

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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An active Fall season for VHT



Pictured above are Order of the Arrow scouts and adults from Tschipey Achtu Lodge, Seneca Waterways Council. On Saturday, November 2, they came to Victor for a day of community service. Several VHT members directed them on several projects to improve our trails. They rerouted a section of the Seneca Trail by High Point, widened a trail at The Apple Farm, placed 17 tree identification signs in Fishers Park and extended a boardwalk in a wet area between Route 251 and Rawson Road. They would have accomplished a lot more if it didn't start raining heavy right after lunch. Additional pictures are on page 6. A big thank you to Michael Catalano, District Executive, Mohawk District, Rick Coloccia, Associate Advisor, Jason Dunham, Lodge Advisor, Matt McMelko, Lodge Chief, and all the scouts and adults that came out to work on the trails.

The following weekend several VHT members worked on the boardwalk to finish up using the lumber that did not get done on Nov. 2. There is still one section about 60 feet long that needs to be built in the Spring.

As part of VHT's commitment to the Auburn Trail extension project, we have made several concrete mile markers. A crew of volunteers met at Chauncy Young's house to mix cement and pour it into the forms. Two markers can be made at one time, so over the course of several weekends four markers were made. They will be placed along the Auburn Trail in the Spring with the assistance of the Victor Parks Department and a backhoe. See page 6 for pictures.

Inside this issue:

This was a challenging section of the Bristol Branch... *page 3.*

Peter told the group about the early history of the local Native Americans ...*page 3.*

...the fresh snow was delightful. *Page 3.*

...guaranteed to get you ready for the coming of the Spring weather. *Page 4*

we plan to be out on the trails in January, February and March ...*page 8.*

HIKES FOR 2014

VHT 2014 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
 Wizzy Geno— Volunteer
 Coordinator

VHT Pathfinder

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 encourage submissions
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 Ask about our rates.
 To submit articles for the
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 contact:

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

(585) 234-8226

www.victorhikingtrails.org
 Also on Facebook

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Jan 11 – Harriet Hollister Park: hike/ski/snowshoe
 Jan 17 – Moonlight Hike in Victor. Meet at Mickey Finn's @ 7:00 p.m.
 Feb 8 – Lehigh Trail, Fishers to Mendon and back: hike/ski/snowshoe
 Mar 8 – Mendon Ponds Park: hike/ski/snowshoe
 Apr 12 – Canadice Lake trail
 May 10 – Chimney Bluffs
 Jun 7 – National Trails Day, Fishers Park
 Jun 14 – Mendon Ponds Park
 Jun 14– Outdoor Expo at Mendon Ponds Park
 July 12– Conklin Gully creek walk
 Aug 9– Grimes Glen creek walk
 Sept 6– Hang Around Victor Day
 Sept 13– Bike ride on the Lower Genesee Riverway Trail
 Sept 28– 4th Annual Challenge Hike, Boughton Park to Perinton
 Oct 11– Keuka Outlet Trail from Penn Yan to Dresden
 Nov 8– Monkey Run and MaryFrances Bluebird Haven
 Dec 13– Dryer Road Park and Fort Hill

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 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 last year 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.

Past Hikes

Oct. 12– Finger Lakes Trail, Prattsburgh section. This was a beautiful blue-sky Autumn day with plenty of sunshine and crisp October air, perfect for hiking the hills of the Finger Lakes. We started out with seven hikers, but due to time constraints, only four made the 6-mile hike. This was a challenging section of the Bristol Branch, but well worth the effort.

More pictures on page 5.



Nov. 9– Dryer Road Park, Fort Hill and Ganondagan State Historic Site. This was one of our educational hikes. The group met at Dryer Road park and hiked to Fort Hill where they met up with Peter Jemison, Ganondagan Park Manager. Peter told the group about the early history of the local Native Americans and their interactions with early settlers from Europe. Everyone hiked over to the long house at Ganondagan to hear about the plans for the new visitor's center. Additional pictures can be found on page 5 & the VHT website:

www.VictorHikingTrails.org.



Dec. 14–El Camino Trail and Genesee Riverway Trail. Four brave souls ventured out into the unusual early Winter cold and snow to hike the El Camino Trail from Seneca Park to Brewer Street in Rochester. Although the air was frigid, the fresh snow was delightful. Everyone was dressed for the weather, so it was a good 5-mile loop hike. See pages 5 & 7 for additional pictures.



The 2014 Philadelphia Flower Show "ART-iculture!"

See the largest annual indoor flower show in the world, & the premier horticultural display garden in the country -
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March 5-6 (Wed.-Thurs.) and March 8-9 (Sat.-Sun.)

The theme for the 184th PHS Philadelphia Flower Show is "ART-iculture," celebrating everyone from Michelangelo to Monet, Picasso to Pollack, and da Vinci to Dali. For more details, visit www.TheFlowerShow.com. Most people come with me to see the Flower Show, but almost everyone enjoys Longwood Gardens even more. It is so peaceful and relaxing, after the bustle of downtown Philly. We will spend more time at Longwood Gardens this year, rather than trying to squeeze in a second stop. Each year we order mushrooms (lots of them), and you can do that once again in 2014.

First Day- March 5(Wed.) or 8(Saturday)

7:30 Depart Rochester from Bristol's Garden Center on Rt. 96 just south of Eastview Mall

11:15 Lunch included near Scranton, PA at The Inn at Nichols Village

3:00 Arrive Philadelphia Flower Show

9:00 Leave show for Comfort Inn/Suites in Wilmington, Delaware (same hotel we always use)

9:45 Arrive at Hotel

Second Day – March 6 (Thurs.) or 9 (Sunday)

8:10 Leave for Longwood Gardens (continental breakfast at hotel)

9:00 Arrive Longwood Gardens, lunch on your own in their wonderful cafe

2:30 Leave for dinner in Scranton.

5:30 Arrive at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel for an elegant closing dinner

10:30 Return to Rochester (Bristol's Garden Center)

The 2014 price is \$395 per person (double) includes everything except dinner at the Flower Show, and also does not include lunch at Longwood (add \$55 for a single). Send a \$100 deposit to reserve your place, with full payment due by January 10, 2014. Call Michael at 585-703-9237 if you have questions. Please send a check payable to Michael Warren Thomas, 19 Trafalgar Street, Rochester, NY 14619.



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This very successful tour hosted by Michael Warren Thomas is guaranteed to get you ready for the coming of the Spring weather. If you mention that you heard about this tour as Valentown friends or members, the Victor Historical Society will receive \$20/person from the booking! This usually sells out so please call Michael if you are interested. The Victor Historical Society thanks Michael for his generosity and also for promoting our events on the air in the past. Please tune in to his great programs (9-12 Saturdays, and 9-11am Sundays on WYSL 1040 AM / 92.1 FM). I listen and I learn something every time. He is a great champion of our local economy and the treasures in our community.

Kathryn White, President, VHS



Hiking the Bristol Branch of the Finger Lakes Trail between Prattsburgh and Bean Station Road.



Educational hike with Peter Jemison at Fort Hill and Ganondagan.



One of several murals along the El Camino Trail in Rochester, NY



More interesting art along the El Camino Trail.

Photos by Dave Wright. See additional photos on the VHT website.



A section of boardwalk completed by the Order of the Arrow scouts on Nov. 2, 2013.



A section of the Seneca Trail at The Apple Farm that got some cut and fill by the Order of the Arrow scouts on Nov. 2, 2013. Photos by Rich Coloccia.



The form for mile marker 81. This one will be located on the Auburn Trail in Farmington.

Photos by Dave Wright



Chauncy Young, Pete Ingalsbe and Nat Fisher with mile markers 88 and 90. The concrete will "age" during the Winter and then be installed along the Auburn Trail extension in the Spring.

What a difference a week makes in Rochester, NY

These photos were taken on Dec. 7, 2014.



These photos were taken on Dec. 14, 2014.



Photos by Dave Wright

Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing

(From L.L.Bean)

Are you planning to get out in the snow this winter? We are off to a great start with the early cold temperatures and snowfall. This could be a record year for our area. Victor Hiking Trails has already had one hike in the snow (see Past Hikes) and we plan to be out on the trails in January, February and March for more winter fun. See the schedule on page 2.

If you plan to ski or snowshoe, or even just a hike on the trails, use this checklist to be sure you have everything for a safe and fun outing.

- Snowshoes or skis
- Poles
- Proper boots
- Gaiters
- Gloves
- Hat or balaclava
- Neck gaiter
- Active winter clothing
- Day pack or lumbar pack
- Vacuum bottle with hot liquids
- Hand and toe warmers
- Spare gloves and socks
- Waxing gear for the skis

Snowshoes—They come in different sizes, depending on your height, weight and how you plan to use them. Make sure they fit properly to your boot.

Skis—There are three types; recreation, performance and backcountry. Make sure you have the right length and type for your planned use. And be sure they are sized right for you.

Poles—For snowshoeing, use two-piece adjustable poles for balance and upper body exercise. For skiing, the length depends on what type of skiing you are planning. Generally, faster skiing requires longer poles. Make sure the straps are adjustable.

Boots—For snowshoeing, a good insulated winter boot will work. But not too bulky, as you need a good connection between your foot, the boot and the snowshoe binding. For skiing, the boot needs to be designed to fit the binding. Modern boots and bindings come in two basic systems; SNS and NNN.

Gaiters—These fit around your lower leg, above the toe of your boot. They will keep the snow out of your boot. And keep you warmer.

Gloves—Water and wind-repellent gloves are best. Make sure they fit through the straps on your poles.

Hat or balaclava—Choose fleece, wool or a combination. Choose one that can tuck into a pocket or pack if you get too warm.

Neck gaiter—Great for extra warmth on frigid or windy days.

Active winter wear—Dress in layers of synthetic or wool that won't trap moisture. Do not wear cotton. A good combination is a base layer followed by a layer of fleece. Wear or pack wind-blocking top and pants if it is frigid or windy.

Day pack or lumbar pack—Great for carrying extra clothing, first-aid kit, snacks or lunch, vacuum bottle with a hot liquid or soup and water.

Vacuum bottle with hot liquids—Hot chocolate or soup after a winter outing is a great way to warm up and hydrate, especially if you are out longer than expected.

Hand and toe warmers—Tuck into your gloves and boots for extra warmth in very cold weather.

Spare gloves and socks—Keep these in your pack incase yours get wet and/or cold.

Waxing gear—Some cross-country skis have scales on the bottom and don't need wax. Other skis need a wax to help grip the snow to push off. There are different types, depending on the air temperature.

Before you go: Check the weather forecast and leave a trip itinerary with family or friends.

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View it and download it in full color.

Annual membership is for 12 months, beginning when you first join. Please send your renewal check promptly so we don't have to come after you. We will use your dues and donations for new and improved trails.

Filling the gaps in Victor

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

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VHT Map Link

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