

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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National Trails Day in Victor

This year our NTD hikes will start and end at the new home of Victor Parks and Recreation. Located in Fishers at 7891 Lehigh Crossing Road, it is strategically situated between the Lehigh Trail and Fishers Park. There are trails leading from the building to the park and the trail.

NTD will be held on Saturday, June 4th, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast of bagels, yogurt, pastries, fruit, juice, milk, coffee and tea.

The hikes will begin at 9:00 a.m. Hike #1 will head north to Fishers Park and traverse the many trails in the park. It will be about 2 miles of hilly trail over boardwalk and bridges. It will stop at the site of the proposed Nat Fisher Memorial Bridge replacement. It should take an hour and half to complete.

Hike #2 will head east on the Lehigh Trail to Phillips Road with a stop at the new Pinnacle Athletic Campus for a tour of the facility. The group will then hike on the Auburn Trail towards Main Street Fishers, cross over the creek and follow the Domine Trail back to the Lehigh Trail and return to the Parks and Rec Center.

Hike #3, scheduled to start after a pizza and drinks lunch, will hike two miles west on the Lehigh Trail to Mendon to view the improvements that Mendon Foundation has made recently. They will then return to the Parks and Rec Center.

Bottled water, granola bars and door prizes will all be free and provided by VHT.



Inside this issue:

This was an exceptionally cold morning... *Page 3*

We are extremely happy that they were able to donate \$630, *Page 4*

...the larger the number the more light it lets in...*Page 5*

They hiked the Auburn, Domine and Lehigh Trails... *Page 7*

...seeking a volunteer to be our Volunteer Coordinator. *Page 8*

HIKES FOR 2016

VHT 2016 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman
 Suzy Paquin– Secretary
 Barb Cole– Treasurer
 Carol MacInnes– Trailmaster
 Chauncy Young– Trail Boss
 Peter Ingalsbe– Membership
 Ralph Weber – Education
 Open — Volunteer
 Coordinator
 David Coleman— Camping
 Larry Fisher—Parks Liaison

VHT Pathfinder

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*The Victor Hiking Trails
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 quarterly for the
 members of Victor Hiking
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 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:

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

(585) 234-8226

www.victorhikingtrails.org
 Also on Facebook
 and Meetup
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March 26 ~ Special Educational Hike at Ganondagan at 9:00 a.m.

Apr. 9 ~ MaryFrances Bluebird Haven & Monkey Run. Meet at the parking lot by the house at 9:00 a.m.

Apr. 23 ~ Arbor Day celebration with the Victor Village Tree Board

May 14 ~ Boughton Park in the Spring.

June 4 ~ National Trails Day. Meet at Victor P&R, 7891 Lehigh Crossing Road in Fishers

June 11 ~ ADK Outdoor Expo and hike at Mendon Ponds Park

June/July/August? Special Educational no-moon night tour and hike at Mees Observatory

July 9 ~ Bike Ride. Location TBD.

July ? ~ Boughton Park Hike with the Genesee Land Trust

Aug. 13 ~ Hike Conklin Gully. Bring water shoes.

Sep. 10 ~ Hang Around Victor Day. Village hike

Oct. 8 ~ Finger Lakes Trail, Bristol Hills Branch

Nov. 12 ~ Valentown to Woodcliff and back.

Dec. 10 ~ Lehigh Crossing Park.

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details and last minute updates. Also, if you join Meetup/Victor Hiking Trails, you will get notifications of hikes and other events, reminders if you are signed up for a hike and last minute changes. 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 carpool 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 past 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

Jan. 9 ~ Mendon Ponds. There were 11 hikers who trekked around Quaker Pond, stopped to feed the black capped chickadees and enjoyed the blue sky morning.



Feb. 13 ~ Fishers Park, Auburn Trail, Domine. This was an exceptionally cold morning but we still had 7 hardy hikers come out to hike and enjoy the trails. Half way through the hike we made a bee line for Chauncy's home to warm up with coffee and hot chocolate. Unfortunately, no one remembered to take a picture of the group, but here is a metal sculpture in the park.



Mar. 12 ~ Dryer Road Park. It was a gorgeous spring morning for a hike. We had 20 hikers of all ages and abilities. Chauncy led the group up the mountain bike trails to the top of the park, then down the backside trails and over to Fort Hill and Ganondagan State Historic Site and back to the parking lot. The hike was about 4.5 miles long and took just 2 hours.



Upcoming Hikes

March 26 ~ Ganondagan State Historic Site.

Meet in the parking lot, 7000 County Road 41, at 9:00 a.m. Peter Jemison, park manager and Native American artist, will provide a tour of the new Seneca Art and Culture Center followed by a guided hike where you will learn the history of the local Native American Seneca and Haudenosaunee and how the villages survived the winter and prepared for the spring. There is a \$5.00 per person fee that is used by the Friends of Ganondagan to improve the site. The tour and hike will be about 2 hours. Please come prepared to hike with appropriate shoes and attire for the weather. If you have any questions, please call Ralph Weber at (585) 490-0706.

April 9th ~ MaryFrances Bluebird Haven and Monkey Run Trails.

This town park is dedicated to attracting and protecting the Eastern Bluebird, which in the New York State bird. Robert Butler donated the 39 acres to the Town of Victor in memory of his beloved wife MaryFrances. Meet at the Butler Cottage at the end of the driveway at 235 Victor-Egypt Road (County Road 9) at

9:00 a.m. for a hike around the perimeter. The bluebirds should be returning, so bring your binoculars and camera. The hike will be about 5 miles of easy hiking and take about 2 hours.

April 23rd ~ Arbor Day in the Village. Come celebrate the planting of a tree at the corner of School Street and Rawson Road. The Victor Village Tree Board will be coordinating the event and is looking for input on street tree planting in the village.

May 14th ~ Boughton Park. We have hiked this park many times in the past, usually in the winter or summer, so this will be an opportunity to see all the trees and bushes budding out for the spring. The hike will start at the Boughton Road entrance at 9:00 a.m. If you are not a resident of the towns of Victor, East Bloomfield or West Bloomfield you will need a one-day pass. Call 585-234-8226 to make your reservation.

June 4th ~ NTD. See front page for details.

Thank you VB Brewery

The servers at VB Brewery selected Victor Hiking Trails to be the recipient of 50% of their tips for the months of October, November and December. We are extremely happy that they were able to donate \$630, and would like to thank all of the servers; Tim Murphy, Brittany Fowler, Tracy McClure, Heather Webb, Rochelle Smith, Amar Oesterly, and Randy Reiss.



VHT is now a Meetup Group

Now you can find VHT on Meetup. No cost to join.

This is another means of communicating our monthly hikes, weekly trail maintenance sched-

ule, scout projects and special events.

To join, search for Victor Hiking Trails Meetup or go to this:

<http://www.meetup.com/Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup/>

The Basics about Binoculars

One of the reasons we hike is to view and enjoy nature. But since nobody wants to get too close to a mother bear and her cub or disturb wildlife in general, binoculars provide a great way of getting up close to nature while still keeping your distance.

When considering purchasing binoculars, the first thing you'll probably notice is that they all bear a magnification rating such as 7x35 or 10x42. The first number is the level of magnification. So a distant moose viewed through 7x35 binoculars will appear 7 times larger, but viewed through 10x42 binoculars it would appear 10 times larger. However, a higher number doesn't necessarily mean "better." As the magnification gets larger the field of view becomes smaller, sort of like cropping a photo. Because of the increased magnification the image can also be shakier if the binoculars aren't held steady.

The second number is the size of the objective lens (the lens furthest from your eyes).

Basically, the larger the number the more light it lets in and the brighter and clearer the image will be.

For hiking you'll also want to consider weight. If you plan on using them mostly on day hikes, then a larger pair might be just the thing. However, if you're backpacking or trying to keep you pack weight down, you'd probably be better off with a compact pair of binoculars.

You may also want to consider whether the binoculars are waterproof and/or fogproof. Waterproof binoculars will not allow water to enter the binoculars while fogproofing prevents the lenses from fogging up in humid weather.

Using your binoculars

When using binoculars, note the hinge between the two barrels. This hinge allows you to adjust the distance between the eyepieces so that they match the distance between your eyes. You should see one clear image without any dark spots or without seeing two of the same object.

Most binoculars also include an adjustable eyepiece on one barrel. This feature allows a person to adjust for differences in vision for each eye. To adjust the eyepiece, first, using the focus wheel usually found on top and between the barrels, focus on an object and view it only through the barrel without the adjustable eyepiece. Clear? OK, now view it through both eyepieces. Is the image fuzzy? Turn the eyepiece adjustment ring until the object is clear and crisp. Note the number it is on and set it to this number each time you're using these binoculars. This is especially handy when sharing the binoculars with another person.

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Trail Maintenance Schedule

Day	Time	Section
Monday, May 02, 2016	6:00 PM	Fishers Ridge - Willowbrook to Rt 96
Wednesday, May 04, 2016	6:00 PM	High Point - Turk Hill Rd to High St
Friday, May 06, 2016	7:30 AM	100 Acre, Blue Bird Sanctuary & Seneca North
Monday, May 09, 2016	6:00 PM	Behind Plazas - High Street to Willowbrook
Wednesday, May 11, 2016	6:00 PM	Ganondagan - Dryer Rd to School St
Friday, May 13, 2016	7:30 AM	Monkey Run all trails - come in gas line road
Monday, May 16, 2016	6:00 PM	Fishers Park all trails including connecting trail to Lehigh
Wednesday, May 18, 2016	6:00 PM	Auburn Bypass East Victor plus School St to Spitzer Bridge
Friday, May 20, 2016	7:30 AM	Ganondagan - Boughton Rd (CR 41) thru the Apple Farm
Monday, May 23, 2016	6:00 PM	Lehigh Crossing Park, Omnitech & West from Rte 251
Wednesday, May 25, 2016	6:00 PM	Trolley Trail - East from Rte 251 & Seneca to woods
Friday, May 27, 2016	7:30 AM	Domine , Fishers Landing and FLCC Trails
Monday, May 30, 2016	6:00 PM	
Wednesday, June 01, 2016	6:00 PM	Duval - Cherry St to Boughton Park
Friday, June 03, 2016	7:30 AM	Judson - Cherry St to Apple Farm
Monday, June 06, 2016	6:00 PM	New Trail ??
Wednesday, June 08, 2016	6:00 PM	Fishers Ridge - Willowbrook to Rt 96
Friday, June 10, 2016	7:30 AM	High Point - Turk Hill Rd to High St
Monday, June 13, 2016	6:00 PM	100 Acre, Blue Bird Sanctuary & Seneca North
Wednesday, June 15, 2016	6:00 PM	Behind Plazas - High Street to Willowbrook
Friday, June 17, 2016	7:30 AM	Ganondagan - Dryer Rd to School St
Monday, June 20, 2016	6:00 PM	Monkey Run all trails - come in gas line road
Wednesday, June 22, 2016	6:00 PM	Fishers Park all trails including connecting trail to Lehigh
Friday, June 24, 2016	7:30 AM	Auburn Bypass East Victor plus School St to Spitzer Bridge
Monday, June 27, 2016	6:00 PM	Ganondagan - Boughton Rd (CR 41) thru the Apple Farm
Wednesday, June 29, 2016	6:00 PM	Lehigh Crossing Park, Omnitech & West from Rte 251
Friday, July 01, 2016	7:30 AM	Trolley Trail - East from Rte 251 & Seneca to woods
Monday, July 04, 2016	6:00 PM	
Wednesday, July 06, 2016	6:00 PM	Domine , Fishers Landing and FLCC Trails
Friday, July 08, 2016	7:30 AM	Duval - Cherry St to Boughton Park
Monday, July 11, 2016	6:00 PM	Judson - Cherry St to Apple Farm
Wednesday, July 13, 2016	6:00 PM	New Trail ??
Friday, July 15, 2016	7:30 AM	Fishers Ridge - Willowbrook to Rt 96
Monday, July 18, 2016	6:00 PM	High Point - Turk Hill Rd to High St
Wednesday, July 20, 2016	6:00 PM	100 Acre, Blue Bird Sanctuary & Seneca North
Friday, July 22, 2016	7:30 AM	Behind Plazas - High Street to Willowbrook
Monday, July 25, 2016	6:00 PM	Ganondagan - Dryer Rd to School St
Wednesday, July 27, 2016	6:00 PM	Monkey Run all trails - come in gas line road
Friday, July 29, 2016	7:30 AM	Fishers Park all trails including connecting trail to Lehigh
Monday, August 01, 2016	6:00 PM	Auburn Bypass East Victor plus School St to Spitzer Bridge
Wednesday, August 03, 2016	6:00 PM	Ganondagan - Boughton Rd (CR 41) thru the Apple Farm
Friday, August 05, 2016	7:30 AM	Lehigh Crossing Park, Omnitech & West from Rte 251
Monday, August 08, 2016	6:00 PM	Trolley Trail - East from Rte 251 & Seneca to woods

Join Meetup to get meeting location and last minute updates.

Crescent Trails Association hikes Victor Trails

We were happy to host some hikers from Fairport who are members of the Crescent Trails Association on Sunday, March 13th. They hike the second Sunday of every month at 1:30 p.m., usually on one of the trails in Perinton, but sometimes venture out to neighboring towns. They met at the Fishers Fire Station #1 and got a local history lesson from VHT Chairperson Dave Wright. They hiked the Auburn, Domine and Lehigh Trails and saw the Thruway mural. Many said they hoped to return again with friends.



Mural Update

Our resident mural artist, Emily Waldman, hopes to finish her mural project on the Auburn Trail under the Thruway this summer. She made a lot of progress last summer with help from her family, friends and VHT members.



Bridge Building Time

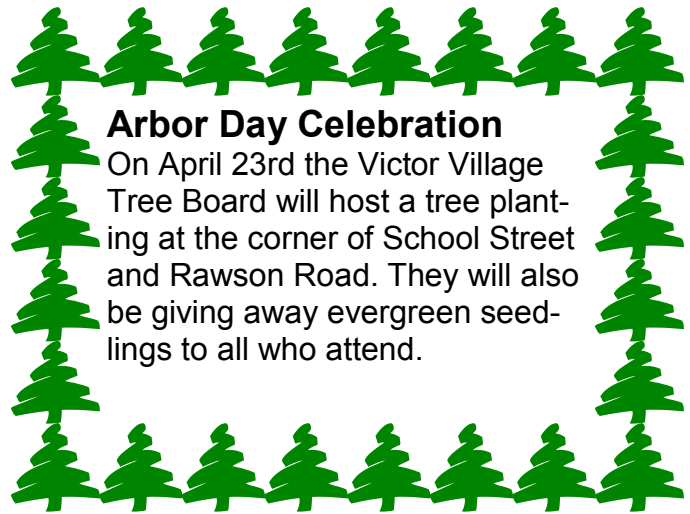
As many of you know, we plan to build some major footbridges this year. One will be an Eagle Scout project on the Auburn Trail near East Victor Road. With permission from Victor Hills Golf Course, Troop 61 Life Scout George Heltz, a resident of Victor, has committed to building a 40' long by 4' wide wooden bridge across a unnamed creek. The bridge will be elevated above the creek banks so that it does not impede the flow of water during flooding. The bridge will have railings on both sides and ramps on each end approximately 20 feet long.

The estimated cost of the materials and equipment rental is \$5-6000. George has done an excellent job of raising most of the funds, but he is still about \$1000 short. He is asking local businesses, organizations, trail users, the Town of Victor and residents to help him reach his goal so he can start construction in June.

If you would like to help George complete his Eagle Project, you can log onto <https://www.gofundme.com/wp8uzk> or send a check to George Heltz (Eagle Project), 4 Ketchum Street, Victor, NY 14564. Returnable cans and bottles can be dropped off at Cash Cans, 1336 Pittsford Mendon Road, Mendon, NY 14506 for Victor Hiking Trails account. George can be reached at gheltz126@rochester.rr.com.

Our second bridge is a replacement for an unsafe

bridge in Fishers Park. Almost every spring, the Irondequoit Creek tributary would flood and do a little more damage to the old bridge. And every year Nat Fisher would walk from his home across the street to the bridge and make some much needed repairs to the bridge. Nat, a VHT board member and always the willing volunteer, passed away May 15, 2014. Since then we have been accepting donations in Nat's memory so that we can build a new bridge that will be above the flood plain and make hiking in Fishers Park much more enjoyable and safer. So far we have collected \$4200 toward a budget of approximately \$6000. If you would like to help us reach our goal, you can mail a check to Victor Hiking Trails, 85 East Main Street, Victor, NY 14564. Let us know it is for the Nat Fisher Memorial Bridge. Donations can also be made on our website, www.VictorHikingTrails.org. No amount is too large or too small.



Arbor Day Celebration

On April 23rd the Victor Village Tree Board will host a tree planting at the corner of School Street and Rawson Road. They will also be giving away evergreen seedlings to all who attend.

Board member needed

VHT is seeking a volunteer to be our Volunteer Coordinator. This person would be responsible to recruit members to help out on special events like National Trails Day in June, the ADK Outdoor Expo in June, Hang Around Victor Day in September, the Challenge Hike in September, Club Days at EMS in the spring and fall and any other events in which we might participate. This may sound like a lot of work, but it is mostly making phone calls or sending emails to a list of people who have expressed an interest in helping out when they can. If you are willing to help us, please call Dave Wright at 585-752-8313 at your earliest convenience.

Rare plants just outside your door

As you may have noticed early spring plants are beginning to emerge around our area. Did you know that many of these, and numerous others are classified as rare and are protected under New York State law? That's right, rare plants, liter-

ally, just outside your door.

With so many plants growing in the wild, which are considered rare and therefore protected? New York State Codes, Rules and Regulations 6CRR-NY 193.3 is titled Protective Native Plants. As indicated here a plants rarity status falls into four categories. These are endangered native plants, threatened native plants, rare native plants, and those which are considered exploitably vulnerable. This last classification refers to plants that are not considered rare now but are at risk of becoming rare due to environmental factors and human impacts such as collecting. Per this law a plants rarity status is based on a variety of factors relative to a specific region. For instance a plant could be classified as rare in one state but not in an adjacent state. Or a plant could carry a rarity status across the entire United States as a whole but not in New York because it grows abundantly

(Continued on page 10)



Wild Lupine



Bloodroot

(Continued from page 9)

here. The parameters of how a plant species rarity status is determined is quite specific and too lengthy to be detailed here. Let's suffice to say that while you're out in the forests, fields, and trails you're more than likely to encounter plants that carry a rarity status and are protected under NYS law.

So, what happens if you pick a plant that's classified as rare and is protected? Per 6 CRR NY 193.3 "It is a violation for any person, anywhere in

the State, to pick, pluck, sever, remove, damage by the application of herbicides or defoliants, or carry away, without the consent of the owner, any protected plant. Each protected plant so picked, plucked, severed, removed, damaged or carried away shall constitute a separate violation". To avoid any unintentional "picking or plucking" violation

know your plants. And *if you don't know let it grow.*

The following are examples of plants (including some tress) in each of the four aforementioned rarity classifications. As you'll see many of these you may already be familiar with and see while hiking. Under "endangered native plants" white milkweed, willow oak, nodding trillium, Jacob's ladder and bears foot are listed. Under "threatened native plants" culvers root, marsh horsetail, meadow horsetail, and rough avens are listed. Under "rare native plants" wild lupine, river birch, along with many types of sedges are listed. And under "exploitably vulnerable" bee-balm, but-

terfly weed, flowering dogwood, and many types of lady's slipper and trilliums are listed. Also, numerous types of ferns are listed in these classifications. These are just some examples. The actual listing numbers in the hundreds of plants.

So remember while you out hiking, biking, or just walking on your on property you may encounter some protected rare plant species. Know your plants, and *if you don't know let it grow.* And if you are keen on collecting plants I recommend to always get the landowners permission first.



White Trillium

Information in this article, and much more on this topic, can be found in a number of excellent resources. The Department of Environmental Conservation website (this has a link to the 6 CRR – NY 193.3 regulations), the New York National Heritage Program (NYNHP) website, New York Codes, Rules, Regula-

tions website (has complete Title 6 regulations which covers environmental conservation) are just a few I've listed. Also a nice, easy to read guidebook called The Landowners Guide To State-Protected Plants of Forests in New York State, by Dudley J. Raynal and Donald J. Leopold can be found at the Victor Library.

Robert Lasher
Master Naturalist
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Visit our sponsors and tell them you saw their advertisement in the VHT Pathfinder.

Victor Hiking Trails
85 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564



All VHT newsletters are now available on our website.
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

Join us on Facebook!

And Meetup!



VHT Map Link

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

Name _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

City _____ **Zip** _____

Phone () - - - - -

E-Mail _____

Please note that we need your e-mail address to notify you when the latest edition of our newsletter is available on our website.

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

Amount submitted \$10 ___ \$20 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ other \$ ___
Corporate membership at \$100 per year allows all employees to be members.

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

Make check payable to: VICTOR HIKING TRAILS, INC.
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