

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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Get ready for National Trails Day in Victor

Saturday, June 1st will be our annual National Trails Day hike. This year we will be hiking the entire length of the Auburn Trail, a distance of over 13 miles.

The day will begin in Farmington at the Mertensia Park, located at the south end of Mertensia Road, near County Road 41. Drive down to the lower parking area. We will have a continental breakfast of coffee, pastries, fruit and juice ready at 8:30 a.m. at the lodge. After some quick introductions and instructions at 9:00 a.m., we will head west on the Auburn Trail.

When we reach Brace Road we will make a small detour over to Victor Municipal Park to check out the new lodge. Water and snacks will be available. Then we will pick up the Trolley Trail, cross Maple Avenue, and connect back up with the Auburn Trail at Rawson Road.

Next stop will be Fishers Fire Station on Main Street Fishers where we will have a pizza lunch. Anyone pressed for time will be able to get a ride back to the start of the hike. Or you can plan ahead and leave a vehicle in the parking lot.

After lunch we will continue on the Auburn

Trail to Powder Mills Park, checking the recently improved trail. Plans call for more signs and a plaza at the corner of Railroad Mills and Woolston Roads with shelter, benches and a bike rack. Some work will be done this year and some next year. There is also a plan for a mural on the Thruway overpass. Watch for more news about the community paint project.

Transportation will be available at Powder Mills Park to get the drivers back to Mertensia Park. Again, there is parking available for those that want to have a vehicle at the end of the hike. Or any other location along the route.

Everyone who completes the entire hike will be rewarded with a free year of membership to VHT.

Because we need to plan for the food and transportation, we ask that you register by May 28th by calling 585-234-8226 and letting us know if you will be joining us for breakfast and/or lunch and if you will need a ride back to the start.

Inside this issue:

if you bring sunflower seeds, you can feed the black capped chickadees... *Page 3.*

It's also a chance to work with some very dedicated VHT members... *Page 5.*

Volunteers counted a total of 9,210 trail users at the 22 study locations... *Page 6*

Join us for birding at Braddock Bay

On Saturday, April 13th, VHT will lead a hike at Braddock Bay Park in Greece, NY. If you want the chance to possibly see some owls, meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot, 85 East Main Street, at 6:00 a.m. Ralph Weber, our education chairman, will be leading a caravan to the park to be there by 7:15 a.m. for the Owl Prowl beginning at 7:30 a.m.

If you aren't an early riser, meet Dave Wright at the town hall at 9:00 a.m. to car pool to the park in time to see the hawk banding demonstration at 10:00 a.m. A \$3.00 per person donation is suggested for both events.

If you want to meet the group at the park, here are the directions:

From the South-
Take route 390 north to the Lake Ontario State Parkway. Travel west on the parkway to the 3rd exit for Manitou Beach Road. Turn right onto Manitou Beach Road. Immediately on your right you will see a small parking lot (park here). The trail head for the Owl Woods and path to Main Banding Station is across the road from this parking lot.

We need a headcount as space is limited. Please call 585-234-8226 to let us know if you plan to attend. Sorry, no pets!

HIKES FOR 2013

VHT 2013 Officers:

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

VHT Pathfinder

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 Ask about our rates.
 To submit articles for the
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 contact:

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www.victorhikingtrails.org
 Also on Facebook

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Apr. 13– Braddock's Bay. Greece, NY. See note on front page.

May 4– Historic Victor Village Walk and Fishers Bike Ride

May 11– Crescent Trail hike, White Brook Nature Trail

May 17-19– Adirondack Weekend

Jun. 1– National Trails Day. See note on front page.

Jun. 8– Ontario Pathways bike ride

Jul. 13– Griffis Sculpture Park and Zoar Valley Creek walk

Aug. 10– Letchworth Park, south end. See the old RR bridge before it comes down.

Sep. 7– Hang Around Victor Day and Victor Fest

Sep. 29– VHT Challenge Hike III

Oct. 12– Finger Lakes Trail, Prattsburg

Nov. 9– Ganondagan, Fort Hill, Dryer Road Park

Dec. 14– Seneca Park / Genesee River gorge

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details. All hikes meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot, 85 East Main Street, 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. This year we will be adding an educational element to some of the hikes.

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.

Past Hikes

Jan. 12– I guess when the temperature reached 50 degrees F and it looked like it might rain, all the potential hikers went somewhere else. So the trail maintenance crew decided it would be a good time to re-route the VHT trail from Dryer Road Park to Fort Hill. Now the trail leads from the parking lot up the old access road to the top field. New trail markers and blue blazes were installed. Let us know what you think, good or bad.



David A. Wright

Jan. 26– 16 hardy souls came out on a clear sky evening for our Moonlight hike. Sorry, no photos were taken. We hiked on the Auburn Trail from Mickey Finn's to the entrance from Break of Day Road, then hiked on the Victor Hills Golf Course. A great hour and half hike, followed by hot toddies at Mickey Finn's.

Feb. 9– This was one of our educational hikes led by Ralph Weber, our new education chairman. Although the number of hikers was low, the hike on the nature trails at Mendon Ponds Park was enjoyed by all. The park has many informational signs explaining the geology, plants and animals. And if you bring sunflower seeds, you can feed the black capped chickadees. The visitors center is open all year, but check for times.



Ralph J. Weber

Mar. 9– We had 19 hikers and 2 dogs trekking through the trails in Fishers Park on a clear, crisp Spring morning. We made a short detour over to Chauncy Young's home for some warm beverages and homemade goodies. Then it was back to the trails in the park to cover any we might have missed. This is a wonderful park for a hike any-time. Check it out.



Chauncy Young

Crescent Trails hiked the Auburn Trail

On March 10th, Dave Schaffer, Trailmaster for Crescent Trails, led a group of 12 on the Auburn Trail from Powder Mills Park to the Domine Trails in Fishers. Looks like they had a nice afternoon.



Hunting seasons for 2013

Some trails are closed during hunting season, as requested by the land owners. Please respect their wishes. When you are out on the trails during hunting season, it is recommended that you wear blaze orange clothing. Your safety is our number one concern.

Youth turkey hunt	April 20-21
Spring turkey	May 1-31, 1/2 hour before sunrise until noon
Bow and fall turkey	Oct. 1-Nov. 16 plus Dec. 10-18
Gun	Nov. 17-Dec. 9
Muzzleloader	Oct. 13-19 plus Dec. 10-18
Coyote	Oct. 1-Mar. 31
Small mammals	Oct. 25-Feb. 15

Maintenance schedule for 2013

Spring has sprung and soon the grass and bushes on our trails will be growing. That means we will soon be out on the trails mowing and trimming and cleaning up from winter. We have three trail maintenance crews that are out on the trails from late April to the end of September and they could use some help. The official times are 8 a.m. on Mondays and Saturdays and 6 p.m. on Wednesdays. It is usually for 1 to 2 hours. The work is fairly easy and good exercise. It's also a chance to work with some very dedicated VHT members.

on our website, www.victorhikingtrails.org. If it looks like rain, we will postpone that section until another time. Sometimes we have to schedule makeup times. Then in addition to the calendar, we will send an email notice to all of our trail crew volunteers.

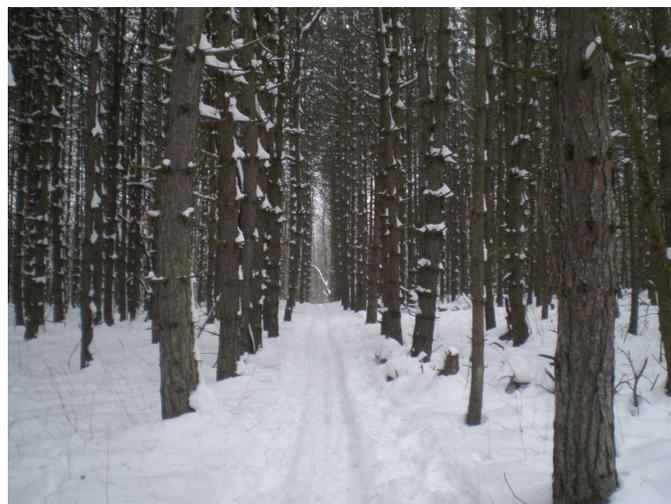
If you want to be on our list, send an email to our Volunteer Coordinator, Wizzy Geno at:

Volunteer@VictorHikingTrails.Org

The locations to meet and the times are always on our calendar

Mendon Ponds December 2012 and January 2013

Photos by Dave Wright



Trail Count Report

As you may recall, we participated in a state-wide trail user count last August. We were given very explicit instructions on how and when to count people using our trails. We collected the data as requested and sent the numbers to Parks and Trails New York in Albany. As promised, they sent us a report with some very interesting results.

Given the large number of trails in NYS and the large number of trail groups, I was surprised at how few of the trails were counted. 12 groups of volunteers conducted counts at 22 locations on 14 greenway trails.

Volunteers counted a total of 9,210 trail users at the 22 study locations. Based on this total, it was estimated that those trails have experienced a total of 2,272,621 users annually. The calculation to arrive at this number takes in many variables, such as weather, time of day, seasons, day of the week, and type of treadway.

We counted at three locations on the Auburn Trail; at Mickey Finn's Restaurant parking area; at Mertensia Park in Farmington; and at Main Street Fishers. And we counted on the Lehigh Trail at Old Dutch Road. We were the only trail count in Ontario County. There were two trail count locations on the Genesee Valley Greenway in Monroe County and two more in Livingston County. Not surprising was that the more populated areas had higher counts.

Based on our raw data counts, it is estimated that between 40,000 and 60,000 trail users are out on the Auburn annually and nearly 40,000 use the Lehigh Trail. The Auburn was pretty close to half pedestrians and half cyclists whereas the Lehigh is 70% cyclists. The good news is that more than half wore a helmet.

We are planning to conduct a trail count in 2013.

Want more hikes?

There are several organizations in our area that offer guided hikes like VHT. As noted on page 4, **Crescent Trails** leads a monthly hike, usually in Perinton, but sometimes in Victor. They are out and about on the second Sunday of each month, meeting at 1:30 p.m. at various locations. You can hear about their next hike at 585-234-1621 anytime.

Ontario Pathways, headquartered in Canandaigua, NY, has a variety of hikes throughout the year. You can check their 2013 event schedule at <http://www.ontariopathways.org>

Mendon Foundation, located just to the West of us, offers walks for birders. Join them for bird walks along the Lehigh Valley Trail, Taylor Marsh in Honeoye, Burroughs Audubon Society property, Fishers Park and Mary Frances Bluebird Haven. Geoff Gretton and Connie Kellogg, long time bird enthusiasts, will lead the walks, identify and observe a variety of birds by song and sight.

April 27th: Lehigh Valley Trail - Plains Rd - Rochester Junction entrance to the new Freight Station. Birds of Africa and the Galapagos photo presentation following the walk.

May 4th: Taylor Marsh in Honeoye** - A unique opportunity to explore the wetlands of Bergen Swamp and possibly see Sand hill Cranes. Rugged conditions, waterproof boots recommended. Join the Bergen Swamp Preservation Society on their annual pilgrimage. ** Taylor Marsh – Meet at Mendon Church, 936 Cheese Factory Rd. at 7:00am to carpool or at the marsh at 7:45am www.bergenswamp.org

May 11th: Burroughs Audubon Nature Club property at 301 Railroad Mills Rd. Victor. www.bancny.org

May 18th: Mary Frances Bluebird Haven, Victor-Egypt Road, across from the Valentown Road intersection in Victor.

May 25th: Fishers Park, Victor, adjacent to the Lehigh Valley Trail. Turn onto Old Dutch Road from Rt. 251. Look for parking along the road on the right or the small trail parking area on the left. (For information about the Park go to www.victorhikingtrails.org.)

Meet at 6:45am sharp. All bird walks begin @ 7:00 am. This is the best time of day to see the birds feeding. **Note: Meet at 7:45am at Taylor Marsh for the May 4th walk. Be sure to wear appropriate weather gear and hiking shoes. Do not forget your binoculars and camera. Grammar school children and older are invited to come. Light breakfast refreshments will be served following most of the walks. Please e-mail Jaye Chambery atjaye81@hotmail.com if you need directions or additional information We look forward to meeting all of you and hope you will attend this annual, educational and enjoyable event. This is a great opportunity to add to your life list of birds.

Other groups are the Genesee Valley Hiking Club, Finger Lakes Trails, ADK-Genesee Valley Chapter, Wednesday Hikers, Huggers, Penfield Trails Committee and Trail Works in Wayne County.

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View it and download it in full color.

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Filling the gaps in Victor

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www.victorhikingtrails.org

Current and archived newsletters can be downloaded from our website.

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VHT Map Link

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

Name _____ **Date** _____

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I can help with: Trail Acquisition ___ Trail Maintenance ___ Trail hikes ___
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Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization.

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