



VHT Pathfinder

27 YEARS AND GROWING

Volume 24, Issue 2
Summer, 2019

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Victor- A destination for Hikers and Bicyclists

Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. (VHT) partners with the Town of Victor’s Parks and Recreation Department, Friends of Ganondagan, Genesee Regional Off-Road Cyclists (GROC) and others to create, maintain and improve the outstanding trail system in the Town of Victor. They are also working with the Victor Chamber of Commerce and several local businesses to make Victor a destination for visitors to use our non-motorized multi-use trails. This new innovative collaboration is known as Explore Victor Trails. Watch for more information soon.

The trails are used mainly for recreation, which is a fantastic way to get and stay physically and mentally healthy, and non-polluting transportation. By becoming a well known place to go for hiking and biking, our surrounding neighbors will shop at our retail stores and eat at our restaurants. Special trail events will draw people from farther locations. This all helps our local businesses and in turn reduces our property taxes.



As this program expands, we hope to see more trail users and maybe more trail helpers.



A few examples of the projects that have been completed over the years by VHT, the Parks and Rec Dept. and community groups to improve the hiking and biking experience.

VHT 2019 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman
 Lisa Roberts– Secretary
 Ruth Rugaber– Treasurer
 Carol MacInnes– Trailmaster
 Chauncy Young– Trail Boss
 Denni Harbaugh– Membership
 Ralph Weber – Education
 Jeff Miller— Volunteer
 Coordinator
 Lisa Roberts — Social Media
 Coordinator
 David Coleman— Camping
 Larry Fisher—Parks Liaison

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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:

Dave Wright, Editor
 Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.
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(585) 234-8226

www.victorhikingtrails.org
 Also on Facebook
 and Meetup
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VHT MONTHLY HIKES FOR 2019

July 13, 9 AM Wesley Hill Nature Preserve
 July 21, 2 PM Educational Hike, Butterflies at Ganondagan
 Aug 10, 9 AM Grimes Glen and Tanner Falls, Naples
 Aug 31, 5:30 PM Bare Hill Ring of Fire, Middlesex
 Sep 7, 11 AM Hang Around Victor
 Sep 14, 9 AM Fillmore Glen State Park
 Sep 29 8 AM Challenge Hike
 Oct 12, 9 AM Finger Lakes Trail, Bristol Hills Branch
 Nov 9, 9 AM Powder Mills Park
 Dec 14, 9 AM Fishers Park

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details and last minute updates. Also, if you join <https://www.meetup.com/Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup>, you will get notifications of hikes and other events and reminders if you are signed up for a hike and last minute changes.

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 2-3 hours. Always bring a snack and something to drink. Dress for the weather. We rarely cancel due to inclement weather.

We usually carpool 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 the VHT Message Line, 585-234-8226.

Again this year we have scheduled several hikes in Victor or the surrounding communities. We are also leading shorter and easier hikes to encourage families and younger hikers to join us. Based on the success of past years we will again 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.**

NOTE: There are several hiking Meetup groups in our area that schedule hikes in Victor. If you like to hike, join those Meetup groups as well.

Past Hikes

Apr 13, 9 AM Ganondagan State Historic Site

Fourteen hikers enjoyed the trails at Ganondagan and Fort Hill on a nice spring morning. They covered about five miles in 2.5 hours.



April 20, 6 PM Educational Hike, Ionia Astronomy Observatory

There was a cap of 30 attendees and there was a waiting list. The group enjoyed a hike of about 2 miles around the property, followed by pizza, salads, drinks and dessert. Then there was a tour of one of the telescope houses and a great lecture about the planets and stars. It was not a good night for viewing.

April 27, 10 AM Arbor Day in the Village, Rothbury Circle

Six VHT members joined others to plant trees in a new neighborhood in the village. It was cold and there were snow flakes in the air. Seedlings, donated by VHT were distributed to all of the volunteers at the event.



May 11, 9 AM Bentley Woods and Domine Trails

There were 12 hikers who traversed the trails in Bentley Woods and saw the remnants of an old house. They also enjoyed the Auburn, Lehigh and Domine trails on a beautiful spring morning. More pictures can be found on the VHT Meetup page.

Trail Maintenance

Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 PM are dedicated to mowing and trimming approximately half of the trails in Victor. There are usually 4 to 8 volunteers at each session. Each section of trail gets a proper trimming about 4 times per season. After each session the volunteers go to a local restaurant or brewery for refueling and camaraderie. Last year over 1000 hours were recorded by the volunteers. If you enjoy the trails, come out for an hour or two. The schedule is on the VHT website, Facebook and Meetup.



VHT Trailboss Chauncy Young detailed his new personal pickup truck to remind everyone to Explore Victor Trails and one of the best ways to learn about the trails in Victor is to come out and help maintain the them.

(Continued from page 3)

June 2, 8:30 AM National Trails Day Hikes, Victor Recreation Ctr.

Approximately 50 people came out on a rainy day to hike the Lehigh and Auburn Trails, Fishers Park, Trolley Trail and the Domine trails. The hikes were split into fast, regular and physically challenged groups. Everyone who completed all the hikes were awarded a free membership in VHT for one year.



June 8, 10:30 AM ADK Outdoor Expo at Mendon Ponds Park

Nine hikers followed Chauncy Young on a fast-paced, hilly, five mile hike on the trails in Mendon Ponds Park. VHT volunteers handed out brochures and explained the benefits of joining VHT to the attendees. We could have used a few more volunteers. Please consider helping when you can for the various events.

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The Best Ways To Preserve Nature When Hiking

Hiking is fantastic exercise and it can really improve your mood to spend time in a beautiful outdoor setting like a park or nature preserve. However, when you are going for a hike it's important that you take steps to not destroy or damage the environment in the area where you are hiking. Hikers need to be aware that if they aren't careful they could end up damaging a fragile ecosystem or cause environmental harm to the area. In order to make sure that you enjoy your hike without causing any damage to the beautiful place that you're hiking through follow these tips:

Stay On The Trail

This is probably the most important rule that hikers need to follow in order to minimize their impact on the local environment. When you are hiking stay on the trails that are marked and cleared for use. Sometimes trails may be muddy, snowy, or have puddles on them and you can go around them if you need to, although you should go through them if you possibly can. Stay as close to the trail as possible.

Don't veer off to explore on your own. Don't cut across switchbacks trying to save time. And you should also not try to cut your own paths through heavy vegetation. Staying on the trail is important for your safety but it's also important for the ecosystem in the area. If you go off on your own you will contribute to soil erosion and you can cause other damage too. Stay on the trail and take your time.

Take Garbage Out With You

Anything that comes into the park or preserve with you should go out with you. That includes food wrappers, baggies, water bottles, snacks, and anything that you are carrying when you enter the area. Don't litter or leave trash behind. The best thing is to bring a reusable water bottle filled with water that you will take with you when you leave. Snacks can be packed in canvas pouches or bags instead of plastic bags or plastic wrap. There are usually trash and recycling containers at the start of hiking trails that you can use so that you don't leave garbage on the trail.

Don't Bother The Animals

When you are hiking you are going into the habitat of local animals. Often animals will leave the area if they smell humans, but if they stay in the area enjoy seeing them from a distance and don't approach them. This is especially true in the case of baby animals who might end up being killed or abandoned by their parents if the babies come into contact with humans.

Don't Take Souvenirs

You might be tempted to take a leaf, a rock, or a branch of a tree that you find while you are hiking. But you should never take souvenirs from the areas where you are hiking. Taking souvenirs like rocks or leaves or branches can damage the ecosystem and lead to soil erosion. It can also damage the resources in the area that animals need to survive. Look but don't touch when you're hiking, and leave the beautiful rocks, trees, leaves, and other elements in the park or preserve for everyone to enjoy.

This article was created by Personal Injury Help (www.personalinjury-law.com), an organization dedicated to providing the public with information about personal injury and safety information. Nothing in this article should be construed as legal advice, and it is intended for informational use only.

Ospf Trail Run on July 13th

VHT will be manning an aid station for this trail race. Volunteers are needed to help and encourage the runners who will be coming by our station on Garnsey Rd. Go to the VHT web site <https://www.victorhikingtrails.org> or <https://www.meetup.com/Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup> for more information.

Scout Projects

Ethan Davis, Troop 60 in Victor, completed his Eagle project at the end of May. His project was to build a 72' long boardwalk over a muddy section and improve a bridge in the 100 Acre Woods Victor Town Park. Ethan and his Troop did a wonderful job. The neighbors on Yale Court will be very grateful.



Tanner Ritz, Troop 61 in Victor, completed his Eagle project at the end of June. For his project he designed and directed the installation of wayfinding signage in the Town of Victor's Fishers Park. With the help of Jeff Hennick, Chauncy Young, Dave Wright, the Victor Parks Dept. and his fellow scouts and leaders, he made a very helpful improvement to the park.



Community Project

Every year for the past several years, a few students from the Rochester School of the Deaf have volunteered to take on a small project on one of our trails. This year in early June they chose to improve a muddy section of the Yellow Trail in the Domine property near the Lehigh Trail. The Town Parks Dept provided the material and the students and adults provided the labor. They laid down landscaping fabric, covered it with crushed stone and compacted the trail.



Twisted Branch 100K Trail Run on August 17th

VHT will again be supporting the first station on this challenging race. Volunteers are needed to help and encourage the runners who will be coming by our station between 5:30 and 8:30 AM. VHT will be setting up tents, tables and chairs, getting water and nourishment ready and checking runner's numbers. VHT volunteers will go to breakfast in Naples at The Grainery after tearing down the station. Volunteers should sign up on our Meetup page or website.

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Victor Hiking Trails
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Victor, NY 14564



Filling the gaps in Victor

27 YEARS AND GROWING

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 or donation promptly so we can continue to create new and improved multi-use trails.

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

Join us on Facebook!
And Meetup!



VHT Map Link

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

Name _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

City _____ **Zip** _____

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E-Mail _____

Please note that we need your e-mail address to notify you when the latest edition of our newsletter is available on our website.

I can help with: Trail Acquisition _____ Trail Maintenance _____ Trail hikes _____
Newsletter _____ Fund Raising _____ Special Events _____ History / Education _____

Amount submitted \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ other \$ _____
Corporate membership at \$100 per year allows all employees to be members.

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

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And mail to: 85 EAST MAIN STREET
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