



VHT Pathfinder

34+ YEARS AND GROWING

Victor Hiking Trails
Spring 2025

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Your membership dollars help fund the creation, improvement, and maintenance of our 70+ miles of trails, bridges, boardwalks, benches, and signs; providing a wide variety of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities for Victor and the surrounding community.

Spring is Here!



As the snow melts and the rains come, you are advised to please stay off trails that are muddy. Boots and bikes tend to erode the trails when they are muddy. If you step to the side of the mud, you make the trail wider, which makes trail maintenance more difficult.

If you are on a trail and you see a tree down, please send an email to the Trail Boss (Trailboss@VictorHikingTrails.org) with a photo and description of the location (trail name, nearest road) so we can have it removed. And if you would like to volunteer to help maintain the trails, let us know. Trail Maintenance will start in late April.

Put June 7th on your calendar. It is National Trails Day and VHT has plans for hikes, bike rides and a bring a dish to pass picnic at Victor Municipal Park. Other events, like Earth Day, Arbor Day and National Parks Day will be held in the spring. Join the VHT Meetup group (<https://www.Meetup.com/Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup>) to get notified of upcoming events. Our website calendar is not functioning currently.

VHT leads a 5-mile hike on the second Saturday of each month. They are usually in or around Victor. Another reason to be a Meetup member.

Educational hikes are usually on a Sunday afternoon toward the end of each month. You will find those on our Meetup also.

In fact, everything you want to know about trails in our area can be found on the VHT website.

Lastly, VHT is looking for more members, more volunteers and more support from local businesses and corporations. Let us know if you would like to be a part of future trails in Victor.

VHT 2025 Officers:

Lisa Roberts– Chair
 Nancy Fisher– Vice-Chair
 Barb Starr– Secretary
 Ruth Rugaber– Treasurer
 Scott Reinhart– Trail Blazer
 Chauncy Young– Trail Boss
 Larry Fisher– Membership Dir.
 Jeff Miller – Education Dir.
 Karen Guidarelli — Community
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 Jeff Hennick— Information Dir.
 Dave Wright– Business Opera-
 tions Director

VHT Pathfinder

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*The Victor Hiking Trails
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 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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Also on Facebook,
 Instagram, YouTube
 and Meetup
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Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

VHT MONTHLY HIKES**2025 Hikes**

Apr 12– Hike at Powder Mills Park starting at Fish Hatchery, 9 AM

May 10– Hike at Fishers Park at 9 AM

Jun 7– National Trails Day, Victor Municipal Park at 10 AM

Jul 12– Hike at Grimes Glen in Naples

Aug 9– Bike on the Outlet Trail in Penn Yan

Sep 13– Climb Aboard Victor

Apr 27– Rush Oak Openings Unique Area, Rush, NY

May 24– Historic Palmyra Museums, Palmyra, NY

Jun 29– Bird Watching with Liz Magnanti

Jul 27– 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse

Aug 24– Watering Holes in Canandaigua

Green are Educational walks and meet at 2:00 PM

Note: Please check the MeetUp app 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, 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 AM 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.

As noted in our schedule there are several educational hikes planned for 2025. These are usually on a Sunday afternoon, starting at 2:00 PM.

We usually carpool from Victor Town Hall 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 send a message to Webmaster@VictorHikingTrails.org.

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. Wednesday morning we meet at the Victor Farmington Library at 9:00 AM for a short, easy walk.

Additional hikes with the Victor PTSA may be scheduled throughout the year.

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

Jan 1– First Day Hike. Eleven hikers shook off the after effects of the night before and hiked the Auburn Trail from Main Street Fishers to Probst Road and back, about 4 miles. Then a few continued on to Fishers Park and the Domine Trails for another 2 miles. This is always a good way to start the new year.



Jan 11– Ganondagan State Historic Site. Seven brave trekkers bundled up to hike the perimeter of the park. After completing 3 miles they decided it would be good to go to Busy Bean Café in the village for some coffee and hot chocolate.



Feb 8– Boughton Park. Eight folks put on their traction devices to be sure footed when hiking on the icy trails. The group covered 4.5 miles in 2.5 hours, following the red, orange, white and blue trails.



(Photos by Dave Wright)

(Continued on page 9)

Educational Hikes

Jan 26– Communication Technologies Museum. Ten curious learners got a tour of everything with and without wires. The history of communications from telegraph to radio to television and everything in between is displayed in this museum. Located on Routes 5 & 20 in the town of East Bloomfield, it is open to the public. Every time you visit you learn something new.

(Photo by Jeff Miller)



Feb 23– Wizard of Clay. This was a first time visit for some of the sixteen guests and a pleasant return for others. The owner, Jamie Koslowski, gave us a very interesting demonstration of how he creates about 100 clay pieces every day. It was fascinating to watch him take a 5 pound chunk of special clay and turn in on a wheel into a unique bowl, cup, oil lamp base or even a jack-o-lantern. The store has thousands of his works of art for sale. And of course the *Bristolleaf*® items that his father first made with impressions from actual leaves are the most coveted items. Jamie invited us to come back another time and hike the trails on his property. More photos on page 7.

(Photo by Dave Wright)



Mar 15– Hoffman Clock Museum and Newark-Arcadia Historical Society. If you missed this one, you missed two. Due to the large turnout, the group was split into two and visited two museums. Both were outstanding. Additional photos on page 7.



(Photos by Jeff Miller)

Lehigh Crossing Park in February

Like all our favorite outdoor spaces, Lehigh Crossing Park remains covered with snow, but soon it will be time to see what all the good work done the past 2 years by Victor Hiking Trail volunteers has meant for the cozy little park in Victor. Will we see the return, and maybe increased populations Joe Pye Weed (*Eutrochium maculatum*), Boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) and New England Aster (*Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*) to mention a few? Will the fall planting of Great Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) and Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), both sprouted from seeds collected at Lehigh, survive through the winter? The tall thin stalks of native Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*) are the dominant species in this February 2025 photo in front of the bench. Will this grass, better behaved and beneficial to wildlife, help keep the phragmites in check?



February 14, 2025 Photo by Barb Starr

What about the other wildlife? Will the tree swallows that inhabited two nesting boxes installed last year be back? Will the bufflehead ducks that stopped by last April do so again this spring on their way to Canada? Will there be more frogs, turtles, and snakes calling this pond their home? How many newcomers will decide to take residence at Lehigh Crossing Park? These are all questions that must wait until spring and summer to be answered.



April 27, 2024 – Bufflehead ducks on Lehigh Crossing Park Pond
Photo by Barb Starr



Northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) (August 27, 2024) Photo by Barb Starr

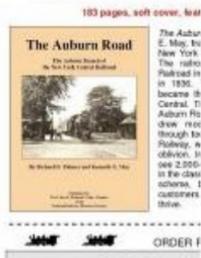


Tree swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) at home in the park (July 10, 2024). Photo by Barb Starr

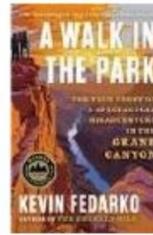
Once the snow and ice depart, VHT will be looking for volunteers to continue the work started in 2023. Join us, or just come for a visit and enjoy the changes that come with spring.

Barb Starr, VHT Secretary
secretary@victorhikingtrails.org

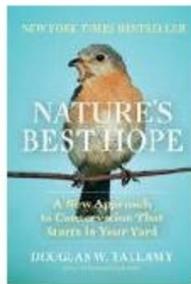
VHT Book Corner



Traces the history of the Auburn Branch of the NY Central Railroad and its predecessor.



A rollicking and poignant account of an epic 750-mile odyssey, on foot, through the heart of America's most magnificent national park and the grandest wilderness on earth.



Nature's Best Hope shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats.

Do you have a book that you would like to recommend to other VHT members? Send an email to DWright@VictorHikingTrails.org

Special Events

Earth Day— On Saturday, April 19th, VHT, Victor Parks and Rec and several Victor organizations will meet at 9:00 AM in the parking lot on the north side of T J Maxx, 80 Cobblestone Court Drive, across from Eastview Mall. Large garbage bags, disposable gloves and grabbers will be provided for picking up the trash that blows off of Route 96. Groups will be assigned to different locations where trash is a problem. If you have an hour or two to spare, please join us. You can sign up on our Meetup page..



Arbor Day— On Saturday, April 26th, the Village Tree Board will be planting 25 trees along Papparone Drive, the entrance to Victor Municipal Park. If you would like to join VHT and several other groups, bring your shovel and work gloves.



ADK Outdoor Expo— Saturday, June 14th
VHT will have a tent at Mendon Ponds Park at the Hundred Acre Pond parking lot. There will be many other outdoor groups and seminars on everything about hiking, backpacking, biking, kayaking, stargazing, and geology. We will be there from 9 AM to 3 PM.



Jamie Kozlowski, the son of the original wizard of clay, is a master of his work. He made several pieces while explaining a typical day for him and his staff.

Photos by Dave Wright



A few more items from collections of Newark residents. It is amazing how many different companies had a connection with the town of Newark.

Photos by Jeff Miller.

2024 VHT Annual Report

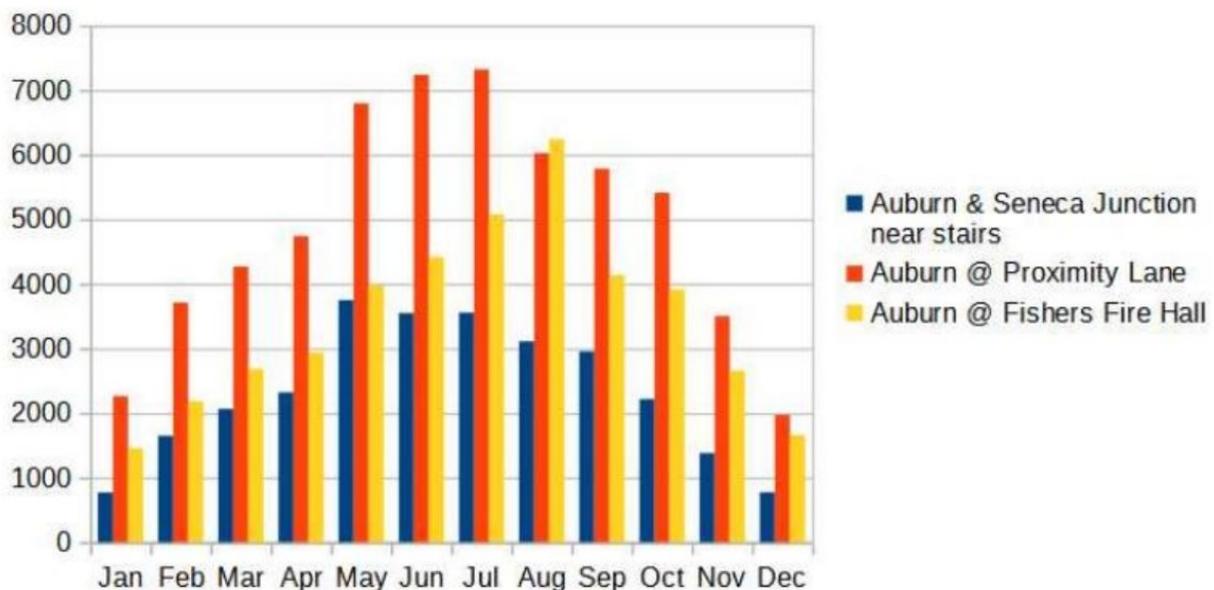
2024 Summary

50 Wednesday Library Walks– 600 attendees
 9 Monthly Hikes– 75 attendees
 7 Hikes at Special Events– 58 attendees
 33 Lehigh Crossing Park Work Sessions– 173.5 hours
 207 Trail Work Events– 1934 hours
 12 Educational Outings– 213 attendees
 276 members, \$29,047 donated

Trail Counts

Auburn Trail at Proximity Lane– 62,672 total, 172 per day average
 Auburn Trail at Seneca Junction– 29,505 total, 81 per day average
 Auburn Trail at Fishers Station– 43,860 total, 120 per day average

2024 Monthly Trail Counts



2025 Goals

- Purchase new Billy Goat Mower and retire two 20+ year old mowers
- Transition to electric trail maintenance equipment
- Secure a permanent space for storing our equipment
- Complete at least three trail improvements projects
- Install two trail counters on the Lehigh Trail and two on the Seneca Trail

National Trails Day in Victor

This year's NTD will be a little different. Let's have a good old fashioned picnic. Everybody bring a dish to pass and VHT will provide the hots and burgers. We'll even do the cooking.

We will meet at the open shelter in Victor Municipal Park at 10:00 AM. The park is located at the end of Paparone Drive which is off of Brace Road. Plan on either a fast-paced five to six-mile hike, a slower three to four-mile hike or a ten to twelve mile bike ride. Everyone will return to the shelter around noon for a delicious lunch.

Suggestions for what to bring include snacks, veggies like carrots, celery, broccoli, cauliflower and sweet peppers, salads like potato, macaroni or bean, and desserts like watermelon, strawberries, apples, oranges or bananas. Maybe a cake or pie if you like to bake. If you bring something that needs to stay cold, please bring a cooler.



For drinks, we will have bottled water and fruit juice. If you would like something else, please bring what you like, but the park does not allow alcohol.

We will have paper plates, cups and plastic tablewear, but you can bring your own if you prefer fine china.

Lastly, we need a count to be sure we have enough food, so please pre-register on our Meetup page. You can find that on our website, www.VictorHikingTrails.org.



(Continued from page 3)

Mar 8– Mendon Ponds. It was a beautiful, sunny morning for a 4-mile hike up and down the hills in the park. Eight trekkers enjoyed the cool temperature and the great pace.

(Photo by Chauncy Young)



Wednesday Library Walkers

We will continue to meet every Wednesday at 9:00 AM at the Victor Farmington Library for an easy 2-3 mile walk. Don't let the cold or snow keep you from enjoying the outdoors. Just dress in layers and wear good boots. During the spring we will see some muddy trails and we will try to avoid them.



Grants

Lisa Roberts has submitted a grant to AARP for \$25,000. It is a non-matching grant, but if we are successful, we will solicit additional funding from the village, town and local businesses.

The grant is to improve walkability and bike travel between the Auburn Trail and the village center. We would like to complete a sidewalk gap on School Street at the Auburn Trail, install benches on Rawson Road, School Street and the Auburn Trail. New signs directing folks to the village would be added to Rawson Road, School Street, and Maple Avenue.

We would like to add a trail hub on the Auburn Trail near the parking lot for the old Mickey Finns restaurant. It would include an ADA picnic table, benches, bike rack, bike repair stand and a composting toilet. A drinking fountain would be nice, but that will have to come later.

On Monday, April 7th, at 7:00 PM at the Village Hall, 60 East Main Street, Lisa will make a presentation to the Village Board, sharing what the sub-committee has learned from the survey and open house for the public about how to improve the connection between the Auburn Trail and the village. The public is welcome to attend.

VHT is still pursuing the search for a location for a building to store all of the trail maintenance equipment and materials. We have a couple places that are long-term solutions if we can wait until they are ready for construction. Naturally, we would prefer something sooner, if possible. We will submit a request for grant funding again when the next round is open.

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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, or renew online using PayPal, promptly so we can continue to create new and improved shared-use trails.

Making Connections in Victor

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

Join us on Facebook!

And Meetup!

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See VHT videos on YouTube



VHT Map Link

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

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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 \$20 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1000 _____ other \$ _____

Sustaining Monthly Donation of \$ _____

Corporate membership at \$1000 per year allows all employees to be members.

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