

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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Moonlight Hike

We had such a great turnout last Spring and such a great hike and after hike party, we decided to do it again. So grab your hiking boots and/or cross country skis, depending on the weather, and meet us at the far east end of Mickey Finn's parking lot at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 7th for a moon light hike.

It will be dark by the time we start and the full moon will be up already, so it should be perfect. Bring a flashlight just in case there are a few clouds in the sky blocking our light.

After a hike of about two hours we will stop into Mickey Finn's for a hot toddy or two and dessert.

This should be fun for all ages, so bring the whole family. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we can still meet at Mickey Finn's and talk about the upcoming hikes for 2012.



Photo by Dave Wright

A few of the hikers stopped in to see the birds of prey at Wild Wings, Inc. *Page 3.*

His first nights were freezing, and he was hiking in snow and ice. *Page 4.*

Meet the many trail groups from the Greater Rochester area...*Page 5.*

We want to fill the place with Friends of Victor Hiking Trails. *Page 6.*

Come experience the adventure! *Page 7.*

LAST MAILING OF VHT Pathfinder

If you received this newsletter in the mail, it is your last issue. All future issues will be on our website. We will send you a notice that the latest newsletter is available for download and viewing on the website.

How come? To save cost. The cost of printing has gone up substantially recently and we know postage is going up. As we look for ways to cut costs and operate in a more efficient manner, we will realize a savings from reduced printing and mailing hard copies of our newsletter. What's more, the electronic version of the newsletter can be delivered in a much more timely manner than our current mailing system allows and in color.

How will you be notified? An email will be sent to you when the latest issue is ready to be downloaded or read directly on your computer. It will be a .pdf file that you can access with Adobe Reader software.

If we don't already have your email address, please send an email to dcoleman@victorhikingtrails.org. Put "newsletter" in the subject field.

You can currently view all of our newsletters going back to 2004 on our website by visiting www.victorhikingtrails.org.

Thanks for your support!

HIKES FOR 2012**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
 Open– Education
 Wizzy Geno— Volunteer
 Coordinator

VHT Pathfinder

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 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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- Jan. 14– Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area
 Feb. 11– Mendon Ponds Park, hike or ski
 Mar. 10– Dryer Road Park, meet at park at 9 a.m., hike or ski
 Apr. 14– Powder Mills Park, meet at the fish hatchery at 9 a.m.
 May 12– Webster Park, look for early wild flowers
 Jun. 2– National Trails Day, details in next issue
 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

It was a small turnout on October 8th, however, it was a beautiful day for the hike in Camp Cutler in the Towns of Naples and South Bristol. The group followed the blue trail up Cleveland Hill stopping on the way to look at an old chimney. The group decided to take the white trail over to the West Hollow Overlook, stopping briefly at Lynx Lodge for a snack break. The views from the overlooks were beautiful even if the leaves were just starting to turn their fall colors. From the High Point Overlook the giant windmills in Cohocton and Prattsburg could be seen clearly.



Photo by Chauncy Young



Photo by Dave Wright

November 12th was a beautiful blue sky morning for a hike at Mendon Ponds Park. Dave Wright led the group from the Nature Center, through the woods to see some deer, around Quaker Pond to see the geese and back to Birdsong Trail to feed the Chickadees. A few of the hikers stopped in to see the birds of prey at Wild Wings, Inc.

December 10th was a great turnout for our hike at Boughton Park. We had 22 hikers plus a few dogs follow leaders Dave Wright and David Coleman around the perimeter of the park. The morning started out cool and the wind whipping across West Pond didn't help them. But when they got around to the west trail they were protected by the hill and the woods, so the hike was more pleasant.



Photo by Dave Wright

From Georgia to Maine: Hiking the Appalachian Trail

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to travel over 2000 miles on foot? That's how far you'd hike if you laced up on Springer Mountain in Georgia and headed north on the Appalachian Trail to Katahdin, Maine. It's an experience full of breathtaking scenery, abundant wildlife, and amazing people. It can also be tiring, painful, cold, hot, and wet. Regardless of the challenges, it is a life-changing experience.

Gary Passamonte, a native of Mt. Morris, began his attempt at the AT, as it is known, in March of 2009. It had been a life-long dream of his, so he packed up, flew to Georgia, and hit the Trail. He was a thru-hiker, walking the full length of the AT in one uninterrupted journey. This was a major undertaking for Gary, who had been a day hiker before the AT. His first nights were freezing, and he was hiking in snow and ice. He was cold, wet, and hungry.

But as he traveled north, the weather improved and Gary adapted to life on the Trail. Wildlife became more prevalent as Spring began. He saw everything from owls to wild pigs and a bear. He even managed to take some photos of a rattlesnake on the trail. While taking in the beauty of the natural world around him, his thoughts were dominated by the status of his feet and food. With only a backpack to hold all he needed, he had to resupply regularly. About once a week Gary would be in a town and spend the night in a hotel, take a shower, wash his clothes, and eat, eat, eat! Unfortunately, his hike ended 50 miles south of New Jersey with a leg injury. In spite of the hardships, Gary says, "I'm so lucky to have experienced it all and though I

didn't complete the entire trail, hiking 1,250 miles is quite an accomplishment."

Gary is headed back to the Trail for a week in April with Pack Paddle Ski (PPS), an outdoor adventure company in South Lima, NY. He'll be going as the AT hiking expert, sharing his knowledge with fellow hikers as they begin at Springer Mt. with the "end-to-enders". The trip will include some of the most beautiful parts of Georgia and North Carolina. If you are interested in joining him, visit the PPS website at www.packpaddleski.com for more information on the AT hike and other outdoor trips. Luckily, this time Gary will get to spend his evenings in warm, comfortable lodgings!

The "trail magic" that is unique to the Appalachian Trail was a life-changing experience for Sue and Rich Freeman, founding members of VHT. In 1996, they left their jobs at Kodak to spend 6 months hiking from Georgia to Maine. They never looked back. Their thru-hike, along with their efforts developing VHT, inspired them to begin Footprint Press, writing and publishing outdoor recreation guide books for New York State. Visit their website at www.footprintpress.com to learn about all of the outdoor gems our state has to offer!



"The major shift in our lives and our livelihood transpired from our experiences building trails with VHT, and then living on a trail along the AT," says Sue. "Most people live isolated from nature by living and working in heated / air conditioned houses & offices and driving between the two. There's great value in taking a respite such as a PPS trip

to the AT to connect with nature and let your body flow with the natural cycles of day and night. It's a way to clear your mind and de-stress your body. We highly recommend it."

Penfield Trails Committee



JOIN Us
A
PUBLIC INVITATION



INDOOR HIKE

AT PENFIELD TOWN HALL

Sat. Feb 11th
10 AM

Featured Speaker:
David Wright, Victor Hiking Trails

“A Hiker’s Jamboree”

*Lace up your hiking boots and join us!
Meet the many trails groups from the Greater Rochester
Area and their hiking programs for 2012.*



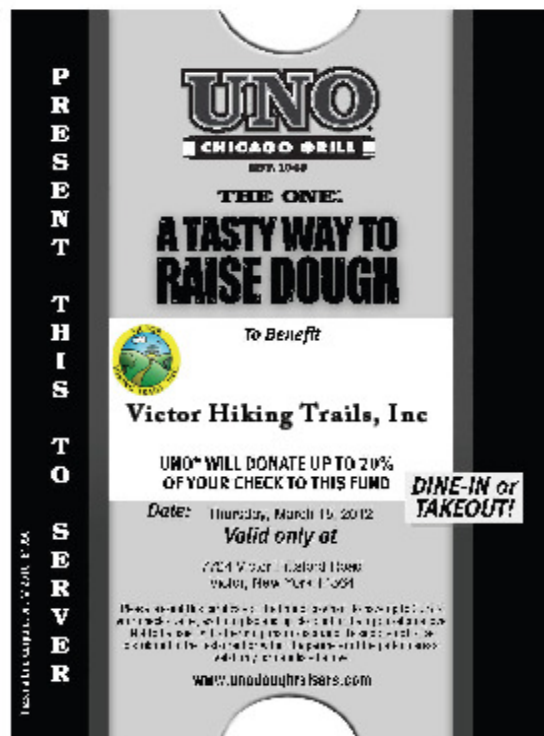
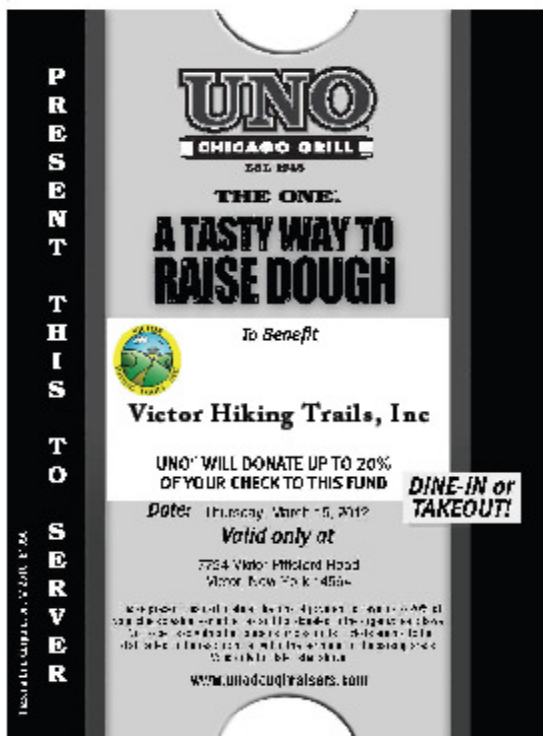
Jamboree hosted by the Penfield Trails Committee.
For more information, call the Penfield Recreation Department at (585)340-8655.

Join us for lunch or dinner at UNO Chicago Grill on Thursday, March 15, 2012.

Bring at least one of the tickets below when you come. It has to be at the Victor restaurant and it has to be on that day. UNO will do-

nate up to 20% of your check to VHT.

Give the other ticket (you can make more copies) to your friends and neighbors and invite them to join you. We want to fill the place with Friends of Victor Hiking Trails. Help us bridge the gaps in Victor.



Brush cutter donated

Recently CIRCLE, (www.circleinc.org), a 501(c)(3) non-profit earth based spiritual group based in Fishers, NY decided to sell their property in the Dansville area. Lucky for Victor Hiking Trails that CIRCLE no longer needed the Billy Goat Outback Brush Cutter they purchased in 2001 to create and mow trails on their 50 acre property. The donation was received in mid-December and the new-to-VHT Billy Goat, Xeena as CIRCLE called her, joins the two existing aging and well used Billy Goat Brush Cutters purchased in 1997 and 2002 by VHT. A big thank you to CIRCLE.



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Ask about the VHT member discount.

JULIE DOYLE—FOUNDER

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If you received this as a black and white printed copy, you need to send an e-mail to David Coleman at dcoleman@victorhikingtrails.org and ask to be added to the Newsletter Electronic Mailing List..

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.

Filling the gaps in Victor

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

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

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

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