



Pimiteoui Trail Association

Hiking Club

April – June 2017

President – Mike Bohn – 309-657-4557
Vice President – Bonnie Jackson -
Secretary – Angie Madison, 309-453-2097
Treasurer – Linda Kent – 309-263-8500
Newsletter Editor – Jerry Gegel – 309-266-7533

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

Reminder

It's that time again. If you haven't yet paid your annual dues, please send or give your \$6.00 to either Linda Kent or Bonnie Jackson.

Gear Swap Site

Check the PTA website (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. The PTA reserves the right to reject or edit all listings.

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 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.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Rock Island Greenway (Bike Trail) – Monthly Clean Ups for 2nd Quarter

The Peoria Park District now manages the Rock Island Greenway Adopt-A-Trail program. Their guidelines are that we do monthly visits to our section of the trail and do visible litter pick up, check the general condition of the trail, and advise park district staff on any needed repairs or maintenance. Two annual broader clean ups are to include the entire width of the trail corridor including beyond the trail pavement and shoulders. For the Rock Island Greenway clean up events of our club's adopted trail section we will meet in the

Heritage Square parking lot facing Prospect Avenue. Many of the cleanups will likely end with a trip to Trefzgers

Saturday April 1, 2017, Noon – 2 pm. This is one of our semi-annual major clean-ups. We will focus on going off trail in and around the ditch outside of Trefzgers. There is also some litter in the ditch on the other side of trail from that point. We will likely get muddy. So, please wear boots and bring an additional pair of clean shoes.

Monday, May 15, 2017, 6 pm – 7 pm

Monday, June 16, 2017, 6 pm – 7 pm

Our clubs adopted section of the Rock Island Greenway starts at Prospect Avenue and goes south to Miller Avenue. As noted above, the monthly clean ups during the first quarter of 2017 will precede one of the local hikes on the same day during January, February and March. Each monthly cleanup will take only about half an hour with just a few volunteers needed. Little equipment will be needed, only a small trash bag and a litter picker. The monthly clean ups will focus on the asphalted trail path only. ***So, the monthly clean ups will not count toward getting the Muddy Boots award.*** Our 2017 first semi-annual clean up will be in April with the second one occurring in the fall. ***The semi-annual clean ups will count toward getting muddy boots award*** and the dates will be communicated in the Newsletter.
Clean Up Leader: Brian Cunningham, 309-633-1224

Something to Ponder Before, During or After Our Scheduled Outing to Matthiessen State Park

MATTHIESSEN STATE PARK

They don't breathe like you and I,
but they live in their way,
keeping geologic time,
marking days for seconds and
millennia for years with
patience Job could only dream of.

These furrowed walls are magicians
to such ephemeral beings,
that see the slow motion
of these water-worn dells
as permanence amid
the blur of time.

It is strange comfort
to feel so innocent

amid the wisdom of the rocks,
unable to see or hear it,
only feel the knowing
when we cease our thinking.

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2017-07, April 9, Sunday, 2:00 pm, Springdale Cemetery, Peoria

Historic Springdale is the premier cemetery in the Peoria area with beautiful and varied landscapes. This walk will be circular, covering 5 miles/2.5 hours of roads, sidewalks, savannah, woods, plus a future part of the Rock Island Greenway. Shorter, self-directed return options are available. There are hills. The early spring provides Illinois River views. Group signs have bios of some buried luminaries. Wear relatively light clothing since the hike is exerting. Don hiking boots for off pavement. Mud may be a minor issue. Consider trekking pole(s) if you need aid with the terrain. Carry water. Bathrooms are not available. Leashed dogs are welcome. Park inside the cemetery near the main entrance building at 3014 N. Prospect Rd. either in the small parking lot or along the right side of cemetery roads (stay off the grass). Optionally, the club may dine afterward at an eatery.

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich 309-472-0165 (cell phone, call or text), email: jmeinrich@comcast.net

2017-08, April 22, Saturday, 6:00 am, Lake Geneva, WI Shore Path. Meet behind the Cracker Barrel restaurant at 105 E Ashland on the north side of I74 in Morton. We will leave promptly at **6 am. RSVP early to Brian Cunningham at 309-633-1224 by Tuesday 04/18 for the group "road trip".** We may arrange for a passenger van if we have an adequate number of hikers. If we do not have enough RSVPs for the van we will car-pool rather than vanpool.

The hike will begin at **9 am** from ***Gordy's Boat House Bar and Restaurant at 336 Lake Ave in Fontana, WI.*** Car parking is available down 3rd Ave one and two blocks to the west. The Lake Geneva Shore Path hugs the circumference of Lake Geneva and is a marathon (26 miles) in length. We will hike just the northern half on Saturday 04/22/17. We will meet and begin our hike from the town of Fontana on the western point of the lake. We will hike 2 miles to Williams Bay and take the 10 am 50-minute tour of the Yerkes Observatory. The cost is \$8. After the Yerkes Observatory tour we will hike to Harpoon Willie's along the path for lunch and then resume our hike on to the town of Lake Geneva. Hikers should bring a light snack and fluids. We expect to return to Morton by approximately 9pm.

Hike Leader: Brian Cunningham, 309-633-1224

2017-09, May 6, Saturday, 9:00 am, Marquis Oak Ridge Trail Hike. We will meet at the parking lot at the base of the bridge in Lacon, IL at 8:30 am. The new Marquis Oak Ridge Trail at TWI's Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin & Hopper Lakes is a 2.7 mile crushed-gravel trail, designed for hiking and bicycling, leads from the levee at the north end of the site through rich prairie and wetlands to the newly restored Oak Ridge marsh and savanna complex at the center of the Refuge. Hikers who complete the trip will be rewarded with a scenic view over the restored marsh from a low wooden viewing platform situated among the savanna trees. It's one of the best spots for viewing migrating waterfowl at the Refuge. Lunch after the hike will be at the Pizza Peel in Lacon.

Hike Leader: Roger John, 309-231-9191

2017-10, May 21, Sunday, 1:30 pm, Funks Grove, McLean IL

Funks Grove is a 1000+ acre area southwest of Bloomington and a favorite destination for Pimiteoui. In addition to hiking, maple syrup is extracted here and is sold at the nature center and the main store in Shirley IL. We'll walk 4.5 miles on relatively level ground through forest and prairie. A 1.5-mile turnaround is available. Wear hiking boots, bring water and bug spray. Trekking pole(s) may not be necessary. Bathrooms are at the beginning. Leashed dogs are welcome. Carpooling is at 1:30 pm at the back lot of Cracker Barrel in Morton. If driving directly, contact the hike leader beforehand, arrive at Funks Grove by 2:30 pm, and park at the Sugar Grove Nature Center, 4532 N 725 East Rd., in rural McLean. An overflow lot is nearby. Post hike will likely include food at a restaurant on the return trip.

If not dining with the club, drive separately or hitch a ride with a non-eater, and you should arrive back in Peoria by 6:00 pm. For non-GPS directions from Bloomington, see <http://sugargrovenaturecenter.org/directions.html>

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich 309-472-0165 (cell phone, call or text), email: jmeinrich@comcast.net

2017-11, June 10, 2017, Saturday, 10:00 am, Bike Ride on E. Peoria Bike Trail

We will meet at the parking lot for the Fondulac Park District, at the bottom of the trail, near the Caboose. We will ride to Morton, back to the parking lot, approximately 12 miles. Then we will ride to the Levee District (2 miles away) for lunch and then back to the parking lot.

Bike Leader: Angie Madison, (309) 453-2097

2017-12, June 24, Saturday, 8:00 am, Matthiessen State Park, Oglesby/Utica IL

Returning to Matthiessen is always as picturesque treat. Near Starved Rock, it's where the locals prefer going. We shall walk at least 4 miles/2.5 hours at the bottom of the dells, the upper woods surrounding them, and along the lake. This hike has moderate inclines—plus several steep wooden stairs—but the main challenge lies in the upper dell while stepping on stones and cement pads especially if the water level is high. Mud also can be a major issue in both dells. There is one convenient turnaround point close to halfway. Be prepared with hiking boots, 2 trekking poles, water, bug spray, plus hat, camera, and binoculars if desired. Bathrooms are at the beginning and about mid-way. Leashed dogs are welcome, but small ones may need carrying on the stairs. Carpooling is at 8:00 am at the Washington Kroger parking lot, 20 Cherry Tree Shopping Center, near the gasoline corner. Those travelling directly should contact the hike leader beforehand and arrive at the park by 9:30. Hiking will commence at 9:45. Directions: go north on I39, take exit 48 at Tonica, turn right (east) onto N 20th Rd, come to a T and turn left (north) on Route 178, go several?? miles and turn left into the Matthiessen Dells Area (not the Vermilion River Area, which is the first one), and drive back to park. After hiking, we'll dine in Utica. For those staying to eat, we should get back to Washington by 4:00 pm.

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich 309-472-0165 (cell phone, call or text), email: jmeinrich@comcast.net

EVENT REPORTS

2017-01, January 14, Saturday, 10:00 am, Rock Island Trail Greenway +, Peoria Heights

A comfortable winter day surrounded us while walking trails in Peoria Heights. The starting point was the beginning of the club's adopted portion of the Greenway at Prospect Rd. We

continued to the War Memorial Dr. overpass, returned to Bishop St, and most of us headed to Grand View Dr. before walking the home stretch in downtown Peoria Heights. Ice patches were minimal. Lunch was at TNT.

Hiking Members: Eric Hutchison, Arthur Ching, Barb Gurtler, Les Hensley, Susan Hood, Connie Williams, John Jackson, Andy Shull, Cherie Shull, Brian Cunningham

Hiking Guests: Karen Decker (became a member)

Hiking Dogs: Charlie and Copper (Mary)

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich

[2017-02, January 28, Saturday, 8:00 am, Starved Rock State Park – Utica, IL](#)

This hike event was at Starved Rock State Park near Utica. We met at the Cherry Tree shopping plaza in Washington at 8 am and van-pooled there. Six hikers participated. The mild winter made for snow free trails and the waterfalls were flowing water rather than ice. However, it was a great day hiking the paths and we spotted a few eagles. Of course, we stopped after the hike at Duffy's in Utica.

Hikers: Rob Alexander, Kathy Jones, John Jackson, Marieka Kraatz and Karen Decker

Hike Leader: Brian Cunningham

[2017-03, February 12, Sunday, 2:00 pm, East Peoria-to-Morton River Trail, East Peoria](#)

A brisk day was on the pallet for hiking the paved East Peoria Trail. We started at the Matheny Rd. parking lot, walked up the hill surrounded by woods, and in total went east for about 45 minutes before turning around. We enjoyed the bright sunshine and camaraderie. Afterward, most of us ate at Jason's Deli in East Peoria. We will return to both the trail and the restaurant in the future.

Hiking Members: Eric Hutchison, Mareiki Kraatz, Arthur Ching, Laverne Wilson, Rob Alexander, Les Hensley, Susan Hood, Mike Bohn, Dave Grebner, Scooby Grebner, John Jackson, Kathy Jones, Andy Shull, Mary Greenwood, Ellen Vosbe, Stephen Grabe

Hiking Guests: Carol Williams, Mike Poehls, Anne Comiskey

Hiking Dogs: Scooby (Dave), Solana (Mareike), and Mary's three dogs + a neighbor dog

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich

[2017-04, Saturday, February 25, 5:30 PM, ANNUAL MEETING, Forest Park, Peoria](#)

The PTA annual meeting was held at the Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria. Early arrivals socialized while we set up for our potluck dinner. At 6:00 pm we ate and afterwards we honored the memory of our dear friend and former President, Cindy Alexander, with a poem written and recited by Dave Grebner. Larry and Brenda Shay then entertained us with a slide-show update of their progress with the Appalachian Trail.

The business portion of the evening began around 7:30. Bonnie Jackson gave us a summary of our finances and awards were presented. The first award presented was the Dusty Boots Award which recognizes Club participation. This year's recipients were: Arthur Chin – 1st place (12 events); Dave Grebner – 2nd place (11 events); and there was a 4-way-tie for 3rd place (9 events) – John Jackson, Andy Shull, Rob Alexander and Eric Hutchison. The second award presented was the Blue Blaze Award, which thanks members for their volunteer efforts. Fourteen members were recognized for such contributions as being a club officer, leading a hike, or hosting a social. They were: Mike Bohn, Angie Madison, Linda Kent, John Jackson, Bonnie Jackson, Jerry Gegel, Eric Hutchison, Mareike Kraatz, Susan Hood, Roger John, Brian Cunningham, Jay Meinrich, Judy Bartow and Pam Brandt. Several participants received Door prizes.

To date, the Club has received \$2085, as donations for Cindy Alexander's memorial and the Club is still exploring ways as to how to best utilize those funds and is open to further suggestions.

A slate of officers was presented: Mike Bohn – President; Bonnie Jackson – Vice President; Angie Madison – Secretary; and Linda Kent – Treasurer. The slate was unanimously approved by membership present. The meeting was adjourned around 8:30. Thank you to all the members of PTA. We look forward to a fun 2017.

Angie Madison, Secretary.

[2017-05, March 11, 2017, Saturday, 10 am, North Robinson - Camp Wokanda, Peoria.](#)

Despite the cold weather, several hikers enjoyed a brisk, round-trip hike from Robison North parking lot to Camp Wokanda. It was too early to see a lot of spring foliage, but the path was smooth and clear. We passed through a troop of Boy Scouts who were also hiking.

Afterwards, some of us gathered at Brasky's for lunch and camaraderie.

Attendees: Angie Madison (Coordinator), Loren Madison, Brian Cunningham, Jay Meinrich, Arthur Ching, John Jackson, Connie Williams, Karen Decker, Ellen Vosborg, Michael Emanuels, Andy Shull, Barb Gurtler, Homer Gurtler, and Bonnie Jackson joined us for lunch.

Hike Leader: Angie Madison, 309-453-2097

[PTA Board Meeting, March 13, 2017, Monday, 6:00 pm, Morton Public Library, 315 W. Pershing, Morton, IL](#)

The board decided that any information disseminated to the Club members through our mailing list must be specifically related to hikes, hiking related activities associated with the club or club members. If you have other information you think is important for club members to know, that can be included in the next newsletter or distributed in links on our website that reach out to other active group sites. For any information you would like to have sent out or if you have any questions please contact a board member. With regards to impromptu hikes members should contact a board member so that the email distribution list can be used to distribute the notification.

The board is looking into the possibility of using a club meet-up group to distribute information. Please stay tuned for further developments on this topic.

Mike Bohn, PTA President

[2017-06, March 26, 2017, Sunday, 2:00 pm, Wake Robin Trail - Forest Park](#)

A cloudy day in the mid 50s greeted 16 hikers to a soggy hike at Forest Park. A couple of days of rain did not slow down this group much. We had originally planned to take the Wake Robin trail around the northern edge of the park, but it was closed for maintenance. We made alternate plans avoiding the steepest hills (very slick) and the group hiked for some 90 minutes and had a good time. There were no incidents of falls on the muddy ground. Several people headed for the No Wake bar on route 29 for some dinner afterwards.

Attendees: Sandra & George Burrier, Pamela Brandt, Dave Grebner, Rob Alexander, Kathy Jones, Jay Meinrich, Brian Cunningham, Barb Gurtler, Tom Hieser, Arthur Ching, Susan Hood, and Andy Shull

Guests: Cathy, Brubaher, Kathleen Murray, and Kathy Jone's foster son's wife.

Hike Leader: Mike Bohn, 309-657-4557

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Balance as of 03/03/2017</u>
Checking Account	\$1428.79
Savings Account	<u>\$2147.73</u>
Total	\$3576.52