



Pimiteoui Trail Association

Hiking Club

Oct – Dec 2015

President – Cindy Alexander – 309-231-2190
Vice President – Mike Bohn – 309-688-2791
Secretary – Kathy Jones – 309-231-9195
Treasurer – Linda Kent – 309-263-8500
Newsletter Editor – Jerry Gegel – 309-266-7533

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NOTICES

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.

For Sale: HIKING POLES, new, 3-section, anti-shock aluminum, grip handle and wrist strap, removable rubber cap over an ice tip. Three available: one green, one gold, and one silver; \$7 each. Cindy Alexander, 309-231-2190.

PTA Hiking Club

1. Hikes shall start promptly with no more than a 10-minute grace period for late arrivals.
2. For 2015, 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.
6. Any hike leader wanting to use the club’s first aid kit can obtain it by calling Cindy Alexander.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Thursday, Oct. 1, 9 AM, IL River Bluff Trail. Meet at Camp Wokanda main parking lot, 620 Boy Scout Rd., Chillicothe.

This is a Peoria Park District event and is open to the public. It is also a great opportunity to put your cumulative training to use on a longer, more challenging hike totaling 6.5 miles. Bring a sack lunch and hiking boots for this **day-long** hiking trip. Recommended for experienced hikers only. Participants will be shuttled from Detweiller Park back to Camp Wokanda. Free (donations to PPD appreciated).

Contact: Cindy Alexander at 309-231-2190 or Camp Wokanda at 309-579-2157

2015-21, Saturday, Oct. 10, 2:00 PM, Hike at Clinton Lake State Recreation Area, Clinton, IL. Meet at Cracker Barrel in Morton at 12:30 pm for car-pooling. Please let us know if you will be meeting us at the Clinton Lake Recreation Area.

We are planning to hike 4.7-miles (Houseboat Cove, Pond in Woods & North Loop trails) north of the Clinton Lake beach following the shoreline and coming back through the woods... There are restrooms at the parking lot. The trails are easy to moderate in difficulty, and dogs are okay on leashes. Afterwards, we will stop at Mamma D's Smokehouse Restaurant in nearby Weldon. Mamma D is "famous for our smoked breasts" and will open early just for us
Directions to CLRA: Look for the sign "Clinton Lake State Recreation Area – IDNR Region 3 Office" along Hwy 14 (Hwy 14 runs N/S connecting Hwy 54 at De Witt and Hwy 10). Turn west at the IDNR Office sign located on Hwy 14 and follow signs to hiking trails.. For directions see: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgt/parks/sitemaps/clinton.gif>.

Hike Leaders: Eric Hutchison, 309-688-7038 (home), Mareike Kraatz, 309-621-5474 (cell)

2015-22, Sunday, Oct. 25, 2:45 PM, Hike El Paso Walking Trail. Meet at 2 PM at Cherry Tree Shopping Center on Cummings Lane in Washington at 2 PM to carpool. Park near Monical's.

This trail is a linear rail trail composed of crushed stone. It begins at South Pointe Park and runs north through town, terminating at a creek bordered by light woods and ag fields. Total mileage will be about 5.5 miles roundtrip, but you can go shorter distances by turning around at any time along the way. Dining option afterwards.

Hike Leader: Cindy Alexander, 309-231-2190

2015-23, Sunday, Nov. 8, 2 PM, Hike at Robinson South in Peoria. Directions: Take route 40 north of Route 6 until you get to Mossville road and turn right. Go for a mile or so and on the right will be the parking lot we want to meet.

Come and get a good work out climbing the "gently rolling hills" of Robinson Park South. Just teasing! Actually, the hills are very strenuous and continuous through out the hike so be forewarned! The round trip from Mossville road to Route 6 is just under four miles. Afterwards we will stop for something to eat.

Hike Leader: Mike Bohn 309-657-4557

2015-24, Saturday, Nov. 21, 7 AM, Day Hike at Turkey Run State Park, 8121 E. Park Rd., Marshall, IN. Meet at Morton Cracker Barrel Restaurant at 6:45 AM. Departure on our 150 mile trip will be promptly at 7 AM. If you plan to do this trip, RSVP early (with Brian (309-633-1224) by Tuesday 11/08) for the group "road trip" passenger vanpool. If we do not have enough RSVPs for the van we will car-pool rather than vanpool. Everyone should bring a packed lunch; dinner will be in Champaign, IL. It is best to bring along trekking poles and an extra pair of shoes and possibly extra pants as the hiking can potentially be a little wet in canyons. We expect to return to Morton at approximately 8 pm.

Turkey Run State Park near Marshall Indiana has some of the most exhilarating, unusual, challenging and beautiful hiking trails in the entire Midwest. This hiking centric park was established in 1916 with the states purchase of 2,382 acres. It has 14 miles of trails along Sugar Creek one of which is considered easy and the remaining 10 trails are categorized as either moderate or rugged. The most interesting trails are located in the deep canyons nestled in the shadows of sandstone cliffs and peaceful hemlock groves.

If you prefer to stay overnight either Friday or Saturday, Turkey Run State Park includes a 61 room stately lodge built in 1919; several cabins and camping are also available. The Inn's phone number is 877-500-6151. Please notify Brian if you are choosing this option.
Hike Leader: Brian Cunningham; 309-633-1224

[2015-25, Saturday, Dec. 5, 9 AM, Farmdale Dam Recreation Area. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Farmdale main parking lot on Bittersweet Rd., East Peoria.](#)

Directions: (1) **From E. Washington St. in East Peoria:** turn south at CVS onto Farmdale Rd., go 1.6 miles, turn left at Farmdale Pit sign to continue on Farmdale Rd. (if you go straight, it becomes Veterans Rd.), go 0.2 mile, turn left onto Bittersweet Rd., there will be a directional sign for Farmdale Reservoir on the right, go 0.8 mile to the parking lot.
(2) **From Rt. 24 (heading east toward Washington):** turn right onto Grange Rd. (stop light), go 0.8 miles, cross Centennial Dr. (Grange becomes Summit here), go 1.1 mile, cross Washington Rd. (stop light, Family Video on corner), continue south on Summit, the road curves right to become Bittersweet Rd., go 1.3 mile to parking lot.

Farmdale Dam Rec. Area is an 837-acre dry reservoir built in 1951 by the Army Corps of Engineers for flood control. Activities allowed here include hiking, mountain biking and horse riding. On our venture at Farmdale, we will explore areas on the far side of Farm Creek, including Blue Chevy Hill. This will be a longer hike and will include a few hills.

Hike Leader: Cindy Alexander, 309-231-2190

[Saturday, Dec. 12, 7 PM, Christmas Party at Home of Bonnie & John Jackson](#)

Please join us as we celebrate another Christmas season at the Jackson home, 15 Waldheim Rd., Morton, Illinois. The party starts at 7:00 pm. Feel free to bring your favorite libation or enjoy the drinks provided. Tasty treats and fellowship abound, so be sure to mark your calendar for this fun and festive event. **Special note:** If there is rain or snow, leave your boots at the door and bring your favorite Christmas shoes to change into. We'll keep your boots safe and sound while you celebrate the season!

Hosts: Bonnie & John Jackson; 309-263-2474

[Monday, Dec 14, 6 PM, PTA Board Meeting, Morton Public Library, 315 W. Pershing, Morton, IL.](#)

[2015-26, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2 PM, Hike Forest Park Nature Center.](#)

Let's meet in the parking lot of the Forest Park Nature Center for a winter hike on the bluff trails. These trails are a local favorite. The trail is forested and runs along the river bluff. Bring a hiking staff and canteen. The trail is of moderate difficulty. After the hike we will reconvene at a local establishment for camaraderie and jocularity.

Hike Leader: John Jackson 309-645-0263

EVENT REPORTS

[2015-13, Saturday, July 11, 8:30 am, Detweiller North at The Dogwood Shelter](#)

A small group of 10 showed up for this challenging hike in warm damp conditions. We started from the parking lot into a very steep climb immediately and just a few minutes into the hike the rain started; light at first, then heavier. Also, our group ran into several runners who were doing a 50-mile run. They had the worst of it on the steep slippery trails. After one hour and two large hills (soon to be followed by another) the group decided to call it quits for the day. With steady rain some people wanted to stop and others could be talked into it. Mary's two beagles and one beagle mix had no comment. We completed our last hill and left for home to

dry out. In my 10 years in the club I don't remember being on a hike where it rained 90 percent of the time!

Attendees: Susan Hood, LaVerne Wilson, Cindy Alexander, Tom Heiser, Andy Shull, Mary Greenwood and the Beagles.

Hike Leader: Mike Bohn

[2015-14, Wednesday, July 15, 6:30 pm, Northwood Park, Morton, IL](#)

The weather was just perfect, sunny and 70's, for this 1.5 mile hike in a small but interesting park. The trail wasn't as muddy as it could have been since the rain has been steady for so long! However, because of the bad weather, the trail was very rough and the trees and bushes were torn up from the storms. Some areas of the trail were almost over grown with weeds; not at all like it usually has been. No blooming bushes or flowers. The small creek going through this area is usually pretty dry but it was flooded from all the rain. So because of the dampness, we were pretty over come with mosquitoes. Nineteen hikers meandered along the trail and circled the old Hirstein cemetery. It was an easy, evening hike.... just perfect because we were rewarded by delicious, healthy cookies baked by Joyce Gegel !!! Bonnie, John, Linda and Sam went to TNT's on #150 for a snack of crunchy onion rings.

Attendees: Sam and Linda Kent, Jerry and Joyce Gegel, John and Bonnie Jackson, Maggie Ambrose, Roger John, Cindy Alexander, Paula Kestner, Laverne Wilson, Eric Hutchison, Marike Kraatz, Susan Hood, Jay Meinrich, George and Sandi Burrier, Andy Shull and Judy Barlow (Judy joined the club on this hike!)

Hike leaders: Joyce Gegel & Linda Kent

[2015-15, Saturday, JULY 25, 9:00 am, Bicycle Ride – Dunlap to Princeville](#)

At 9:00 a.m., 12 members met in Dunlap under the water tower for an 11 mile bike ride. The plan was to ride to Princeville and back. However, the sky was holding rainy, black clouds and since the trail had sustained mud holes from previous rain, it was decided to ride a trail more accommodating. At 9:45, we gathered in the parking lot of Conner, Inc. in Pioneer Park. We rode north and south on a section of the Rock Island Trail that has asphalt. There was a nice breeze and since it was cloudy, it turned out to be a great day for a ride! Although it did not rain, some of us didn't ride a great distance. Nine rode to Springdale Cemetery and back. Seven ate a bite at TNT's on Prospect after the ride.

Attendees: Dave Wirsching, Linda Moon, Jerry and Joyce Gegel, George and Sandi Burrier, Brian Cunningham, Rob and Cindy Alexander, Roger John, and Judy Bartow

Ride Leader: Linda Kent

[2015-16, Sunday, Aug. 9, 2:30 pm, Fort Crevecoeur](#)

Despite the hot, humid weather, 16 hikers met on Sunday, Aug. 9, at Fort Crevecoeur Park, located on the bluffs of the Illinois River in Creve Coeur. The first segment of our hike took us along a wooded ridge to a small hill prairie abounding with waist-high grasses and various prairie plants, some still in bloom. We then followed the mowed perimeter of the park, which then led us to the life-size replica of the old fort. Unable to enter the fort because it was locked, we paused outside its gate to listen to a brief history of its origin. We proceeded back into the neighboring woods where we zig-zagged down into a ravine, then climbed about 196 concrete steps to the Fort Crevecoeur Monument, where we paused for a breather before heading back to the main park by way of residential streets. Back at the park we relaxed and socialized in the shade of a picnic shelter while we ate slices of chilled watermelon.

Attendees: Cindy Alexander (leader), Rob Alexander, Bonnie & John Jackson, Kim Bowers, Paula Kestner, George Schini, Susan Hood, Autumn Egbert (and dog), Mary Greenwood (and dogs), Andy & Cherie Shull, Dave Grebner. Guests: Roy & Dee Dee Lorenz, Gloria Egbert

Hike Leader: Cindy Alexander

2015-17, Wednesday, Aug 19, 6:30 pm, Bicycle Ride - E. Peoria to Morton & Back

The weather cooperated and we had a cool evening for a ride on the trail. We returned to the caboose just in time to miss the rain!

Attendees: Barb & Homer Gurtler, Rob and Cindy Alexander, Celeste Hanson, Mary Greenwood, Susan Hood, Bonnie Jackson, Brian Cunningham, Andy Shull.

Ride Leader: John Jackson

2015-18, Saturday, Aug. 29, 8:15 am, Hike Lincoln Memorial Garden, Springfield, IL

Fourteen members met at the Cracker Barrel in Morton at 8:30 a.m. to caravan to Springfield for a 3 & 1/2 mile hike. One member from six hikers from the Springfield area met us at the Lincoln Memorial Nature Center. The guests from Springfield area helped a lot as they knew the park trails very well. There was a chance of rain but we went for it and were pleased that except for a few sprinkles the rain held off. We didn't rush as we hiked around ponds and prairies. Flowering bushes brought color along the trails and we investigated Cyprus trees around the water's edge. After the hike, 16 hikers went to Sgt. Peppers Restaurant in Springfield for lunch. Most of our meals were above average in taste and prices were very reasonable. The service from Meagan was amazing! She really is a server worthy of recognition.

Attendees: Judy Bowton, Roger John, Jerry Gegel, Joyce Gegel, Cindy Alexander, Rob Alexander, Mike Bohn, Pam Brandt, Barb Gurtler, Homer Gurtler, Susan Hood, Mary Greenwood, Kathy Jones, & Carol Pantier

Guests from Springfield Area: Greg Mclsaac, Christa Morris, Bryon Nesbitt, Lisa Schnell, Lindsey Hahn and Kevin Brown.

Hike Leaders: Linda & Sam Kent

2015-19, Saturday, Sept 12, 8:30 am, Hike Comlara Park (Lake Evergreen)

Hiked the John English trail for approximately five miles. Were fortunate to see some wildlife including a few deer. Some of the crew camped at the park for the weekend, while others had a paddle in their kayaks. Following the hike we enjoyed some fine food at the Lake Road Inn.

Attendees: Rob and Cindy Alexander with Augie, Dan Redman, Chris Sweet, Kathy Jones, Susan Hood, Carla Montez, Mary Greenwood with Copper, Charley & Cindy, Maggie Ambrose, Dave Grebner & Scooby, Andy Shull, Bonnie Jackson, and Carolyn Pantier.

Hike Leader: John Jackson.

2015-20, Sunday, Sept 20, 4:00 pm, Meadow Valley Park, Washington, IL

Sunday, Sept. 20, was a picture-perfect, late summer day--ideal for an outdoor picnic at Meadow Valley Park in Washington, with 32 people (and a few dogs) attending. We started the event with a short walk in the woods. Because the park had sustained some damage from the 2013 tornado, many of the trails were closed off by fallen trees or overgrowth, making it necessary for us to explore three separate spurs out and back. Upon returning to the picnic shelter, we feasted on burgers and brats and a delicious variety of potluck dishes. Following the meal, the socializing continued while several tried their skills at bag toss and fat bat baseball. Thank you all for helping to top off the summer with this fun get-together.

Lost: prescription sunglasses. Call Linda Kent at 264-6156 if found.

Found: one dinner knife. Call Cindy A. at 231-2190 to claim.

Event Coordinator: Cindy Alexander

Treasurer's Report

Balance, September 3, 2015

Checking &
Savings Account
\$1526.16

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

FACEBOOK AND PICTURES: GOOGLE:
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