

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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I think the kids enjoyed the morning in spite of the bugs... *Page 4*

By the time they got to Marcy Dam, the sun was shining. *Page 5*

...he put together a plan and procured the materials... *Page 6*

Challenge Hike II

By David Wright

Are you ready for the 2012 Challenge Hike? Like last year, this will be a hike of the entire length of the Seneca Trail in Victor, and then some. A special hike, it will begin at the North end of the Constellation Brands parking lot off High Point Drive (above the K-Mart across from East-View Mall) in Victor. Meet there on **Sunday, September 30th at 8:00 a.m.**

The 13+ mile hike will follow the Seneca Trail all the way to the South end of Boughton Park. The estimated time to make this trek is 4 hours. There will be a few rest stops along the way for everyone to catch up and we promise that no one will be left behind.

Please wear sturdy hiking boots as some of the trails may have wet areas. Bring water and a snack. Dress for the weather. We go rain or shine.

Please call **585-234-8226** if you plan to attend so we can provide a ride for you back to the starting point. Or you can hike back.



HIKES FOR 2012

VHT 2012 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman
 Nat Fisher– Secretary
 Chauncy Young– Treasurer
 Carol MacInnes– Trailmaster
 Larry Fisher– Trail Boss
 Peter Ingalsbe– Membership
 Open– Education
 Wizzy Geno— Volunteer
 Coordinator

VHT Pathfinder

Volume 17, Issue 3
 Fall 2012

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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Sep. 30– Challenge Hike– see page 1 for details

Oct. 13– Historic Walk in Victor and Bike Ride on the Auburn

Nov. 10– Black Creek Park

Dec. 8– Boughton Park

Jan. 25– Moonlight hike– see next issue for details.

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. Always bring a bag lunch or snack and something to drink. Dress for the weather. We rarely cancel due to inclement weather.

We usually car pool to the trailhead. Expect to share the cost of gas with the driver. If you have any questions regarding any of the hikes, or if you have suggestions for places to hike, please leave a message at 585-234-8226.

Again this year we have scheduled more hikes in Victor or the surrounding communities. We are also leading shorter and easier hikes to encourage families and younger hikers to join us.

We only hike as fast as the slowest hikers, so don't worry about not keeping up. If we need to split into more than one group, that is not a problem.

Come enjoy the fun.

October 13– Historic Walk in the Village of Victor. Join Douglas Fisher as he tells us about the historic buildings and homes in the village. This casual walk will begin at the Victor Town Hall, 85 East Main Street. Gather in the rear parking lot at 9:00 a.m. The walk will be about 2 hours long and cover about 2 miles. Water and granola bars will be provided courtesy of Wegmans Food Markets in celebration of Victor's Bicentennial.

October 13– Historic Bike Ride to Fishers and back on the Auburn. Beginning at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot at 9:00 a.m., this easy ride will point out some of the historic railroad and trolley buildings in Victor and the Hamlet of Fishers. Joel Richter, a noted railroad buff and Victor resident, will share his knowledge and wit about the importance of the 3 railroads in Victor and Fishers. Bike helmets are required. Water and granola bars will be provided by Wegmans Food Markets.

Past Hikes

July 14– Keuka Lake Outlet Trail bike ride. Six riders went from the downstream end of the Outlet Trail at Dresden to the source of the stream at Penn Yan, a distance of 7.5 miles. Many scenic stops along the way provide rest as we traversed up the slight incline. After lunch in Penn Yan it was a quick return on the down slope. Then we all stopped for a well deserved ice cream before heading back to Victor.



One of the stops along the trail.

Aug. 11– Creek walk at Conklin's Gully. Although it was one of the driest July in our local history, we got a little rain just before the hike. The creek had puddles here and there that made the hike enjoyable. 12 made it all the way to the big falls, then headed back down to the parking area.



Jeff Hennick took this photo of the group at the base of the high falls.

Sept. 1– Ring of Fire Evening Hike and Supper. A total of 12 met at the Bare Hill Unique Area parking lot and hiked, either on the road or the trails, to the top of the hill to enjoy our dinner. As it was the day after the Blue Moon of August, we enjoyed watching the moon rise as the sun was setting. At 9:00 p.m. the bonfire began, followed by round dancing. A very enjoyable evening.





Maggie's Kids

The bridge project was completed on the Auburn Creek Trail Monday, July 16th with about 12 city teenagers from the camp, Maggie's Kids. Chauncy Young did a terrific job getting the trail mowed and all the materials /supplies we needed to complete the project. He and Kevin Geno managed to keep the kids on task so they were able to complete the bridge in about 2 hours. A big thank you to them and to Carole Fisher and Nancy Newberry who helped to supervise the kids. Since it was a fairly large group, we needed to have

some building while others walked the trail and did a little trimming. A group also needed to carry in some wood that was delivered late. It was very helpful to have extra adults so we could break into groups. Also, thank you to Kathleen Wagner, the contact person from Maggie's Kids, for helping to organize this project. I think the kids enjoyed the morning in spite of the bugs and the heat!!

Wizzy Geno

Hang Around Victor Day and Victor Fest

Despite the brief rain and high winds, our booth, tables, chairs, brochures, signs and volunteers survived and hung in there. See pictures on page 10. A BIG thank you to all who volunteered at the tent and a grateful thank you to all the volunteers who donated baked goods for our dessert sale at Victor Fest. We are looking for other ideas to generate reve-

nue at HAVD for next year. Julie Doyle, founder of Adventure Out, recently donated 32 pairs of Stix Nordic walking poles to VHT. We offered a "show special" to everyone who joined or renewed their membership at the \$20 or higher level a free pair of poles. Several joined or renewed. Let us know if you would like to "purchase" a pair by increasing your membership level.

Adirondack Adventure Weekend, September 14-16

Because of several conflicts, the trip year was enjoyed by only a few lucky ones. 46er David Coleman (our Adirondack coordinator), 46er Larry Fisher, Jane Luce and hostess Marcia Bryan had a wonderful day hike from Adirondack Loj to Marcy Dam (what's left of it after the hurricane last year) and one of the High Peaks. Although it was raining in the morn-

ing, that kept away some of the hikers so they got a good parking spot. By the time they got to Marcy Dam, the sun was shining. After a 12-hour hike they enjoyed a great dinner and a few adult beverages at the Waverly Restaurant in Schroon Lake. Hopefully, everyone will be able to attend the Spring weekend and help celebrate Marcia's birthday.



Marcia, David, Jane and Larry where Marcy Dam has been lowered by the hurricane.



Taking a break or trying to figure out where they are?

Another Successful Eagle Project

Life Scout Sean White of Troop 60 in Victor decided that his Eagle project would be to build a much needed boardwalk in Fishers Park. With permission from the Town of Victor Parks and Recreation Director, Brian Emelson, and the guiding influence of our Treasurer and general

contractor Chauncy Young, he put together a plan and procured the materials and man-power to accomplish the task. In the course of two Sundays the boardwalk was completed.



Congratulations to Sean and Troop 60 for a job well done.

Big Game Hunting Season

It's that time of year again where we want to remind our trail users that there may be hunters on or near the trails. Town code does not allow hunting in our parks or on the trails, but some of our trails are on private property.

Please wear bright colors and avoid early morning and dusk. Bow season opens October 1st. Shotgun opens November 17th and ends December 9th. Bow season opens again on December 10th and ends on December 18th. Spring turkey hunting is May 1—31.



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SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SANTA TRAIN

Sunday, November 25, 2012



Trail User Count

If you were out on the Auburn or Lehigh Trail during the month of August you might have seen some folks with a clipboard and pen sitting in chairs along the trail. That would have been some volunteers counting trail users.

This was a state-wide effort to see how many people are using the trails and how they are using them. It was an interesting exercise to see how many bike riders we have, how many are walking their dog, how many use the trail for exercise and how many kids are out there enjoying the trails.

All of the data collected was sent to Parks and Trails New York. They will compile the numbers, place them into universally accepted formulas, and come up with yearly usage of our trails by each group. This information will be useful when we apply for grants to expand or improve our trails. If we can collect the same data each year it will also show us trends in trail usage.



Peter Ingalsbe, volunteer trail user counter.

If you would like to help with next year's count, send us an e-mail or call our information line. We will add you to our growing list of volunteers who use and support the trails.

ROC the Day on 12/12/12

2011 was the first year for the Rochester region to call upon the community to donate as a group to their favorite non-profit organization.

Last year, more than \$567,000 was raised for local organizations in the nine-county Greater Rochester region. Nearly 700 501(c)(3) not-for-profits serving Animals, Arts & Culture, Community Benefit & Economic Development, Education, the Environment, Health, Human Services and Religion participated to receive donations.

We were fortunate to have many individu-

als donate to our group. The money was used to improve the trails and spread the word that Victor has world-class multi-use trails.

We are again participating in this community activity. So on December 12, 2012, remember VHT.

To learn more about ROC the Day, view a live event countdown and see a list of sponsors and community partners, visit www.ROCtheDay.org.

Spread your support over the year

Some of our members have really gone above and beyond the cause when it comes to supporting VHT. Although we are always in need of more volunteers for trail maintenance, bridge building, new trail clearing and special events, and we really appreciate the time they give us, we also need funds to purchase materials, repair our equipment and replace old equipment. And some of our grants require matching funds.

Rather than make one large donation

when their membership dues are due, some members have made an arrangement with their bank to automatically send VHT a monthly check, just like their mortgage or cable bill.

This is a win-win opportunity for both the member and VHT. It is less of a burden for the member and they don't have to remember when their dues are due. It also helps VHT with its cash flow, allowing us to better plan our yearly budget. Please give this some thought.

More art on the Auburn Trail

If you have hiked on the Auburn Trail in Fishers recently, you may have noticed a new piece of art. That is our trollette. A female troll. She lives under the new bridge but often comes out to say hello to the hikers and bikers that pass by. And she is not camera shy, so you can pose with her.

She joins all of the other art along the Auburn Trail, like the metal sculpture that looks like the front of a steam engine train with a built-in bike rack, our concrete benches and mile markers, the many information signs and our future mural under the Thruway.

The chain saw artist is Elaine Foy of Middlesex, NY. Installation by Chauncy Young.



Bridge Improvements on the Seneca Trail

You may have noticed that some of the old footbridges on the Seneca Trail have been modified and improved. These bridges were built about 15 years ago, before we purchased the walk-behind brush cutters. Because they are slightly wider than a small mower, they didn't easily fit between the bridge railings. Our solution was to remove one railing on each bridge, improve the decking and improve the ramps. We hope this will also be better for our hikers and bike riders.



Auburn Trail Extension South

The towns of Farmington and Canandaigua along with the city of Canandaigua have completed their study of how to extend the Auburn Trail from Mertensia Park on County Road 41 to Ontario Trails in Canandaigua. Although the natural thought was to just follow the original railbed, that was not really an option. Most of the land had been sold to adjoining land owners long ago and was being used for driveways or had a building on it or went through the middle of the owners property. It also would have required crossing busy Route 332 twice.

Fisher Associates, the engineering firm hired to lead the study, came up with many alternatives. Using goals and guidelines, the steering committee, after several meetings, finalized on a route.

The next step is to have the municipalities approve the recommendations and then apply for funding.

It is anticipated that the project will be split into several phases and that it will take several years to complete.



It got a little windy Saturday morning at HAVD when the cold front passed through. Hanging around VHT.



Getting ready for the Bicentennial Parade at HAVD.

A special thank you to David Coleman who was our membership chairman for many years. David will continue to lead us on special hikes both local and distant.



VHT dessert table at Victor Fest.

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All VHT newsletters are now available on our website.
View it and download it in full color.

Annual membership is for 12 months, beginning when you first join. Please send your renewal check promptly so we don't have to come after you. We will use your dues for new and improved trails.

Filling the gaps in Victor

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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

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