

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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Twelfth Annual Fall Adirondack Hike

By David Coleman

Seven hikers reached the trailhead at 8 o'clock on a mid September morning. The weather was not very promising. It had rained the previous night and there was more rain on the way to the trailhead, but don't ever listen to the weatherman. The rain stopped. By the time we reached Rooster Comb, our first target of the day, the sun was trying to make an appearance. Despite all the recent rain the trail was remarkably dry.

The night before we were treated to a wonderful dinner at the home of our hostess for the weekend, Marcia Bryan. Someone even brought a belated birthday cake for Marcia. (Her birthday is in May).

From Rooster Comb we could see back into Keene Valley and watch the clouds below. Giant Mountain was standing tall on the other side of the valley, off to the east. In the other direction we could see into Johns Brook valley, and from this vantage point on Rooster Comb, we could also see Porter Mountain, the Brothers, Big Slide, and more; many the targets of previous Victor Hiking Trails Adirondack hikes. Up ahead, in the clouds, we could see our target of the day, Lower Wolfjaw Mountain.

After leaving Rooster Comb, the seven hikers, Marcia Bryan, Denise Paley, Dave Wright, Jeff Hennick, Larry Fisher, Rob Leavens and David Coleman, proceeded on over Hedgehog Mountain which seemed to have several false peeks, but no views, and into the col between Hedgehog and Lower Wolfjaw.

Lunch was in order at this point, after which, it started to rain. But this too was not enough to put a damper in the spirits of the group. The rain was light and lasted less than five minutes! We headed to the summit of Lower Wolfjaw Mountain. At 4175 feet, Lower Wolfjaw Mountain is one of the forty-six High Peaks. But, alas, there were no views to be had from the summit; we were in the clouds! This was the first time on Lower Wolfjaw for most and a different approach for others. A recent frost had killed most of the ferns on the summit.

On the way back down we followed a different trail, the White Trail. This trail was much prettier and appears to not be as heavily used. The fall colors were almost at their peak with a wonderful display both on the trees and the leaves that had recently reached the ground littering the trail.

After returning to our cars we stopped in Keene Valley at the Ausable Inn for a celebration dinner before returning to our accommodations for the weekend.

Sunday's weather was not as kind and the group canceled their plans for a hike on Pillsbury Mountain, near Speculator, and returned home early.

Spring is right around the corner and Victor Hiking Trails will be leading another hike in the Adirondacks. Please join the group. If you are interested, send an email to:

dcoleman@victorhikingtrails.org
to get more information.

HIKES FOR 2007

VHT 2007 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
 Open- Historian

VHT Pathfinder

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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.

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 Trails, Inc.

Jan. 13- Powder Mills Park. Hike, snow shoe or cross country ski, depending on the weather. Meet at the Fish Hatchery parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Bring a bag lunch and something to drink.

Feb. 10- Harriet Hollister

Mar. 10- Dryer Road Park

Apr. 14- Spring Flower Walk?

May 12- Turning Point Park

Jun. 2- National Trails Day.

Jun. 9-

Jul. 14- Bike Ride?

Aug. 11- Creek Walk?

Sep. 1- Ring of Fire at Bare Hill

Sep. 8- Hang Around Victor Day

Oct. 13- Finger Lakes Trail?

Nov. 10- New Town of Webster Trails

Dec. 8-

Note: The schedule is tentative and will be firmed up at the Dec. 21st meeting. 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.

At the November 16, 2006 board meeting the following members were elected for a one-year term, beginning January 1, 2007:

Chairman-	Dave Wright
Vice Chairman-	Jeff Hennick
Secretary-	Nat Fisher
Treasurer-	Chauncy Young
Trailmaster-	Carol MacInnes
Trail boss-	Larry Fisher
Membership-	David Coleman
Education-	Ruth Nellis

Past Hikes

Sept. 2- Ring of Fire, Bare Hill. Due to inclement weather (it poured), VHT members did not participate. Let's all hope for a dry 2007.

October 14- Finger Lakes Trail, Bristol Branch. Three hikers and two dogs hiked the section of the Bristol Hills Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail through the Italy Hill State Forest, east of Naples. This trail makes a long gentle climb to the top of a hill, following the remnants of an old road from a previous time. Near the top of the hill is a small shelter, which on this day was occupied by three campers from the Rochester area. From here the trail meanders through the forest, sometimes following what were old roads at one time. After lunch near the top of the hill, we completed a loop back to the shelter and down the hill to our cars. We experienced just about all kinds of weather, sun, snow flurries, and a brief bout of rain... A good hike was had by all!

November 11- Boughton Park. Seven hikers and two dogs enjoyed the walk at this 330-acre preserve in East Bloomfield. The group hiked almost every inch of trail in the park. It started to sprinkle just as they were heading back to the parking lot.

Let's all hope for a dry 2007.

December 9- Mendon Ponds. There was a trace of snow on the ground and the air was clean and crisp. The temperature at day-break was right around freezing, but the forecast called for sunny skies and a high of 45 degrees.

Seven hikers and two dogs met at the Beach parking lot at Hundred Acre Pond in Mendon Ponds Park at 9:30 a.m. They hiked to the top of the highest point in the park where the old water tower resides, then south along the ridges, hills and valleys. Taking a different trail back to the parking lot and arriving there at 11:00 a.m., they next ventured to the west side of the pond and scouted out the trails near Clover Street. After a short lunch break, they trekked back to the cars, finishing a great morning of hikes.



At the Boughton Road entrance to the Park.



Some of the hikers enjoying the sun as they have lunch near Hundred Acre Pond.

Hang Around Victor Day and Victor Fest

September 9th was a beautiful day in Victor. Sunny. Not too hot or cold. A nice breeze. And lots of people enjoying the festivities.

At our VHT booth we displayed our new banners. We sold bird feeders, t-shirts, history books, license plate holders and memberships.

From 5 to 11 p.m. we participated in the first annual Victor Fest. VHT had charge of the desserts. A special thanks to all of the VHT members who baked cookies, brownies, cakes, pies, etc. This was a great fund raiser for VHT. We hope to do it again next year.



Our booth and new banner at Mead Square Park.

Black Diamond Off-Road Duathlon

Saturday, October 21, 2006.

In spite of the weather for the week preceding the race, there was a great turn out for participants (145) and volunteers (over 50).

The trails were wet, slippery and muddy, but everyone survived and had a good time. To the right is a picture at the beginning of the race, looking north on Wangum Road, by the tennis courts.

For our efforts in helping to make this event a success, the Town gave us a donation to be used for the trails.

Next year will be even better.



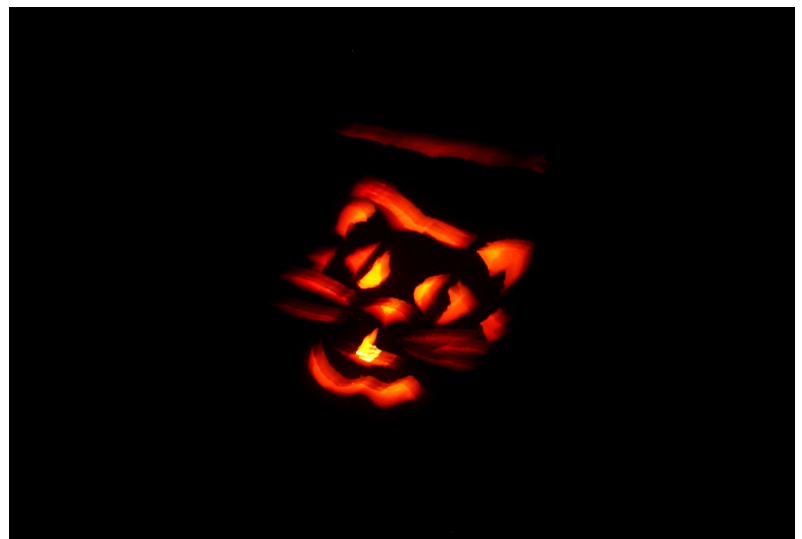
Jack-O-Lantern Trail

Saturday, October 14, 2006.

This was the second year for this event. It was a relatively wonderful evening with lots of carved pumpkins glowing in the dark along the Trolley Trail between Maple Avenue and School Street.

There was a great turnout of both donated pumpkins and visitors. The Victor Fire Dept. Ladies Auxiliary provided hot beverages

A donation was made to VHT to help improve our trails.



Victor gets Auburn Trails Extension Grant

The Town of Victor has been awarded a Federal Transportation Enhancement Program grant for up to \$619,500 toward an \$885,000 project to extend the Auburn Trail from Main Street Fishers to Powder Mills Park. A major portion of the grant will be used to repair a stone culvert built in the 1840's for the original Auburn to Rochester Railroad. Since the trains stopped running in the 1950s, Irondequoit Creek has been slowly dismantling this stone bridge.

Construction is not expected to begin before Spring of 2008.

Genesee Region Trails

Coalition Awards Grant

VHT has been selected for a \$2000 grant to be used to purchase materials for the decking and railing to be placed on the Lehigh Valley Railroad trestle over the Auburn Trail, near Phillips Road. VHT will match the \$2000 and the Town of Victor will provide the balance, expected to be \$6000, from other trails funding. This bridge upgrade will allow the continuation of the Lehigh Trail into Lehigh Crossing Park, enhancing the trail system as well as the park. Work may start as soon as April, 2007.



Bridges to be built in 2007

VHT will be busy building small foot bridges to improve our existing trails. There is an old bridge on Helen Schrader's property, just south of Monkey Run, that crosses White Brook. Plans call for temporary repairs until we can build a new bridge in the Spring, 2007.

A planned bridge that has been on our "to do" list for several years is on the Apple Farm property. This bridge will allow the Seneca Trail to cross Great Brook and progress further south, someday connecting with Boughton Park. Construction is scheduled for early 2007.

At Fishers Park, there is an old bridge that crosses a small tributary to Irondequoit Creek. VHT has committed to help the Town of Victor Parks and Recreation Dept. rebuild/replace this foot bridge to improve the trail circulation within Fishers Park.

Additional opportunities for bridge construction/repair continue to knock on our door. If you would like to help with the design and/or construction, please contact an officer.

Charlie's Old Goat Trail Run was held on Saturday, Nov. 4th at Dryer Road Park. It was a 10-mile trail run. 65 runners competed, with all of them finishing the race. All proceeds were donated to Serenity House.

Why Should I Support Hiking Trails in Victor?

By David Wright

Excellent question. Before 1991, Victor had a few parks and some hiking trails within them. The Water Dept. occasionally mowed them. We had some unofficial trails like the Lehigh and Auburn Railroads that people used. Ganondagan State Historic site and Fort Hill had some trails. But that was pretty much it for Victor.

If you wanted to hike, you could hop in your car and drive to Bushnell's Basin, Fairport or Pittsford and hike along the Erie Canal. Or you could drive south and hike the Finger Lakes Trail. But for most residents you couldn't walk out your door and find a public trail.

Like our neighbor to the north, the Town of Perinton, we wanted a system of footpaths in Victor. We wanted to enjoy the outdoors and all its splendor. We are richly blessed in Victor with thousands of acres of rolling hills, streams, wetlands and forests. Shame on us if it all gets covered up with buildings and blacktop.

So in the fall of 1991, with the support of the Town of Victor, a small group of volunteers formed Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. Their mission was to create and maintain a system of foot trails in the Town of Victor. Working with the town and willing landowners, the trails have begun to form that system. A Trails Master Plan is in the works.

Today, there are over forty miles of non-motorized trails in Victor. There are long multi-use trails that connect with trails in Mendon, Pittsford, Perinton and Farmington. There are short loop trails in our parks and neighborhoods. There are trails that traverse hills, wetlands and woodlands. And there are plans for additional trails.

These trails provide a resource for exercise. They are part of Mother Nature's Health Club. With no use fees. People of all physical abilities can use the trails. Many of these trails are wheelchair accessible. They are used by hikers, backpackers, speed walkers, bicyclists, runners, cross country skiers and snowshoers. A portion of the trails in the Village of Victor are suitable for roller skating and skate boarding. And there is a small section of the Lehigh Trail connecting with the Town of Mendon that can be used for horse riding.

Some of the trails are used for transportation by people coming and going to work. Or to visit a friend or neighbor.

As the price of fuel continues to rise, we all look for alternate means of transportation. The trails can provide that opportunity.

Whether you believe in global warming or not, today's cars, buses, trucks and trains produce pollutants. Walking or riding a bicycle doesn't. The energy used to manufacture vehicles is much greater than the energy used to produce bicycles and footwear. And when vehicles are worn out, most of them end up in a landfill. I still ride my forty-year-old bike.

Because our trails are so diverse, they provide many opportunities for students of all ages to study plants, animals, birds, fish and insects. Scouts have completed many community projects to improve the trails. Community groups and individuals have helped blaze new trails and maintain existing trails. A small group of volunteers maintain the trails from April to October.

When a community is well known for its trails, people visit that community and plan their vacations to include a stop. When they do that they spend money on food and shelter. Extended stays allow our visitors to shop and visit points of interest. This helps our local businesses and all of us through increased sales and sales taxes.

I hope that helps to answer the why. Now the how. How can you help support the trails? That's easy. You can join Victor Hiking Trails. You can use the trails. You can tell you friends, neighbors, co-workers and acquaintances about the great trails in Victor. You can buy a license plate frame that proclaims "I'd rather be Hiking in Victor, NY (they make great holiday presents).

You can buy a Victor history book (written by Lewis Fisher, son of J. Sheldon Fisher) from us. You can buy a Rich and Sue Freeman (former Victor residents) book on hiking, biking, skiing or canoeing from us. You can help clear and maintain our trails. If you have suitable land, you can donate a trail easement to the Town of Victor. You can help with our fund raising efforts. You can help build bridges and boardwalks. You can help design and install interpretive signs. The list is endless.

If you have any questions or comments, good or bad, we want to hear from you. If you want to support Victor trails in any way, you can call our message line at 585-234-8226, visit our website at www.victorhikingtrails.org or send us an e-mail at dwright@victorhikingtrails.org.

Hope to see you on the trails!

Get the VHT Newsletter quicker.

Save a tree and save some printing cost to VHT.

See all the great pictures in full color.

File it for later reference.

Reduce the mailing cost, amount of work and time it takes to distribute this newsletter.

These are just some of the reasons we want you to consider receiving this newsletter via e-mail.

If you agree, please send an e-mail newsletter@victorhikingtrails.org and tell us to add you to the mailing list. You will get the next newsletter in full color and about one week before the snail mail members.

Thanks for helping VHT.

New Trail Map Resource

The Genesee Region Trails Coalition has created (thanks to our very own Jeff Hennick's hard work) a new website dedicated to helping put the general public in touch with our trails.

In addition to the many land trails, it also shows water trails, restaurants, bike shops, bed & breakfasts, hotels, etc. Everything one would like to know about our region when planning a visit.

Please visit the site at www.trailsnewyork.org.

Let us know what you like and don't like.

See if you can find any errors.

What are we missing?

Anything that you believe will improve the site.

Thanks for helping.

Special License Plate Holders For Sale

As mentioned before, VHT is selling unique license plate holders. The bright yellow frame with forest green lettering will let everyone know that you support hiking trails in Victor.

To make things easier, we have placed an order form below. Why not cut it out now and place an order for two or more of these distinctive license plate holders.



Hey, I like those new VHT license plate holders and I want to support VHT!

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Quantity _____

X \$5.00 each

Tax \$0.00

Shipping \$0.00

Total _____

Please make your check payable to:

Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

and mail to :

Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

85 East Main Street

Victor, NY 14564

Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.
85 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564

Phone: 585-234-8226

Email: dwright@victorhikingtrails.org



Connecting the gaps in Victor

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

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.

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