



Pimiteoui Trail Association

Hiking Club

April - June 2025

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

2nd Quarter 2025 Event Schedule

Sunday, April 13, 2025, 2:00 PM, Rock Island Trail beginning at Wyoming

Address: 311 Williams Street, Wyoming, IL 61491

Please join us on **Sunday**, April 13 at 2:00 pm for a hike on the Rock Island Trail at Wyoming. We will meet at the old train depot on Williams Street in Wyoming. The hike will be moderate, about 1 1/2 to 2 hours. Please bring a hiking stick. Dogs are permitted on a Leash. There are bathrooms at Wyoming but not along the trail.

Hike Leader: Dave Grebner (309) 222-7941

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 10:00 AM, IDNR Gold Mine Trailhead, Mackinaw, IL

Address: 15380 Nelson Rd, Mackinaw, IL

On April 26 at 10 am we will hike the Gold Mine Trail which is at the IDNR trail head. We will be doing a 2-mile loop with one hill twice for 4 miles total. Dogs permitted. No bathrooms are available; however, when you turn onto Rt 9 and go through Mackinaw there are places to stop for restrooms.

Hike Leader: Celeste Hansen celhansen@aol.com

Saturday, May 17, 2025, 10:00 AM, Jubilee College State Park, Brimfield, IL

Address: 13921 W. Route 150 Brimfield 61517

Meet: Red Fox Run Parking Lot

4-mile length

324ft Elevation gain

Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 1 h 29 min to complete. This trail is great for hiking, mountain biking, and running, and it's unlikely you'll encounter many other people while exploring. Dogs are welcome on a Leash.

Hike Leader: Liane Bisanz (309) 642-1356

Saturday, May 31, 2025, 10:00 AM, Dirksen Park, North Pekin

Address: 2510 Edgewater Dr, North Pekin, IL 61554

Look for the 'Archery Range' sign to find the archery range/hiking trail parking lot.

More specific directions: From Rte 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. I suggest bringing drinking water and hiking poles.

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 14, 2025, 9:00 AM (carpool), Sand Ridge State Forest, Forest City, IL

Carpool Address: Morton Cracker Barrel, 150 E Ashland St, Morton, IL 61550

Hike Address (10 am): Cactus Drive/N Co Rd 2600 E Forest City, IL 61532

Meet us at Cracker Barrel in Morton at 9 am to carpool to Sand Ridge State Forest. We will hike the Green Loop, maybe adding a little more distance if desired. We may be too early in the season to see the cacti bloom, but I have hope. If you want, you can meet us there at 10:00 a.m. There is a public restroom available near the trailhead.

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

Saturday, June 28, 2025, 10:00 AM, Rock Island Trail beginning at Alta

Address: Alta Road Trailhead, W Alta Lane, Peoria, IL 61615

We will meet at the Alta Road Trailhead parking lot. This is a mostly shaded trail for our mid-summer hike. The trail itself is fairly flat but well maintained and you can hike a long way. It's out and back so decide how long you want to walk and turn around before you get too tired. Dogs are welcome on a leash. A bathroom will be available about halfway through the hike.

Hike Leader: Liane Bisanz 309-642-1356

FIRST QUARTER 2025 EVENT REPORTS

2025-1, January 18, 2025, Sommer Farm Park, Edwards, IL

We had a great joint hike with the Sierra Club at this little-visited park just west of Peoria. Included in the hike was a talk by the park manager about the park's history. Afterwards, we gathered in the cozy old cabin, chatting and drinking hot cocoa provided by Rob Rowe.

Hike Leaders: Dave Grebner, Rob Rowe

Hikers: Carol Raines, Michael Cass, Eric Hutchison, Frank Duryea, Ed Coleman, Cherie Shull, Andy Shull, Carol Caughey, Michael Caughey, John Wosik, Barb Johnson, Mary Greenhood

2025-2, January 25, 2025, Rock Island Greenway at Liberty Park, Peoria, IL

We enjoyed our hike along the Peoria waterfront. Our walk was approximately 2.6 miles. The river was covered with ice flows. We were able to see some wildlife, geese resting on the ice and mallard ducks swimming in the lake. Eagles were not to be found on our hike today. The group ventured to the Detweiller Marina, enjoying the overlook to the river at the inlet bay.

Hiking Members: John Jackson, Carol Raines, Eric Hutchison, Andy Shull, Kathy Jones, Dianne Wyant, Ivan Wyant, Brandyn Bisanz, Barb Johnson, Lisa Weber, LaVerne Wilson, Walt Klypchak

Hiking Guest: Joellyn Doty

Hike Leader: Liane Bisanz



[2025-3 Saturday, February 8, 2025, Fondulac Trail, East Peoria, IL](#)

The morning of February 8 was misty and cold, just barely above freezing. A possibility of freezing rain was in the forecast but did not materialize, so the hike proceeded--with a grand total of 2, including the leader! We walked out and back on the paved East Peoria Fondulac trail, starting near the caboose. A relatively fast pace and good conversation helped us stay warm for about 5 miles.

Hiking Member: Kathy Jones

Hike Leader: Andy Shull

[2025-4 Saturday, February 22, 2025, Forest Park, Peoria Heights, IL](#)

We had a wonderful hike along several of the park's lesser-used trails. In addition to birds, we saw some deer and squirrels. Thirteen people from our hiking club and the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club came for the hike.

Hikers: Carol Raines, Celeste Hansen, John Jackson, Eric Hutchison, Diane Wyant, Robert Rowe, Whitney Pierce, Ivan Wyant, James Kirl, Richard and Lou Solone, and Wendy Marquis

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

[2025-5 Saturday, March 8, 2025, 10:00 AM, Tawny Oaks, Peoria, IL](#)

It was cool and sunny day when we took the Tawny Oaks trail in the opposite direction from our usual route. Along the way we saw some early blooming snowdrops and the remnants of an old stagecoach trail. Andrew McClintock stepped in to lead when Liane wasn't available due to an illness.

Hikers: John Jackson, Dave Grebner, Carol Raines, Andrew McClintock, Samantha McClintock, LaVerne Wilson, Walt Klypchak, Eric Hutchison, Cherie Shull, Andy Shull, Dianne Wyant and Ivan Wyant

[2025-6 Saturday, March 22, 2025, 10:00 AM, Donovan Park, Peoria, IL](#)

The March weather window smiled on us. Clear blue skies, light wind and about 40 degrees. Fourteen of us took a roughly-perimeter hike of Donovan Park and stopped at a few of the park's natural highlights along the way. We told stories about 4 of the park's 30 arboretum trees marked with signs. We also viewed some areas newly restored to native trees by our local Nature Conservancy volunteers. Those big old oaks are breathing much easier these days. We also included a brief out/back hike on our beloved Kellar Branch portion of the Rock Island Trail (thank you George Burrier)

Hiking Members: Pam Brandt, Carol Raines, Dave Grebner, Barb Johnson, Lisa Weber, Les Hensley, Dianne Wyant, Walt Klypchak, LaVerne Wilson, Cherie Shull, Priska Lauber

Hiking guests: Ivan Wyant, Jianhua Lill

Hike Leader: Eric Hutchison

Hike stats ~ 2 hours, ? miles (not sure,...probably less than 100)