



Pimiteoui Trail Association Hiking Club April - June 2022

President – Dave Grebner – 309-222-7941
Vice President – Bonnie Jackson – 309-696-1955
Secretary – Angie Madison - 309-453-2097
Treasurer – Carol Raines - talinara1989@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editors – Cherie and Andy Shull

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

We are happy we're able to continue hiking this winter and hope to increase the frequency of our hikes, as conditions allow. We are committed to following the CDC pandemic safety guidelines and will adapt to any changes that come along. We are also asking the membership to be aware of those guidelines and follow them accordingly. Read this newsletter carefully to find dates, places, and times of the upcoming hikes. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Reminders

1. Hikes shall start promptly with no more than a 5-minute grace period for late arrivals.
2. The newsletter will be published quarterly. Hike leaders: please email your Event Reports to shullag@yahoo.com 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.
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.

2nd Quarter Event Schedule

Saturday, April 16, 2022, 10:00 AM, Spring Creek Preserve, East Peoria

Located near the junction of Spring Creek Road and Route 116, a bit north of the McCluggage Bridge on the east side of the Illinois River, this is one of my favorite parks. Spring Creek Preserve has three trails: gentle Old Fields Loop, moderate Woodland Loop, and the challenging North Bluff Trail. We will hike a couple of them. Bring water and a hiking stick.

Hike Leader: Dave Grebner 309-222-7941 (day of hike) or 309-688-3908 (before)

Saturday, April 30, 2022, 10:00 AM, Sand Ridge State Forest, Forest City

For those who think central Illinois is one big corn field, Sand Ridge State forest will come as a very pleasant surprise. The forest is an island in a sea of agriculture. Just minutes southwest of

Peoria, this is a 7200 acre forest. The largest of Illinois' state forests. Boasting sweeping expanses of native oak/hickory woodlands, extensive pine plantations, sprawling open fields, grasslands and completely unique sand prairies. There are even cactus growing here. For a refreshing, invigorating taste of unspoiled nature and an opportunity to experience a truly unique environment. Sand Ridge State Forest is ideal. Located near Forest City. Directions—Head south from Peoria to Pekin. From Pekin take IL 29 South to E Manito Road. Turn west onto East Manito Road. Follow this road to Forest City. From Forest City take 2240 N Forest City Road to the West/Northwest to the park headquarters and parking lot.

Hike Leader: John Jackson: 309-645-0263 call or text.

Wednesday, May 11, 6:00 PM, McNaughton Park, Pekin

Come join us for an evening hike through the McNaughton Park in Pekin. The Parking Lot is located at 217 McNaughton Park Drive. The terrain is mostly flat and I would rate the hike easy.

Hike Leader: Angie Madison (309) 453-2097

Saturday, May 21, 2022, 10:00 AM, Robinson Park

Please join us on this beautiful, late spring hike at Robinson Park North at 10:00 a.m. It is located at 400 W Mossville Road on the north side of Mossville Road in North Peoria. The park includes 680 relatively wild undeveloped acres. It was donated to the PPD in 1951 by the Peoria architect L.E. And Erma Robinson. The trails can be narrow and include glacial drift hill prairies, oak woodlands, ridges and valleys. Some of the prairie wildflowers to watch for include scurf pea, pale purple coneflower, purple prairie clover, yellow false foxglove, stiff tickseed, golden alexander, bird's foot violet, and snow trillium. The woodlands include white oak, red oak, chinquapin oak, shagbark hickory, witch hazel, hazelnut, basswood, maple, and pawpaw.

Directions: Drive from Knoxville Ave directly to Mossville Rd. Turn east. Travel 1 mile to park. You will pass one parking lot and park at the 2nd one, on either side of Mossville Rd.

Hike Leader: Celeste Hansen, 309-231-7023

Saturday, June 11, 10:00 AM, Eureka Lake, Eureka

Our hike will begin with an easy loop trail that borders the creek and a meadow. We then enter the woods and follow the trail as it traverses through the disc golf course. Onward we go as we continue along the wide grassy paths through the Davidson section. Then back to our cars. Lunch optional at a local eatery. **Directions:** From Peoria, take Rt. 24 east to Eureka. Turn right at Rt. 117 south (Main St. stoplight, courthouse on corner). Turn right onto Lake Rd. (gas station/shopping plaza). Go 1 block; turn right into lower park below the dam. Follow park road to the end by the Litwiller ball field sign.

Hike Leader: Bonnie Jackson, 309-696-1955

Saturday, June 25, 10:00 AM, Farmdale Reservoir, Washington

Come join us for a hike through the heavily wooded trails at Farmdale Reservoir Park. The Parking Lot is located at 810 W. Bittersweet Road Washington. The terrain is mixed, with flat and hilly parts. There are tree roots in some areas. We will likely have to go across water, so you might get wet. I recommend you bring walking sticks. I would rate the hike easy to moderate.

Hike Leader: Angie Madison (309) 453-2097

EVENT REPORTS

2022-1, January 29, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Starved Rock, Oglesby

It was a cold, clear winter day great for hiking Starved Rock. We got a morning start to the trails so they were not crowded. This was eagle days at Starved Rock. The river overlooks provided views of some bald eagles. We viewed up close frozen waterfalls in the canyons. Got a chance to talk to some ice climbers that had come from Michigan to do a climb. Watching these guys was a real treat. Footing on the trails was a little slippery in places; however, we came prepared with traction gear. All in all it was a good winter's day hike.

Hiking Members: Amanda L., Katherine Jones, Andy Shull, Rob Alexander, Ajay Kahsal, Jianhu Liu, Pam Brandt, Priska Lauber, Bonnie Jackson, Dave Grebner

Hiking Guests: Ben Towell, Dave & Veronica

Hike Leader: John Jackson

2022-2, February 20, Sunday, 1:00 PM, Rock Island Trail, Dunlap

We met at the Dunlap Library parking lot and hiked south. Freshly melted snow made the trail a bit muddy, but sunny weather made it pleasant, with good countryside views from the trail. We paused at a creek overlook just past the railroad overpass before turning around.

Hiking Members: Debbie Jones, Ed Coleman, Pam Brandt, Carol Raines, Gayle Howell

Hike Leaders: Dave Grebner and Andy Shull

2022-3, March 26, Saturday, 10:00 AM, Hennepin Canal

You might think that a temperature in the low 30's and wind gusts of 30 mph or more would be a deterrent to hiking, but you would be mistaken. In fact, thirteen hardy souls rose to the challenge and hiked a total of 4.7 miles along the Hennepin Canal trail. In addition, we were joined by a new canine friend whose name is Ozark, and she proved to be a very good girl. Nobody enjoyed the hike more than she did.

Although we were hoping for some signs of spring, there were many remnants of winter still around, such as bare trees and low water in the canal. Likewise, we were expecting a fair amount of mud after a few days of heavy rains but in fact, the trail was clear and fairly dry. In spite of the cold and wind, it turned out to be a pretty good hike, well attended by a friendly group of people anxious to get out and enjoy a bit of nature. Much conversation and laughter helped us forget about the less than ideal weather.

Hike Members: John Jackson, Dave Grebner, Carol Raines, Carol Tellefson, Julie Robinson, Tom Robinson, Ed Coleman, Rob Alexander, Kathy Jones, Priska Lauber, Wyatt Whitlow

Hike Leader: Bonnie Jackson