

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hikes for 2008	2
Mile Markers	2
Past Hikes	3
Black Diamond	3
New Trail Maps	5
Auburn Extension	5
Our Sponsors	7
Membership form	8

National Trails Day a H U G E Success

June 7, 2008 will go down in the VHT history book as one of our most successful hikes. We had over 70 participants join us for a three-part hike.

We started the morning with a continental breakfast of coffee, juice, fruit and baked goods at the Apple Farm on State Route 444.

When everyone was charged up on extra carbs and after proper introductions, welcomes and thank you were taken care of, we were off on our first leg of the hike.

Heading due west we traversed rolling hills and past many acres of dwarf apple trees that were just past full blossom and were starting to bear fruit.



We soon reached Great Brook and could see the handy work of a family of
(Continued on page 4)

Quotes found inside:

The day was cool and partly sunny – another perfect morning for hiking. *Page 3.*

This hike on the Auburn Trail was planned so that everyone could see the latest project, new decking and railing on the Lehigh Trestle. *Page 4.*

Through a federal grant, the town and VHT have hired Fisher Associates to design a trail that will be appealing for hikers, walkers, runners, bicyclists, nature lovers and cross country skiers. *Page 5.*

Fat Tire Festival at Dryer Road Park

Saturday, July 19th will mark the third annual Fat Tire Festival. Get over to Dryer Road Park (one mile west of School Street in Victor) by 9:00 a.m. to catch the racers and the beginning of all the festivities.

There will be food, music and lots of tents with vendors and local groups, like VHT. So come on out and support the Genesee Regional Off-Road Cyclists (GROC).

If you would like to race the course against the clock, you need to pre-register. There will not be any registrations the day of the race. You can register on-line at www.victormtbc.com. There will be a competitive race course and a recreational race course.

There will be a kids race at 11:30 a.m. and a ribbon cutting of the new pump course at 11:45 a.m. Award presentation at noon. Don't miss it.



Grab your helmet and join the fun.



HIKES FOR 2008

VHT 2008 Officers:

Dave Wright— Chairman
 Jeff Hennick— Vice Chairman
 Nat Fisher— Secretary
 Chauncy Young— Treasurer
 Carol MacInnes— Trailmaster
 Larry Fisher— Trail Boss
 David Coleman— Membership
 Open— Historian

Jul. 12— Robert H. Treman State Park / Buttermilk Falls State Park
 Jul. 19— Fat Tire Festival at Dryer Road Park, 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
 Aug. 9— Fillmore Glen State Park
 Aug. 30— Ring of Fire at Bare Hill. Evening picnic and hike.
 Sep. 6— Hang Around Victor Day and Victor Fest
 Oct. 11— Swifts Landing
 Oct. 18— Black Diamond Duathlon at Fishers Park
 Nov. 8— Finger Lakes Trail, Bristol Section
 Dec. 13— Sherwood parcel (Penfield)

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. We usually car pool to the trailhead. If you have any questions regarding any of the hikes, or if you have suggestions for places to hike, please leave a message.

VHT Pathfinder

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MILE MARKERS INSTALLED

All of the mile marker and half-mile marker posts have been placed on the Auburn and Lehigh Trails. The signs for the Lehigh Trail and for the half-mile markers on the Auburn have been ordered and will be installed before summer is over.



Mile markers on the Auburn Trail.



Past Hikes

April 12- Fourteen (14) people and one dog enjoyed a nice VHT outing on the Candice Lake Trail. Seven came down from Victor and seven met us at the trail head. The day was cool and partly sunny – perfect for hiking. We hiked the loop trails at the south end and two hikers chose to take a look at the lake from the east side by hiking back via the road.



May 10- Eight (8) people enjoyed a great hike on the Irondequoit Creek East Trail. Seven drove from Victor and one met us at the trail head. The day was cool and partly sunny – another perfect morning for hiking. We hiked the white, yellow and salmon trails from old Browncroft Road to Empire Blvd.



We had lunch at the pagoda (shelter) at the old rifle range and then came back on the old white trail. Very beautiful along Irondequoit Creek.

June 7– National Trails Day. See story and pictures.

June 14– Bike ride on the Lehigh Valley Trail. Chauncy and Tom Walker met at Rochester Junction in Mendon at 9:00 a.m. It was cool and cloudy, but that was great for a bike ride on one of the newer sections of the Lehigh Valley Trail. As you head north on the trail you cross Route 251, Pinnacle Road, Route 15A, Erie Station Road, the Thruway and Lehigh Station Road. Eventually, the trail will go all the way to downtown Rochester.

2008 Iron Butterfly Black Diamond Off-Road Dualthon

This year's 4th Annual premiere run, bike and run event is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 at 9:00 a.m. at Fishers Park. If you want to compete, sign up on-line at www.blackdiamonddu.com soon. If you can volunteer that morning, call Carole Fisher at 924-5803. Net proceeds help to expand and improve the trails in Victor.



Bike riding on the Auburn Trail at The Connection.

(Continued from page 1)

busy beavers who turned the stream into a large pond.

Heading north we came to the bridge that was one of our largest projects to date. Many hours of labor and dollars worth of material were needed to build this bridge. Thank you to Joe Logan, a Victor resident and professional civil engineer for designing the bridge. And thank you to Chauncy Young for coordinating the construction. And of course, a special thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Bahai, owners of the property and The Apple Farm, for giving us permission to use their property.

The second leg of the hike was a journey through Monkey Run to see the extension loop to the south and a new footbridge over White Brook. This trail still needs some fine tuning to be ready for cross country skiing this winter.

Thanks to Victor Parks & Recreation, we had two Victor Central School District buses to transport us between hikes.

Our last leg of the hike was from the Fishers Firehouse on Main Street Fishers to Lehigh Crossing Park. But not before we enjoyed a lunch of pizza, drinks and birthday cake.

This hike on the Auburn Trail was planned so that everyone could see the latest project, new decking and railing on the Lehigh Trestle, just east of Phillips Road. This was a partnership of the Victor Parks & Recreation, Victor Highway Dept. and VHT. Again, Joe Logan provided a great design that maximized the bridge without needing to replace too many ties. A grant for \$2000 from Genesee Region Trails Coalition, with a match from VHT and the balance from the Town of Victor paid for the materials. Again, many hours of volunteer labor made this project possible.

The last section of the hike, from the trestle bridge to Lehigh Crossing Park, was done on a rail bed that still contains lots of ballast stone. Not the best surface for hiking or biking. As this is being written, Victor Parks employees are grading the trail in preparation for the Black Diamond Duathlon in October. This will be another great addition to our system of trails in Victor.

If you were not able to join us on National Trails Day, we encourage you to hike these trails to see the additions and improvements that have been accomplished in the last few years.

Additional pictures on page 6.



Across the open field and past the apple orchard.



Over the new footbridge that spans Great Brook.



A ride on the school bus was a chance to rest and cool off.

New Multi-use Trail Maps Available

Genesee Region Trails Coalition has produced and printed a new hiking/biking map showing all the major multi-use trails in the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region.

The four-panel brochure has a full color map depicting the nine county area surrounding Rochester. The map information was provided by the Genesee Transportation Council. In addition to 30 major trails and 19 parks, there is contact information on related agencies and organizations to obtain additional information about hiking only trails, nature trails and local trails.

The maps have been distributed to local bike and sport shops. Each of the towns and villages in our area will get a supply of maps. Additional



The map is similar to this one.

maps can be ordered from GRTC by calling (585)234-8439.

Auburn Trail Extension

There have been several public meetings for input on the design of the trail from Main Street Fishers to Powder Mills Park. This trail is an extension of the existing Auburn Trail that traverses from Farmington, through the Village of Victor and currently ends at the Fishers firehouse.

Although VHT has been maintaining this trail since 1995, it is in dire need of a major update. RG&E owns the property and uses it as a corridor for their high tension power lines. They have given the Town of Victor a trail easement so the trail can be improved for the safety and enjoyment of all levels of users.

Through a federal grant, the town and VHT have hired Fisher Associates to design a trail that will be appealing for hikers, walkers, runners, bicyclists, nature lovers and cross country skiers. Motorized vehicles and horses will not be allowed on this trail.

The major undertaking will be the saving or rebuilding of the stone culvert north of Fishers Road. As shown in the picture to the right, trees and flooding have removed most of the large stones. It is just a matter of time before the last of the stones collapse.

There are additional opportunities to tell the trail designers what you would like to see on the trail.

To add your input to the ideas and thoughts, send a letter to Fisher Associates, 135 Calkins Road, Rochester, NY 14623 or visit the website at www.auburntrail.com. You can also send your comments to Brian Emelson, Victor Parks and Recreation Director, Victor Town Hall, 1290 Blossom Drive, Victor, NY 14564.



The trail has been closed due to the deterioration of this stone culvert, near Fishers Road.



The plaza and kiosk at Maple Avenue, Victor Station.



The plaza and kiosk at Main Street Fishers, Fishers Station.



The "Connection" between the Auburn and Lehigh Trails.



The recently redecked trestle on the Lehigh Trail.



The pumphouse, trail plaza and kiosk at Main Street Fishers.

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