

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hikes for 2013	2
Half-marathon Race	2
Past Hikes	3
Connection	4
Adirondack Adventure	4
Eagle Project	4
Photos	5
More Photos	6
Our Sponsors	7
Membership form	8

Inside this issue:

They will then run on our newest trail in back of the stores at East Gate Square Plaza. *Page 2.*

a wonderful family hike on fairly flat trails that looped through open fields, ... *Page 3.*

Victor Hiking Trails and Crescent Trails in Perinton are now officially connected. ... *Page 4*

Thanks to Mark Krueger and Troop 50, the Town of Victor has picnic tables... *Page 4*

VHT Challenge Hike III

This will be the longest hike in Victor, nearly 14 miles end to end. It will begin at the parking lot for Bed Bath and Beyond, located in the East Gate Square plaza at the corner of Turk Hill Road and Route 96. This is the northern terminus of the Seneca Trail in Victor. The trail now connects with the Crescent Trail in Perinton at Lasalle Parkway.

This year's Challenge Hike will take place on Sunday, September 29th. Meet at the BB&B parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The hike will start at 8:15 sharp. Your first challenge will be to cross Turk Hill Road and hike to the top of the hill under the 350KV power lines! At the top the trail heads south past High Point's Constellation Brand's headquarters, down the hill past Valen-town Hall, along High Street and across Valen-town Road. Crossing High Street and heading west along a small creek, you will soon need to hop across it. No bridge here yet, but we hope to build one as soon as we can get some grant money. The trail then parallels along Route 96 a short distance and heads up a hill to go behind the Victor Crossing plaza and then behind the

Commerce Plaza (Walmart store). Once you get to Willowbrook Road you will be following the old Seneca Trail.

Like last year's Challenge hike, the southern end will be at the Boughton Road parking lot in Boughton Park. If you want to leave a car here in the morning and you are not a resident of Victor, East Bloomfield or West Bloomfield, you will need a special one-day permit. Call 585-234-8226 to request a permit at least one week before the hike. A ride will be provided to get everyone else back to the start.

Be sure to wear comfortable hiking boots. Dress for the weather, bring water and a bag lunch. We will have several rest stops along the trail and eat lunch on the trail. Depending on the speed of the group it is estimated that the hike will take 4 to 5 hours.

Please call 585-234-8226 if you plan to participate in this hike so we can have enough cars at the end of the hike.

Another Great National Trails Day® Hike

The clouds looked like it might dampen the spirit of the 71 hikers (and a few dogs) who came to Mertensia Park to start a hike on the Auburn Trail, but the rain held off and nearly everyone hiked the entire length of the path. 22 of the hikers that went end-to-end accepted the prize of a free year's membership in VHT. Several others declined the reward for a great accomplishment.

Brian Emelson, Director of Parks and Recreation for the Town of Victor, welcomed the group to Victor Municipal Park and told them about the current facilities and the work in progress. He also told them about future plans based on the park master plan and the need to wait until funds are

available. The town is fortunate to have such a great park located in the village.

The hikers then followed the Trolley Trail across Maple Avenue to School Street and back onto the Auburn Trail at Rawson Road.

Next stop was the Finger Lakes Community College, Victor building. A tour of the building was offered as well as an opportunity to use the restrooms.

The next leg of the hike was to the Fishers Fire Station on Main Street Fishers where a pizza lunch was offered to the hikers and volunteers. A few took the bus ride back to Mertensia Park, but around 40 continued on to Powder Mills Park. Congratulations to all!

HIKES FOR 2013

VHT 2013 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman
 Nat Fisher– Secretary
 Chauncy Young– Treasurer
 Carol MacInnes– Trailmaster
 Larry Fisher– Trail Boss
 Peter Ingalsbe– Membership
 Ralph Weber – Education
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 To submit articles for the
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Jul. 13– Griffis Sculpture Park and Zoar Valley Creek walk

Aug. 10– Letchworth Park, south end. See the old RR bridge before it comes down.

Sep. 7– Hang Around Victor Day and Victor Fest

Sep. 29– VHT Challenge Hike III. See story on front page.

Oct. 12– Finger Lakes Trail, Prattsburg

Nov. 9– Ganondagan, Fort Hill, Dryer Road Park

Dec. 14– Seneca Park / Genesee River gorge

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details. All hikes meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot, 85 East Main Street, 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. This year we will 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.

Half-marathon Trail Race

VHT is happy to support a new trail race in Victor. Promoted by TrailsRoc.org, this half-marathon (13.1 miles) trail run will begin and end at The North Face on Saturday, July 20th. The race is already sold out and has a waiting list. VHT will receive a portion of the profits.

Starting at The North Face, runners will go through Valentown, up the trail to High Point, north across the open field and then down the hill under the power lines, crossing Turk Hill Road at the traffic light. They will then run on our newest trail in back of the stores at East Gate Square Plaza. A short run on Lasalle Parkway and then onto Crescent Trails. The turn around point is on Garnsey Road. Visit the website www.trailsRoc.org and check out 0 SPF.

Past Hikes

April 13, Braddock's Bay

A beautiful day to see birds of prey. The hikers saw Sharp Shinned hawks being banded and Saw Whet owls as well as Long Eared owls. Photos by Nat Fisher.



May 4, Historic Village Walk and Bike Ride

Celebrating the Town of Victor Bicentennial with historic walks and rides gave the participants more information about our community. Thank you to Douglas Fisher and Joel Richter for sharing their knowledge and making for an interesting day. Photo by Dave Wright.



May 11, White Brook Nature Trail

This was a wonderful family hike on fairly flat trails that looped through open fields, wooded wet lands and along the canal. Lots of Spring flowers and blossoms. Thank you to Dave Schaffer, Trailmaster for Crescent Trails, for leading us. Photo by Dave Wright.



June 1, National Trails Day

See front page for details and pages 5 and 6 for photos.

June 8, Bike ride on the Ontario Pathway

Due to threatening rain and too many other activities happening that day, only 2 riders made the trip. Because of the rain earlier in the week and the tall grass, it was tough going, but they made the entire route. Photo by Chauncy Young.



Connection to Crescent Trails

Victor Hiking Trails and Crescent Trails in Perinton are now officially connected. Thanks to Benderson Properties, owners of East Gate Square Plaza, located at the corner of Route 96 and Turk Hill Road. When they bought the property and designed the plans for the plaza, they left a section of the property in back of the stores for a trail. The time was right to blaze the trail and prepare it for the public.

We called on the Wednesday trail crew to come out to Victor (they are a group of retirees that normally work in Monroe County Parks during the month of May to clean up trees that have fallen during the winter) to take down some trees and clear a path. They made two trips and did a great job. Next it was required to do some cut and fill on part of the trail that is on a side hill. VHT members came out with mattocks and

shovels and did some fine work. Volunteers from rocthetrails.com came out and filled 8 to 10 large bags of trash that had accumulated in the bushes over the years. This section of the Seneca Trail has now been marked with red blazes and is open to the public.

The other section of trail that is being prepared for the half-marathon trail race on July 20th (see page 2 for details) is under the power lines by Office Max. The trail starts at Turk Hill Road, near the traffic signal for the plazas, and climbs up the hill to the top. It has been mowed and marked, but it is still a little rough. It runs south past High Point to Valentown Museum. This completes the Seneca Trail in Victor. Thank you to all of the volunteers and property owners who have worked so hard over the years to make this a reality.

Adirondack Adventure — Spring 2013

This was supposed to be a birthday celebration for Marcia Bryan, VHT founder. She was reaching a milestone and we wanted to all be with her, hiking in the Adirondacks. Unfortunately, she took a tumble on some stairs and was rehabilitating in Perinton on her birthday. So we all went to her temporary home and had a nice party.

Dave Coleman and I decided that we still wanted to climb a High Peak, so we made plans to backpack

from The Garden to John's Brook Lodge.

We set up camp Friday night, hiked Yard Mountain (4000+ feet but not on the 46 list) and Big Slide on Saturday and slept in Sunday. By the time we got back to The Garden it was 12:30 p.m.

See pictures on page 6.

Eagle Project provides picnic tables on the trails

Thanks to Mark Krueger and Troop 50 in Farmington, the Town of Victor has picnic tables at five locations along the trails.

If you are hiking on the Seneca Trail at the Apple Farm, look for a table overlooking the beaver pond.

Fishers Park has two picnic tables. One is located at the top of the hill. The second table is at the edge of the woods on the west side, overlooking the open

fields.

The Monkey Run blue trail has a table at the top of the hill, overlooking the pond.

If you are hiking on the Seneca Trail at the north end of town, behind the Walmart store, look for a table by the large oak tree.



The bird watcher group at Braddock's Bay. Photo by Nat Fisher.



A Cooper hawk and a Sharp Shinned Hawk. Ask Nat which is which when you see him.



Hiking on the Auburn Trail on National Trails Day. Photo by Chauncy Young from the Lehigh Trail trestle.



Suzy and Chauncy on the Ontario Pathways Trail bike ride on June 8, 2013. Photo by Chauncy Young.



VHT tent at ADK EXPO in Mendon Ponds Park. Photo by Chauncy Young.



Douglas Fisher at the corner of Main Street West and School Street relating some of the local village history to the hikers.



The hike at White Brook Nature Trail was enjoyed by all ages.



Brian Emelson welcomed the National Trails Day hikers to Victor Municipal Park, located in the Village of Victor, off Brace Road.



Just a few of the National Trails Day hikers at Victor Municipal Park on June 1, 2013.



Dave Coleman making breakfast in the "kitchen".



The view from Big Slide

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Filling the gaps in Victor

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