Pimiteoui Trail Association
Hiking Club
April - June 2026

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

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.

2nd Quarter 2026 Event Schedule

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10:00 AM, Bluebell Hike at Humiston Woods Nature Preserve, Pontiac *(If planning to carpool, meet at Washington Middle School at 9:00 am)*

Carpool Address: Washington Middle School, 1100 N Main St, Washington, IL 61571
Hike Address (approximate): 11200 E 2100 N Rd, Pontiac, IL 61764

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Washington Middle School if you want to carpool to Humiston Woods, otherwise meet at the Humiston Woods parking lot at 10:00 am. Humiston Woods is located approximately at 11200 E 2100 N Rd, and there is a white and green sign pointing to the entrance.

This will be a 2.5 mile hike with very minimal vertical change. Humiston Woods is a former Boy Scout camp along the Vermilion River with one of the best patches of bluebells I know of. Several loops are available, but there is supposed to be about 35' of vertical change in the 2.5 miles of trail. After the hike, Sherri and I plan to go to Emancipation Brewing Company outside of Fairbury to recuperate. We don't yet know if any food trucks will be there, but you can check the Emancipation web page.

Hike Leader: Rob Alexander (309) 444-3297

Saturday, April 25, 2026, 10:00 AM, Tawny Oaks Field Station at Singing Woods, Edelstein

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

Join us at 10 am for a 4-mile hike on Saturday April 25th at Tawny Oaks Field Station at Singing Woods Nature Preserve. The address is 715 W Singing Woods Road Edelstein, IL 61526. No dogs allowed. Hiking poles are recommended as there are elevation gains. We hope to see Bluebells this time of the year. Bathrooms may or may not be open yet. The phone at Tawny is 309-418-7051.

Hike Leader: Celeste Hansen Celhansen@aol.com

Saturday, May 16, 2026, 10:00 AM, Springdale Cemetery, Peoria

Address: 3014 North Prospect Road, Peoria, IL 61603

Please meet at the Prospect Road entry to Springdale Cemetery at 10:00 AM, and we will then drive down to where the Perry Street Gatehouse once stood to begin our hike at the bottom on the glen. There is a paved parking area at that point, and we can also park along the road. We will be hiking on the paved roads through the cemetery, but not all are in the best repair. This will be a moderate hike. There are hills, so please bring your hiking poles and water bottles! This is a beautiful, historic cemetery with many of well-known Peoria names on monuments throughout. We may encounter wildlife – deer are abundant in the cemetery.

Dogs are permitted on leash. There are no restrooms.

Hike Leaders: Pat Palmer (224-280-6680) and Jim Perry

Saturday, May 30, 2026, 10:00 AM, Farmdale Reservoir, Washington, IL

Address: 810 W Bittersweet Rd, Washington, IL 61571

Please join us as we explore Spring in the Farmdale Creek valley. I recently learned that the park includes over 100 acres of restored tall grass prairie - restoration work done by the US Army Corps of Engineers. It's also home to native oak and hickory woodlands.

I plan to hike about 2 hours. My planned route avoids creek crossings (expect dry feet). There are some hills - but mostly gradual as we parallel the creek up through the valley. No mountain climbs. I suggest bringing drinking water and hiking poles. Dogs are ok. The park has no restrooms. The trails are closed if we get significant rain within 24 hours prior to the hike. Watch your email in case of last-minute updates.

Hike Leader: Eric Hutchison
email: ERICHUTCHISON777@YAHOO.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

Hike Leader: Eric Hutchison

Sunday, June 14, 2026, 1:00 PM, Lakeland Park, Canton, IL

(If planning to carpool, meet at the city-owned public parking lot across from Hardee's restaurant in Bartonville at 12:00 pm; carpool leaves promptly at 12:15)

Carpool Address: across from Hardee's restaurant, 5515 S Adams, Bartonville, IL 61607
Hike Address: 1200 N. Lakeland Park Dr, Canton, IL 61520

This park, covering almost 600 acres, was once the site of the old Ingersoll Airport until it was surface mined for coal. Later, it was donated to the Canton Park District and transformed into a beautiful multi-use park with 5 lakes for fishing and several hiking/biking trails. We will be hiking the easy 3.5-mile paved outer loop trail, which starts and ends at the upper parking lot. Restrooms are available in the park district building. Enter the park and take the first left turn.

Because this distance is a little further away from the Peoria area, anyone wishing to carpool or caravan should meet at the city-owned public parking lot **across** from the Hardee's restaurant in Bartonville. The Hardee's address is 5515 S. Adams St, Bartonville, near the intersection of S. Adams and Route 24. We will leave there at 12:15 pm.

Directions: Follow the GPS into Canton from State Route 9. You will come to a 4-way stop (with a Marathon gas station and a Subway sandwich shop). Turn right onto 5th Avenue and drive north for another 0.9 mile through a set of traffic lights until you come to a stop sign at the intersection of 5th Avenue and Locust Street. Turn left on Locust Street and proceed another 0.4 mile until you reach Main Street at the second traffic light. Then turn right onto North Main Street (heading north on IL-78) and drive another 1.7 miles until you reach Lakeland Park Drive. Turn left and proceed 0.7 mile to Lakeland Park on the right (west side) of the road just after it curves around. BTW, you will notice a golf driving range on this road before you get to the park itself.

Hike Leader: Ed Coleman (309) 262-1179

Saturday, June 27, 2026, 10:00 AM, Rock Island Trail, Dunlap, IL

Address: 302 S First Street, Dunlap IL 61525

Please meet in the Dunlap Library parking lot. We will hike north or south along the trail, through some beautiful fields and woods. The trail is flat, but drinking water and hiking poles would be a good idea.
Hike Leader: David Grebner (309) 222-7941

FIRST QUARTER 2026 EVENT REPORTS

2026-1 Sunday, January 11, Annual Meeting, East Peoria

It was a cold night, but Avanti's was a warm venue for our annual meeting. Mike Rucker presented an interesting program about the Springdale Cemetery savanna. There was lots of good conversation and several lucky attendees won nice door prizes. Membership forms were also available for anyone who wished to join at that time. We hope to see you at next year's meeting!

2026-2 Saturday, January 24, Starved Rock State Park, Oglesby

Cancelled due to bitter weather

2026-3 Sunday, February 15, Recreation Trail, Washington

It was a perfect day for a winter hike when 13 of us met at Five Points for a walk on the Washington Recreation Trail. We headed west first, ending at Cummings Lane, where we saw the new road that leads to Walmart. Along the way, we pointed out the path of the 2013 tornado and noted that the area has been completely rebuilt. After a brief stop at Five Points, we headed in the other direction, looping around Lincoln school and noticing drainage improvements in Washington Park.

Hikers: Jim Perry, Pat Palmer, Robert Rowe, Linda Rowe, Carol Raines, Celeste Hansen, Dianne Wyant, Rob Alexander, Sherri Morrison, Carlos Wyant, Iván Wyant
Hike Leaders: Cherie and Andy Shull

2026-3 Sunday, February 22, East Peoria River Trail, East Peoria

On a cold and breezy Sunday afternoon, 5 hikers walked on the East Peoria River Trail from East Peoria toward Morton, starting near the Fon du Lac building caboose. There was plenty of good conversation during the 4-mile out-and-back trek. The trail was mostly flat, but stiff Winter headwinds made the return trip more challenging than usual.

Hikers: Liane Bisanz, Ed Coleman, Linda Rowe, Rob Rowe
Hike Leader: Andy Shull

2026-4 Saturday, March 21, Donovan Park, Peoria

The weather smiled on us with clear sunny skies and mild Spring temperatures. We strolled Donovan's grounds and shared science/folklore stories about residents of Donovan's tree arboretum. Fine time visiting with longtime friends and meeting 3 new members who were attending their first hike with us - including Liz's little dog Milli.

Hiking Members: Dan Mansfield, Celeste Hansen, Kathy Jones, Rob McMickle, Pat Palmer, Jerry Pasco, Jim Perry, Donna Uftring
Hiking guests: Liz Reed & Milli
Hike Leader: Eric Hutchison
Hike stats ~ 2 hours

2026-5 Sunday, March 29, Spring Creek Preserve (hilltop trailhead), Washington

We had 11 hikers join us on the hike. We ventured around several Indian mounds and discovered a possible cellar to a prior home. Our hike was generally flat with some gentle and challenging hills. We were able to see some violets and other flowers beginning to emerge for the spring. Planning for the next hike, an option would be to begin at the lower parking lot, allowing us to venture to other parts of the preserve. Our total distance hiked was 2.49 miles.

Hikers: Ed Coleman, Les Hensley, Pat Palmer, Debra Jones, Celeste Hansen, Jim Perry, Ed Ricca, Dan Mansfield, Jamal Shafii, Liane Marchini – Bisanz, Brandyn Bisanz, and Mya the dog

Hike Leader: Liane Bisanz