

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hikes for 2011	2
Auburn Trail Extension	2
Past Hikes	3
Talks Along the Trail	4
William Sonnefeld	4
NTD Pictures	5
Seneca Trail Improvement	6
More Past Hikes	7
Spring Projects	8
Fat Tire Festival	8
Extension Project Photos	9
L.L.Bean Helps the Parks	9
Project All Aboard	10
Our Sponsors	11
Membership form	12

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 2011

“Made With All Natural Ingredients”

Although the weather did not cooperate, we had a very successful event.

After the two morning hikes, a nice lunch, and the awarding of many door prizes, as we were getting ready to leave for the afternoon hike, there was thunder. All agreed that canceling was the right thing to do.

Brian Emelson was on hand to tell us about Victor Municipal Park and the great plans for it. Construction

of the all-season lodge will be starting soon.

Thank you to Finger Lakes Community College for the use of their great facility.

Thank you also to the sponsors, and all the volunteers for their many hours of preparation and on the day of the hikes; all kinds of skills were used.

See page 5 for some photos.

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

On May 12, 2011, five employees from Lifetime Health in Rochester volunteered to help four VHT members on a long overdue project.

It was a beautiful, warm, sunny morning when they started the trail improvement project on the Seneca Trail on The Apple Farm property.

With Maddox, pick-axes, shovels and rakes, they widened a narrow trail on a side hill that traverses around a beaver pond.

Leveling out the treadway will make hiking easier and mowing much easier and safer. They were able to

cut and fill over 600 feet of trail, but there is still another 300 to 400 feet of trail to finish. This will have to wait until the ground softens up again in September.

Thank you to Lifetime Health employees Tim Elder, Elizabeth Ebert, Shirley Perryman, Jon Glaza and Amy Zemall for caring about our trail.

Thank you to Wizzy Geno, Chauncy Young, Jeff Hennick and Dave Wright for helping as well.

See page 6 for before and after photos.



Quotes found inside:

Joel Richter, President of the Friends of the Railroad, will speak on the railroads' period from the mid-1800's-1950's.. Page 4.

The hikers stopped at one of the beaver pond observation clearings along the Auburn Trail. Page 5

This was a hike and observe the trees, bushes, flowers, ferns, birds, animals, history and natural springs in the park. Page 7

HIKES FOR 2011

VHT 2011 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

July 9: Wesley Hill Nature Preserve and Briggs Gully.

July 16: VHT and VP&R Trail Talk. See page 4 for details.

August 13: Powder Mills Park. Meet at the fish hatchery at 9:00 a.m.

August 20: VHT and VP&R Trail Talk. See website for details.

September 3: Ring of Fire at Bare Hill. Meet at town hall at 5:30 p.m. Bring your dinner, a flashlight and a chair or blanket.

September 10: Hang Around Victor Day and Victor Fest. Visit our booth.

October 8: Cleveland Hill. Autumn leaf hike in the Finger Lakes.

November 12: Mendon Ponds Park. Explorer new trails.

December 10: Boughton Park. Will there be snow?

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.

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. Ask about our rates. To submit articles for the *VHT Pathfinder*, please contact:

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AUBURN TRAIL EXTENSION UPDATE

Work is progressing on the trail. The large stones have been removed from the culvert that supported the trains as they crossed over Irondequoit Creek. Soon a steel bridge will be placed on new foundations. The other two stone culverts (one north of Main Street Fishers and one north of Fishers Road) will get some minor improvements.

The NYS Thruway Authority is working on the bridge that goes over the Auburn Trail. They have been removing loose concrete and will be applying new cement to the walls as needed.

For safety reasons, while all this work is being done, this section of the Auburn Trail is closed. See page 9 for additional information and pictures.

PAST HIKES

April 9: Corbett's Glen- 12 VHT members enjoyed a beautiful hike along Allen's Creek.



Photo by Chauncy Young

May 14: Ganargua Creek Meadow Preserve and Monkey Run- 8 VHT members enjoyed a beautiful hike along Ganargua Creek (aka Mud Creek). Then some of the hikers went over to Monkey Run Trail to enjoy another hike.



Photo by Dave Wright

TALKS ALONG THE TRAILS

By Ruth Nellis

A series of monthly presentations on various topics along Victor's hiking trails

“A History of the Railroads in Fishers and Victor” Saturday, July 16

Topic: Joel Richter, President of the Friends of the Railroad, will speak on the railroads' period from the mid-1800's - 1950's as well as the growth of the Hamlet of Fishers. If time, there may be short hikes to historic locations.

Meet at: the rear parking lot of Fishers Fire House #1 , 7853 Main St. Fishers.
Please bring your folding chair(s).

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Donation: \$3/person, \$5/family
Get in free if you donate one hour or more to assist with trail maintenance, a special project or trail restoration. Your help is very much needed, you will meet like minded people and have fun.

Light refreshments will be available.

Pre-registration Required: Call Town of Victor Parks and Rec. Dept. (585) 742-0140

HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU!

Sad news.

William J. Sonnefeld, Ph.D., age 57, died on June 21, 2011, at his home. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Margaret (Williams) Sonnefeld; two sons, Christopher and Matthew Sonnefeld, both of Victor; sister, Nancy (Paul) Gardner, of Pawley's Island, S.C.; and aunt, Jane Grolig, of Rockville, MD. Bill attended St. Jude's Catholic Elementary School in Rockville, Md. and Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Wheaton, Md. He received his bachelor's degree and doctorate from the University of Maryland, College Park, and did his associated research at the National Bureau of Standards, now NIST. He was also a certified Six Sigma black belt. Bill was employed by Eastman Kodak in Rochester for 22 years as a research chemist, where he co-authored two patents. After leaving Kodak, he became a consultant working primarily for medical device companies. Services are private. Memorial contributions may be made to a Humane Society of the donor's choice. Arrangements are by Johnson-Kennedy Funeral Home Inc., Canandaigua.

Bill and his family were / are members of Victor Hiking Trails.

Bill helped with trail maintenance and special projects.

Both of Bill's sons completed BSA Eagle projects at Lehigh Crossing Park.

Photos by Jeff Hennick



Town of Victor Supervisor Jack Marren addressing the hikers on National Trails Day at Finger Lakes Community College, Victor campus.



Victor Hiking Trails Chairman Dave Wright leading a group of hikers on the Auburn Trail on National Trails Day.



The hikers stopped at one of the beaver pond observation clearings along the Auburn Trail.



This is the part of the Seneca Trail that follows around a beaver pond on The Apple Farm property. It used to be a narrow trail on a side hill that made hiking difficult and mowing almost impossible.

Photos by Jeff Hennick

Before

Lifetime Health volunteers hard at work on the trail.



After the trail has been leveled, it is easier hiking and much easier to maintain.

MORE PAST HIKES

May 7: Geocache Trail Talk– VHT and Victor Parks & Recreation brought in three volunteers who really know their geocache stuff. They placed five caches in Victor Municipal Park and gave the hikers a brief understanding of what geocaching is all about. Then they split into four teams and went searching for the caches, using GPSs provided by the volunteers. With written clues and the latitude and longitude coordinates, the teams followed the GPS to the area of the caches. Some were easy to find; some not so easy. But everyone had fun and enjoyed exploring the park. There were discussions about doing this event again in the fall at another town park.

June 11: Bike ride on the Lehigh Trail- Four bicyclists took the ride from Old Dutch Road to the Genesee River and back on the Lehigh Trail. They covered 30 miles in about 3 hours. Including time for an ice cream stop along the way.



Photo by Larry Fisher

June 18: Fishers Park Trail Talk.

Guest speaker Larry Fisher met the participants at the tennis courts on Wangum Road in Fishers Park. This was a hike and observe the trees, bushes, flowers, ferns, birds, animals, history and natural springs in the park.



Photos by Dave Wright



SPRING PROJECTS

This has been a very busy Spring for our members as well as many volunteers.

Boardwalk: This was another project that we had on our “to do” list for quite some time. Thanks to the Victor High School “*Helping Hands*” program, we had over 20 students from the track team on May 14th to carry 4”x4”x8’ and 2”x12”x16’ pressure treated lumber into a wetland area off of the Auburn Trail, between Rt. 251 and Rawson Road. VHT would not have been able to complete this project without their help. Thank you VHS Track Team!



Trail Extension: Our Trailmaster Carol MacInnes has been busy getting landowners to sign revocable permits so we can extend the Seneca Trail north to Valentown Museum. Thanks to the Wednesday Trail Blazers, now hikers can follow the trail from Fishers Firehouse II on High Street west along the Empire gas line to the rear of the Bassett Furniture store. Then head north parallel to Route 96 until you see the Longhorn Restaurant. Follow the creek northeast to the traffic light on High Street at Valentown Road. Long range plans call for continuing the trail up to High Point and then to connecting with a trail in Perinton.

6TH ANNUAL FAT TIRE MOUNTAIN BIKE FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 16th at 8:00 a.m. will be the start of the Victor Fat Tire Festival. Sponsored by the Victor Parks and Recreation Dept. with support from the Greater Rochester Off-road Cyclists (GROC), this event will again be held at Dryer Road Park, 7405 Dryer Road. Last year almost 200 racers enjoyed the new cross country format, to be used again this year. Choose from one of three classes; Beginner (4 miles); Sport (12 miles); or Expert (20 miles). Age group awards will be given to each class as well as overall winner awards. Additional activities include an introductory mountain bike clinic, kids mountain bike races, music, food and more. Race fee is \$20.00 with registration on line closing Friday, July 15th at 1:00 a.m. Additional information at www.mygroc.com.



Photos by Dave Wright

AUBURN TRAIL EXTENSION TEP PROJECT

The construction phase of this project is on schedule, despite the wet Spring weather that we experienced. Below are some pictures showing the work that is being done to replace the old stone culvert with a new steel bridge. The bridge is being constructed in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and will be delivered and installed in July. Victor Parks and Recreation will build and install the railings. This phase of the project is expected to be completed by the end of August.



Excavation of the southeast side of Irondequoit Creek.



Excavation of the northwest side of Irondequoit Creek.



Testing samples of the concrete.



Pouring the concrete for the foundation.

Photos submitted by Victor Parks and Recreation

L.L.BEAN EMPLOYEES HELP OUR PARKS

Several employees from the new L.L.Bean store at Eastview Mall donated some personal time at Fishers Park to spread wood chips on a trail that was getting a lot of use and some erosion. Assistant store manager Rob Valentino wanted to know how his employees could help the community. Between VHT and Victor Parks and Recreation, there are many opportunities for companies to give back to the community. Thanks to all who have helped make our trails First Class.



PROJECT ALL ABOARD

The Rochester & Eastern Rapid Railway was incorporated on October 19, 1901, as a high-speed interurban trolley line from Rochester to Geneva, via Pittsford, Victor, and Canandaigua. Construction began in 1902, with service from Rochester and Canandaigua beginning on November 15, 1903. The line was completed to Geneva and officially opened on June 15, 1904.

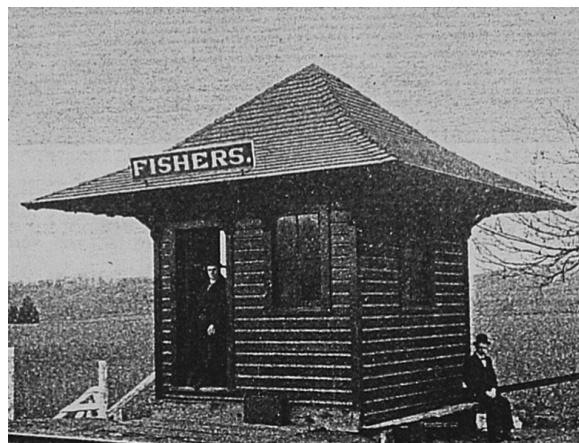
Fourteen passenger cars, departing on hourly schedules, provided frequent, fast inter-city service. It also provided freight service for industries, farms, and commercial firms.

Rochester & Eastern Shelter #116 was located in Fishers at the former trolley line crossing at the current intersection of Main Street Fishers (County Road 42) and Fishers Station Drive. The shelter was built on site in 1903 and was used daily until the line closed on July 31, 1930.

In 1931, the shelter was relocated to a farm on Benson Road, and in 2009 the Louis Giancursio family graciously donated it to the Friends of the Railroad (FORR).

FORR is restoring the shelter to its' previous grandeur and needs your help through donations to fund the following: Roof & Floor Materials; Door & Windows (Sashes, Glazing, Door, Pulleys); Paint; Interior & Displays; Signs (Interpretive, Historic); Site Preparation.

Total Goal: \$15,000



**Help Save Victor's Rail History
through the Restoration of the
Rochester & Eastern Rapid Railway
#116 Waiting Shelter**

originally located on
Main Street Fishers, Victor, NY
from 1903 to 1930.

**Donate to the
Friends of the Railroad
Capital Fund Drive Campaign.**

Please mail your tax-deductible donation to:

Friends of the Railroad, Inc.

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Victor, NY 14564

a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization

or call 585-303-6652

Additional information and photos at

www.FriendsOfTheRailroad.org

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**Want to save a tree, get this newsletter sooner and in color?
Send an e-mail to David Coleman at dcoleman@victorhikingtrails.org and
ask to be added to the Newsletter Electronic Mailing List.**

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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.

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Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

Message line:
585-234-8226

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

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I can help with: Trail Acquisition _____ Trail Maintenance _____ Trail hikes _____
Newsletter _____ Fund Raising _____ Special Events _____ History / Education _____

Amount submitted \$10 _____ \$20 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ other \$ _____
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