

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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National Trails Day

The weather forecast was not very encouraging and the skies to the west looked like rain. But when over 90 people show up for a hike on a Saturday morning, the show (hike) must go on.

After a tasty continental breakfast and a short welcome, the trekkers split into three groups, based on how fast they expected to hike. From the trailhead at Valentown Museum, they headed south on the Seneca Trail, passing the Fishers Fire Station on High Street and climbing the hill in back of the new plaza on Route 96. Resting at the top of the hill gives you a chance to take in the view to the west toward Mendon. Then it was down the hill and on to Willowbrook Road, ducking under the Thruway. Up another hill and down through a valley where there was a skirmish between the French and the Seneca Indians in 1687.



Just some of the crowd ready for the hike.

(Continued on page 6)

Quotes found inside:

We look to local, state, regional and national organizations to help our customers enjoy the outdoors in a responsible manner... *Page 6*

Emerging from the woods hikers are greeted to a replica of a Seneca Long House.... *Page 6*

One interesting point along the trail is a giant white oak tree that is estimated to be 400 years old... *Page 6*

New Eagle Scout bridge

Congratulations to Jack Napolitano on a successful BSA Eagle project. Jack took on the challenge of building a wooden footbridge over a small creek in Lehigh Crossing Park. He consulted with Joe Logan, our resident bridge designer, on the design of the bridge and worked with Brian Emelson, Victor Parks and Recreation Director and Dave Wright, VHT Chairman, for the location and size of the bridge.

Preliminary measurements determined that the bridge would need to be 5 feet wide and 20 feet long. Jack developed a material list, got quotes for the material and created a schedule for the construction. He recruited his Mom and Dad, brother and fellow scouters to build the bridge off-site and then transport everything to the creek. Other than hitting a large boulder when digging the first hole, everything went according to his plan and the bridge was completed on schedule. See page 7 for photos.

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

VHT Pathfinder

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 Ask about our rates.
 To submit articles for the
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www.victorhikingtrails.org

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Jul. 17- **Lehigh Trail bike ride** from Victor to Rush and back. Meet at Old Dutch Road parking area at 9:00 a.m.

Aug. 14– **Grimes Glen and Conklin Gully**, creek walks. Bring water shoes. Ice cream in Naples after the hike.

Sept. 4- **Ring of Fire** at Bare Hill. Picnic supper and evening hike. Meet at Town Hall at 5:30 p.m. Bring a blanket or chair and your supper. Bonfire starts at 9:00 p.m.

Sept. 11– **Hang Around Victor Day**. Visit our booth 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Victor Fest** from 5 to 10 p.m. Come for dinner and stay for the music and fireworks. Volunteer to help or bake desserts.

Oct. 9– **Cleveland Hill**. Fall foliage vista hike. Bring your camera.

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

Dec. 11– **Dryer Road Park**, Fort Hill, Ganondagan, ending at Mickey Finn's for lunch.

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

Apr. 10- Ganondagan State Historic Site. Peter Jemison, site manager, greeted the hikers and urged them to call their legislators to keep NYS Parks open. He thanked the VHT members who help maintain some of the park trails and educate the hikers on the diversity of the trails in this wonderful park. 22 people enjoyed the weather and the trails.

Replica of Seneca Long House at Ganondagan State Historic Site.



May 8- Monkey Run / Bluebird Sanctuary. The morning started at MaryFrances Bluebird Haven with 11 hikers following the perimeter trail around the property. A few muddy spots were encountered, but everyone liked the wooded section. Then it was across the street to hike on the first dedicated VHT trail, Monkey Run. This trail has seen a few changes with the construction of two housing developments, the addition of more trails to the south and finally the clear cutting of a wooded section for the new gas pipeline. Additional picture on page 4.

A small bridge in MaryFrances Bluebird Haven. The young boys have become regulars on our hikes, thanks to their Dad.



Jun. 5- National Trails Day – Over 90 people came to Valentown Museum to enjoy a continental breakfast before heading out on the three-stage hike to The Apple Farm. See page 1 for more details and page 4 for more pictures.

Jun. 12- Keuka Outlet Trail. Four (4) VHT board members and a guest rode from Dresden to Penn Yan and back, a distance of 16 miles. This is a scenic trail that follows the creek on an old railroad bed. While in Penn Yan the bikers refueled at the arts and crafts festival with burgers, sausage, salads and ice cream. More pictures on page 5.



Monkey Run Trails

A view from the yellow trail looking west at the opening for the gas pipeline. This will be good for cross-country skiing when we get the snow in the winter.



National Trails Day



On the Seneca Trail in the Ambush Valley.



Crossing the field by the Auburn Golf Driving Range.



A small bridge is needed here.



Taking a water break on Dryer Road.



One of several falls on the Outlet.

The Outlet Trail
Dresden to Penn Yan



Left-over machinery from another era.



Taking a short rest.



Several turtles were spotted in the small ponds.



Many industries were located along the creek.

Grant Awarded to VHT

Victor Hiking Trails would like to build a bridge across Great Brook to connect Dryer Road Park and Fort Hill with Ganondagan State Historic Site. It would be similar in design and size to the one that crosses Great Brook on the Apple Farm trail.

There is a small plank at a location that has served as a temporary bridge for the last 5 years. In the Spring when the creek floods, the plank usually gets washed to the side and has to be reset. Fortunately, it is roped to a tree.

When we learned that L.L.Bean would be building a new store at Eastview Mall, we asked if they would support our trails in Victor. They invited us to apply for a grant for a project so that they could be a part of our community.

From their website: *As a lead corporate contributor, we seek to give back to our valued stakeholders – our custom-*

ers, employees and surrounding communities. We provide support within the categories of Conservation and Recreation, Education, Health and Human Services and Culture and the Arts.

Based on L.L.Bean's heritage and ongoing commitment to ensuring quality outdoor experiences for our customers, we've chosen conservation and outdoor recreation as the primary focus of our corporate charitable giving program. We look to local, state, regional and national organizations to help our customers enjoy the outdoors in a responsible manner.

As a result, VHT has been awarded a grant for \$2000 to help pay for the purchase of materials for building the new bridge. We will work with the Friends of Ganondagan on the best location, the final design, purchase of materials and construction of the bridge.

Look for the L.L.Bean grand opening on July 9-11.

(Continued from page 1)

After crossing Route 96 and walking a short distance on Route 251, it was time for a water stop at the entrance to Lehigh Crossing Park. There are several trails in this park, but they were not on the schedule for this hike. Perhaps there will be an opportunity at another time. A few hikers accepted the offer for a ride back to Valentown.

Crossing Route 251 heading toward the village, the trail follows the entrance driveway to Auburn Creek Driving Range. Turn right and traverse a grassy field before entering a wooded wetland. Here you will cross the same creek three times on some of the first bridges built for Victor Hiking Trails. And you have a chance to walk on boardwalk built as Eagle Scout projects by two different scouts.

Eventually the Seneca Trail meets up with the Trolley Trail and runs parallel with the Auburn Trail for about a half mile. The hikers continued on the Auburn Trail across Rawson Road and School Street, stopping at the corner of Dryer Road and Maple Avenue for another well deserved water break. The sun was shining and it was really warming up. Several hikers, due to time constraints, elected to end their hike at this point and took the ride back to Valentown. But the majority was looking forward to the pizza lunch at the top of Ganondagan.

So they crossed Dryer Road and headed up the hill to Ganondagan State Historic Site. Here the trail enters the park at the northeast corner on Route 444 and heads due West across rolling hills of native grasses. Then it meanders through the woods, up and down hills and along Great Brook. Emerging from the woods, hikers are greeted to a replica of a Seneca Long House. As the first group headed for the Visitor's Center, the pizza and soda were just arriving. While the hikers enjoyed their lunch, Peter Jemison, site manager, told them about the history of the

site and what it was like to live in the area 300 years ago.

For many of the hikers, a six-mile hike on a Saturday morning was enough exercise for them. A Victor School bus was in the parking lot, waiting to return them to their vehicles back at Valentown. As we waved goodbye to them, the remainder of the hikers headed West on Boughton Hill Road to get back on the Seneca Trail.

Now the trail follows close to Great Brook at the edge of a field. This is Ganondagan property that is currently rented to local farmers. After about 3/4 of a mile, the trail crosses Great Brook on one of the largest bridges VHT has built. The yellow trail then heads East, ending at The Apple Farm store. Special awards, donated by our sponsors, were presented. Everyone who hiked the entire 8 miles was offered a special prize. Again, the Victor School bus was there to take everyone back to Valentown.

A few hardy (fool?) souls wanted to see the newest trail that connects The Apple Farm with Boughton Park, a distance of about two miles. The trail had recently been marked, cleared and mowed. One interesting point along the trail is a giant white oak tree that is estimated to be 400 years old. Please note that there is a small creek that needs a bridge, so be prepared to get wet feet.

Thus ended another successful National Trails Day hike in Victor. It would not have been possible without the many donations, sponsors and volunteers. We want to thank Canandaigua National Bank, Ganondagan State Historic Site, L.L.Bean, Maher Sports Apparel, Ontario County ARC, Rapid Printing, The Apple Farm, Town of Victor Parks and Recreation, Tri Running and Walking, Trailblazers Bike Shop, Valentown Museum, Victor Central School and the many volunteers who create and maintain over 50 miles of multi-use trails in the Victor community.

Jack Napolitano's Eagle Project



The scouts transported all the materials.



And bolted all the pieces together.



Jack had plenty of helpers.



Hurray, it's complete. That's Jack in the center.




*Jack and his proud father, Ken.
Proud mother Sally took all the photos.*

Trail Maintenance 2010

We need volunteers to help with trail maintenance! We meet Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM and most Saturday and Monday 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
7/14 We	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd	Into Ganondagan
7/15 Th	Meeting	Victor Town Hall	
7/17 Sa	Bike Ride	Lehigh Trail, Old Dutch Rd.	Rush and back.
7/19 Mo	Trolley	Lehigh Crossing Park	Trolley North and Trolley to Lehigh
7/21 We	TBD	Call 924-5803, Makeup	
7/24 Sa	Apple Farm	Boughton Hill Road	
7/26 Mo	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail, Trolley South
7/28 We	Auburn	Fishers House 1	To Probst
7/31 Sa	Seneca	Fishers House 2	Willow Brook
8/2 Mo	Hundred Acre	And Blue Bird	
8/4 We	Auburn	East Victor Road and School	To RG&E
8/7 Sa	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail, Trolley South
8/9 Mo	Seneca	Cherry Street	North and South to Boughton Park
8/11 We	Royal View and	Fishers Park	Short open section, West Side Park
8/14 Sa	Hike	Grimes Glen, Conklin Gully	Creek walk and hike
8/16 Mo	Seneca	Willow brook	Through Ambush Pass to Route 96
8/18 We	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd	Into Ganondagan
8/19 Th	Meeting	Victor Town Hall	
8/21 Sa	Monkey Run	Victor Egypt Road	All
8/23 Mo	Trolley	Lehigh Crossing Park	Trolley North and Trolley to Lehigh
8/25 We	Auburn	Fishers House 1	To Probst
8/28 Sa	Apple Farm	Boughton Hill Road	
8/30 Mo	Auburn	East Victor Road and School	To RG&E
9/1 We	Seneca	Fishers House 2	Willow Brook
9/4 Sa	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail, Trolley South
9/6 Mo	Hundred Acre	And Blue Bird	
9/8 We	Royal View and	Fishers Park	Short open section, West Side Park
9/11 Sa	Hang Around	Victor Day & Victor Fest	
9/13 Mo	Seneca	Cherry Street	North and South to Boughton Park
9/15 We	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd	Into Ganondagan
9/16 Th	Meeting	Victor Town Hall	
9/18 Sa	Seneca	Willow brook	Through Ambush Pass to Route 96
9/20 Mo	Trolley	Lehigh Crossing Park	Trolley North and Trolley to Lehigh
9/22 We	Monkey Run	Victor Egypt Road	All



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Send an e-mail to David Coleman at dcoleman@victorhikingtrails.org and
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