

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hikes for 2012	2
Past Hikes	3
Trail Maintenance Schedule	4
Mount Everest Talk	5
Ganondagan Guides	5
Presentation at L.L.Bean	6
Our Sponsors	7
Membership form	8

Inside this issue:

This is an excellent opportunity for local community groups ...pg. 3

He has climbed the "Seven Summits"-the highest peak on each continent. Pg. 5

The volunteers assist the State staff by accompanying visitors to the Bark Longhouse... pg. 5

This will be a slide show featuring all of the trails and parks in Victor. Pg. 6

America's largest TRAILgating party

By Dave Wright

That's the theme for this year's National Trails Day hike on Saturday, June 2nd and everyone is invited.

Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. (VHT) has been planning, negotiating, building and improving trails in Victor since 1991. National Trails Day® (NTD), started by The American Hiking Society in 1993, is the only nationwide celebration of trails. It increases the public's awareness about trails and celebrates the hard work and support of many people and partners -- including volunteers, land agencies, and outdoor minded businesses. In Victor that includes the Victor Parks and Recreation Department and many local businesses. VHT is proud of the fact that we have participated in NTD every year since its inception.

Last year there were over 2000 NTD events held nationwide. 330,000 people participated in at least one event. Almost 200,000 volunteer hours were spent completing 799 trail projects. These numbers show what can be accomplished when volunteers are focused on improving their community.

Victor Hiking Trails will again host a series of hikes on Saturday, June 2, 2012. We will showcase

our accomplishments of 2011 and talk about our plans for 2012.

The "party" will begin at 8:30 A.M. at the Fishers Fire Station #1, 7853 Main Street, Fishers, NY with a FREE continental breakfast. Come have some juice, coffee, tea, pastries and fruit and learn about our 50+ miles of trails in Victor. At 9:00 A.M. we will lead two hikes simultaneously.

Hike #1 will go northwest on the Auburn Trail to Probst Road and back, an easy 3-mile journey that should take an hour and 30 minutes. Hikers will see the recently upgraded Thruway underpass, the new steel bridge over Irondequoit Creek and the newest trail section topped with stonedust. Bring your camera and binoculars to enjoy the wildlife along this section.

Hike #2 will head southeast on the Auburn Trail, cross the new wooden footbridge onto Domine Builders Supply property and follow the yellow trail to the Lehigh Trail. From there the hike will head west to Old Dutch Road, then north to the entrance to Fishers Park. It is anybody's guess which trail the leader will choose to get back to the fire station, but it will also be 3 miles long and rated

(Continued on page 6)

HIKES FOR 2012

VHT 2012 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. Education
 Wizzy Geno. Volunteer
 Coordinator

VHT Pathfinder

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www.victorhikingtrails.org

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Apr. 14. Powder Mills Park, meet at the ski slope at 9 a.m.

May 12. Webster Park, look for early wild flowers

Jun. 2. National Trails Day

Jun. 9. Auburn and Lehigh Trails, bike ride

Jul. 14. Keuka Lake Outlet Trail, bike ride

Aug. 11. Conklin~~s~~ Gully, creek walk

Sep. 1. Ring of Fire, evening hike and supper

Sep. 8. Hang Around Victor and Victor Fest

Oct. 13. Historic Walk in Victor and Bike Ride on the Auburn

Nov. 10. Black Creek Park

Dec. 8. Boughton Park

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. 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 leave a message at 585-234-8226.

Again 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 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.

Past Hikes

Jan. 14– Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area. Not the best winter we have ever had, but eight (8) winter enthusiasts did find great snow at HHSSRA. As it turned out, it might have been the best of the season. The group enjoyed cross country skiing on the groomed trails and snow shoeing in the woods. No pictures to verify the facts, but we believe them.

Feb. 11– Mendon Ponds Park. February and no snow, but it was a great hike anyway. Five trekkers bounded up the trails and down. This is a large park with a wonderful variety of trails, suitable for hiking all year long. Again, no pictures to confirm, but again we have to believe them.

March 10– Dryer Road Park. There was a dusting of snow on the frozen ground, but not enough to even call snow. So Chauncy led four (4) of us on a fast-paced hike up and down the single-track trails at the park, then an easy walk over to Fort Hill, stopping at the southern vista for a small snack and water. A wonderful walk back to Dryer Road Park was followed by some more up and down the switchback trails. It was a tremendous morning workout, and as always, FREE. Fortunately, Chauncy had his smart phone with him, so we could get one picture.



Photo by a fellow hiker

Victor Storm Drain Labeling Project

The Victor Sustainability Advisory Committee has developed the Storm Drain Labeling Project for the Town and Village of Victor. This is an aquatic environment protection requirement for urban areas under the Federal EPA and NYSDEC Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS $\$$) program. It is designed to promote public involvement and participation in educating the residents about protecting our streams and lakes.

This is an excellent opportunity for local community groups to engage in community service. Although VHT strongly supports this program and others like it that protect our natural

resources, the board did not feel that we could ask our members to donate more time this year. If however there are VHT members who live in Victor and would like to participate, you should contact John Francis, Victor Sustainability Advisory Committee, at jfrancis3@rochester.rr.com.

John will be able to provide you with additional information, connect you with a team leader or organization that has already signed up, and provide access to training and materials.

John is also looking for adult chaperones to accompany groups for traffic safety purposes.

Trail Maintenance 2012

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 with 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
5/2 We	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail
5/5 Sa	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd	Into Ganondagan
5/7 Mo	Seneca	Willow brook	Through Ambush Pass to Route 96
5/9 We	Monkey Run	Victor Egypt Road	All
5/12 Sa	Hike		
5/14 Mo	Trolley	Lehigh Crossing Park	Trolley North and Trolley to Lehigh
5/16 We	Auburn	Fishers House 1	To Fisher Road or Domine
5/17 Th	Meeting		
5/19 Sa	Apple Farm	Boughton Hill Road	
5/21 Mo	Auburn	East Victor Road and School	To RG&E
5/23 We	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail, Trolley South
5/26 Sa	Seneca	Fishers House 2	Willow Brook
5/28 Mo	Auburn	Fishers House 1	Domine Trail
5/30 We	TBD	Call 924-5803, Last Minute	Preparation National Trails day
6/2 Sa	Event	National Trails Day	
6/4 Mo	Hundred Acre	And Blue Bird	
6/6 We	Royal View and	Fishers Park	Short open section, West Side Park
6/9 Sa	Hike		
6/11 Mo	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail, Trolley South
6/13 We	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd	Into Ganondagan
6/16 Sa	Apple Farm	Boughton Hill Road	
6/18 Mo	Seneca	Willow brook	Through Ambush Pass to Route 96
6/20 We	Monkey Run	Victor Egypt Road	All
6/21 Th	Meeting		
6/23 Sa	Trolley	Lehigh Crossing Park	Trolley North and Trolley to Lehigh
6/25 Mo	Auburn	Fishers House 1	To Fisher Road or Domine trail
6/27 We	Seneca	Fishers House 2	Willow Brook
6/30 Sa	Seneca	Cherry Street	North and South to Boughton Park
7/2 Mo	Hundred Acre	And Blue Bird	
7/4 We	Seneca	Auburn Creek Driving Range	To Auburn Trail, Trolley South
7/7 Sa	Seneca	Willow brook	Through Ambush Pass to Route 96
7/9 Mo	Royal View and	Fishers Park	Short open section, West Side Park

See the next issue for the remainder of the schedule. It is also on the calendar on our website.

Mount Everest: Confessions of an Amateur Bagger™

Please join Kevin Flynn in the St. Catherine's church proper on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00 P.M. for an exciting presentation- "Mount Everest: Confessions of an Amateur Bagger", the title of a book he wrote with Gary Fallesen a former Democrat and Chronicle outdoor writer. Kevin has entertained and inspired many groups from corporations to schools, outdoor groups to non-profits. He uses a DVD including slides, video clips, and photographs to highlight the majesty of Mt. Everest and the challenges climbers face. His key messages include choosing your destiny, pursuing one's passions, setting goals and capitalizing on successes and setbacks.

Kevin has an A.S. degree from the Finger Lakes Community College, a B.S. in Environmental Education from Cornell and a Master's degree in Communications from Cornell.

Kevin is a one-third owner and partner in the marketing communication firm of Martino Flynn LLC one of the fastest-growing firms in Rochester. Martino Flynn has received numerous awards related to excellence, creativity and public relations.

Kevin has a broad range of interests and passions. A two-time Adirondack 46er (one who has climbed the 46 peaks that are 4,000 feet elevation and above), he has climbed and hiked in locations in the Northeast. He has climbed the "Seven Summits" the highest peak on each continent. In May of 2004, on his second attempt, he reached the summit of 29,035 foot Mount Everest.

Kevin is an instrument-rated, single-engine private pilot. He volunteers as an Angel Pilot- someone who flies non-critically ill patients and family members to destinations for medical treatment or visitations.

In 2004, Kevin was awarded the Amateur Athlete of the Year by the Rochester Press Radio Club and is President of the Board of Directors for the Center for Environmental Information. He is also a board member for the Monroe Community College Foundation.

An avid skier and golfer, he has been married to his first wife since 1990.

Do You Want to Do Guided Walks at Ganondagan?

By Kathleen M. Gill

Volunteer trail guides for weekend walks on the Trail of Peace at Ganondagan are being recruited for the 2012 season. The season at the State Historic Site is May 1 - October 31, but training happens throughout the year. The volunteers assist the State staff by accompanying visitors to the Bark Longhouse, answering questions, amplifying the information on the trail markers and giving an overview of the significance of the site, based on visitor interest.

To prepare to take to the trails, new

(Continued on page 6)



A typical training session at the Visitor's Center.

Presentation at L.L. Bean store in Victor

Victor Hiking Trails will make a presentation at a workshop at the L.L.Bean store in Victor on Thursday evening, May 26th. This will be a slide show featuring all of the trails and parks in Victor. Similar presentations have been made to local organizations like the Lions Club, Rotary International and Kiwanis Club as well as to the Victor school fifth-grade classes.

After the slide show there will be time for questions and answers about the parks and trails.

L.L.Bean offers a variety of workshops to educate their customers so they can participate in outdoor activities year round. Victor Hiking Trails is happy to inform the public about the wonderful hiking and biking opportunities in our community.

(Continued from page 5) Ganondagan Guided Walks

guides are given orientation and training by the experienced guides, the State interpreters (who are themselves Native people) and guest speakers. The guides receive printed and recorded material to review. They shadow the experienced guides first, and then get feedback as they take the lead. At that point, they are ready to solo. The trail is an easy walk, and the scheduling is flexible enough to accommodate even busy folks. The new guide signs up for some Saturdays and/or Sundays, and at a minimum gives a 12 noon and 2 p.m. walk of approximately 30-45 minutes. If there are more visitors and the guide is willing, he or she can do more. Trail guides also provide interpretation during the Native American Dance and Music Festival in July on the Earth is Our Mother Trail as well as the Trail of Peace, and are involved in some community presentations as well. One of the upcoming Ganon-

dagan events, a guided trail walk with Pete Jemison and Tonia Loran on the native plants along the trails, is May 6 and is detailed on the web site www.ganondagan.org.

Trails committee meetings are generally weekday evening and occur every two months. The content is fascinating, detailing the culture and history of the Haudenosaunee, the people we call the Six Nations of the Iroquois. Larry Verweire is the Trails chair and is assisted by Kathy Gill in inviting and training new guides. Kathy did a brief presentation at the Victor Hiking Trails meeting in March, and met some of your friendly and dedicated members to suggest even more collaboration between our two groups. You can contact either Larry or Kathy at trailguides@ganondagan.org. The group of trail guides is a welcoming one and we encourage your participation.

(Continued from page 1) National Trails Day

easy to moderate. Plan on an hour and 30 minutes for this hike as well.

After hikers return to the fire station and have a short rest and a snack, they can then hike in the opposite direction for their second hike. After returning from the second hike there will be a FREE lunch of pizza and drinks beginning at 12:30 P.M. Also included will be drawings for several door prizes donated by local businesses.

There will be a third hike beginning around 1:00 P.M., heading southeast on the Auburn trail to Lehigh Crossing Park to see the beaver activity and the trails that lead to Auburn Landing Plaza.

The hike will return to the fire station via the Lehigh Trail and the blue trail on the Domine property. This relatively easy hike will be about 4 to 5 miles long and take about two hours. Everyone who completes all three hikes will receive a one year membership to VHT.

Registration for the hikes is required so we can get a count for the breakfast and lunch meals. Please call the VHT information line at **585-234-8226** before May 30th and let us know how many in your party will be attending. You can also go to our website, www.VictorHikingTrails.org to see and print maps of the hikes and learn more about VHT and NTD. We hope to see you on June 2nd. Enjoy the trails.

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Ask about the VHT member discount.

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Send an e-mail to David Coleman at dcoleman@victorhikingtrails.org and ask to be added to the Newsletter Electronic Mailing List..

Annual membership is for 12 months, beginning when you first join. Please send your renewal check promptly so we don't have to come after you. We want to use your dues for trail improvements, not postage.

Filling the gaps in Victor

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

Current and achieved newsletters can be downloaded from our website.

Join us on Facebook!

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

Name _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

City _____ **Zip** _____

Phone (____) _____ - _____

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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 ___
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Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

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