

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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VHT sold baked goods and desserts, provided by many of our members. Thank you to all who baked or donated goodies or cash. *Page 2.*

On a crisp, clear night, all enjoyed the food and watching the huge tee-pee fire. *Page 3,*

Work remaining to be done is installation of the interpretative signs, installation of the unique bike racks and fabrication and installation of two railroad station benches. *Page 5.*

For riding your bike, you can't beat the Erie Canal Trail and the Genesee Valley Greenway. And of course our own Auburn Trail and Lehigh Trail are great too. *Page 6.*

2008 Iron Butterfly Black Diamond Off-Road Dualthon

Come to Fishers Park on Saturday, October 18th at 8:30 AM to watch the start of the 4th Annual Iron Butterfly Black Diamond Off-road Duathlon.

Entries are close to 200 this year, with all age groups and abilities represented.

This is a two-mile run through the trails in Fishers Park followed by a ten-mile bike ride on the Auburn, Lehigh and Trolley Trails. When the riders finish with that, they get to run another two miles on the Fishers

Park trails again.

Special awards for the winners in each age group for both men and women will be presented shortly after the race. All participants and volunteer helpers are encouraged to enjoy a great lunch under the tents in the park.

This event gets bigger and better every year, thanks to Brian Emelson and his team of volunteers, including many from VHT.

Look for pictures in our next newsletter.

Great Brook Bridge out and back up again

Heavy rains again washed out our little bridge over Great Brook by Dryer Road and Maple Avenue.

The last time was five years ago. The water pushed it down stream, under the railroad culvert and into the Victor Insulator property. With substantial help from Jim Mattoon and the Victor Parks Dept., we were able to return it to the foundations. But each spring the creek would flood and undermine the foundations a little more. Finally, a few weeks ago, the water won and moved the bridge off its supports.

But this time we had tied a heavy-duty rope to the bridge and a sturdy tree, so the bridge didn't go very far.

The last weekend in September Chauncy Young, Jeff Hennick and others built a new foundation on the east side and shored up the west foundation. Then on October 1, a crew of about 15 picked up the bridge and placed it on the new and improved foundations. It is now about 18" higher than before and will be secured so that it won't be going anywhere soon.

The creek banks have been lined with stone to slow down further erosion. The approaches have been greatly improved. Still to be done is adding a new railing to the down stream side. But the bridge and trail are now open again.

See page 4 for photos.

HIKES FOR 2008

VHT 2008 Officers:

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

Oct. 11– Swifts Landing Bike Ride on the Erie Canal
 Oct. 18– Black Diamond Duathlon at Fishers Park. 9:00 AM
 Nov. 8– Finger Lakes Trail, Bristol Section
 Dec. 13– Sherwood parcel (Penfield)

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. Most hikes are relatively easy and take 2-4 hours. We usually car pool to the trailhead. If you have any questions regarding any of the hikes, or if you have suggestions for places to hike, please leave a message.

Hang Around Victor Day and Victor Fest

Most of the day was sunny and 70's. A perfect day to hand out trail maps and tell people all about our wonderful trails and projects. We did have a brief shower around noon, but that was just to settle the dust.

We had a steady parade of people past our tent all day long. Many stopped to look at our new displays showing how VHT relates to nature, the town and village, and quality of life in our community.



Thank you to all who helped set up, talk to our visitors and promote the trails and take down the display. I believe we have participated in Hang Around Victor Day every year since we started VHT in 1992. And it is still fun to tell residents about our new trails and projects.



Victor Fest is the new event that complements HAVD. It begins at 5:00 PM in the Victor Firemen's Memorial Field with great family entertainment, music and food. Once again, VHT sold baked goods and desserts, provided by many of our members. Thank you to all who baked or donated goodies or cash. A special thank you to Chauncy Young and Ruth Fisher for selling all evening.

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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.

Ask about our rates. To submit articles for the *VHT Pathfinder*, please contact:

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Past Hikes

July 12 was a fun hike at Buttermilk Falls State Park, just south of Ithaca, NY. Five hikers car pooled to the park for a great hike in the gorge. They had lunch near the top and waded in the creek just below Treman Lake. Wonderful stonework on the walks and walls from the 1930's CCC projects. And of course they stopped in Ithaca for an ice cream on the way home.



August 16 was another hike in a gorge. This one was in Fillmore Glen State Park, south of Moravia and Owasco Lake. The trail criss-crosses the creek at least nine times by way of footbridges. After making it to up to the top and seeing the dam, the five hikers waded in the creek and ate their lunch in the creek. This is another fine example of stonework done in the 1930s by the CCC. And of course, they stopped for an ice cream on the way home.



August 30 was our annual picnic supper at Bare Hill for the Ring of Fire around Canadaigua Lake. Nine made the hike from the parking area to the bonfire site, with a little bush-whacking the last quarter mile. On a crisp, clear night, all enjoyed the food and watching the huge tee-pee fire. And what a beautiful sunset.



Jack-O-Lantern Walk on the Trolley Trail

How are your pumpkin carving skills? Even if you are not an artist, I'll bet you can come up with a unique design for a pumpkin or two. On Saturday, October 18th, from noon to 3:00 pm you can drop your entry off at the Victor Firemen's Memorial Field on Maple Avenue. Then come back between 7:00 and 8:00 pm to walk the trolley trail that will be lit with hundreds of jack-o-lanterns. This is a fun event for all ages. Adults are \$3 and kids under 15 are only \$1. The Victor Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary will have refreshments. Donations will benefit local charities, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Victor Fire Dept. and Victor Hiking Trails.



Photo by Chauncy Young.

Putting the Great Brook Bridge back on its foundations, again.



Great teamwork by several VHT and GROG members.

Club Day Sale October 17-18

Here is an easy way to get that new sleeping bag or backpack you have been thinking about and save 20% to boot.

On either Friday or Saturday, stop over to the Eastern Mountain Sports store in Pittsford Plaza, pick out those much needed replacements, show them your VHT membership card and save 20% on everything in the store.

They also have some special 30% off on selected items like fleeces and packs.

VHT will have a display of our recent projects and events and will be passing out brochures and signing up new members.

So if you have a chance, stop by and say hello.

Adirondack Adventure

The group ignored the forecast that had called for a rainy weekend in the Adirondacks and traveled to Marcia's



home in Schroon Lake for a day of hiking. It paid off! There were just a few minutes of light sprinkles during the hike. The sun even poked out for a few minutes now and then. The leaves were at about peak on the trail to Noonmark via Round Pond. As usual, Marcia provided a wonderful dinner for us Friday evening. After the hike, we treated her to dinner at Drake's. Great weekend! Join us for the next trip sometime in the Spring of '09.

Update of the Auburn Trail Enhancements

Work for this season is winding down and may finish all the remaining work before yearend.

Have you seen the new directional signs at the road crossings? They are unique, decorative and informative.

The Victor Parks dept. has been working on the trail shoulders to put down top soil and hydro-seed it before the grass growing season is over.

Work remaining to be done is installation of the interpretative signs, instal-

lation of the unique bike racks and fabrication and installation of two railroad station benches. The signs and bike racks are planned to be in by the end of October. The benches, which are being made by VHT, will have to wait a little longer.



Fall Hikes in the Finger Lakes

It's difficult to find a more colorful area to hike than our own Finger Lakes area. Hiking through the Bristol Mountains in October is always a Kodak moment and view.

In the Naples area there are many choices: Wesley Hill Nature Preserve, Cummings Nature Center, Hi Tor, Grimes Glen, South Hill, Tanner Creek and Conklin's Gully. All great hiking trails within an hour of Victor.

If you go a little farther, to Ithaca, you have a choice of several state parks; Buttermilk Falls, Robert H. Treman and Taughannock Falls.

Watkins Glen State Park is another favorite. And don't forget Letchworth Park.

Hiking trails include the Bristol Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail. Parts of this trail are in Ontario County Park, BSA Camp Cutler, Naples and Letchworth.

For riding your bike, you can't beat the Erie Canal Trail and the Genesee Valley Greenway. And of course our own Auburn Trail and Lehigh Trail are great too. So enjoy the colors from a trail.



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**Want to save a tree, get this newsletter sooner and in color?
Send an e-mail to David Coleman at dcoleman@victorhikingtrails.org and
ask to be added to the Newsletter Electronic Mailing List.**

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.

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Message line:
585-234-8226

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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