



Pimiteoui Trail Association

Hiking Club

January - March 2026

President: Dave Grebner (309) 222-7941
Vice President: Liane Bisanz (309) 642-1356
lianebisanz@gmail.com
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Secretary: Cherie Shull
Treasurer: Carol Raines
carol61533@gmail.com
Newsletter: Cherie & Andy Shull shullag@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting, January 11, 5:15 PM, Avanti's, East Peoria, IL (RSVP requested)

You are invited to the annual meeting of the PTA hiking club at 5:15 pm on January 11, 2026, at the East Peoria Avanti's. Join us for an evening of connection, conversation and community as we gather to kick off another year of great hiking adventures! Our guest speaker, Mike Rucker, will do a presentation on prairie plants and the Springdale Cemetery savanna.

Please RSVP by January 1 to Liane Bisanz at lianebisanz@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Club Dues reminder: \$6/person – due February 1 (form attached)

If you've already paid your dues, thank you! If not, please complete the attached membership form and send with your payment of \$6.00 per person to Club Treasurer, Carol Raines; see the form for the mailing address. We have an interesting year coming up and you won't want to miss out, so be sure to get that check in the mail!

Shoe Ice Cleats – your best friend for Winter Hiking

Removable ice cleats for your shoes are a great addition to your winter hiking gear. They greatly improve traction when needed (helping prevent falls) and can be removed and carried in your pocket when not needed. The brand I use is Yaktrax and they're usually available in local sporting goods and hardware stores in early winter, as well as online. Please feel free to contact me if you want more details or recommendations.

Happy hiking, Eric Hutchison

email: ERICHUTCHISON1@HOTMAIL.COM

phone: 309-688-7038 (accepts voice/voicemail only, no text)

Hike Reminders

1. Hikes 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.

1st Quarter 2026 Event Schedule

Sunday, January 11, 5:15 PM, Annual Meeting, Avanti's, East Peoria, IL

Address: 2320 E. Washington St, East Peoria 61611

Join us for an evening of connection, conversation and community as we gather to kick off another year of great hiking adventures! Our guest speaker, Mike Rucker, will do a presentation on prairie plants and the Springdale Cemetery savanna. RSVP to Liane Bisanz at lianebisanz@gmail.com

Saturday, January 24, 9:30 AM, Starved Rock Eagle Days, Oglesby, IL

(If planning to carpool meet at Morton Cracker Barrel at 8:00 am)

Address: One Lodge Ln, Oglesby, IL 61348

Meet at 8:00 AM at Cracker Barrel in Morton if you want to carpool, otherwise meet at the lodge at 9:30 AM. The club will be bundling up and creating our own bald eagle watch/hike at Starved Rock. This is always a good time regardless of season or eagle appearances. There will be stairs on the trails. Weather and footing will determine the distance we take as options for the trails exist. Dress appropriately for cold temperatures. Wear boots and bring your hiking poles. If it is icy and you have some sort of ice cleats/spikes, bring them. Bring water, camera, trail snack, and binoculars as you wish. Leashed dogs are welcome. Afterward we will gather at the lodge for a luncheon for those interested. If you have questions, contact the hike leader at the mobile number shown below.

Hike Leader: John Jackson, (309) 645-0263

Sunday, February 15, 1:00 PM, Washington Recreation Trail, Washington, IL

Address: 360 N. Wilmor Rd, Washington, IL 61571

Meet at Five Points in Washington for a winter hike on the paved Washington Recreation Trail. We will meet in the Five Points parking lot near the Abe Lincoln statue. This is a level easy hike, and dogs are permitted on leash. Restrooms are available at Five Points. We will walk west first and, do an optional loop to the east after a short bathroom stop.

Hike Leaders: Cherie and Andy Shull (309) 645-5974

Sunday, February 22, 1:00 PM, East Peoria River Trail, East Peoria, IL

Address: 201 Veterans Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611

Please meet in the parking area along Veterans Dr. It is the area with the old railroad caboose near the Fondulac Park District building. We will take the trail toward Morton, and probably turn around about halfway, for a hike of about 5 miles. The trail passes some residential areas and some nice open fields. The trail is flat, but drinking water and hiking poles would be good idea.

Hike Leader: David Grebner (309) 222-7941

Saturday, March 21, 10:00 AM, Donovan Park, Peoria, IL

Address: 5805 Knoxville Ave, Peoria, IL 61614

We'll meet in the parking lot that's near Cyd's restaurant. If the grounds are dry enough, we'll hike to some of the park's restored natural landscape areas. I also plan to do an out/back hike on the paved Rock Island trail that connects to the park. I plan to hike about 1.5 to 2 hours total.

The park has restrooms. Dogs on leashes are ok. If Winter's snow and ice are still with us, ice cleats for your shoes are a good idea.

Hike Leader: Eric Hutchison

email: ERICHUTCHISON1@HOTMAIL.COM

Both of the following phone numbers accept voice & voice mail only, no text:

home phone: (309) 688-7038

mobile phone (active on hike day only): (309) 857-1081

Sunday, March 29, 1:00 PM, Spring Creek Preserve hilltop trail (Grosenbach trailhead)

Address: 22222 Grosenbach Rd, Washington IL 61571

Join us for a scenic hike at Spring Creek Preserve's Hilltop Trail as we welcome the early signs of spring. Enjoy budding foliage and fresh air on this **mild to moderate hike**, suitable for most hiking levels.

Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a leash.

Hike Leader: Liane Bisanz (309) 642-1356

FOURTH QUARTER 2025 EVENT REPORTS

2025-17 Saturday, October 4, Robinson Park, Peoria

We welcomed new club member Jerry Pascoe to his first hike with our club. Our weather was mild and a bit warm for October. Leaves were just starting to turn, and some were already down on the lower plants, which made for good visibility along the wooded trail. Camp Wokanda made us a good turn around point - and its restrooms were appreciated.

Jerry reported he enjoyed our trail. He said our hills were a welcome change, since he's done most of his recent hiking near (flatter) Springfield.

Hike stats: 2.5 hours, 4 miles

Hiking Members: Carol Raines, Jerry Pascoe

Hiking guests: Scott Lowe

Hike Leader: Eric Hutchison

2025-18 Saturday, October 18, Weldon Springs State Park, Clinton

Cancelled due to inclement weather

2025-19 Saturday, November 8, Northwoods Park, Morton

This was a great day for this time of the year for a walk in the woods. We had 16 club members and guests on the hike for fellowship and afterwards good eats with stories and jocularity.

Hikers & Guests: Amy Chang, Dianne Wyant, Iván Wyant, Cherie Shull, Andy Shull, Eric Hutchison, Jamal Shafii, Tim Land, Celeste Hansen, Donna Uftring, Rob Alexander, Laverne Wilson, Walt Klypchk, and Jerry Pascoe

Hike Leader: John Jackson

2025-20 Saturday, December 6, McNaughton Park, Pekin

(rescheduled from November 30 due to weather)

Six of us met in front of the picnic shelter near the park's trailhead. Since the trails were snow packed with some ice mixed in, everyone agreed to forgo the route we initially planned to hike. Instead, we walked on snow packed trails that wound through meadows and woods and even crossed a partially frozen creek before arriving at Meyer Cemetery for a photo op. Songbirds and squirrels were spotted, and we enjoyed a fun hike through snowy fields and trails covered with animal tracks.

Hikers: Andy Shull, Celeste Hansen, Eric Hutchison, and Jerry Pascoe

Hike Leaders: Dianne and Iván Wyant



2025-21 Sunday, December 7, Rock Island Trail, Alta

Five of us met in the parking lot near the trailhead. The path leading to the trailhead was somewhat icy, but we discovered that the trail was mainly snow-packed and fairly easy to hike. We walked a little past the 2-mile marker, and a few of us ventured into the snowy Kickapoo Creek Recreation Area before the group headed back. Although the weather was somewhat chilly, everyone appeared to enjoy the hike.

Hikers: Cherie Shull, Priska Lauber, and Rob Alexander

Hike Leaders: Dianne and Iván Wyant



2025-22 Friday, December 12, Holiday Shop and Stroll, Forest Park

Our holiday hike was small, cozy, and full of seasonal charm. Perfect weather set the stage for a peaceful stroll along candlelit walkways, enhanced by live entertainment that created a warm and festive atmosphere.

Participants enjoyed opportunities to browse and shop from local artists inside the Nature Center building, while a warming station and hot chocolate provided comfort along the route. The evening was capped off beautifully with a fresh layer of snow, adding to the magic of the night.

Members: Dianne Wyant, Cherie Shull, Dave Grebner

Guests: Carlos and Iván Wyant

Hike Leader: Liane Bisanz

PIMITEOUI TRAIL ASSOCIATION (PTA) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Due: February 1, 2026

Are you new or renewing your membership? (choose one)

NEW MEMBER () or RENEWING MEMBER ()

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$6.00 PER PERSON, payable by cash or check (choose one)

CASH () or CHECK ()

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PIMITEOUI TRAIL ASSOCIATION." MAIL TO CLUB TREASURER:

Carol Raines
2014 Georgetown Pl
Pekin, IL 61554

The newsletter is emailed to paid-up members every quarter and is also posted on the PTA website. If weather is uncertain before a hike, watch your email inbox for last-minute updates, or contact the hike leader with any questions.

NAME _____

SPOUSE/PARTNER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS

CELL PHONE _____

PTA hiking club is a volunteer-run organization and each member has something to offer. Would you be willing to lead a hike?

Yes Maybe No

Do you have any suggestions of good places to hike in central Illinois?
