



Pimiteoui Trail Association

Hiking Club

April - June 2024

President: Dave Grebner (309) 222-7941
Vice President: Liane Bisanz (309) 642-1356
lianebisanz@gmail.com
Secretary: Angie Madison (309) 453-2097
Treasurer: Carol Raines carol61533@gmail.com
Newsletter: Cherie & Andy Shull shullag@yahoo.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to our new Vice President, Liane Bisanz! Her **email and phone number** are above. Also, please note Treasurer Carol Raines' **new email address**. We have a nice group of hikes lined up for spring. We hope to see you on some of them!

Hike 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.
6. We remain committed to following the CDC pandemic safety guidelines and will adapt as needed.

2nd Quarter 2024 Event Schedule

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 10:00 AM, Black Partridge Park, Metamora

Address: 1/2 mile north of Progress St. on Coal Bank Rd, Metamora

Come hike with us at this beautiful 450-acre park near Metamora. It features not only sports fields, playground equipment and pavilion facilities, but an extensive hiking and mountain bike trail system. We will meet in the main parking lot at 10 a.m.

Hike Leader: Dave Grebner (309) 222-7941 Email: doggiedad@mtco.com

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 AM Tawny Oaks Nature Center

Address: 715 West Singing Woods Rd, Edelstein, IL 61526

This should be an ideal weekend to see the bluebells. The hike will be hilly and about 4 miles in length, but the patch of bluebells is one of the best in the area.

Hike Leader: Rob Alexander (309) 444-3297 Email: rabiker@mtco.com

Saturday, May 11, 10:00 AM North Robinson Trail Short Loop

Address: 400 West Mossville Road, Peoria, IL.

This 1.5-mile loop trail, considered an easy route, takes an average of 39 minutes to complete. A popular trail for hiking and walking, dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash.

Hike Leader: Liane Bisanz (309) 642-1356 Email: lianebisanz@gmail.com

Saturday, May 25, 10:00 AM Vicary Bottoms Trail

Address: 2000 North Kickapoo Creek Rd, Peoria

Join us as Robert Rowe, chair of the Sierra Club, HOI Group and Emeritus Professor, Bradley University leads us across level fields and along Kickapoo Creek. This is a nice morning hike with interesting terrain and history. It is also dog friendly. Meet at the parking lot off North Kickapoo Creek Road at 10:00 am. Distance is about 2 miles and is mostly level. There are no restroom facilities at the park.

Event Contact: Ed Coleman (309) 363-1179, colemane296@gmail.com

Saturday, June 8, 2024, 10:00 AM, Dirksen Park, North Pekin

Address: 2510 Edgewater Dr., North Pekin, IL. Look for the 'Archery Range' sign to find the archery range/hiking trail parking lot.

More specific directions: From I-29, drive east (away from the river) on Edgewater Dr (IL-98) for about 1.6 miles. Look for the archery range sign on the north (left) side of Edgewater Dr (IL-98). Drive up the short/steep gravel road to the archery range / hiking trails parking lot. No rest rooms or water at the park. Dogs are ok.

Trails are moderately hilly, due to river bluff terrain. Trails also include some flat / meadow areas and a few water crossings (with bridges). All very nice indeed. I plan to hike about 1.5 to 2 hours and suggest bringing drinking water and hiking poles.

I visited there in mid-March. Spring leaves and wildflowers were just starting to emerge. Trails now include some posted trail map signs and improved bridges. All new since my last visit to the park. Thank you, mountain bikers and Pekin Park District.

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

Saturday, June 22, 2024, 10:00 AM Farmdale Park

Trailhead: 924 W Bittersweet Rd, East Peoria, Illinois 61571

Try this trail near Washington, Illinois. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes approximately 2 to 2 ½ hours to complete. This is a very popular area for hiking and mountain biking, so

you'll likely encounter other people while on the trail. Dogs are welcome and may be off-leash in some areas. The entire area is closed during and for 24 hours after any rain.

Hike Leader: John Jackson (309) 645 0263 E-mail j.jackson1954@yahoo.com

FIRST QUARTER 2024 EVENT REPORTS

2024-01, January 13, Coal Miner's Park, Pekin

The first hike of the new year was cancelled due to inclement weather.

2024-02, January 20, Annual Meeting – Avanti's East Peoria

The Annual meeting was held at Avanti's in East Peoria on January 20 at 5:00 PM. Following a meal there was a presentation by Rhonda Ferree. Rhonda is a retired horticulture educator from Champaign Extension and currently lives in Havana, Illinois. She hikes and motorcycles frequently and gave a presentation on the plants she has found on her hikes. The slide show was from areas all over the country.

After the presentation an election of officers was held, with the following results: **President**, Dave Grebner; **Vice President**, Liane Bisanz; **Secretary**, Angie Madison; **Treasurer**, Carol Raines. Cherie & Andy Shull will continue as newsletter editors. The meeting was well-attended, and the presentation was enjoyed by all.

2024-03, January 27, Starved Rock Eagle Days

Starved Rock Eagle Days was a great day for a 4-mile hike that included Starved Rock Overlook, views of Plum Island, Waterfalls at Sac and Aurora Canyons, ending at partially frozen waterfall at St. Louis Canyon. Late lunch at the lodge was enjoyed after the hike.

Hike Leader: Celeste Hansen

Hiking Members: John Jackson, Bonnie Jackson, Carol Raines, Cherie Shull, Andy Shull, Dave Grebner, Roger John, Judy Bartow, Mary Reiter, Priska Lauber

2024-04, February 10, East Peoria Trail

The hike location was moved from Cooper Park to the East Peoria Trail due to high water. We hiked the paved trail toward Morton for about four miles.

Hike Leader: Bob Alexander (309) 444-3297 Email: rabiker@mtco.com

Hiking Members: Carol Raines, John Jackson, Barb Johnson, Cherie Shull

2024-05, March 10, Rock Island Trail, Alta

Seven hiking club members enjoyed our two-hour hike along the trail up to and through the Kickapoo Creek Recreation Area. The weather was nice. I think the recreation area was new to most of us and was a delight to hike through.

Hiking Members: Carol Raines, Donna Uftring, Barb Johnson, Kathy Jones, Cherie Shull, Andy Shull.

Hike Leader: David Grebner

2024-05, March 23, Forest Park Nature Center

Well, it turned out that the Guided Bird hike was postponed to March 30, but several hikers showed up anyway. We'll be sure to confirm with Forest Park next time we plan on one of their naturalist-led hikes. It was sunny, clear and a little chilly, so we decided to hike after all. We enjoyed a companionable loop through Forest Park, seeing a wild turkey and three deer along the way.

Hiking Members: John Jackson, Dave Grebner, LaVerne Wilson, Walter Klypchak, Andy & Cherie Shull

Hiking Guest: Jamal Shafii