



# Pimiteoui Trail Association

## Hiking Club

### January - March 2024

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President: Dave Grebner (309) 222-7941  
Vice President: Bonnie Jackson (309) 696-1955  
Secretary: Angie Madison (309) 453-2097  
Treasurer: Carol Raines [talinara1989@yahoo.com](mailto:talinara1989@yahoo.com)  
Newsletter: Cherie & Andy Shull [shullag@yahoo.com](mailto:shullag@yahoo.com)

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our group took many nice hikes in 2023, and we look forward to more fun gatherings this year. Thanks to everyone who led a hike or helped out in other ways. And a special welcome to our new members! Hiking is a great way to explore nature, socialize and get some exercise. Please consider leading a hike or serving on the board in 2024.

#### **[Club Dues \\$6/person – due February 1 \(form attached\)](#)**

Yearly membership dues of \$6.00 per person are required February 1, 2024. You may pay at the Annual Meeting or send your check and membership form (attached and on the website) to treasurer, Carol Raines, 2014 Georgetown Place, Pekin, Illinois 61554.

#### **[Annual Meeting – Saturday, Jan 20, 5:00 PM, Avanti's, East Peoria](#)**

**Address: 2320 E. Washington St, East Peoria**

Please RSVP to Angie Madison [ap.madison84@gmail.com](mailto:ap.madison84@gmail.com)

Our Annual Meeting will be held at Avanti's in East Peoria and is earlier this year (in January rather than February) to accommodate our Speaker's schedule. After dinner, which you can purchase off the menu, we hope you will enjoy a presentation by Rhonda Ferree. Rhonda is a Retired Horticulture Educator from Champaign Extension and currently lives in Havana, Illinois. She hikes and motorcycles frequently and will be giving us a presentation on the plants she has found on her hikes.

Also, the Association will need to elect new officers. Bonnie Jackson's term as Vice-President ends December 31, 2023 and we need a volunteer to fill that position. We are immensely grateful to Bonnie for all her hard work for our Association. Behind the scenes, Bonnie wore many hats, such as notifying members by email, scheduling the Board's Zoom meetings, organizing social events and much more. Most of Bonnie's responsibilities have already been allocated and Bonnie has agreed to continue to help with some. Thus, whoever volunteers to be Vice-President will have very few responsibilities.

We will also need to fill the positions of President and Secretary. Dave Grebner wants to step down as President and Angie Madison would like to step down as Secretary. These positions do not need to be filled immediately but will need to be filled at the next Annual Meeting.

### [Covid Safety](#)

We remain committed to following the CDC pandemic safety guidelines and will adapt as needed. We look forward to seeing you all!

### [Hike Reminders](#)

1. Hikes shall 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](mailto: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](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.

### [1st Quarter 2024 Event Schedule](#)

#### [Saturday, January 13, 10:00 AM Pekin Park Trail](#)

**Address:** 800 S. Parkway Dr, Pekin IL 61554

We will meet at Coal Miners' Park, 800 S. Parkway Dr., Pekin IL 61554. This trail is a paved, fairly level trail that is rather easy. We will hike the portion of the trail from Parkway Dr. to Allentown Rd. This section is mostly wooded. This will be a 2.2 mile hike in total. Most people would not need hiking sticks unless needed due to weather conditions. Dogs on leashes are welcome. We will plan to eat lunch together afterwards. Location note: The park district lists the address of Coal Miners Park as 300 S. Parkway Dr., but if you use that address, it will show you a location north of the park entrance. There is only one entrance to the park. There is a parking lot near the entrance and that is where we will meet. I should arrive by 9:30. There are restrooms at the park, but I do not know if they will be open.

**Hike leader:** Gayle Howell (309) 267-6878. Trail map: [Pekin Park Trail](#)

#### [Saturday, Jan 20, 5:00 PM, Avanti's, East Peoria – Annual Meeting](#)

**Address:** 2320 E. Washington St, East Peoria

Please RSVP to Angie Madison [ap.madison84@gmail.com](mailto:ap.madison84@gmail.com)

Our Annual Meeting will be held at Avanti's in East Peoria and is earlier this year (in January rather than February) to accommodate our Speaker's schedule. After dinner, which you can purchase off the menu, we hope you will enjoy a presentation by Rhonda Ferree. Rhonda is a Retired Horticulture Educator from Champaign Extension and currently lives in Havana, Illinois. She hikes and motorcycles frequently and will be giving us a presentation on the plants she has found on her hikes. The meeting will also include election of new officers. See full description on page 1.

### **Saturday, January 27, 10:15 AM Starved Rock Eagle Days**

(if planning to carpool, meet at Morton Cracker Barrel at 9 am)

**Address:** One Lodge Ln, Oglesby, IL 61348

Meet at the Morton Cracker Barrel back parking lot at 9 am to carpool to Starved Rock. This is always a good time regardless of season or eagle appearances. Frozen waterfalls are common this time of the year also. Trails are a mixture of stairs, boardwalk, and unpaved areas. Weather will determine the distance we hike. Dress appropriately for the cold temperatures, wear boots, and bring your hiking poles. If it is icy and you have Yaktrax, Crampons, or similar bring them. Binoculars, water, and snack also a good idea. Dogs are permitted on a leash. The group will decide if we will eat a late lunch at the lodge after the hike. Bathrooms are available at the lodge.

**Hike leader:** Celeste Hansen (309) 231-7023

### **Saturday, February 10, 10:00 AM, Cooper Park North**

**Address:** 2929 N Main St, East Peoria, IL 61611

Meet at Cooper Park North in East Peoria for a roughly 2 mile, flat walk along the Illinois River. We should see some wetlands along the walk, at the north end we can see the progress of the new bridge across the river.

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

### **Sunday, March 10, 2024, 1:00 PM, Rock Island Trail, Alta**

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

Come hike this beautiful section of the trail from Alta north toward Dunlap. The first part off the trail passes through an area with beautiful houses. There are many trees on both sides of the trail, but if you look carefully you can see some of the houses. Farther north the trail is flanked by open farmland. 2024 marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the trail's founding. Come join us and help us sing "Happy Birthday" to the trail. Meet at the Alta parking lot. This will be a joint hike for the Pimiteoui Trail Association and the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club.

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

### **Saturday, March 23, 10:00 AM, Guided Bird Hike, Forest Park Nature Center**

**Address:** 5809 N Forest Park Dr, Peoria Heights, IL 61616

Let's all meet for a guided hike at Forest Park, *Migration Madness! The Return of the Birds*. Here's the description: Calling all new and experienced birders! Join our naturalists as we learn about the earliest spring migrants who return to Illinois each spring. We will go out into the woods to see (or hear) who has returned. These hikes are guided by FPNC's naturalist staff and feature the wonders of the Illinois River Bluffs as they change over the seasons. Hikes are low-impact, unless indicated otherwise, and many are stroller or wheelchair accessible. Advance registration is not required. Cost: \$5

## **FOURTH QUARTER 2023 EVENT REPORTS**

### **2023-17, October 7, Detweiller Park, Dry Run and Pimiteoui Loop**

Fifteen hikers enjoyed a beautiful morning hike of a little less than 3 miles. The colors were just starting to turn and the temperature was cool.

**Hiking Members:** Sheila Hansen, Cherie Shull, Andy Shull, Donna Uftring, Jim Perry, Janet Joyner VanAntwerp, Susan Hood, Angie Madison, LaVerne Wilson, Walt Klypchak, Dianne Wyant, Barb Gurtler

**Hiking Guests:** Cecilia & Iván Wyant

**Hike Leader:** Rob Alexander

### **2023-18, October 21, Coal Hollow Park, Chillicothe, IL**

We met on a fine fall day - 60 degrees, sunny, trees golden all around. Harvest time for forest fruits - walnuts were abundant. We enjoyed hiking 4 of the park's 5 loop trails through the Coon Creek valley. Ed captured a nice group selfie during one of our hill-side rest stops. A fine park visit worthy of return.

**Hiking Members:** Ed Coleman, Celeste Hansen, Walt Klypchak, Andy and Cherie Shull, Carol Raines, Dave Grebner and Scooby, Donna T., Pamela B., AJ Egbert, Mary Greenwood, Susan Hood

**Hike Leader:** Eric Hutchison



### **2023-19, November 4, John English Memorial Trail**

We had eight hikers explore the John English Memorial Trail at Comlara Park. The hike was 4.5 miles out and back following the bank of Lake Evergreen. The leaves were down giving us an excellent view of the lake and water fowl. Lunch after the hike was at Busy Corner in Goodfield.

**Hiking Members:** Bonnie Jackson, John Jackson, Mary Reiter, Carol Raines, Andy Shull, Cherie Shull, and Bonnie Tometich

**Hike Leader:** Celeste Hansen

### **2023-20, November 18, Rock Island Trail, North Park in Dunlap**

We were blessed with pleasant weather while walking 6.36 miles on the Rock Island Trail from North Park in Dunlap just past Feucht Road and back. We enjoyed walking through farm country while having the opportunity to socialize.

**Hiking members:** Rob Alexander, Pam Brandt, Ed Coleman, David Finch, Eric Hutchison, Carol Raines, Andy and Cherie Shull, and Donna Uftring

**Hiking Guests:** Sherri Morrison, Penelope Finch

**Hike Leader & Assistants:** Dianne, Cecilia, and Iván Wyant

### **2023-21, December 11, Hyde Park Christmas Lights**

We had a brisk 2.5 mile walk through the Hyde Park neighborhood and enjoyed some spectacular Christmas lights. The weather was beautiful and the camaraderie was wonderful. We all enjoyed the nighttime walk.

**Hiking Members:** Loren Madison, Dianne Wyant, Barb Johnson, Carol Raines, Brian Raines, Susan Hood, Cherie Shull, Mary Greenwood

**Hiking Guests:** Ceci Wyant, Iván Wyant

**Hike Leader:** Angie Madison

**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:**

Carol Raines  
2014 Georgetown Pl  
Pekin, IL. 61554

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

THE NEWSLETTER IS MAILED ELECTRONICALLY EVERY QUARTER. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE EMAIL, 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 EMAIL ONLY.

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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