



VHT Pathfinder

29 YEARS AND GROWING

Volume 26, Issue 1
Spring, 2021

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A New Partnership: VHT and Victor PTSA

The Victor PTSA Wellness Committee asked VHT to recommend trails in Victor for the students and their families to hike. Of course, your Board jumped on the invitation to get more people, especially Victor residents and especially the youth, out on the trails that we care so much about.

The PTSA put the word out and on a snowy February morning there was a large group of families standing in the shelter at Dryer Road Park, eager to tromp on the trails. With a foot of fresh snow on the ground, it was important for everyone to stay on the snowshoe-packed trails.



The trekkers varied in age from 2 or 3 to 10 and were accompanied by their parents. They were divided into three groups according to age and ability. The youngest went on a short, easy hike, making snow angels in the fluffy snow as they followed their leader.



The middle group went on a little longer, more difficult hike, returning to the playground area for sledding and playing on the playground equipment.



The third group went on the longest, hardest hike and were rewarded by seeing a man who was training his red-tailed hawk in the field at the top of the park. They even got to see the bird up close as it perched on the owners outstretched arm.

Many thanks to the hike leaders and the PTSA Wellness Committee for making this partnership happen. More of these family hikes are being planned for the parks and trails in Victor.

VHT 2021 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman
 Lisa Roberts– Secretary
 Ruth Rugaber– Treasurer
 Scott Reinhart– Trailmaster
 Chauncy Young– Trail Boss
 Jeff Hennick– Webmaster
 Denni Harbaugh– Membership
 Jeff Miller – Education
 Paul Kneer— Volunteer
 Coordinator
 Lisa Roberts — Social Media
 Coordinator
 Larry Fisher—Parks Liaison

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

We 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, NY 14564
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www.victorhikingtrails.org
 Also on Facebook,
 Instagram and Meetup

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VHT MONTHLY HIKES FOR 2021**2021 Hikes**

Mar 27, 2 p.m.— Lehigh Crossing Park, 7386 Victor Mendon Rd.
 Mar 28, 2 p.m.— Educational Hike, West Hollow Boat Co.
 Apr 3, 9 a.m.— Mendon Ponds East Esker. Meet at 100 Acre Pond
 Apr 10, 9 a.m.— Lehigh and Trolley Tr. 200 Victor Heights Parkway.
 Apr 24, 9 a.m.—Earth Day Trail Cleanup, Cobblestone Court Dr.
 Apr 24, 2 p.m.—Rail to Trails, Hike and Bike, Twin Elder Brewery
 Apr 25, 2 p.m.—Educational Hike, Bird Watching at MaryFrances Blue
 Bird Haven, 235 Co. Rd. 9
 May 8, 9 a.m.— Fishers Park & Domine. Meet at tennis courts.
 June 5, 8:30 a.m.— National Trails Day in Victor.
 June 12, 9 a.m.— Ontario Pathways, Phelps, Rt. 96 parking lot.
 July 10, 9 a.m.— Fillmore Glen. Meet at Town Hall to caravan.
 Aug 14, 9 a.m.— Ganondagan. Meet in main parking lot.
 Sep 4, 5:30 p.m.— Ring of Fire, Bare Hill. Meet at Town Hall.
 Sep 11, 9 a.m.— Auburn Trail Bike Ride. Meet at Finns Tap Room.
 Sep 18, 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.— Hang Around Victor Day
 Oct 9, 9 a.m.— Boughton Park. Meet at Town Hall.
 Nov 13, 9 a.m.— Ontario County Park. Meet at Town Hall.
 Dec 11, 9 a.m.— Seneca Park along the Genesee River. Meet at T.H.

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details and last minute updates. Also, if you join <https://www.meetup.com/Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup>, you will get notifications of hikes, other events, reminders and last minute changes if you are signed up for a hike or event.

Some hikes meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot, 85 East Main Street to caravan to the trailhead. We will carpool when it is safe. Most hikes are relatively easy and take 2-3 hours. Always bring a snack and something to drink. Dress for the weather. We rarely cancel due to inclement weather.

If you have any questions regarding any of the hikes, or if you have suggestions for places to hike, please leave a message at the VHT Message Line, 585-234-8226.

Again this year we have scheduled several hikes in Victor or the surrounding communities. We are also leading shorter and easier hikes to encourage families and younger hikers to join us. Based on the success of past years we will again be adding educational hikes on Sunday afternoons. Let us know what you would like to learn about.

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.

NOTE: There are several hiking Meetup groups in our area that schedule hikes in Victor. If you like to hike, join those Meetup groups as well.

Past Hikes

Starting with an extra hike on Jan. 1, 2021, your board of directors decided that there should be more than one guided hike per month. As long as there are volunteers to lead the hikes, there will be as many as possible. So far there have been more hikes and more hikers to date than there were all of last year. This is primarily the result of COVID-19 and a pent up desire to get out of the house and get some fresh air exercise.

All of the hikes are conducted according to the latest CDC guidelines in order to keep everyone safe and to prevent the spread of the virus.

VHT encourages everyone to get out and use the trails in Victor as much as possible. If you see something on the trails that needs attention, please send an email to one of our board members on our website, VictorHikingTrails.org or directly to Trailboss@VictorHikingTrails.org.

Regular trail maintenance will begin soon. See the preliminary early schedule on page 5.

Here are a few of the highlights from past hikes.

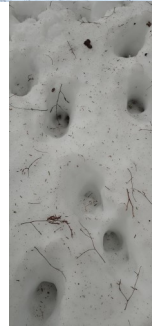
Jan. 1— Fishers to Powder Mills Park and Back: There was a great turnout for the first hike of 2021. The group covered about 5 miles plus a little more for some who enjoyed hiking on the Domine Trails. No snow, but no sunshine either.



Jan. 9— Dryer Road Park: Another large turnout (20) for an up and down hike on the single-track, multi-use trails. A trip over to Fort Hill allowed for a great view of the Bristol Hills and Hopper Hill to the south. Total distance of the hike was about 5 miles for most of the group.



Feb. 28— Educational Hike at Cumming Nature Center: The goal for these hikers was to find tracks in the snow and identify what animal made them. Ideally, there would be fresh snow and fresh tracks. The guides took the group off the main trails and into the woods so they could find enough tracks to give everyone an opportunity to test their knowledge of the local fauna.



Mar. 13— Webster Park: 15 hikers covered 6 miles of relatively easy trails in the park on a nice sunny, but brisk, Spring type of morning.



More Past Hikes on page 4.

National Trails Day 2021

If the pandemic continues to decrease and venues continue to open up, there will be a National Trails Day (NTD) event in Victor. Save the day of Saturday, June 5th for one, two or three hikes. The Victor Municipal Park lodge has been reserved, so plan on joining us for a safe day of fun, comraderie and exercise.

Not sure right now if there will be a full continental breakfast as in the past, but there should be coffee, juice, water and some pre-wrapped solid food. Festivities will begin at 8:30 A.M. with the first hike starting at 9 A.M. The second hike will begin at 10:45 A.M. with a pizza and drinks lunch at 12:30 P.M. The last hike will start at 1:15 P.M. and take approximately 2 hours.

Like past years, everyone who completes all 3 hikes will be awarded a free one-year membership to VHT.



More Murals

VHT is looking for artists, muralists and volunteers to paint new murals on the Auburn Trail at the NYS Thruway underpass, opposite the train mural that was painted by Emily Waldman and

volunteers. The theme is “The History of Victor” and can be anything from pre-historic Victor to present day.

Instead of one large mural, the VHT board of directors has decided to breakdown the wall into 12 segments of 10' x 10' panels.

Applicants can create a scene on one, two or three connecting panels. A sketch of the work of art needs to be submitted by May 31. Instructions and an application form can be found on the website, VictorHikingTrails.org. Tell your friends and relatives.



More Past Hikes

Feb. 26—Full Moon Hike on the Auburn: It was a beautiful, clear evening, perfect for a stroll on the Auburn Trail with nothing but the light of the moon to show the hikers the way. Just enough snow on the ground to reflect the light and make seeing in the dark a little easier. The treadway was hard-packed and icy in some places, so it was slow going, but everyone enjoyed the hike.



More Past Hikes on page 6.

Trail Maintenance Schedule for 2021 (see Meetup for latest updates)

Day	Time	Trail	Section
Monday, April 5, 2021	5:00 PM	Mixed	Install muddy trail signs - various locations
Wednesday, April 7, 2021	5:00 PM	Mixed	Install muddy trail signs - various locations
Saturday, April 10, 2021	9:00 AM	Monthly Hike	Lehigh Crossing Park - FLCC Parking Area
Monday, April 12, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	Willowbrook to Rte 96 - sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Wednesday, April 14, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	Rte 251 to Rawson - sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Thursday, April 15, 2021	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting	Town Hall
Friday, April 16, 2021	7:30 AM	Domine Trails	Sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Saturday, April 17, 2021	9:00 AM	PTSA Hike	Hike for families with younger children
Sunday, April 18, 2021	8:00 AM	Helen's Way	New Trail - clearing and blazing
Monday, April 19, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	Insulator to School St - sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Wednesday, April 21, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	CR 41 thru the Apple Farm to Judson - sweep and blaze
Friday, April 23, 2021	7:30 AM	Seneca Trail	High St to Willowbrook - sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Saturday, April 24, 2021	9:00 AM	Seneca Trail	Earth Day - County Line to High Street - sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Saturday, April 24, 2021	2:00 PM	Special Hike	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Opening Day for Trails Bike/Hike
Sunday, April 25, 2021	9:00 AM	Boughton Park	Trail Improvement Day - Family Tree Planting
Sunday, April 25, 2021	2:00 PM	Special Hike	Bird Watching - Bluebird Sactuary
Monday, April 26, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	Judson - sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Wednesday, April 28, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	Duvall - sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Friday, April 30, 2021	7:30 AM	Dryer Trail	Dryer Rd Park to Rte 251
Saturday, May 1, 2021	8:00 AM	Helen's Way	New Trail - clearing and blazing
Monday, May 3, 2021	5:00 PM	Monkey Run	All trails - sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Wednesday, May 5, 2021	5:00 PM	Polidori/GLT	All trails - sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Friday, May 7, 2021	7:30 AM	Fishers Park	Sweep, leaf blow and blaze
Saturday, May 8, 2021	9:00 AM	Monthly Hike	Fishers Park and Domine Trails
Monday, May 10, 2021	5:00 PM	Trolley Trail	Lehigh Crossing Park and Omnitech - mow, sweep & blaze
Wednesday, May 12, 2021	5:00 PM	Mixed	100 Acre & Bluebird
Friday, May 14, 2021	7:30 AM	Mixed	Fishers Landing/VMP/Auburn east of Break of Day parking
Monday, May 17, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	High Point - County line to High St
Wednesday, May 19, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	Behind the Plazas - High Street to Willowbrook
Thursday, May 20, 2021	7:00 PM	Monthly Meeting	Town Hall
Friday, May 21, 2021	7:30 AM	TBD	
Saturday, May 22, 2021	9:00 PM	Boughton Park	Trail Improvement Day
Sunday, May 23, 2021	2:00 PM	Special Hike	Village of Victor Railroad historical hike
Monday, May 24, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	Willowbrook to Rte 251
Wednesday, May 26, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	Via the Trolley east of Rte 251 to Rawson
Friday, May 28, 2021	7:30 AM	TBD	
Monday, May 31, 2021	5:00 PM	Holiday	
Wednesday, June 2, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	Insulator to School St
Thursday, June 3, 2021	5:00 PM	Special Event	Hike - Bike - Brew Twin Elders
Friday, June 4, 2021	7:30 AM	Mixed	VMP/Auburn east of Break of Day parking
Saturday, June 5, 2021	8:00 AM	Special Event	National Trails Day
Monday, June 7, 2021	5:00 PM	Seneca Trail	CR 41 thru the Apple Farm to Judson
Wednesday, June 9, 2021	5:00 AM	Seneca Trail	Judson
Friday, June 11, 2021	7:30 AM	Seneca Trail	Duvall
Saturday, June 12, 2021	9:00 AM	Monthly Hike	Ontario Pathways
Monday, June 14, 2021	5:00 PM	Trolley Trail	Lehigh Crossing Park and Omnitech

More Past Hikes

Jan 16—The Big Loop Hike: Starting at Finn's Tap Room and Party House, 22 hikers covered 8.7 miles on the Auburn, Seneca, Dryer, Trolley and Auburn Trails to make a complete loop. No snow anywhere and kind of damp and dreary at the start, but the sun came out near the end of the hike.



Jan 17—Educational Hike, Lollypop Farm: There were 20 people interested in learning about the programs that are offered at the Humane Society of Greater Rochester. The volunteers and staff take care of many animals besides dogs and cats. Although not allowed to enter the building due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the group enjoyed a great tour of the outside facilities, seeing horses, cows, an emu, pigs, geese and ducks followed by a great hike on the nature trail through the woods.



Jan 23—Apple Farm and Boughton Park: Finally got some snow and bitter cold weather for a hike. 13 brave adventurers hiked from The Apple Farm store to Boughton Park and back for a total of 9 miles. After the hike, several members of the group stopped into the store to warm up and enjoy some hot cider and donuts.



Jan 24—Seneca Trail North: This was an out and back hike from the TJ Maxx parking lot to almost where the Seneca Trail crosses Route 96 at Route 251, a distance of 6.2 miles. Still had some snow on the ground and cold temps for the 18 hardy hikers.



Jan 31—Fishers Park and More: 18 people came out for another cold and snowy hike. Everyone parked in back of the Fisher Fire Station #1 and followed the Auburn Trail to the Domine Trail to the Lehigh Trail to Fishers Park. They covered most of the trails in the park, going a distance of 5 miles in about two hours. It was actually beneficial to be wearing a mask. It helps prevent COVID-19 and it keeps your face warm.



Feb 7—Whitebrook Nature Center: There was enough snow on the ground that some of the hikers wore snowshoes. Others decided to go with traction devices like Micro-spikes. The 19 hikers went to the Erie canal, completing a five mile loop hike. It was cold and windy, but the sun felt extra good.



Feb 14—Valentine's Day at Ganondagan: A nice, easy paced, five-mile hike with 16 hikers covering most of the trails in the park. If you stayed on the trail you didn't need snowshoes. But if you stepped off the trail, you would sink into about a foot of snow.



Mar 20—Hike with a Tyke:

This was the second family hike with the Victor schools, thanks to the PTSA Wellness Committee. It was a beautiful, blue sky day and the first day of Spring. Two groups met at the Fishers Fire Station #1 and walked over to Fishers Park where they went on appropriate hikes for their age group.

The younger students went about one mile on the flat trails while the older ones went about two miles up and down the hills. Everyone had a great morning and are looking forward to the April hike.



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Save the Amphibians

Did you know that frogs and salamanders migrate? Not very far. But going from the upland woods to the local temporary pools of water can be quite an adventure for these little creatures. They emerge on warm, rainy nights beginning in mid-March through early April, according to the New York State DEC, to lay their eggs before the pools dry up.

Sometimes their journey requires them to cross a road, making travel a do or die experience.

If you are driving on the back roads of Victor on a warm, rainy night and see a large group of frogs or salamanders crossing, give them a break and brake for them, if it is safe.

To learn more about these creatures, search the Internet for amphibian migration.



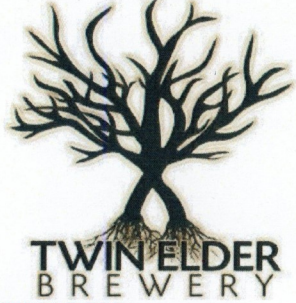
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29 YEARS AND GROWING

All VHT newsletters are now available on our website.
View them and download any in full color.

Annual membership is for 12 months, beginning when you first join. Please send your renewal check or donation promptly so we can continue to create new and improved multi-use trails.

Filling the gaps in Victor

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VHT Map Link

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

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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.

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 Corporate membership at \$100 per year allows all employees to be members.

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