



Pimiteoui Trail Association Hiking Club Apr – June 2018

President – Mike Bohn – 309-657-4557
Vice President – Bonnie Jackson -
Secretary – Angie Madison, 309-453-2097
Treasurer –
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 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.

2nd Quarter Event Schedule

2018-7, Sunday, April 8, 2:00 pm, Spring Creek Preserve

Hi all! Its hike time again. Spring Creek Preserve offers some excellent hiking that includes trails around old farm fields and trails up to the bluff which is about 200' higher in elevation. There are options for those who may not want to hike up to the bluff. There are some stream crossings that are dry most of the year but we could encounter some mud. We will hike about 5 miles and afterward meet at Germantown Grill for something to eat. Dogs are allowed but must be on a leash. There are no public restrooms. We will meet in the parking lot of Spring Creek Preserve that is located off of Spring Creek Rd. near the bottom of Germantown Hill.

Going north on IL Rt 116, turn right on Spring Creek Rd., go about 0.2 mi and the parking lot will be on the right.

Leader: Les Hensley, 309-360-0743, les_hensley@yahoo.com

2018-8, Saturday, April 21, 8 am, Camp Wokonda, IL River Bluff Trail, Maple Sugar Workshop & Pancake Breakfast, 620 E. Boy Scout Rd, Chillicothe

Meet at the Camp Wokonda lower parking lot; near restrooms. Leaving at 8 am sharp, we will hike north on the IL River Bluff Trail for 1 hour probably covering the 2 miles to Robinson Park on Mossville Rd & then turn-around & loop back to the Lower Valley of Camp Wokonda, returning about 10 am. The trail is wooded and hilly – challenging! Wear shoes or boots suitable for rugged terrain; bring your hiking poles & water.

After working up an appetite on the trail, you may choose to reward yourself with a Pancake Breakfast & Maple Sugar Workshop. We will plan to breakfast between 10 & 11 and then join the PPD tour/workshop scheduled for 11 am. We will see how fresh maple syrup is made at Camp Wokonda. You may recognize one of the “syrup boilers” as you peer through the steam!

Tickets for the workshop and breakfast are available at 309-579-2157. Call & reserve yours before April 18 to receive the early bird price of \$10 per adult; \$5 per child. If you wait until the morning of the breakfast, the prices will be \$12 per adult and \$6 per child. Ages 3 and under are free. Juice, coffee, sausage & butter included. There is not a separate price for the tour only., so I encourage you to enjoy the breakfast.

Event Leader: Susan Hood 309-648-2771

2018-09, Saturday, May 5, 9 am, Jubilee College State Park, Kickapoo

Jubilee Park between Kickapoo and Brimfield contains a variety of wooded and prairie trails for us to enjoy. The terrain is also varied with a few challenging hills thrown in. Mud can be an issue here. Drive directly. Wear hiking boots, carry water & bug spray, consider cap/hat, and bring hiking stick(s). Make sure you wear long pants. Leashed dogs are allowed. Jubilee is off of RTE 150 several miles west of Princeville-Jubilee Rd. Watch for the email shortly before the hike for other specifics. Some will eat together afterwards.

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich, 309-472-0165 (voice, text) jmeinrich@comcast.net

2018-10, Saturday, May 19, 9 am, McNaughton Park, Pekin

Let’s revisit McNaughton Park in Pekin and hike some of its outstanding wooded and prairie trails. Plan on climbing hills and crossing creeks. Mud can be an issue. Wear hiking boots and bring trekking pole(s). Carry water, bug spray, consider cap/hat. Wear long pants. Leashed dogs are allowed. Go there directly. McNaughton is south off of RTE 98 just east of N. Parkway. Watch for the email shortly before the hike for other specifics. Some will eat together afterwards.

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

2018-11, Sunday, May 27, 2 pm, Meadow Valley Park, Washington

After some absence, we are returning to Meadow Valley Park in Washington/Sunnyland. It is 90 acres of natural woods and meadows. Plan on climbing a few hills. Distance, time, and exact meeting place in the park will be conveyed in an email the week prior to the hike. Wear

hiking boots, carry water, bring bug spray, and maybe have headwear. Dogs are welcome on leashes. Drive there directly. Meadow Valley is located to the south of Route 8 a bit west of CEFCU. Some of us may eat together afterwards.

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

2018-12, June 9, Saturday, 10:00 am, Bike Ride on Rock Island Greenway Trail,

Let's start the summer with a slow, casual, bicycle ride along the Rock Island Greenway Trail. You don't have to be fast and you don't have to have a lot of equipment. Just a bike, a helmet, and the desire to enjoy a beautiful summer morning with like-minded people.

We will Meet at Bushwacker, located at 5728 N. Knoxville (Junction City) in Peoria Heights.

Please try to arrive a few minutes early so that you have time to get your bike out of the car and gather water bottles, put helmet on, etc. We will leave Bushwacker **promptly** at 10:00 am and finish before the weather gets too hot. We are planning on about a 2-hour ride, with occasional stops for rest or a drink of water.

Leader: Bonnie Jackson, 309-696-1955, bon1jon2@yahoo.com

Board Meeting, Monday, June 18, 6:00 PM, Morton Library

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

Leader: Mike Bohn

2018-13, Tuesday, June 19, 5:30 pm, Grandview Drive.

Meet at the Peoria Heights Water Tower. We will walk along Grandview Drive and return to the Tower. After the hike we can enjoy a light refreshment.

Hike Leader: Angie Madison (309) 453-2097

EVENT REPORTS

2018-01, January 14, Sunday, Rock Island Trail Greenway, Peoria This hike went along the Rock Island Greenway from Junction City to almost Pioneer Park and back. We didn't go into Donovan Park because of the cold wind & temperatures. Total distance was 4 miles.

Hiking Members: Arthur Ching, Andy Shull, Cherie Shull, Jerry Gegel, Les Hensley, Susan Hood, John Jackson, Eric Hutchison, Mareike Krattz

Hiking Dogs: Solana & Buttercup (Mareike)

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich

2018-02, January 20, Saturday, Starved Rock State Park, Utica

It was a magnificent sunny and seasonally warm day hiking Starved Rock. We got an early start, which meant fewer people on the trails. The river overlooks provided sightings of at least a dozen bald eagles either perched or circling. We viewed up close the frozen waterfalls at French and Wildcat canyons. Footing was slippery in places—especially due to the temperatures—but didn't affect our enjoyment. Afterward, most ate at Duffy's in Utica. Thanks to Rob for shuttling many of us in his kayak/party van.

Hiking Members: Rob Alexander, Pam Brandt, Arthur Ching, Priska Lauber, Les Hensley, Paul Frisk, Mary Greenhood

Hiking Guest: Tammy Bartolomucci

Hiking Dogs: Lindy and Charlie (Mary)

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich

Event 2018-3, Saturday, February 3, 10 AM, River Plex to Glen Oak Park

Club members & guest bundled up for a walk up the river. We hiked from the River Plex north to the foot of the bluff at Springdale Cemetery. Following the hike we had lunch at Obed and Isaac's. Comradery was excellent and so was the food.

Hikers: Les Hensley, Mark Stone, Laverne Wilson, Fred Armentrout, Rob Alexander, Eric Hutchinson, & Jay Meinrich

Guest: Carol Raines

Hike Leader: John Jackson

ANNUAL MEETING, Saturday, February 17, 5:30 PM, , Forest Park, Peoria

The PTA annual meeting was held at the Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria. Early arrivals socialized while we set up the potluck dinner. Dinner began at 6:00 pm and we continued to socialize! Mike Bohn (me) then entertained us with a slide show on his and Tom Hieser's trek from rim to rim in the Grand Canyon.

The business portion of the meeting started around 7:30 pm. Bonnie Jackson gave us a summary of our finances and then awards were presented. The first award presented was the Dusty Boots Award that recognizes club participation. This years recipients were: Jay Meinrich -1st place (12 events); Andy Shull - 1st place (12 events); Arthur Chin- 2nd place (11 events); Les Hensley - 2nd place (11 events). The second award presented was the Blue Blaze Award, which thanks members for their volunteer efforts. Eleven members were recognized for such contributions as being a club officer, leading a hike, or hosting a social event. They were: Mike Bohn, Bonnie Jackson, Angie Madison, Jerry Gegel, John Jackson, Brian Cunningham, Susan Hood, Roger John, Judy Bartow, Jay Meinrich, and Les Hensley. Door prizes were awarded to all!

A slate of officers was presented for 2018: President - Mike Bohn, Vice President - Bonnie Jackson, Secretary - Angie Madison, Treasurer - Mary Greenhood. The slate was unanimously approved by the membership present. Thanks to all the members and see you on the trail in 2018.

Event Leader: Mike Bohn

2018-04, February 25, Sunday, Constitution Trail, Bloomington/Normal

After a long absence, we enjoyed walking portions of the Constitution Trail in Bloomington and Normal. There isn't anything normal about this long system of pathways; it was a joy to join many others on a beautiful day in February hiking the old rail lines through woods and neighborhoods and near ISU. We began behind The Chateau and hiked east on the Bloomer Line Branch until it intersected with the Illinois Central Branch and walked south a ways until turning around. Most of us went 5.87 miles in just over 2.5 hours entirely on pavement, which was perfect considering the recent mud from rains. Afterwards, we split our dining experiences: some went for pizza at Lucca Grill while the rest went to Destihl Brewery.

Hiking Members: Brenda Meinrich, Priska Lauber, Jerry Gegel, Dave Grebner, Scooby Grebner, Jill Wahl, Mark Stone, Rachel Powell, Carol Raines

Hiking Guest: Linda Hartley

Hiking Dogs: Scooby, Ruby (Linda)

Hike Leader: Jay Meinrich

2018-5, March 11, 2018, Sunday 2 PM, Rock Island Trail from Alta Trailhead

This early "spring" hike met great weather in the low 40s with sunshine and breezes. Sixteen (16) hikers and 3 dogs started the hike promptly at 2 pm. Later we ran into 3 additional club members that had missed the 2 pm start of the hike. We went for a total of 5 miles in a little more than 1.5 hours. Afterwards 9 members of the group met at Brasky's Bar for a drink and some dinner.

Hiking Members: Mike Bohn, unknown (couldn't read name), Roger John, Judy Bartow, Ted Amerstout, Carol Raines, Jerry Gegel, Susan Hood, Priska Lauber, Mary Greenhood and the beagles, Paul Frisk, Les Hensley, Cherrie Shull, Dave Grebner and Scoobie, Jay Meinrich, Unknown (couldn't read name), Arthur Ching, Mareike Kraatz, Eric Hutchinson

Hike Leader: Mike Bohn

PTA Board Meeting, Monday, March 12, 6 PM, John/Bonnie Jackson's Home, Morton, IL

The board discussed the transition of the Treasurer's position to Mary Greenhood. For hike notifications, Susan Hood will send out the event notification emails except in the case of hike leaders who want to do their own notifications. If you are doing your own, let Susan know. Rob Alexander will continue to send notifications via Facebook. We are working with Dan Redmon to shutdown one of the two Facebook pages related to the club to avoid confusion. Stay tuned for more information. Lastly, the hiking schedule for the next quarter was planned out.

Mike Bohn, PTA President

2018-06, March 24, Saturday, meet 8:30/hike 10:00, Lake of the Woods, Mahomet

This hike was postponed on March 24 & cancelled on the March 31 reschedule, both due to weather-related issues.

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