

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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New Trails Opened

We have recently added about two miles of new hiking trails to our system of trails. The newest trails connect to the Lehigh Trail near Lehigh Crossing Park.

The first Trail begins on Omnitech Drive about 1/4 mile west of Route 96, near the new Best Western Hotel. It is built on the old Rochester and Eastern Rapid Railway track and terminates on the Lehigh Trail at the northwest corner of Lehigh Crossing Park.

The second trail is actually two separate trails or a loop trail. It begins at the edge of the woods in

back of Fishers Landing Plaza on Route 96. Park in back of Monroe Muffler and look for the trail marker. You can follow the yellow trail to a creek and then follow the creek to the Lehigh Trail and Lehigh Crossing Park. Or you can follow the red trail directly to the same point on the Lehigh Trail.

There is also a new trail in Lehigh Crossing Park that goes from that same point on the Lehigh Trail to the ponds. Follow the yellow markers.

We need to thank a group of retirees who volunteered to cut the

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Quotes found inside:

The design of the benches came from the Erie railroad station... page 1.

Pack a picnic supper to enjoy before the bonfire. Stay for the Native American social dance. Page 2.

Everyone enjoyed the train ride and suggested that we do it again in the fall. Page 3.

Part of our mission is to educate the public... Page 4.

New Benches for the Auburn Trail

Thanks to the work of Chauncy Young, Mike Houser, Rick Wizzy Geno, Jeff Hennick, Dave Wright, his son David and grandsons Arnold and Henry, we now have two more benches on the Auburn Trail.

The design of the benches came from the Erie railroad station benches

located at the station in Industry on Route 252.



Jeff Hennick and Chauncy Young put on the finishing touches on the Victor Station bench.

The ends are 3.5" thick concrete with wire mesh inside. The benches are 5' long and sit on 3' x 6' concrete bases.

One bench is located by the cobblestone pumphouse in

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VHT 2009 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman
 Nat Fisher– Secretary
 Chauncy Young– Treasurer
 Carol MacInnes– Trailmaster
 Larry Fisher– Trail Boss
 David Coleman– Membership
 Ruth Nellis– Education
 Wizzy Geno– Volunteer
 Coordinator
 Open– Historian

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HIKES FOR 2009

Jul. 11– Grimes Glen and Tanner Gully in Naples, NY. This will be a creek walk. Bring your water shoes and a towel. Grimes Glen is now owned by Ontario County and it is a county park. Improvements are being made as funds become available.

Aug. 8– Letchworth State Park. We will be hiking in the gorge. Wear good hiking boots. Bring your water shoes and a towel. We may hike up one of the creeks.

Sep. 5– Bare Hill Ring of Fire. This will be an evening hike. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket. Pack a picnic supper to enjoy before the bonfire. Stay for the Native American social dance. Meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot at 5:30 p.m. to car pool to the trail head. We will be back in Victor before 11:00 p.m.

Sep. 12– Hang Around Victor Day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Mead Square Park and Victor Fest from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Victor Firemen's Memorial Field on Maple Avenue. Visit our booth. We will need helpers to setup, teardown, man the booth, make some baked goods and help sell. Send a note to Wizzy Geno at eygeno@hotmail.com or leave a message at 585-234-8226 to volunteer. And don't forget the fireworks at night.

Oct. 10– VanDerStrict Trail at Canadice Lake. Hike the new ridge trail. This will be peak fall foliage time. Bring your camera and enjoy the views.

Nov. 14– Boughton Park. Hike all the trails. Meet at the Stirnie Road parking lot at 9:00 a.m.

Dec. 12– Powder Mills Park. Meet at the fish hatchery at 9:00 a.m.

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. 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. If gas gets expensive again, expect to share the cost 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 234-8226.

Past Hikes

Apr. 11– Keuka Outlet Trail. It was sunny, but cool, perfect for a bike ride. And this was a great bike ride from Dresden to Penn Yan and back for four members. The trail is on an old canal path that later became a railroad bed before it was transformed into the present day trail.

May 9– Bentley Woods, a land-locked parcel owned by The Nature Conservancy, has some old growth forest, unique mushrooms and lots of wetlands. 12 hikers followed Chauncy Young through the muck, over the downed trees and up to the ridge before exiting the property via an old stagecoach road onto Fishers Road. Everyone enjoyed the morning hike and would like to do it again in the fall.



Ready to hike the Bentley Woods trails.

Jun. 6– This was our annual National Trails Day hike. 35 hikers took the tour of Fishers Park to learn about the new bridges and trail improvements planned for 2010. After a short break, the group hiked on the Auburn Trail from Main Street Fishers to Probst Road so they could see first-hand the slow collapse of the stone culvert over Irondequoit Creek and learn about the improvements planned for this multi-use trail. Following a pizza lunch provided by Victor Parks and Recreation, about 8 hikers trekked on the Auburn Trail to Lehigh Crossing Park to see the new trails that have been completed



National Trails Day hike at Fishers Park.

Jun. 7– This was our first bike/train ride. After a nostalgic ride on the Finger Lakes Scenic Railway from Victor to Canandaigua, Jeff Hennick led 12 bicyclists for a tour of the Ontario Pathways rail-to-trail and the back roads of Hopewell and Canandaigua. Chauncy Young led a hike down to the lake and back. Three riders decided to ride their bikes back to Victor. And about 40 people just rode the train. It was a cool and overcast day, with rain threatening, but everyone stayed dry. Everyone enjoyed the train ride and suggested that we do it again in the fall.



Loading the bikes on the train.

Jun. 13– Victor Hiking Trails again had a booth at Mendon Ponds Park for the ADK Outdoor Expo. We handed out brochures with our trail map and showed interested guests what we have been doing for the last couple of years. Chauncy led a seven-mile hike through the park. By educating the public about the trails, we draw more visitors to our community which helps our stores and restaurants to be more successful.



Our display at Mendon Ponds Park.

(Continued from page 1)

brush and trees to create these new trails. They are all experienced hikers and have been maintaining Monroe County Park trails for many years. We are grateful that they came to Victor and cleared heavily overgrown trails for us.

Another new trail is located within Victor Municipal Park, located between East Street and Brace Road. Based on the Master plan for the park, this new trail runs north and south and connects the southern 10' path with the old Trolley Trail. It cuts through dogwood bushes and hard woods. Another section connects the new, deepened pond with the Trolley Trail and runs along the edge of the wetland. These trails were blazed by Chauncy Young and Dave Wright with help clearing by Ruth and David Nellis and several Victor Adventure Club members.



Chauncy cutting the brush on the new trail in Victor Municipal Park.

(Continued from page 1)

Fishers and the other is located by the old train station at Maple Avenue.

The benches, along with the concrete mile markers on the Auburn Trail, are part of the VHT contribution toward the \$1.4 million TEP grant that Victor received in 2004. The project is now 95 % complete.

Remaining work to be done is some landscaping, two more interpretive signs and some seeding.



It feels good to relax when the job is done.

Earth Day in Victor

Victor Hiking Trails participated in Earth Day on April 21 at the Victor schools with our table of displays showing our trails and activities.

There were many outstanding displays showing how Victor is doing its part to preserve natural resources, conserve energy, be sustainable and think green.

It was great to see the rooms filled with community groups and especially the students with their projects.

Part of our mission is to educate the public about the good attributes that trails bring to a community.

By attending events like Earth Day we show the residents how many miles of hiking and biking trails we have in our community.

Thank you to Chauncy Young, Carole Fisher, Wizzy Geno and Nat Fisher for educating the attendees.



Carole Fisher telling about our trail system.

A weekend in the Adirondacks

Dave Wright and David Coleman went to Marcia Bryan's home in Schroon Lake in the Adirondacks on May 1 to do some spring hiking. After a delicious meal provided by Marcia, and some Bob Lonsberry pie supplied by the boys, it was decision time for Saturday's hike.



David C. suggested Scarface. Not one of the 46 High Peaks, but a good climb anyway. And it was agreed that it would make a great hike for the weakened winter threesome.

Saturday morning they drove to Ray Brook, near Lake Placid, found a parking spot, changed into their hiking boots, grabbed their gear and headed up the trail.

The first interesting feature was crossing railroad tracks that were abandoned back in the sixties, revived in the nineties and now actively used for scenic tours.

The next feature was an old bridge that was originally built in the 1940's and rebuilt in 1985. Still holding up well.

There were not a lot of good views from Scarface, but about half way up you do get a view of the nearby lakes and mountains. The trio

had lunch at the top and headed back down, meeting a few other hikers along the way.

Because they got down early and they were near Lake Placid, they did a little sight seeing before dinner at the Ausable Inn.

Sunday's hike was an easy one to Treadway, one of Marcia's favorites. The bugs weren't too bad this year, as long as you kept moving.



They reached the summit, had lunch and headed back to Schroon Lake. Although it was over-cast most of the weekend, it was still great hikes in the Adirondacks.



Plans for the fall hike are being made so keep the weekend of September 25-27 reserved for a weekend in the Adirondacks.

Wednesday Crew

When the snow is mostly gone and the leaves have not yet started to bud, it is the perfect time to go out and check the trails for fallen trees and branches.

Or if you have a new trail to clear, it is the best time to see where to locate the trail.

We were fortunate to have the services of a group who likes to go out on the trails when the weather is still cool and cut trees, brush and bushes. We hope they will consider making it an annual event.



More pictures of the trail volunteers



Jeff Hennick, Larry Fisher, Wizzy Geno, Chauncy Young, Dave Wright, Rick Geno, Mike Houser.



Wizzy Geno, Carole Fisher, Nat Fisher at Earth Day.



The Wednesday crew ready to clear new trails.



The Wednesday crew trimming brush on the Trolley Trail.



Dave Wright and Chauncy Young mixing cement for a pad.



Dave Wright hands Jeff Hennick's bike to Chauncy Young.

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