



VHT Pathfinder

29 YEARS AND GROWING

Volume 26, Issue 2
Summer 2021

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Another Awesome National Trails Day in Victor

Nearly 50 hikers came out on Saturday, June 5th to help VHT celebrate National Trails Day at the lodge at Victor Municipal Park. With more and more people getting vaccinated for COVID, it was felt that it was safe to start the day with a full continental breakfast of yogurt, fresh fruit, bagels, muffins, coffee and juice.

At 9:00 AM, David Wright, VHT Chairman, welcomed everyone and introduced the board members present. He also introduced the crowd to Adam Reitz, the new Victor Parks and Recreation employee who will be working with VHT to increase and improve all of the shared-use trails in Victor. Adam comes to Victor with an extensive background in major trail building throughout the eastern United States and Utah. He has also worked on the mountain bike trails at Dryer Road Park and has some ideas for improving those trails as well.



Photo by Lisa Roberts

The first hikes started at approximately 9:30 AM. Hikers could choose a slower, shorter hike to the East led by Dave Wright or a slightly faster, longer hike to the West led by Chauncy Young. Everyone arrived back at the lodge at 10:30 AM.



Photo by Paul Knerr

After some refreshments to replenish the trekkers (it was hot and humid with a strong breeze) they could choose another hike with the same leaders, arriving back at the lodge at noon, just in time for pizza and drinks.

At 1:15 PM, Chauncy led the long hike to the West, covering about 4.5 miles in just under 2 hours. It was hotter and more humid than before. Congratulations to all of the participants, especially Pam Roberts who completed all three hikes..

As before, all of this would not be possible without the help of all our great volunteers who gathered the food, setup the lodge for a safe experience, checked in all of the participants, lead the hikes and cleaned up the lodge.

Next year will be our 30th anniversary, so look for something special.
(More photos on page 7.)

VHT 2021 Officers:

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

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 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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www.victorhikingtrails.org
 Also on Facebook,
 Instagram
 and Meetup
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VHT MONTHLY HIKES FOR 2021

Jun 27, 2 PM– (Ed) Glacial History of Western NY at Chimney Bluffs.
 July 10, 9 AM– Fillmore Glen. Meet at Victor Town Hall.
 July 25, 2 PM– (Ed) Tour of Mt. Morris Dam and hike.
 Aug 14, 9 AM– Ganondagan. Meet in main parking lot.
 Aug 29, 2 PM– (Ed) Cobblestone Museum in Albion, NY.
 Sept 4, 5:30 PM– Ring of Fire, Bare Hill, Meet at Victor Town Hall.
 Sept 11, 9 AM– Auburn Trail Bike Ride. Meet at Finn's Tap Room.
 Sept 18, 1:00 to 7:00 PM– Hang Around Victor Day.
 Sept 26, 2 PM– (Ed) Historical Victor Hike with Victor Historian.
 Oct 9, 9 AM– Boughton Park. Meet at Victor Town Hall.
 Oct 31, 2 PM– (Ed) Halloween Special at the Avon Cemetery.
 Nov 13, 9 AM– Ontario County Park. Meet at Victor Town Hall.
 Dec 11, 9 AM– 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 and other events and reminders if you are signed up for a hike and last minute changes.

All hikes meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot, 85 East Main Street, at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. 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.

As noted in our schedule there are several educational (Ed) hikes planned for 2021. These are usually on a Sunday afternoon starting at 2:00 PM. The hikes are generally shorter in length with more stops for information. There is usually an opportunity to carpool to the trailhead..

We usually carpool 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 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 an educational element to some of the hikes.

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: The Victor/Farmington Library is scheduling hikes on Wednesday mornings. There are also several hiking Meetup groups in our area that schedule hikes in Victor and the Greater Rochester area. If you like to hike, join those Meetup groups as well.

Past Hikes

Mar 27– Lehigh Crossing Park. It was a beautiful Spring afternoon for a hike for 16 folks wanting to get out of the house and into the woods. The maple trees were tapped, producing the sap to be made into maple syrup.



*Photos by
Raphael Kuhn-Guignard*

Mar 28– West Hollow Boat Co. 21 interested VHT members attended a very enlightening, educational event, learning how to build a canoe by hand. Our host, Patrick Smith, is an accomplished boat builder and educator, making for a very uplifting 2-hour seminar. The weather was cold and raining, so some of the group decided to forego the hike on the Finger Lakes Trail.



Photos by Jeff Miller

Apr 3– Mendon Ponds East Esker. 10 hikers enjoyed a brisk morning five-mile hike up and down the hills on the east side of the park. This was one of several extra hikes that were scheduled during the COVID restricted times. Many people were tired of the isolation that was deemed necessary to keep people safe until a majority could receive a vaccine.

Apr 10– Lehigh, Auburn and Trolley Trails. Our regularly scheduled monthly hike saw 18 members attend a beautiful, blue-sky morning, 5.5-mile walk around the parks in Victor.



more hikes on page 4.

Photos by Laura.

Past Hikes continued

Apr 24– Earth Day Trail Cleanup. We had wonderful participation, including some tykes with their parents. As shown in the photos, there was a large haul of trash, especially on the Seneca Trail across from Eastview Mall.



Photos by Adam Reitz

Apr 24– Rails to Trails Bike and Hike. It was a beautiful afternoon for a hike or a bike ride, starting and ending at the Twin Elders Brewery. Great participation means we will do more of these events.



Photos by Lisa Roberts

Apr 25– Bird Watching at MFBBH. We had a good turnout for this educational hike, despite the gloomy clouds and light rain. Our leader Liz Magnanti, Manager of the Bird House in Pittsford, did an excellent job of pointing out the variety of birds around us. We even spotted a blue-bird.



Photo by Dave Wright

Photo by Lisa Roberts

May 8– Fishers Park and Domine Trails. A beautiful Spring day for a colorful hike on the trails in Fishers Park and the Domine Trails.



Photo by Dave Wright

Photos by Alicia Alvarado

Past Hikes continued

May 23– Railroad History in Victor. Joel Richter, President of the Friends of the Railroad in Victor, gave a very interesting talk about the 3 rails that were in Victor as the group of 26 hikers walked the rails-to-trails in the Village of Victor. The Auburn Route was first in 1845, followed by the Lehigh Valley in 1891 and the Rochester and Eastern Rapid Railway in 1901. The only one surviving today is the Lehigh, now owned by Finger Lakes Railway and Ontario County. It still brings raw materials to the Victor Insulators Inc. plant on Maple Ave.



Jun 5– National Trails Day. See Page 1.

Photos by Alicia Alvarado

Jun 12– Ontario Pathways. It was a beautiful, sunny morning for the 8 hikers that ventured out on the old railroad bed near Phelps. They wandered down to the edge of Flint Creek on the loop trail and enjoyed the shade of the trees. The hike was about five miles total. Sorry, no one posted any photos.

New Road Crossing Signs

Lisa Roberts has been busy making more signs for the trails. She is planning to have two signs at every road crossing, telling hikers and bike riders what road they are crossing and what they might find if they venture off the trail. Thank you Lisa for this great addition.



New Trail Coming Soon

VHT is working to help the Town of Victor with its Parks and Recreation Master Plan to create new trails to improve the connectivity of parks, points of interest and existing trails. One goal is to connect MaryFrances Bluebird Haven (MFBBH) with Village on the Park. Paul Bishop has graciously given VHT a revocable permit to construct a trail around his property that adjoins the soccer fields at Village on the Park. With additional trails on town property, this will add approximately 2 more miles to our trails and hopefully get us closer to MFBBH. If you would like to help to create the trail, sign up on the VHT Meetup.

Additional Sponsors

As you can see from this newsletter, we have gained a few new sponsors. We are grateful to all our sponsors as they help defray the cost of the printing of the newsletter and our brochures. Please support our sponsors by buying local. And let your friends, neighbors and relatives know that we need everyone's help to keep the trails in tip top shape.

New Brochures

About once every two years we need to print new brochures to place in plastic boxes along the trail and to hand out to people at different events. Thank you to Bruce Fisher for designing the new brochure with all our sponsors, an updated map to show all our trails and information about VHT. We have 10,000 printed in full color to share with everyone interested in trails in Victor. Look for them at road crossings of most trails.

Victor Farmington Library

The library has started a series of hikes in and around Victor on the second and fourth Wednesday morning of each month. The first one went to Mertensia Park in Farmington to see the bluebells along Mud Creek. Two weeks later they walked around MaryFrances Bluebird Haven. These are slow, easy hikes, looking at nature. If that is your cup of tea, see the Meetup page for the time and place to meet.




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More National Trails Day Photos.



Photos by Lisa Roberts



Photo by Paul Knerr



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All VHT newsletters are now available on our website.
View it and download it 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

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

Join us on Facebook!

And Meetup!



VHT Map Link

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

Name _____ **Date** _____

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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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