



# VHT Pathfinder

**27 YEARS AND GROWING**

Volume 24, Issue 3  
Fall, 2019

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## A Busy Summer for VHT

Summer starts on June 21st, but for VHT it really begins in April. That's when the grass in the fields and bushes start to grow. This was a wet start in our area, which just meant everything was growing faster and we got rained out on a few occasions during our regular trail maintenance schedule. And it never seemed to slow down in July.

We want to thank all the volunteers who came out on Monday and Wednesday evenings and some Friday mornings to mow, hedge trim, saw cut and brush cut. There were a few trees that required a chainsaw and a few culverts that needed to be unplugged. Check out page 4 for some pictures.

This was also a bonus year for scout and community projects. Some of the projects have been completed and some are planning to finish before the white stuff arrives. A big thank you to all who helped with these trail improvements that make hiking and biking the trails more pleasant. See page 5 and 6 for photos.

We like to market our trails by leading hikes in Victor, both through our monthly hikes and the Genesee Valley Hiking Group. Other hiking groups that use our trails are the Springwater Hiking Club and Crescent Trails. The more our trails get used, the easier it is to keep them in tiptop condition.

We have also participated in several events to display pictures and maps of our trails. In June it was National Trails Day in Victor and the ADK Outdoor Expo at Mendon Ponds Park. In July it was the OSPF Half Marathon Trail Race on the Seneca and Crescent Trails. In August we supported the Twist Branch 100K Trail Race by manning the aid station in Naples. In September we had a booth at Hang Around Victor



Twisted Branch aid station all set for the competitors.

Day and the Kettle Ridge Farm Fall Fest. We also supported the Unlimited Breadsticks Half Marathon Trail Race on the Seneca Trail.

We encourage everyone to get out on the trails and checkout all the improvements that have taken place this summer.

**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  
 Open – Education  
 Jeff Miller— Volunteer  
 Coordinator  
 Lisa Roberts — Social Media  
 Coordinator  
 Open— Camping  
 Larry Fisher—Parks Liaison

**VHT MONTHLY HIKES FOR 2019**

Oct 12, 8 AM– Letchworth State Park  
 Nov 9, 9 AM- Powder Mills Park  
 Dec 14, 9 AM- Fishers Park

2019 Challenge Hike—TBD & may not happen

**Suggestions for 2020 hikes are requested.**

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.

Hikes generally meet in 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.

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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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[www.victorhikingtrails.org](http://www.victorhikingtrails.org)  
 Also on Facebook  
 and Meetup  
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## Past Hikes

### July 13- Wesley Hill Nature Preserve

10 hikers made the trip to this Finger Lakes Nature Preserve on a warm July morning. They saw Briggs Gully, the old cabin and lots of flora and fauna.



### July 21- Butterflies at Ganondagan State Historic Site

30 people interested in finding Monarch Butterflies came out to Ganondagan on a rather warm, humid afternoon. Liz Magnanti from The Bird House in Pittsford led the group and helped them identify plants, insects and birds. It was a very educational hike.



### August 10- Grimes Glen and Tanner Falls

Look closely and you can get an idea of the height of the Grimes Creek Falls. 10 people hiked the creeks and then stopped in Naples at the Roots Café for lunch.



### August 31- Ring of Fire on Bare Hill State Unique Area

14 hikers followed Chauncy Young on a trail that he had cut earlier through the fields to the top of Bare Hill where everyone enjoyed their picnic supper. The regular stack of wood was ignited at 9:00 P.M. to signal the cottagers to light their fires creating a ring of fire around Canandaigua Lake. As the fire was reduced to embers, Peter Jemison, Manager for Ganondagan State Historic Site, let the group in traditional Seneca social dances.



### September 7- Hang Around Victor Hike

8 hikers, including a family of 4, enjoyed a two hour hike around the village.

### September 14- Watkins Glen gorge hike

Six hikers made the trip to the gorge to hike to the top and back down an alternate trail. Check out all the wonderful pictures on the Meetup page.



## Trail Maintenance

Scheduled trail maintenance is winding down, but unplanned maintenance will continue. If you are out hiking on the trails and you see something that needs our attention, like a tree across the trail or a section of boardwalk that is missing a board or two, please let us know. An email to Chauncy Young at [Trailboss@victorhikingtrails.org](mailto:Trailboss@victorhikingtrails.org) will get our attention the quickest. Make a note of which trail and approximately where on the trail we should look. A photo would be great also.

Our annual Volunteer Dinner will be held on October 23rd. If you helped on the trails at least three times this year or helped us spread the word about our trails by assisting with at least three events, you will receive an invitation. If you believe you qualify and don't receive an invitation, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Jeff Miller at [Volunteer@victorhikingtrails.org](mailto:Volunteer@victorhikingtrails.org).



### Typical Trail Maintenance work

This should give you an idea of the type of work that takes place 2 or 3 times a week for about six months every year. After each session the team usually relaxes at one of the local restaurants for some adult beverages and nourishment.



### **Ospf Half Marathon on the Seneca Trail**

This was the start-finish line at Valentown Museum. It was a perfect morning for the out and back 13-mile run on the Seneca Trail and Crescent Trail. It started in Victor and went north, merging with the Crescent Trail in Perinton. This annual fundraiser event will continue next year under the organization of the Rochester Running Company.



### **Community Project**

Students at the Rochester School for the Deaf have been coming to Victor for the past several years to improve our trails. This year's project was on the Yellow Trail in the Domine Trails area off the Lehigh Trail. A section of the trail is usually wet and muddy, so they dug it out, laid down landscape fabric and placed crushed stone on top. Thanks to all who helped on this improvement.

## Scout Projects

John Van Bortel and Troop 60 in Victor completed a much needed bridge over the Boughton Park East Pond outlet. A narrow temporary bridge has been in place for several years.

Located on the Seneca Trail near the north end of Boughton Park, it is a well traveled section of trail. The old bridge was moved to a muddy section of the trail and will remain there until a more sustainable solution is put in place.



John VanBortel (far right) and some of his team putting the finishing touches on the new bridge. *Photo by Chauncy Young.*



The old temporary bridge. Slippery in the winter.



The start of the new bridge.

Andrew Tavolette and Troop 341 in Pittsford is progressing on his pond leveling device for Lehigh Crossing Park. Rather than remove the beavers and large beaver dam, as was done in the past, Andrew is working with the DEC, Victor Parks Dept. and VHT to install a wire cage and drain tube in the pond and through the dam.

Andrew and his team have measured the flow of water in the creek, used formulas to calculate the size of the drain tube and applied to the DEC for approval of the project. The materials have been procured and the installation will begin soon.

While Andrew was waiting for approvals, he and his troop replaced a narrow boardwalk near the dam with a wider and better boardwalk.



Andrew and his troop members preparing to measure the water flow from the beaver pond.



Andrew's boardwalk in Lehigh Crossing Park on the Trolley Trail.

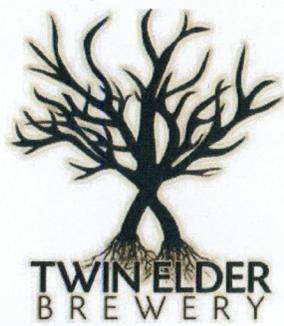
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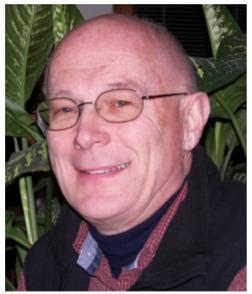


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## 27 YEARS AND GROWING

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.

*Filling the gaps in Victor*

Check out our website at  
[www.victorhikingtrails.org](http://www.victorhikingtrails.org)

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VHT Map Link

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

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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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