

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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Spring in the Adirondacks

By David Coleman

Spring IS coming!

And our annual Spring trip to the Adirondacks is coming too!

Join us on the weekend of May 18, 19 and 20th for our Ninth Annual Spring Adirondack Hike. On Friday we will car pool from Victor to Schroon Lake, New York to the home of the Founder of Victor Hiking Trails, Marcia Bryan. Friday evening Marcia cooks us a delicious dinner! On Saturday we head to the High Peaks area for our "big" hike in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains. Saturday evening we stop at a local restaurant for a celebration dinner of the day's hike. On Sunday we usually go on a short hike in the morning before returning to Victor.

If you are interested, or if you would like more information you can e-mail David Coleman at:

dcoleman@VictorHikingTrails.org or call him at 585-657-2140. If you have a special place you would like to hike, let him know. In past years, here are the hikes we have done:

1999 - Tongue Mount Range, Chimney Mountain
 2000 - Pitchoff Mountain, Roaring Brook Falls, Chimney Mountain
 2001 - Noonmark Mountain, Round Mountain, Spectacle Pond
 2002 - Tongue Mountain Range, The "Rookery"
 2003 - Nun-da-gae-o Ridge, Hurricane Mountain, Goodnow Mountain
 2004 - The Brothers, Big Slide Mountain, Mount Jo, Treadway Mountain
 2005 - Mount Adams, Newcomb VIC, Saint Regis Mountain
 2006 - Macomb Mountain

Join this fun group as we hike in one of the many beautiful places in the Adirondacks.



HIKES FOR 2007

VHT 2007 Officers:

Dave Wright- Chairman
 Jeff Hennick- Vice Chairman
 Nat Fisher- Secretary
 Chauncy Young- Treasurer
 Carol MacInnes- Trailmaster
 Larry Fisher- Trail Boss
 David Coleman- Membership
 Ruth Nellis- Education
 Open- Historian

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The Victor Hiking Trails Pathfinder is published quarterly for the members of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. We encourage submissions of letters, editorial items and advertising pertaining to trails, Victor and the environment.

To submit articles for the *VHT Pathfinder*, please contact:

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- Apr. 14-** Bike ride from Turning Point Park. Bike transport via car racks and trailers. Bike on the new boardwalk along the Genesee River.
- May 12-** Farmington Nature Trail, Monkey Run, MaryFrancis Bluebird Haven. Short, easy walks. Educational.
- Jun. 2-** National Trails Day. Meet at Fishers Fire Station on High Street at 8:00 a.m. for a continental breakfast. Hike will begin at 9:00 a.m.
- Jun. 9-** Mendon Ponds Park, ADK Outdoor Expo.
- Jul. 14-** Briggs Gully and Clark's Gully creek walks
- Aug. 11-** Garnsey Road, McCord Woods and Horizon Hill
- Sep. 1-** Ring of Fire at Bare Hill
- Sep. 8-** Hang Around Victor Day
- Oct. 13-** Finger Lakes Trail, Bristol Branch
- Nov. 10-** New Town of Webster Trails
- Dec. 8-** Helmer Nature Center, Durand Eastman Park and new Lakeshore Trail at Seabreeze

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details. All hikes meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

Journeys of Inspiration is a group of 40 cancer survivors and others who have been affected by cancer. They will attempt to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro in March, 2008. Our own David Coleman has signed up to make the climb. He and the others are committed to each raising \$2500 for the American Cancer Society. Because of the research being done in our area, especially at Strong Hospital and the U of R, our area will benefit greatly from their efforts. If you would like to help David, please call him at 585-657-2140.

Past Hikes

Jan. 13– Powder Mills Park. After the annual VHT Officer's Kick-off Breakfast and meeting at Denny's Restaurant, five intrepid hikers enjoyed a morning hike at Powder Mills Park. They followed the trails around the perimeter of the park, where ever possible. At times there was a little mist in the air, as noted in the picture to the right. That eventually changed to snow later in the hike, and of course there was lots of mud under foot. Chauncy was able to add to his pictorial collection of bridge construction methods. We finished before lunch, but no one was really hungry anyway.



Photo by Larry Fisher.

Feb. 10– Mendon Ponds Park. Four people joined the VHT outing at Mendon Ponds Park on Saturday. This was a venue change from Harriet Hollister Park, which was extremely busy that day with school race activities. Two folks snow-shoed and two folks cross-country skied on the trails near the beach at 100 Acre Pond. The snow conditions were good; the weather was brisk. After returning to the cars, two of the hikers continued on snow-shoes up to the water tower, bushwhacked through some less traveled trails, and returned to the parking lot, all before noon.

March 10– Dryer Road Park. Five people and one dog cross-country skied and snow-shoed (actually the dog just walked) at Dryer Road Park and Fort Hill. Unfortunately, there was one accident on the return trip from Fort Hill. One lady tried to ski down a steep hill in the woods and smacked into a tree. Fortunately, Larry Fisher was able to apply first-aid to her and she was able to walk out. She saw a doctor later. Carol MacInnes talked to her later and she was feeling much better. This is why it is important to hike with a group and let others know where you will be hiking. Let's be safe on the trails.



Photo by Larry Fisher.

Trail Maintenance 2007

We need volunteers to help with trail maintenance! We meet Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM and most Saturday and Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM, from May to September. Volunteers should come equipped with sturdy shoes, pruning shears, and small pruning saw or loppers. We encourage volunteers to try out our walk-behind brush cutter, an experience you will not want to miss! The work usually lasts about one hour. Please feel free to work all or just part of a shift. **Sometimes we cancel due to rain and then shift the schedule. Please call if you are unsure where we will be meeting.**

Call Larry Fisher at 924-5803 for additional information.

5/2 We	Brace Road Pk.	East Street	To Brace Road Park
5/5 Sa	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail, Trolley
5/6 Su	Auburn	Maple	To Brace Road
5/9 We	Seneca	Willow brook	Through Ambush Pass to Route 96
5/12 Sa	Hike	Farmington Nature Trail	
5/13 Su	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd	Into Ganondagan
5/16 We	Monkey Run	Victor Egypt Road	All
5/17 Th	Meeting		
5/18 -20	Hike	Adirondack Spring Weekend	
5/23 We	Auburn	Fishers House 1	To Probst
5/26 Sa	Auburn	East Victor Road	To Break of Day Rd.
5/27 Su	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail, Trolley
5/30 We	Seneca	Fishers House 2	Willow Brook
6/2 Sa	Fundraiser	National Trails day	
6/3 Su	Auburn	Maple	to Brace Road
6/6 We	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd.	Into Ganondagan
6/9 Sa	Hike	Mendon Ponds Outdoor Exp	
6/10 Su	Makeup	Call 924-5803 for location	
6/13 We	Monkey Run	Victor Egypt Road	All
6/16 Sa	Brace Road Pk.	East Street	To Brace Road Park
6/17 Su	Seneca	Willow brook	Through Ambush Pass to Route 96
6/20 We	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd.	Into Ganondagan
6/21 Th	Meeting		
6/23 Sa	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail
6/24 Su	Makeup	Call 924-5803 for location	
6/27 We	Auburn	East Victor Road	To Break of Day Rd.
6/30 Sa	Trolley	Route 251	To Auburn
7/1 Su	Makeup	Call 924-5803 for location	
7/4 We	Brace Road Pk.	East Street	To Brace Road Park
7/7 Sa	Monkey Run	Victor Egypt Road	
7/8 Su	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail
7/11 We	Auburn	Fishers House 1	To Probst
7/14 Sa	Hike	CLARK'S, BRIGGS'S GULLEYS	
7/15 Su	Seneca	Willow brook	Through Ambush Pass to Route 96
7/18 We	Auburn	Maple Street	To Break of Day
7/19 Th	Meeting		
7/21 Sa	Seneca	Fishers House 2	Willow Brook
7/22 Su	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail
7/25 We	Auburn	East Victor Road	To Break of Day Rd.

Footprint Press Receives 2006 Tourism Legacy Award

Canandaigua, NY – Footprint Press has received the 2006 Tourism Legacy Award for Branding.

Branding – it is word and image association – a capturing of the essence of a place in just a few words or striking images. Footprint Press (www.footprintpress.com) and its series of guidebooks on outdoor recreation in the Finger Lakes Region have captured the branding space for Finger Lakes hiking and biking. Sue and Rich Freeman left Kodak to pursue a better lifestyle – and turned that passion for the outdoors into a series of guidebooks. When you're looking to direct someone to a trail for hiking or biking in the Finger Lakes Region, these books are the resource of choice.

There are also online newsletters, articles for other publications – like *Rochester Healthy Living* and *Nature's Health Club* and a website. It's a whole package – as branding should be! "It was the Finger Lakes Region's loss last year when Rich and Sue Freeman, authors and publishers of Footprint Press relocated to Florida – or perhaps not," said Valerie Knoblauch, President of the Finger Lakes Visitors Connection, "we now have an advocate for our wonderful region working from another locale."

The Tourism Signature Legacy Awards were presented by the Finger Lakes Visitors Connection on October 30, 2006 at the Bristol Valley Theater in Naples. This event is held biannually to honor individuals and organizations within Ontario County who have significant achievements, made significant contributions, or have demonstrated marketing or service excellence in the tourism industry. There were three signature awards for this event – one for individual achievement; one for product development; and one for tourism industry



support.

A total of 15 individuals were recognized for marketing service and excellence at the event. Winner presentations ranged from website excellence, frontline service, behind the scenes, exemplary personalized service, and genuine hospitality to hard work. A complete listing of winners can be found at www.VisitFingerLakes.com/partners.

Finger Lakes Visitors Connection is the official tourism promotion agency for Ontario County, located at 25 Gorham Street in Canandaigua, NY. Its mission is to create visitorship and economic vitality for Ontario County by marketing its tourism assets and positioning the area as a premier leisure and meetings destination.

Update on the Trail Improvement Projects

Significant progress is expected this season on the Auburn Trail from the Village to Farmington. Work was halted last season due to some problems with securing right of ways on the trail. As a result, there will be some changes in the route of the trail between School Street and Maple Ave. Details are being worked out now so when the weather breaks, work will begin again.

Parking areas, benches, signs and other amenities will also be completed this year. Please excuse the disruption as the work progresses. When everything is complete, these trails will be the best in our area.

Can you help us build a bridge?

One of our projects this Spring is to replace an old foot-bridge over White Brook on our Monkey Run Trail. Chauncy Young has designed the bridge and will be ordering the materials. We will utilize the Town's Parks Maintenance Building to construct the bridge on Saturday, April 28 from 8:00 a.m. until it is complete.

If we have enough help, another crew will be at the site preparing the foundation for the bridge. If everything goes as planned, the bridge will be delivered and installed in the afternoon. If you can help, please call Larry Fisher at 924-5803.

The Lehigh Valley RR Trestle

There has been a lot of discussion about this bridge lately. The Town of Victor Parks and Recreation Department and VHT discussed decking the trestle so there would be another access point to Lehigh Crossing Park. It would also mean the Lehigh Trail would continue a little farther east toward Route 251, making a connection to the Seneca Trail.

And the long range plans for the Lehigh Valley Trail show it continuing into the Village of Victor and eventually on into Farmington and Manchester. That would make it one of the longest trails in our area.

When the Town of Victor, the Village of Victor, The Local Development Corp. and VHT first applied for a TEA-21 grant in 2004 to improve the Auburn and Lehigh Trails, decking the Lehigh was included. But because the total cost of the project exceeded \$2 million, it was recommended we pare it down. So we took out the decking and we terminated the Auburn at Main Street Fishers instead of Probst Road. We were successful in being awarded \$1.4 million for the project.

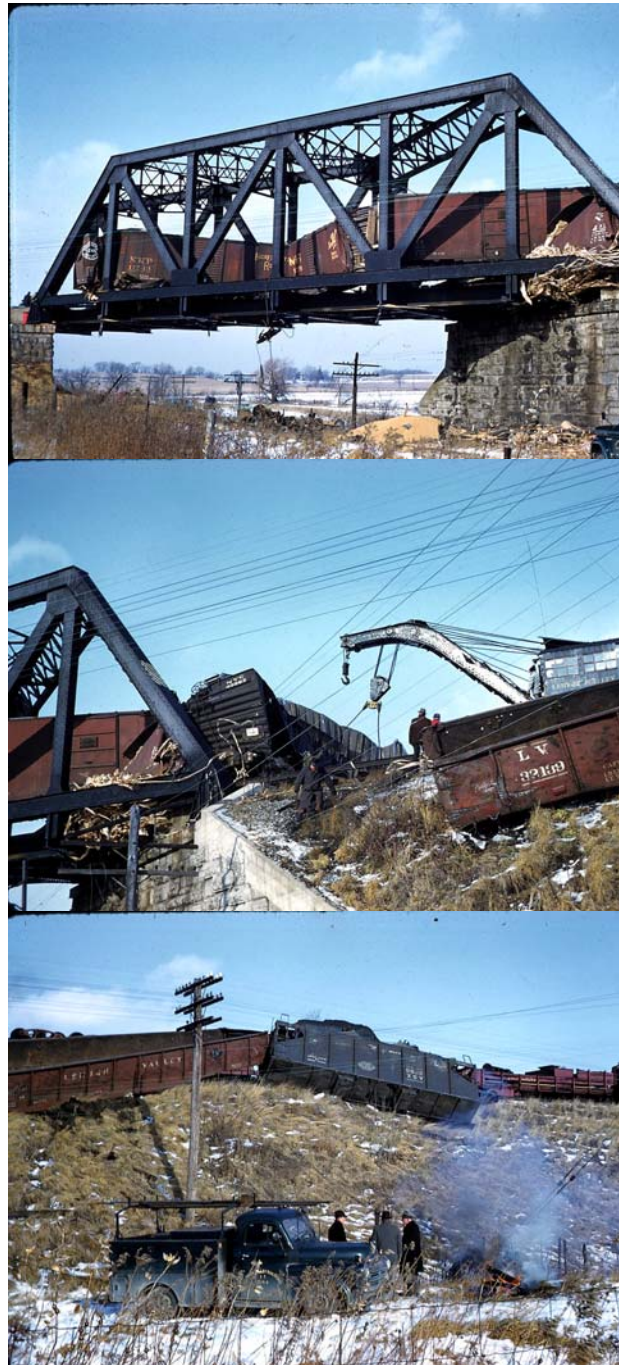
In 2006, we again teamed up with the Town to apply for a grant to continue the Auburn and Lehigh, but when the total cost of the project exceeded \$1 million, we were advised to pare it down again. We were successful in being awarded a grant for \$885,500 to complete the Auburn Trail to Powder Mills Park.

So we then applied for a grant for \$2000 from the Genesee Region Trails Coalition. The funds would be used to purchase the materials and the labor would be provided by town forces and VHT volunteers. Again, we were successful and on Feb. 26, 2007 we accepted the check. VHT will match that amount and the Town will provide the balance, estimated to be \$6,000. Joe Logan, a bridge engineer for Fisher Associates and a Victor resident, has designed the decking to utilize the acceptable materials on the bridge, replace deteriorated ties and use modern materials.

During one of many inspections that we made of the trestle, it was noted that back in the early 1960's there had been a train derailment at the trestle. Several VHT members remember riding their bikes to the site to see box cars strewn around the area. They watched as big cranes removed the damaged cars. And soon all was fixed and back to normal.

We tried to find information about the derailment, but so far we have not been successful. However, Warner Fisher, one of J. Sheldon Fisher's sons and a resident of Victor, remembered seeing some slides of the accident. After some searching, he found the slides and let us borrow them. Larry Fisher copied them to a CD and Dave Wright made a copy of the CD for Babette Huber, Victor Town Historian.

Some of the pictures will be put on educational signs along the trails. Here are a few of the pictures.



Your advertising could be here.

We are inviting local trail-related stores and businesses to place an advertisement in this newsletter.

The cost is very low and the benefits are huge. Not only do you show that you support trails in Victor, you also help defray some of the costs to publish and distribute this newsletter.

We want to use as many funds as possible to improve the trails for the betterment of all users. And as the trails improve, we can expect more tourists to visit our area and patronize our local stores and business.

So if you would like to see your logo and information about your business here, call Dave Wright at 585-234-8226. You will be glad you did.

Where was that trail again?

Looking for a new trail to hike? Or a bike shop close by? Maybe an ice cream shoppe to stop at during a jaunt with the family? How about a lake or river to try out the new canoe or kayak?

Well now you can go to one source and find them all. Just click onto www.trailsnewyork.org and you will find everything you need to enjoy the outdoors. This is the new Trails Central website, developed as a tool for all outdoor enthusiasts by the Genesee Region Trails Coalition with the help of our own Jeff Hennick.

Jeff would appreciate any comments you might have regarding the site. We want to make this an easy to use, useful tool.

Special License Plate Holders For Sale

As mentioned before, VHT is selling unique license plate holders. The bright yellow frame with forest green lettering will let everyone know that you support hiking trails in Victor.

To make things easier, we have placed an order form below. Why not cut it out now and place an order for two or more of these distinctive license plate holders.



Hey, I like those new VHT license plate holders and I want to support VHT!

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Quantity _____

X \$5.00 each

Tax \$0.00

Shipping \$0.00

Total _____

Please make your check payable to:
Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

and mail to :
Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.
85 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564

Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.
85 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564

Phone: 585-234-8226

Email: dwright@victorhikingtrails.org



Connecting the gaps in Victor

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

Time to renew your membership?

Please look at the mailing label.

The first line contains the month and year that your membership expires.
If you are past due, please send a check today.

Yes, I want to join / renew membership in VHT!

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____

E-Mail _____

I would like my newsletter (please check one) Mailed _____ E-mailed _____

I can help with: Trail Acquisition _____ Trail Maintenance _____ Trail hikes _____

Newsletter _____ Fund Raising _____ Special Events _____ History / Education _____

Amount submitted \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ other \$ _____

Victor Hiking Trails, Inc is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

Make check payable to: VICTOR HIKING TRAILS, INC.

And mail to: 85 EAST MAIN STREET, VICTOR, NY 14564