



# Pimiteoui Trail Association Hiking Club Jan – Mar 2014

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President – Cindy Alexander – 309-231-2190  
Vice President – Brian Cunningham – 309-633-1224  
Secretary – Susan Hood – 309 -648 -2771  
Treasurer – Linda Kent – 309-263-8500  
Newsletter Editor – Jerry Gegel – 309-266-7533  
Officer at Large – Mark Klokkenga – 309-678-3827  
Officer at Large – Mike Bohn – 309-688-2791

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Thank You**

1. A thank you to all the members that led hikes and/or events throughout this past year. Without you we would not have had the great outdoor adventures that we had!
2. A special thank you, to Cindy Alexander, Rob Alexander and Chris Golden for representing the PTA at the first annual Camp Wokanda "Conditioning for Spring" event on Dec. 28, 2013. It was a fun and informative day, talking with other groups and hiking through the camp. One new person joined our club. Plan to attend next year's event.

### **PTA Hiking Club Newsletter**

1. For 2013, the newsletter will be "published" quarterly. Hike leaders; please email your Event Reports to [geraldgegel@comcast.net](mailto: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.
2. 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](http://WWW.PTAHIKE.ORG).
3. 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

### **For Outdoor Events**

1. In case of bad weather, contact the hike leader to see if the hike has been cancelled.
2. Any hike leader wanting to use the club's first aid kit can obtain it by calling Cindy Alexander.

## **EVENTS SCHEDULE**

### **Event 2014-1, Saturday, January 11, 8:30 am, Forest Park Nature Center- Hike & Eagle Days**

Let's meet in the parking lot of the Forest Park Nature Center for a winter hike on Forest Park trails, before warming up inside the Nature Center and attending the annual Eagle day event called "Eagles on the IL River". Our commitment to begin hiking promptly (8:45) will allow enough time for a 1 hour hike before the beginning of the Eagle Day presentation scheduled for 10:00 am. Mike Miller of Peoria Park District and the Audubon Society will present the

latest status of ecology and behavior of eagles on the Illinois River. Wildlife Prairie Park will provide a live bald eagle for viewing, The Nature Center will sponsor a driving tour to spot eagles on the Illinois River. The driving tour is scheduled to start at 10:45am. We will car pool to various destinations along the river. Please dress for the weather and bring binoculars for eagle spotting.

**Hike/Event Leader:** Mark Klokkenga, 309-678-3827, [Klokkeme@att.net](mailto:Klokkeme@att.net)

**[Event 2014-2, Sunday, Jan 26, 2 pm, Peoria Park District Rock Island Greenway](#)**

This section of the trail is a centerpiece of the Peoria area trails. It is a major contributor toward the development of a real Peoria area "trail system" which is a series of connected trails. Trail users can now travel from Morton to Alta on paved trail almost entirely separated from road traffic. The Peoria Park District has made tremendous strides toward the completion of the Rock Island Greenway. Late this fall, they asphalted the trail from Glen Avenue at the Peoria Heights Library going south to the rear of the Peoria Journal Star which is at the corner of East Harvard and North Harvard (very close to War Memorial). This stretch of "rail trail" is the connecting section between the previously completed paved northbound section between Glen and Pioneer Pkwy and the southbound section through Springdale Cemetery. They are continuing to work on the bridge over Knoxville at Junction City. It is expected to be completed very soon. We will meet in the Peoria Heights Library **rear parking lot** and depart on our hike at 2 pm. We will head south toward Springdale Cemetery. The trail is 100% asphalted and extremely level. Dress appropriately for the winter weather, including shoe cleats for ice if necessary.

**Hike Leader:** Brian Cunningham, 309.633.1224

**[Event 2014-3, Saturday, Feb 8, 9 am, Peoria Riverfront \(Riverplex\)](#)**

Don't let the cold weather keep you indoors. Don your wooly socks and come hike with us on the Pimiteoui Trail along the Peoria riverfront. Meet inside the front doors of the Riverplex. Our route will be approx one hour out and one hour back heading north towards Glen Oak park. Dining afterwards is optional.

**Hike Leader:** Mike Bohn, 309-657-4557

**[Annual Meeting & Social, Saturday, Feb 15, 5:00 pm, Forest Park Nature Center, 5809 N. Forest Park Dr, Peoria Heights, IL](#)**



Bring an appetizer or dessert to share while we socialize with our friends. The following items will be provided: plates, forks, napkins, cups, coffee, tea, soda, and hot cider.

Come hear Pimiteoui members Brenda and Larry Shay recount their experiences this past summer while hiking the Appalachian Trail.

The evening will continue with a review of the past year, club business, presentation of recognition awards and door prizes.

We will conclude the meeting with the nomination and election of club officers

(president, vice president, secretary & treasurer).

If you would like to help the club by being an officer or want more information about an office, call or email Cindy Alexander, 231-2190, [cahiker@frontier.com](mailto:cahiker@frontier.com).

#### **Event 2014-4, Sunday, Feb 23, 2 pm, Big Hollow Creek Walk**

When we did our scout hike for the Big Hollow Creek, we imagined tromping through a smoothly frozen creek bed. What we found was a partially frozen creek, with a very active and fast moving stream. We kept following the creek on foot, in the car and on the map, and ended up parking at the Weaver Ridge Golf Course (5100 WeaverRidge Blvd.). Our hike, with special permission from General Manager, Matt Weaver, starts at the clubhouse parking lot, and will meander the layout of the “back nine” fairways and greens of this stunning golf course. There are dramatic views, with multiple elevation changes, set in the valley, far away from the million dollar homes up on the distant bluffs; so we won’t be traversing through the living room landscapes of these homeowners. The pretty creek, with steep embankments at times, meanders through the course. The course is touted as having the most dramatic topography change outside of Galena. It has been rated by Zagat in 2012-2013 as one of the best golf courses in Illinois. It is a privately owned public course, so please **refrain from bringing your dogs on this hike**. Also, the course comes with many “easy golf cart paths”, but can be slick if wet and cold. Trekking poles may be useful on the hilly climbs if icy or snowy. Directions if coming from the East: I-74 to 474 West to Route 6 North to US 150 East (War Memorial Drive); in approximately 1 mile turn right onto Big Hollow Road. Drive about 1 mile and turn right onto Charter Oak Road. In about 0.3 mile turn left onto WeaverRidge Blvd. The clubhouse parking lot is on the left at 5100 WeaverRidge Blvd. Anticipate about a 1.5 hour hike.

**Hike Leaders:** Toni and Doug Lais (507) 358-3981

#### **Event 2014-5, Sunday, Mar 2, 2 pm, Black Partridge**

Join us for a moderately difficult hike in the heavily wooded, 450 acre park near Metamora. As you come into Metamora from Peoria, turn just before the Family Flame Restaurant, go to the stop sign and turn left. This is Progress Street. Go until you come to Coal Bank Road and turn right (north). Continue on this road until you see the park on the left. This will be a great time to get out in the early spring for a hike in the big woods. The hike will be followed by a stop at a local eatery. For more info call John.

**Hike Leader:** John Jackson 309-263-2474

#### **Event 2014-6, Sunday, Mar 16, 1 pm, Matthiessen State Park**

We will meet at Matthiessen at 1:00 p.m. to hike the 3.2 miles of “Dells Trails”. Prior to the hike date, Kathy and I will scout out weather appropriate options should they be needed. Matthiessen is similar to nearby Starved Rock State Park. The trails meander through prairie, forest, and the beautiful canyons. There are some hills of course. To replenish the calories burned off, we’ll head just outside Utica to the Cajun Connection for a dining experience you won’t forget. Although this is authentic Cajun cooking, there are plenty of options for those who may not like this Louisiana staple. We have yet to take someone there who didn’t like the food, Cajun or non-Cajun. As we get closer to the hike date, we’ll offer some additional drive time, car pool and other details for those interested in joining us. For those that don’t have email, phone Roger a week before scheduled date for additional information.

**Hike Leaders:** Roger & Kathy John, 309-243-9195

### [Board Meeting, Sunday, Mar 23, 5:30 pm, Embassy Suites, E. Peoria](#)

Come to this meeting to share your ideas about hiking locations, social and service events and club business. Volunteer to lead a hike! Our schedule for April/May/June 2014 will be created at this meeting. If you are unable to attend, pass your ideas on to a Board Member *before* the meeting.

**Event Coordinator:** Susan Hood, call 309-648-2771

### [Event 2014-7, Saturday, Mar 29, Constitution Trail, Bloomington-Normal](#)

Plan to attend the first hike of spring. Meet in the back parking lot at Cracker Barrel in Morton at 9:00 a.m. to carpool/caravan. We will then travel to Normal to hike the Constitution Trail and witness the early signs of spring. The trail is paved, so mud should be at a minimum, although one turn-around area has a dirt path. Following the hike we will have lunch in a nearby restaurant. If you have been waiting all winter for spring to arrive, now is the time to get outdoors.

**Hike Leader:** Cindy Alexander, 309/231-2190

## EVENT REPORTS

### [Event 2013-22, Wednesday, Oct 9, 5:30 pm, Glen Oak Park; Ancient Sidewalks Hike](#)

The turnout for this little evening walk in Glen Oak Park was an amazing 29 hikers. The weather was sunny and warm with a hint of Autumn crispness. We left from the zoo parking lot and began by following an old sidewalk downhill to a large gazebo and then on to another crumbling, long abandoned sidewalk that followed the creek. We picked our way along until we came to the first of three small hand built stone bridges. Finding no trolls, we proceeded further into the woods along the broken sidewalk, which must have been the remnants of a once beautiful, romantic promenade through the park. It was a little melancholy to see something that so much effort had gone in to making, now just disintegrating and forgotten. The hike leader kept the group together by blowing a long steer horn, in keeping with the aura of a walk through time. In the midst of the trees we found a mysterious, leaf covered cement stairway. It led up three flights to a tall fence, which cut off our way to wherever it once led. We backtracked, and as we climbed the dirt path out of the woods, we found still more small pieces of sidewalk scattered beneath our feet. We emerged from the 45 minute hike just as the sun was setting. Some of us made our way to Kaydee Kats Gourmet Pizza for a meal and a time of good fellowship, making a perfect end for a beautiful Autumn day.

**Attendees:** Toni Lais, David Dean, Sandy Harberle, Jerry Gegel, Joyce Gegel, Susan Hood, Roger John, Kathy John, Joe Lazio, Silvy Lazio, Cindy Alexander, Loren Madison, Angie Madison, Gary Romans, Connie Tumminelli, LaVerne Wilson, Roger Hagel, Margaret Moulton, Brian Cunningham, Eric Hutchinson, Mareike Kraatz, Laura VanRiper, Linda Kent., Dave Grebner, Andy Shull; Guests: Connie Loncke, Linda Kurto, Allison Koch

**Hike Leader:** Doug Lais

### [Event 2013-23, Saturday, Oct 12, 6:00 am, Road Trip, Hike at Turkey Run State Park, Marshall, IN](#)

Eleven hikers gathered at 6am in Morton and van pooled the 150 miles to Turkey Run State Park. Upon arriving at the park we briefly visited the stately old lodge which is one of the seven in the Indiana state parks. Turkey Run State Park is designed to be a hiking centric park. We were extremely lucky that the suspension bridge reopened only nine days prior to our trip. It had been closed for the previous six months due to heavy flood damage in April.

The suspension bridge crosses Sugar Creek and is the primary access to the trail system on the north side of the creek. Both veteran and newbie hikers to Turkey Run were in awe soon after entering the trails in the narrow slotted canyons. The limestone walls were covered with moss and ferns and the hillsides with hemlocks and other trees gripping onto the rock walls. The limestone trail in the canyons was slick with running but low water levels. Most of us crossed through the narrow passage at Wedge Rock by doing "the splits" and wobbling side-to-side along the sharply slanted canyon walls. The trail difficulty designations are mostly in the moderate, rugged to very rugged range. Gratefully, they've built many wooden and stone stairs into the many hills. Other highlights included the series of three large wooden ladders, the Punch Bowl, Boulder Canyon, Falls Canyon, the Coal Mine, Narrows Covered Bridge and the Lusk Home. Turkey Run really does pack in a lot of natural and a few man made wonders into a single park. We hiked for three hours in the morning and then returned to the van for our packed lunches. The picnic areas were busy with many group picnics and family reunions. Upon returning to the trails we found the afternoon hiker traffic to be greatly increased. At one narrow canyon passage we had to wait for what seemed like a group of in excess of 100 hikers to pass through. It was great to see so many people inspired to get outdoors and enjoy such great trails and wonderful park. It really was a beautiful fall day our entire time in the park and within just few miles after leaving the park to head home it began raining. On our drive back home we attempted to dine at the Black Dog Smoke & Ale House in downtown Urbana, IL however there were quite a number of people outside of the restaurant waiting their turn to be seated. It's a small restaurant but highly acclaimed and is highly ranked in the nation by some sources. Instead of waiting for literally a few hours we dined at the Crane Alley restaurant just two blocks away and were quite satisfied with it.

**Hikers:** Susan Hood, Cindy Alexander, John Jackson, Mike Bohn, Mary Greenwood, Mark Klokkenga, Roger John, Kathy John along with guests Timothy and Cora Scopelight.

**Hike Leader:** Brian Cunningham

#### [Event 2013-24, Saturday, Oct 19, 8:00 am, Volkswalk Manito, IL](#)

The morning started off chilly as we gathered in Pekin to carpool to the First Annual "Autumn in Sand Ridge" Volkswalk on Sat., Oct. 19. We chose the 5K route (enhanced), which was 3.2 miles, plus a little extra on a side trail of our own finding which turned out to be just right due to the tiring effects of walking in sand. After the hike, we drove into Manito, checked out the festival booths and nearby businesses, and then had lunch at Willett's which always serves good eats. A delightful day spent outdoors!

**Attendees:** Laura Van Riper, Jerry Gegel, Joyce Gegel, Linda Kent, Kathy Kissel, Sandy Ines, Mary Benson, Chris Golden, Susan Hood, Brian Cunningham, Mary Greenwood (with Samson), Tom Heiser

**Event Leader:** Cindy Alexander

#### [Event 2013-25, Sunday, Oct 27, 2:00 pm, Camp Wokanda,](#)

What a pretty autumn afternoon that was enjoyed by a bountiful number of Pimiteoui members and guests. We chose to hike the North side of the site, acquired by the Peoria Park District in the 1990s from the Boy Scouts of America. The beginning of the trail was marked by reflections of autumn hues laid still on the face of Davis Lake. We started along Red Trail, and noted that the bridge washed out from the floods of last spring had been repaired. There were a couple of steep climbs, aided by wooden steps and railing. The group gathered for a look at the camping sites of cabins and primitive Adirondack lean-to shelters. We then turned and headed back to our starting point via Logging Road Trail, an easy descent. The sun was shining, and we celebrated the end of the hike with fresh apple

cider. A group of us then headed into Chillicothe to Castaways for gourmet pizza and sandwiches.

**Attendees:** Linda Kent, Sam Kent, Doug Lais, Connie Tumminelli, Kathy Kissel, Cathy Barker, Sharon Obery, LaVerne Wilson, Margaret Moulton, John Jackson, Chris Golden, Kim Mitchell, Brian Cunningham, Sandi Burrier, George Burrier, Tom Hieser, Celeste Hansen, Susan Hood, David Dean, Sandy Dean, Andy Shull, Cherie Shull, Roger John, Kathy John, Jay Meinrich, Mark Klokkenga, Eric Hutchison, Mareike Kraatz, Cindy Alexander. Guests: Brittney Wright, Marcie Tupper, Megan Jaskowiak, Carol Beatty

**Hike Leader:** Toni Lais

### [Event 2013-26, Saturday, Nov 9, 8:30 am, Hennepin & Hopper Lakes](#)

A sunny November day found hikers driving north along the Illinois River Road Scenic Byway to the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge at Hennepin and Hopper Lakes--a restoration project of The Wetlands Initiative ([www.wetlands-initiative.org](http://www.wetlands-initiative.org)). The site was named a "Wetland of International Importance" by The Ramsar Convention ([www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)) in 2012. We hiked the trail/boardwalk to the 30 ft. observation tower for a great view which included ducks, geese and swans. Then we took the trail in the Dore Seep Nature Preserve located within the project. At that time I gave Webster's definition of a seep but, thanks to John Jackson I dug deeper. I spoke with Rick Seibert, site manager, who said a geologist explained to him that at this location, when rain falls on a farm just to the east of the site it goes down through layers of sand and gravel until it hits hardpan causing it to flow sideways until it comes to the surface at the base of the bluff. This is the water we saw coming from the ground along the trail--a seep. John had it right. (Also, for those who were interested, Rick said kayaking and canoeing is allowed May1-October 1.) It was then a short ride to the Putnam County Conservation District's Natural Lands Area where the many newly fallen leaves crunched underfoot as we hiked the Spring Gulch Trail. The outing concluded with lunch and good conversation at The Pizza Peel in Lacon.

**Attendees:** John Jackson, Bonnie Jackson, Eric Hutchinson, Mareike Kraatz, Mike Fortune, Connie Tumminelli, Kathy Kissel, Laura VanRiper, Cherie Shull, Kathy John, Roger John, Carol Beatty, Cindy Alexander, Rob Alexander, Joyce Gegel, Jerry Gegel, Mary Greenwood, Linda Kent, guest-Sharon Daughters, and four-legged hikers Samson and Cheyenne.

**Hike Leader:** Chris Golden

### [Event 2013-27, Sunday, Nov 23, 8:30 am, Independence Park, Marquette Heights](#)

The hike scheduled for November 17 was cancelled on the 16<sup>th</sup> due to a scary weather forecast. The forecast was correct. Pekin, East Peoria and Washington and other areas incurred severe tornado damage at about 11:00 on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Mary and Susan rescheduled the hike for 8:30 am on Saturday, November 23. Our hearty group of 10 met in the Independence Park lot and then drove a few cars to St. Clair Drive to begin hiking. The trail had been muddy earlier in the week, but fortunately the ground was frozen on Saturday morning, making it much easier to hike the rolling trails. It still was an invigorating and challenging hike - and very enjoyable. We were happy to see that PAMBA has recently updated their map of Independence Park and added trail markers. The much improved map can be found at [www.pambamtb.org/independencepark](http://www.pambamtb.org/independencepark). We entered the park across from St. Clair Road and followed the Fire Road east to Trail 6, leading to trail 5 and we resurfaced at the Independence Park lot about 1-1/2 hours later. Some of our group chose to hop into their cars at that point. The remaining hikers scooted down Gas Line Corridor, hop-scotched on stones across the creek, and then crossed a wooden bridge on our left, which lead to Fire Road (west) and closed the loop hike from St. Clair Drive at about 10:30. Now that there is a

good map and the trails are marked, I think everyone agreed that we would like to explore more of Independence Park on another day.

**Attendees:** Gary Romans, LaVerne Wilson, Tom Hieser, Toni Lais, Brian Cunningham, Doug Lais, Barb Gurtler, Dave Grebner,

**Hike Leaders:** Mary Greenhood and Susan Hood

### Event 2013-28, Saturday, Nov 30, 10 am, Starved Rock

Starved Rock was very inviting on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. While gathering outside Starved Rock Lodge before the hike, the marketing director of the park saw us, asked about our club, and took many pictures of us. We may be in future brochures for The Rock. The clear day and decent temperature made for pleasant viewings of the Illinois River on the Starved Rock, Lover's Leap, Eagle Cliff, and Beehive overlooks. No bald eagles were seen, but the leafless trees made for even more impressive views throughout the park. Going east, some of us stopped at Wildcat Canyon, while most continued to Lonetree Canyon before heading back to the lodge. Lunch at Duffy's in Utica was superb

**Attendees: Members:** Mike Bohn, Mary Greenhood, John Jackson, Brenda Meinrich, Tom Hieser, Kathy John, Roger John, Chris Golden: **Guests:** Debbie Jones, Stormy Harrison, Joe Harrison, and Mary's dog Samson

**Hike Leader:** Jay Meinrich

### Saturday, Dec 14, 7:00 pm, Christmas Party

The six inch snowfall the day before the party set a festive mood for the Christmas party held at the home of John and Bonnie Jackson. Attendance was the most ever at 36. To use an old cliché, a good time was had by all. Conversation and merriment spilled into nearly every corner, with old friends and new catching up on the latest news and activities. The party wound down with our own Mary Greenhood playing Christmas carols on the piano, and we discovered some great singing voices among our club membership!

**Hosts:** Bonnie and John Jackson

### Event 2013-29, Sunday, Dec 22, 2:00 pm, Forest Park Nature Center

With temperatures hovering around freezing, the air was cool and refreshing for our hike. But that also meant there were areas of frozen ice along some of the trails. Brian shared two pairs of ice treads to members in our group. Thus equipped with treads and poles, we proceeded to hike the inner trails in a cloverleaf fashion. For 1.5 hours we traversed paths that were familiar to us, but looked different due to patches of snow and the leafless views exposing the terrain's contours.

**Attendees:** Rob Alexander, John Jackson, Kathy Kissel, Brian Cunningham, Debbie Jones, LaVerne Wilson, Chris Golden

**Hike Leader:** Cindy Alexander

## Treasurer's Report

2013 Income	\$1348.50	Checking Account Balance:	\$ 743.60
2013 Expenses	\$1203.59	Savings Account Balance:	<u>\$ 5.50</u>
		Total Funds on Hand :	\$ 749.10

**PIMITEOUI TRAIL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NEW MEMBER ( )

CASH ( )

RENEW MEMBER ( )

CHECK ( )

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$6.00 PER PERSON

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "PIMITEOUI TRAIL ASSOCIATION". MAIL TO CLUB TREASURER:  
LINDA KENT  
22172 NORTHFIELD DR.  
MORTON, IL. 61550

**MEMBERSHIP YEAR EXPIRES FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR.**

THE NEWSLETTER IS MAILED ELECTRONICALLY EVERY QUARTER. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE E-MAIL, PROVIDE YOUR SNAIL MAIL ADDRESS AND WE WILL SEND YOU A NEWSLETTER BY MAIL. YOU ARE ADVISED TO PHONE THE HIKE LEADER BEFORE A HIKE TO MAKE CERTAIN THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY LAST MINUTE CHANGES DUE TO AN UNEXPECTED EVENT. REMINDERS AND CHANGES ARE SENT OUT BY E-MAIL ONLY.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

FIND HIKING INFORMATION: [WWW.PTAHIKE.ORG](http://WWW.PTAHIKE.ORG)

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