

## **Cindy Our Friend**

**Was it really here decades long  
that we heard the forest song,  
the whisper of the breeze  
past the waiting trees,  
the call of friendship and fun  
beneath the warming sun?**

**Led by Joe,  
with a few more in tow,  
we formed a club  
that became our nature hub.  
we built, we fixed  
with no fancy tricks,  
just hard work and love  
and heavy-duty gloves.**

**We were blessed with  
your laughter and your smile,  
they kept us company mile after mile.  
Thirty yeas of hiking,  
and occasional biking  
went by so fast,  
so quickly did they pass.  
And just so you know,  
Cindy our friend,  
we'll keep on trekking to trail's end,  
thinking of you until  
the day we meet again.**

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# Pimiteoui Trail Association Hiking Club January– March 2017

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President – Mike Bohn – 309-657-4557  
Vice President –  
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. Annual dues are to be paid on or before the Annual Meeting on February 21, 2017. You may either send your \$6.00 to Linda Kent, treasurer, at 13873 S.E. 86th Circle, Summerfield, FL 34491 or give your money to Bonnie Jackson at the annual meeting in February.

### **Gear Swap Site**

Check the PTA website ([ptahike.org](http://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](mailto:j.jackson1954@yahoo.com). The PTA reserves the right to reject or edit all listings.

### **Donation to PAMBA**

PTA has made a donation of \$100 to the Peoria Area Mountain Bike Association to help them continue the much-appreciated work they do to build and maintain multi-use trails in the Peoria area.

### **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](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.
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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

**Saturday, January 14th 12:30pm - precedes the Rock Island Trail hike**

**Sunday - February 12th 12pm - precedes the East Peoria Trail hike**

**Saturday - March 11th 8:30am - precedes the Camp Wokanda hike**

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.

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.

For all trail cleanups we will meet in the Heritage Square parking lot facing Prospect Avenue. Many of the cleanups will likely end with a trip to Trefzgers.

**Clean Up Leader:** Brian Cunningham, 309-633-1224

### **2017-01, January 14, Saturday, 10:00 am, Rock Island Trail Greenway and more, Peoria Heights**

Release your winter cobwebs and join us on a paved trek starting at our adopted trail portion of the Rock Island Trail Greenway in Peoria Heights. Park in the lot that's in front of Heritage Square, 4450 N Prospect Road. We will all walk along the trail to Bishop. People wanting a shorter hike will stay on the Greenway to the Journal Star before backtracking. Those opting for a longer, hilly hike will do a circular street route of Bishop/Harmon/Grandview/Prospect back to the vehicles. Optionally afterward, we'll find a Heights eatery to warm in and dine. Dress in appropriate layers for the temperature. Wear shoes or hiking boots suitable to the expected footing. Bring trekking poles if snow or ice is present. Carry water.

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

### **2017-02, January 28, Saturday, 8:00 am, Starved Rock State Park - Bald Eagle Days**

**To carpool/caravan, meet at 8 am in the Kroger parking lot, Cherry Tree Shopping Center in Washington. Or meet us at the Starved Rock Lodge near the fireplace at 9:30 AM. Call the hike leader if you plan to meet us at Starved Rock Lodge, so we will know to look for you.** The winter hike at Starved Rock is an annual favorite. We hope to see eagles over the river and frozen waterfalls in the canyons. Dress for the weather. Hiking

poles and attachable snow cleats may be helpful. Bring water and a snack. Afterwards, we will stop at Duffy's in Utica to eat.

**Hike Leader:** Brian Cunningham, 309-633-1224

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

Hiking a part of this rail trail is a club staple in winter. Gather at the Fondulac Park District headquarters, 201 Veterans Dr. in East Peoria. If the footing is slick, we'll start there and walk on flat pavement. If the footing is dry, we'll car pool to the small parking lot where the trail crosses Matheny Rd. (thank you Mary Greenhood) and hike a hillier, more picturesque portion. This is an out and back hike, so turn around spots abound. Dress in appropriate layers for the temperature. Wear shoes or hiking boots suitable to the expected slickness. Bring trekking poles to maintain balance. Carry water. Afterward, we'll eat together if people want to.

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

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

The Pimiteoui Hiking Club annual meeting is being held at the Forest Park Nature Center this year on Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. Doors will be opened at 5:30 pm. Setup of the room will be from 5:30 to 6:00 pm. Socializing and dinner will begin at 6:00 pm, followed by our speaker, and then the business meeting with a review of the past year, presentation of recognition awards, and drawing for door prizes. Any club business will be addressed. Nominations and voting will take place for the offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you would like to help the club by being an officer or want more information about an office, call or email Mike Bohn. Both the PTA and you, the participants, will provide the meal! The PTA will provide the following: chicken, vegetarian soup, deserts, drinks, paper plates, cups and "silverware". **Members please bring a side dish to share.** If you have any questions, let me know.

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

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

Join us for an early spring, gentle 5.00 mile round trip, hike from Mossville Road to Camp Wokanda and back. We will meet in the North parking lot on Mossville Road. Directions: Go north on Knoxville, past Route 6 intersection. Turn right on Mossville. There will be two parking lots directly across from each other. We will be in the one on the left (north). Any questions, call me.

**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](#)**

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

**Event Leader:** Mike Bohn, 309-57-4557

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

Come join us for a spring hike around the Wake Robin trail portion of Forest Park. Let's meet at Forest Park in front of the main building. This hike will be roughly 4 miles in length and it will have a few good-sized hills to test your legs early in the year. The hills will be in the first half of the hike and the remainder is flat. At a moderate pace it will take us 1.5 to 2 hours to complete. We can then go for something to eat afterwards. If you have any questions, give me a call.

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

## EVENT REPORTS

### [2016-22, October 9, Sunday, 2:00 pm, Independence Park, Marquette Heights](#)

A beautiful day greeted us at Independence Park in Marquette Heights. It was a treat to hike trails the club never has been on, gaining a new appreciation for this park. The vista views on the many hills were excellent through a combination of turning and fallen leaves. We found several interesting items along the trails—including a damaged drone—and encountered a couple of mountain bikers. After hiking 2.5 hours, we called it an afternoon well spent.

**Attendees:** Cindy Alexander, Pam Brandt, Eric Hutchison

**Hike Leader:** Jay Meinrich

### [2016-23, Oct. 22, Saturday, 9 AM, Hike the “Sue & Wes Dixon Waterfowl Refuge”.](#)

Great day to get out and hike, or at least 10 members thought so. As we left RT 26 onto the winding road into the Dixon Waterfowl Refuge we were greeted by pair of elk, yes elk! The male standing by the edge of the road had a huge rack and the female crossed in front of us. We hiked both the wetlands and forested parts of the trail. Climbing the observation tower we got a birds eye view of the massive water way and natural foliage surrounding the area, seeing many different species of pelican, geese and ducks, in addition to the nice color of the fall leaves. After the hike, we replenished ourselves at The Pizza Peel in Lacon. The good food was supplemented by many enjoyable conversations. All in all it was another successful Pimiteoui Hike.

**Attendees:** Judy Bartow, Pam Brandt, Arthur Ching, Brian Cunningham, Joyce & Jerry Gegel, Jay Meinrich, Cherie & Andy Shull and Lavern Wilson

**Hike Leader:** Roger John

### [2016-24, Nov. 12, Saturday, 8:00 AM \(car pool\), Hike the Rock Springs Nature Center](#)

On Nov. 12, 2016 the hikers set out for Rock Springs Conservation area outside Decatur. We left Cracker Barrel about 8:15 am for our 1.5 hour drive. You couldn't have asked for a nicer day. We hike the 2.25 mile River Trail and zigzagged thru some tall grasses. We went by the old remnants of the Rock Springs bottling plant. They have a very nice interactive museum and also bike trails. We came back to Delavan and ate at the Exchange. Good day had by all.

**Attendees:** Judy Bartow, Roger John, Arthur Ching, Brian Cunningham, barb & Homer Gurtler & Phil Schmuck

**Hike Leader:** Pam Brandt

### [2016-25, November 27, Sunday 2:00 PM, Northwoods Park, Morton.](#)

Several hikers met at Northwoods Park to burn off some Thanksgiving Day calories and hike

through the leaf-covered trails. Although we started out chilly, we warmed up with activity. The path was mostly flat but scenic through the woods, and we hiked around 2.5 miles in just under 2 hours. Afterwards, we enjoyed cookies and cider while visiting under the pavilion.

**Attendees:** John Jackson, Jerry and Joyce Gegel, George and Sandi Burrier, Linda Kent, Paula Kestner, Susan Hood, Maggie Ambrose, Barb and Homer Gurtler, Dave and Scooby Grebner and guest, Les Hensley.

**Hike Leader:** Angie Madison

### 2016-26, Dec. 11, Sunday, 2:00 pm, Rock Island Trail-Wyoming, IL

December 11, 2016 weather iffy, but the hike was on. Six Pimiteoui Club members; and I had, what turned out to be, a good trek. The group left Wyoming heading North to Toulon in spite of the "Trail Closed" posting. We scouted the trail the day before. There are two small areas where the trail had eroded, however there is quite a large path along side still intact, no danger there. The weather cooperated, and the snow covered path provided a crisp crunch as we walked approximately 5 miles. This section of the Rock Island Trail is scenic, one railroad bridge crossing, a somewhat frozen creek and neat winter landscape. It was a hike worth doing.

**Attendees:** Judy Bartow Arthur Ching, Dave Grebner, Eric Hutchison, Mareike Kraatz

**Hike Leader:** Roger John

### 2016-27, Dec 17, Saturday, 7:00 pm, Christmas Party at Home of Bonnie & John Jackson.

The weather outside was frightful, as the song says, but several brave souls ventured out for the Jackson annual Christmas party. There was much lively conversation around the wine table, while an intimate little group enjoyed conversation beside the Christmas tree in the family room. In the meantime, a good time was being had by those congregating in the dining room to sample the mouth watering sweet and savory treats, which were nearly impossible to resist.

As the conversation and laughter began to wind down and revelers began drifting home, a gentle snow began to fall. All guests made it home safely, with the greatest calamity being a wool scarf inadvertently dropped in the snow on the sidewalk. Don't worry. Scarf and owner have long since been reunited.

We hope the club members enjoyed the festivities as much as we hosts did, and that all of our guests had a merry Christmas. May 2017 bring you much peace and happiness!

Bonnie and John Jackson

### Treasurer's Report

	<u>Balance as of 12/31/2016</u>
Checking Account	\$1265.03
Savings Account	<u>\$2032.11</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3297.14</b>

