose not to take the "short cut" well, what can I say, I've lived & walked those hills for years, the last mile or so is taxing to say the least.

**Attendees:** Cindy Alexander, Arthur Ching, Mary Greenwood, Susan Hood, Eric Hutchison, Bonnie and John Jackson, Roger John, Mareike Kraatz, and Jay Meinrich. Lake Thunderbird residents Rita Hedlund, Angela Nicoli and Alan Cumming joined the group at the clubhouse for this photo.

**Hike leader:** Judy Bartow

### [2016-12, Sunday, May 22, 2 pm, Jubilee College State Park hike](#)

A fine group of hikers descended upon Jubilee Park on a beautiful Sunday in May. Spring provided a newly-green landscape on our trails that were confined by a neighboring PAMBA race. Nevertheless, the combination of hiking paths to the southeast and horse trails to the northeast provided a unique and enjoyable variety of woods, prairie, roads, and dense foliage. Plus what a perfect time of year to go bugless. After the hike, ten of us ate outside picnic table-style at Ludy's in Kickapoo.

**Attendees:** Susan Hood, Jerry Gegel, Joyce Gegel, Mike Bohn, Jill Wahl, Barb Gurtler, Homer Gurtler, Dave Grebner, Scooby Grebner, Peggy Reese, Tom Hieser, Rob Alexander, Cindy Alexander, Mareike Kraatz, Eric Hutchison, Pam Brandt, Arthur Ching, LaVerne Wilson, Mary Greenwood w/ Lindy, Charli & Cappi, Autumn Egbert, Ellen Vosberg, new member Sandy Kay, and guests Lynnella Ryan and Adam Wallenfang

**Hike Leader:** Jay Meinrich

### [2016-13, Saturday, June 4, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, National Trails Day.](#)

Junction City was once again the site for National Trails Day. Folks who came had several outdoor activities in which to participate, including a bird walk, fun run and trail hike. While bluegrass music played in the background, people could visit informational booths, including our PTA table, or have their bikes tuned up at a bike maintenance tent. At 11:00 am, there was a brief dedication of the picnic table that the PTA jointly purchased with the Friends of the Rock Island Trail, followed by a free raffle of hiking-related prizes provided by PTA. Next year, don't forget to get your Trails Day tattoo.

**Table volunteers:** Linda Kent, Barb Gurtler, Mike Bohn, Jay Meinrich, Cindy Alexander, Rob Alexander

**Event Coordinator:** Cindy Alexander

### [2016-14, June 5 thru June 11. Camping at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park, Rend Lake, IL](#)

If you were not able to attend the camping trip at Wayne Fitzgerald State Park on beautiful Rend Lake, then you missed a wonderful experience. The weather was beautiful with moderate temperatures and sunny skies for most of the week. Although it did warm up a bit toward the end of the week, nobody let that stand in the way of a good time. Activities included hiking the Tupelo Trail and observing the grand champion Tupelo tree, geo-caching both inside and outside the park itself, kayaking and paddle boarding Rend Lake, kayaking the Cache River Swamp, where we observed a 1000 year old champion cypress tree, biking the Rend Lake trails on both the east and west sides of the lake, swimming at the beach, and enjoying a potluck at

the end of the week. The children in the group caught some nice fish out of the lake. The last night of the trip, we found out there was a circus at the Du Quoin State Fairground, so we made that our last activity. Wildlife sightings throughout the week included deer, turkeys, egrets, eagles, skunk, raccoons, great blue herons, and the nighttime serenade of owls. A better nature experience is difficult to be had, and we look forward to the next camping adventure.

**Attendees:** Bonnie and John Jackson, Susan Hood, Rob and Cindy Alexander, Sam and Linda Kent, friends Robin and Brad Brown, their daughter Ramey Burton, and the Browns' four delightful grandchildren.

**Event Leaders:** John & Bonnie Jackson

### 2016-15, Wednesday, June 22, 6 PM, Cooper Park in East Peoria

It was a lovely summer hike with lots of wildflowers, lush greenery and great views of the Peoria skyline across the Illinois River. We were fortunate that there was a nice breeze and some cloud cover - perfect conditions for walking on the boardwalks and rocky path. This approximate 2 mile greenway is a local gem! Several hikers went to a nearby deck for a cold drink afterwards.

**Attendees:** Jill Wahl, LaVerne Wilson, Cindy Alexander, Barb and Homer Gurtler, Sandy and George Burrier, Arthur Ching, Mary Greenwood, Dave Grebner and guest Sharon Conlee. Canine hikers included Dave's Scooby and Mary's beagles Charlee, Copper and Lindy.

**Hike Leader:** Susan Hood

### Treasurer's Report

	Checking & Savings
	<u>Account Total</u>
Balance, March 7, 2016	\$1641.70