

# VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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## Find your happy place

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We are also leading shorter and easier hikes.... *Page 2*

We had a great turnout for another family hike in Victor. *page 3.*

Avoid the use of pesticides to help birds, butterflies and your own family stay healthy. *page 5.*

Remember, they are wild animals and can hurt you. *Page 6.*

“Find Your Happy Place ” on Saturday, June 5th on a trail in Victor, NY . That is this year’s theme for National Trails Day.

Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. is sponsoring a great hike this year to help celebrate National Trails Day. It will be a three-part hike beginning at the Fishers Firehouse II on High Street and ending at the Apple Farm on Victor-Bloomfield Rd. Participants can do the beginning, the middle or the end or the whole distance.

Like last year, there will be a FREE continental breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. The firehouse has a great facility to serve coffee, tea, juice, fruit, muffins, croissants, bagels and donuts.

Everyone is invited to come and see what Victor Hiking Trails has accomplished in the last year. **You will need to call 585-234-8226 to register for the breakfast and/or the hike.** The deadline is June 3.

The first leg of the hike will start at the firehouse at 9:00 a.m. and follow the Seneca Trail. There will be a brief stop at the top of the first hill to take in the view. The trail then meanders down the hill to Willowbrook Road, passes under the Thruway and heads up another hill. These are not difficult grades and the pace will be slow, ideal for all ages. The trail then comes down again and crosses Route 96 at Route 251. Then it is a short walk to the Auburn Golf Driving range where there will be water and granola bars as well as a sag wagon or two. It is estimated that this part of the hike will take two hours.

The second leg will trek through a beautiful wooded wetland and merge with the Trolley Trail and then the Auburn Trail. Continuing on to Maple Avenue, the group will head south again on the Seneca Trail entering Ganondagan State Historic Site and on up to the Long House. By then it will be time for another break. Subs and pizza are on the menu for lunch.

The last portion of the day's event will follow the Seneca Trail South along Great Brook to the Apple Farm. Transportation will be available to carpool all the drivers back to the firehouse. The time of arrival back to the starting point will be approximately 4:00 p.m. If your schedule does not allow you to hike the entire route you can sign up for any portion. You can even join the group along the route.

Victor Hiking Trails has been sponsoring National Trails Day since its inception in 1993 and encourages everyone to "find your happy place" on a Victor trail. With over 50 miles of trails in Victor, that should not be difficult. If you would like to support trails in Victor, consider becoming a member. Additional information is available at [www.victorhikingtrails.org](http://www.victorhikingtrails.org). See you on the trails!

## HIKES FOR 2010

### VHT 2010 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

### VHT Pathfinder

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*The Victor Hiking Trails  
 Pathfinder* is published  
 quarterly for the  
 members of Victor Hiking  
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 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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 Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.  
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 Victor, NY 14564

(585) 234-8226

[www.victorhikingtrails.org](http://www.victorhikingtrails.org)

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Apr. 10- Ganondagan. Meet at the Visitor's Center. Look for Spring flowers.

May 8- Monkey Run / Bluebird Sanctuary. Meet at Bluebird Haven.

Jun. 5- National Trails Day – Fishers Firehouse II to the Apple Farm in stages.

Jun. 12- Keuka Outlet Trail. Bike ride both ways.

Jun. 12- ADK Outdoor Expo at Mendon Ponds Park.

Jul. 10- Lehigh Trail bike ride from Victor to Mendon and back.

Aug. 14– Grimes Glen and Conklin Gully, creek walks.

Sept. 4- Ring of Fire at Bare Hill. Picnic supper and evening hike.

Sept. 11– Hang Around Victor Day. Visit our booth.

Oct. 9– Cleveland Hill. Fall foliage vista hike.

Nov. 13– Crescent Trail, Turk Hill, Rt. 250 and Old Foley Rd.

Dec. 11– Dryer Road Park, Fort Hill, Ganondagan, Mickey Finn's.

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 585-234-8226.

This year we have scheduled more hikes in Victor or the surrounding communities. We are also leading shorter and easier hikes to encourage families and younger hikers to join us.

We always 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.

So pick a hike and come enjoy the fun.

### **Past Hikes**

Jan. 9– VHT led 2 groups, totaling 9 skiers and hikers on the Auburn and Lehigh rail trails, starting and ending in Fishers. Many thanks to Larry Fisher for taking the short hike with the younger folks. The weather cooperated, and there was just enough snow to glide over all but the largest ballast stone east of the trestle near Phillips Rd. This is where there was a brief pause for a picture.



Feb. 13- Dave Wright led a "small" group skiing at Harriet Hollister State Recreation Area. The weather cooperated and trail conditions were great with plenty of base snow. Some of the trails were slick and fast.

Mar. 13– We had a great turnout for another family hike in Victor. This one started at Lehigh Crossing Park and covered approximately 4 miles in the park, on the Lehigh, Auburn and Trolley trails. The weather didn't know if it wanted to rain, snow, sleet, hail or shine, but everyone survived and was talking about the next hike at Ganondagan.



## Trail Maintenance 2010

We need volunteers to help with trail maintenance! We meet Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM and most Saturday and Sunday mornings at 8:00 AM, from May to September. Volunteers should come equipped with sturdy shoes and proper covering against poison ivy. If you have them, bring pruning shears and a small pruning saw or loppers, or we can supply you tools. The work usually lasts about one hour. Please feel free to work all or just part of a shift. **Sometimes we cancel due to rain and then shift the schedule. Please call if you are unsure where we will be meeting.**

**Call Larry Fisher at 924-5803 for additional information**

Date	Trail Start	Location	Destination
5/1 Sa	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail, Trolley South
5/2 Su	Royal View and	Fishers Park	Short open section, West Side Park
5/5 We	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd	Into Ganondagan
5/8 Sa	<b>Hike</b>	<b>Monkey Run/Bluebird</b>	Mother's hike with kids
5/9 Su	Seneca	Willow brook	Through Ambush Pass to Route 96
5/12 We	Monkey Run	Victor Egypt Road	All
5/15 Sat	Trolley	Lehigh Crossing Park	Trolley North and Trolley to Lehigh
5/16 Su	Apple Farm	Boughton Hill Road	
5/19 We	Auburn	Fishers House 1	To Probst
5/20 Th	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Victor Town Hall</b>	
5/22 Sa	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail, Trolley South
5/23 Su	Auburn	East Victor Road and School	To RG&E
5/26 We	Seneca	Fishers House 2	Willow Brook
5/29 Sat	Seneca	Cherry Street	North and South to Boughton Park
5/30 Sun	Hundred Acre	And Blue Bird	
6/2 We	TBD	Call 924-5803, Last Minute	Preparation National Trails day
6/5 Sa	<b>Fundraiser</b>	<b>National Trails day</b>	
6/6 Su	Royal View and	Fishers Park	Short open section, West Side Park
6/9 We	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd	Into Ganondagan
6/12 Sa	<b>Hike</b>	<b>Keuka Outlet Trail</b>	<b>Bike ride both ways</b>
6/13 Su	Seneca	Willow brook	Through Ambush Pass to Route 96
6/16 We	Monkey Run	Victor Egypt Road	All
6/17 Th	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Victor Town Hall</b>	
6/19 Sa	Apple Farm	Boughton Hill Road	
6/20 Su	Trolley	Lehigh Crossing Park	Trolley North and Trolley to Lehigh
6/23 We	Auburn	Fishers House 1	To Probst
6/26 Sa	Seneca	Fishers House 2	Willow Brook
6/27 Su	Auburn	East Victor Road and School	To RG&E
6/30 We	Hundred Acre	And Blue Bird	

## How to attract birds and butterflies to your backyard



**FOOD** Install a wide variety of feeders such as hanging and platform with a wide variety of food like sunflower seeds, fruit, meal worms, suet and nectar. Fill and clean them often.

**SHELTER** Offer homes to cavity-nesting birds (like wrens and chickadees) by installing nesting boxes. If you have a dead tree or snag, leave it standing so birds can make their own nests in it. Clean out the boxes after the broods have gone.



**WATER** Possibly the single most important element. A water feature like a birdbath or small, recirculating pool will attract birds from afar. They like shallow, still water in a clearing. A dripping noise will also attract them.

**VARIETY OF FOLIAGE AND HABITAT** Plant native trees, shrubs and flowers. They provide food and shelter for birds while reducing your water bill. Three of the best are vine maple, red current and red elderberry. Evergreens make great shelter for a variety of birds.

Avoid the use of pesticides to help birds, butterflies and your own family stay healthy. Many birds eat insects— a garden full of “bugs” is a garden full of nutritious bird food!

Keep your cats indoors, especially during nesting season. The millions of cats in America kill millions of wild songbirds every year— give the birds a chance by keeping your cat indoors!



These books are great how-to guides for creating bird-friendly yards and communities:

*Gardening for Life*, from Seattle Audubon Society  
*Landscaping for Life*, by Russel Link

These organizations and their Web sites have excellent advice about backyard birds:

National Bird-Feeding Society  
[www.birdfeeding.org](http://www.birdfeeding.org)

National Wildlife Federation  
[www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)

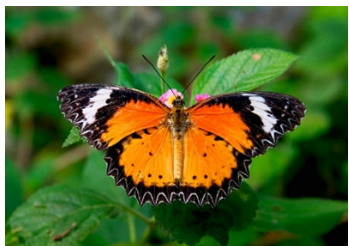
National Audubon Society  
[www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

Other sites:

[Howtoattractbirds.com](http://Howtoattractbirds.com)

[www.birds.cornell.edu](http://www.birds.cornell.edu)

[www.birdsforever.com](http://www.birdsforever.com)



# Backyard mammals

Have you seen any of these mammals in your backyard? Are you happy to see them or do you wish they went somewhere else? How many can you identify?

They are cute and fun to watch, but you need to give them their space. Do not pick up babies. Momma may be near. Remember, they are wild animals and could hurt you.



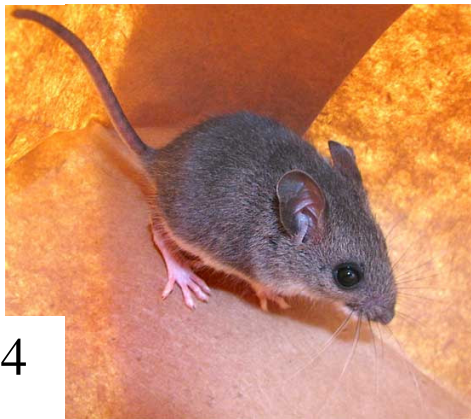
1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

- Answers:
1. Raccoon
  2. Grey squirrel
  3. Rabbit
  4. Field Mouse
  5. Opossum
  6. White-tailed deer
  7. Striped chipmunk
  8. Brown bat



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Victor, NY 14564



**Want to save a tree, get this newsletter sooner and in color?  
Send an e-mail to David Coleman at [dcoleman@victorhikingtrails.org](mailto:dcoleman@victorhikingtrails.org) and  
ask to be added to the Newsletter Electronic Mailing List.**

**Time to renew your membership?**

Please look at the mailing label.

The first line contains the month and year that your membership expires.

If you are past due, please send a check today.

*Filling the gaps in Victor*

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

Message line:  
585-234-8226

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my newsletter (please check one) Mailed \_\_\_\_\_ E-mailed \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount submitted \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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