

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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VHT receives award

The Victor Local Development Corporation has selected Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. as the Leader in Tourism in Victor.



At the 12th Annual Victor Business Awards luncheon held on May 5th at the Cobblestone Creek Country Club, David Wright, Chairman; Suzy Paquin, Secretary; and Chris Graziano, volunteer; represented VHT to receive the award.

Emcee David Mammano, owner of Next Step U, introduced the keynote speaker Ginny Clark, Senior Vice President, Public Affairs at Constellation Brands, who gave a talk about her career and the great opportunities that are at Constellation Brands.

The head table included Kathy Rayburn, Executive Director of the Victor LDC, Jason Ashton, Victor Village Mayor, Jack Marren, Victor Town Supervisor, Vincent Esposito, Regional Director, Finger Lakes Regional Office, Empire State Development, Mary Krause, Ontario County Administrator and Mike Manikowski, Ontraio County Economic Development Agency.

Inside this issue:

Peter Jemison, site manager, gave us a tour ... *Page 3*

Some sections of the tread way are a little rough, *Page 4*

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We have added new trails this year... *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

July 9 ~ Bike ride on OP. Meet at Route 96 trailhead at 9:00 a.m.

Aug. 5 ~ Special Educational no-moon night tour and hike at Mees Observatory.

Aug. 13 ~ Conklin Gully creek walk.

Sep. 3 ~ Ring of Fire evening hike.

Sep. 10 ~ Hang Around Victor Day, Village hike.

Sep. 25 ~ Challenge 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

VHT Pathfinder

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 Summer 2016

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:

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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ADK Outdoor Expo

VHT participated in this annual event on June 11th. We had our booth set up to show everyone the great trails we have in Victor, tell them about our monthly hikes and encourage them to support VHT by becoming a member. It was very windy, but we survived.



Past Hikes

March 26 ~ Special Educational Hike at Ganondagan State Historic Site. Peter Jemison, site manager, gave us a tour through the Seneca Art & Culture Center and then led a hike over to Fort Hill. There were 22 hikers and the hike was approximately 4 miles. Peter gave us lots of history along the way.

Photo by Chauncy Young



Apr. 9 ~ *Photos by Dave Wright*
 MaryFrances
 Bluebird Haven & Monkey Run. 8 hikers enjoyed the trails on a pleasant day, even though the trails were very muddy.



Apr. 23 ~ Arbor Day celebration with the Victor Village Tree Board. Several VHT volunteers came out to help plant many street trees on School Street. Chauncy Young donated pine tree seedlings to all the volunteers and the public who came to celebrate Arbor Day.

(Continued on page 5)

Upcoming Hikes

July 9 ~ Bike Ride on the Ontario Pathways Trail. Meet at the trailhead on the south side of Route 96, just west of Phelps at 9:00 a.m. The ride will go to Stanley and back, a total distance of 22 miles. Some sections of the tread way are a little rough, so a trail bike or a mountain bike is recommended. Helmets are mandatory. Bring a snack and something to drink. Depending on time restraints, there may be an opportunity to hike one or more of the three loop trails off the main trail.

Aug. 5 ~ Special Educational hike at Mees Observatory. This date was chosen based on the fact that there will not be any moonlight. Hopefully, there won't be many clouds either. We will meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot at 5:15 p.m. and carpool to Ontario County Park (OCP) for an evening hike before the astronomy class. Or you can meet at the Jump-off parking area at OCP at 6:00 p.m. The hike will be on the trails in the park and will finish around 7:30 p.m. We will then caravan to the C.E.K. Mees property, 6604 East Gannett Hill Road and stop at the Gannett House before proceeding to the observatory. There is a limit on how many can participate, so you need to sign up in advance on our Meetup page.

Aug. 13 ~ Hike Conklin Gully. This is a

popular hike in the creek, so water-shoes or old sneaks are recommended. Meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the trailhead. Or meet the group at the trailhead on Route 245, just west of Parrish Road in Naples at 9:55 a.m. The hike will be about two hours. Bring a snack and something to drink.

Sep. 3 ~ Ring of Fire hike. This is the traditional bonfire lighting at 9:00 p.m. at the top of Bare Hill to signal the lighting of campfires, flares and fireworks around Canandaigua Lake. Meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot at 5:30 p.m. to caravan to the trailhead. Or meet at the trailhead at 5921-5929 Van Epps Road, Rushville at 6:30 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket, flashlight, something to drink and your dinner. The program ends around 10:00 p.m.

Sep. 10 ~ Hang Around Victor Day, Village hike. Meet at our booth at 11:00 a.m. This will be a 1-2 hour guided hike around the village and will include Victor Municipal Park, Ganondagan Historic Site, the Auburn Trail and the Trolley Trail.

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 schedule, 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/>

(Continued from page 3)

May 14 ~ Boughton Park in the Spring. 13 hikers traversed the trails in the park on another pleasant day.



Photo by Suzy Paquin.

June 4 ~ National Trails Day. We had 73 people attend the day of celebration for trails in Victor. There was a nice group of people of all ages that attended. Several completed all 3 hikes, shown in the picture to the right. They were awarded a free year's



Photo by Chauncy Young



Photo by Dave Wright.

membership in VHT.

June 11 ~ ADK Outdoor Expo and hike at Mendon Ponds Park. This was a fast-passed, hilly hike in the park, led by Chauncy Young. The 8 hikers covered 5 miles in 2 hours.

Photo by Suzy Paquin



Trail Maintenance Schedule

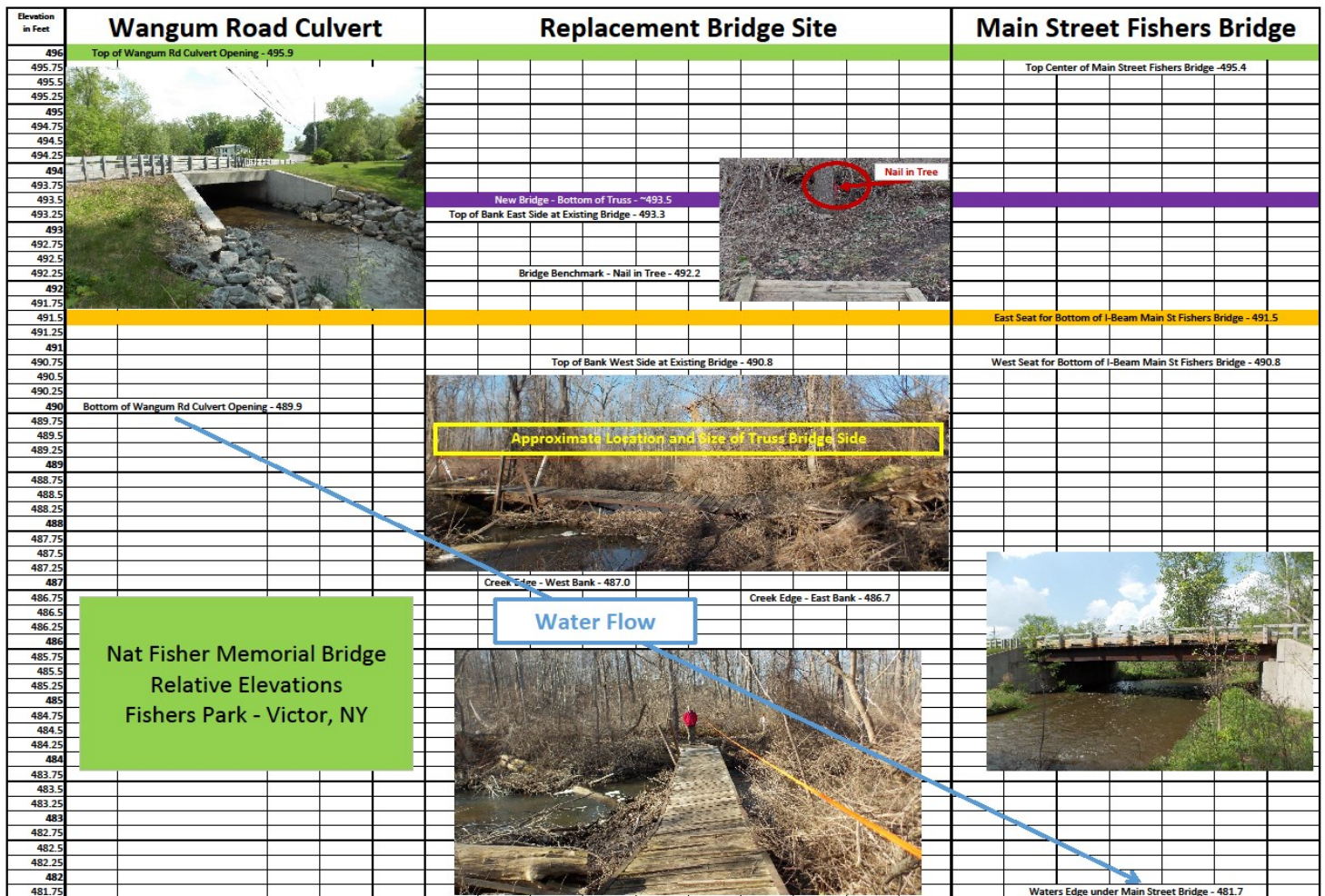
Monday, June 20, 2016	6:00 PM	Monkey Run all trails - come in gas line road
Wednesday, June 22, 2016	6:00 PM	Fishers Park all trails including connecting trail to Lehigh
Friday, June 24, 2016	7:30 AM	Auburn Bypass East Victor plus School St to Spitzer Bridge
Monday, June 27, 2016	6:00 PM	Ganondagan - 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
Wednesday, August 10, 2016	6:00 PM	Domine , Fishers Landing and FLCC Trails
Friday, August 12, 2016	7:30 AM	Duval - Cherry St to Boughton Park
Monday, August 15, 2016	5:30 PM	Judson - Cherry St to Apple Farm
Wednesday, August 17, 2016	5:30 PM	New Trail ??
Friday, August 19, 2016	7:30 AM	Fishers Ridge - Willowbrook to Rt 96
Monday, August 22, 2016	5:30 PM	High Point - Turk Hill Rd to High St
Wednesday, August 24, 2016	5:30 PM	100 Acre, Blue Bird Sanctuary & Seneca North
Friday, August 26, 2016	7:30 AM	Behind Plazas - High Street to Willowbrook
Monday, August 29, 2016	5:30 PM	Ganondagan - Dryer Rd to School St
Wednesday, August 31, 2016	5:30 PM	Monkey Run all trails - come in gas line road
Friday, September 02, 2016	7:30 AM	Fishers Park all trails including connecting trail to Lehigh
Monday, September 05, 2016	6:00 PM	
Wednesday, September 07, 2016	5:00 PM	Auburn Bypass East Victor plus School St to Spitzer Bridge
Friday, September 09, 2016	7:30 AM	Ganondagan - Boughton Rd (CR 41) thru the Apple Farm
Monday, September 12, 2016	5:00 PM	Lehigh Crossing Park, Omnitech & West from Rte 251
Wednesday, September 14, 2016	5:00 PM	Trolley Trail - East from Rte 251 & Seneca to woods
Friday, September 16, 2016	7:30 AM	Domine , Fishers Landing and FLCC Trails
Monday, September 19, 2016	5:00 PM	Duval - Cherry St to Boughton Park
Wednesday, September 21, 2016	5:00 PM	Judson - Cherry St to Apple Farm
Friday, September 23, 2016	7:30 AM	New Trail ??

Join Meetup to get meeting location and last minute updates.

Grant Award

VHT applied for a grant from The American Hiking Society to help fund the Nat Fisher Memorial Bridge to be built in Fishers Park. We applied for \$2500 and we received a check for \$2500. We were one of only two applicants that received the full amount that we asked for. Many other hiking groups received a partial grant or no grant.

Our total cost of materials for the bridge will be approximately \$8000. Over \$4200 has been donated in Nat's memory. **If you would like to donate to this project, there is a link on our website. Or you can send us a check. All donations are greatly appreciated.** We plan to replace the old, unsafe bridge that Nat repaired every Spring with a truss design bridge that will be above the 100-year flood plain. Removal of the old bridge and construction of the new bridge is planned for this summer. Join our Meetup group if you would like to help work on this project.



PTNY Grant

We have completed our ***Parks and Trails New York, Growing the Grassroots Capacity-Building Grant*** project. With the leadership of our consultant, Ed Flynn of LaBella Associates, we held several meetings to discuss our status, compare our structure to other similar trails groups and plan a strategy going forward.

We want to be certain that the trails that have been built in Victor will continue to be expanded, maintained and improved for the benefit of all future generations.

The final report has been shared with the public, the Victor Conservation board, the Planning Board and the Town Board and is on our website. It contains a plan to increase our membership, solicit help from local businesses, continue our partnership with the Town of Victor Parks and Recreation Dept., increase and improve our trail system and remain solvent.

A few changes you will see in the near future is a new look to our website, newsletter and brochures as we continue to spread the word about our multi-use trails.

We will be celebrating 25 years of trail building this fall. We have over 55 miles of a variety of trails in Victor open to all. We have over 250 family memberships and over 450 Meetup members. We have added new trails this year and with the help of our youth, we are improving our existing trails by building foot bridges and boardwalks. We are adding more monthly educational guided hikes and encouraging art on our trails.

With everyone's support, we expect Victor Trails to be here for the long haul.

Board member still 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.

Tree identification

Here are some trees that are common to our area:

Black ash is a tree most commonly found on deep swamps. Occasionally, though, it's found mixed with other hardwoods in moist, cold forests. Its wood is heavy, rather soft, tough, coarse-grained, and is used for hoops, chair bottoms, and baskets.

Bark - ashy gray in color, somewhat furrowed, forming thin, smoothish scales which are easily rubbed off.

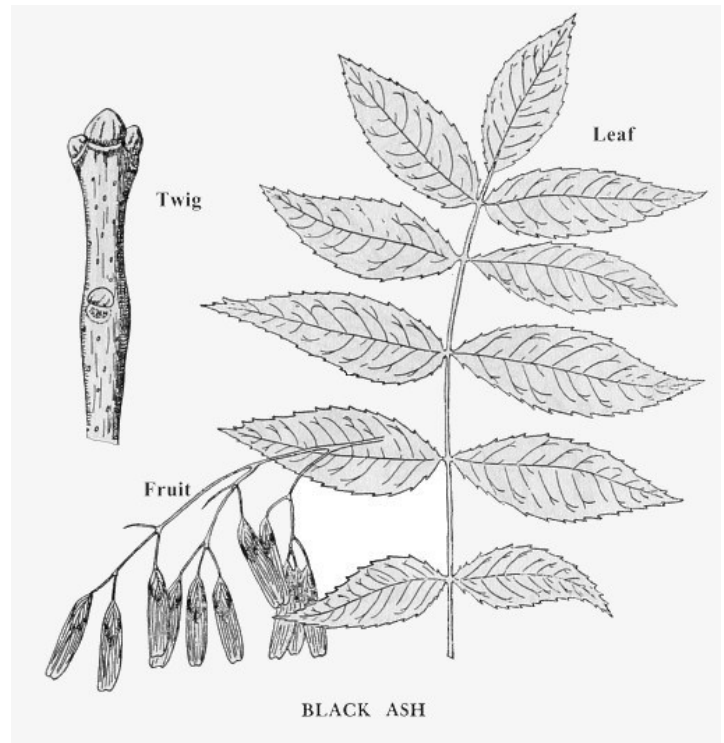
Twigs - very stout, similar to those of white ash but not shiny and usually a lighter gray in color; leaf scar typically oval.

Winter buds - buds resembling those of white ash though usually decidedly black; terminal bud as long or longer than broad, sharp-pointed; lateral buds much smaller, blunt-pointed; last pair of lateral buds at some distance from the terminal bud instead of nearly on a level, as in the white ash

Leaves - opposite, compound, 10 to 14 inches long, with 7 to 11 leaflets similar to those of white ash but much longer in proportion to their width, without stems.

Fruit - a winged seed, with the wing broader and distinctly notched at the tip; in clusters, ripening in the early autumn.

Distinguishing features - found in moist locations; leaflets without stems; black buds; notched tip in seed.



White ash is a valuable and rapid-growing tree in the woodlots of New York State. It is common throughout New York and is found up to an altitude of 2000 feet in the Adirondacks. It prefers to grow in rich moist woods, and is common on abandoned agricultural lands. The wood is heavy, hard, strong, close-grained, and tough. Large quantities of it are used for agricultural implements, tool handles, oars, furniture, and sporting goods. In some locations, especially open edges and roadsides, branch dieback and tree mortality are common.

Bark - dark grayish brown in color, deeply furrowed with narrow flat-topped firm ridges which on older trunks are somewhat scaly; ridges in some instances tend to run together, enclosing diamond-shaped fissures.

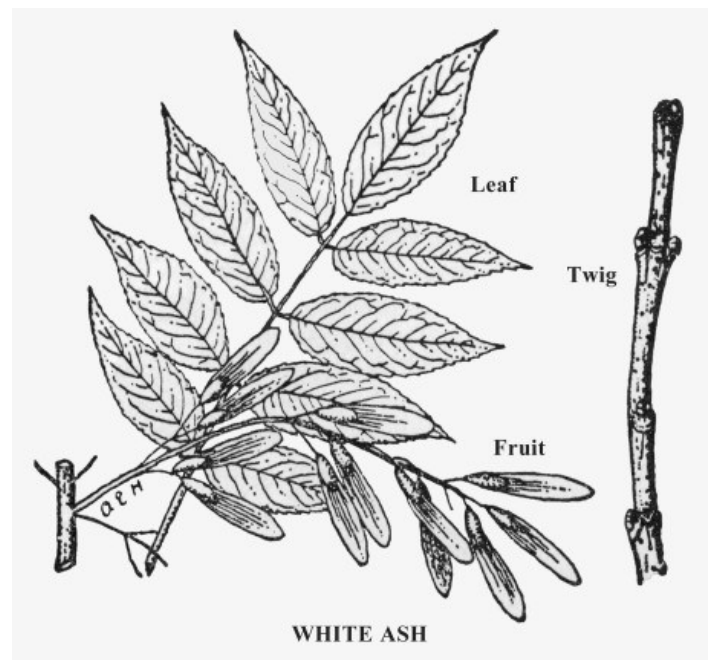
Twigs - very stout, smooth, shining, grayish brown in color, brittle, flattened at leaf bases (nodes); leaf scar is notched.

Winter buds - plump, blunt-pointed, dark brown or nearly black in color; terminal bud 1/5 inch long, larger than lateral buds; last pair of lateral buds almost on level with terminal bud.

Leaves - opposite, compound, 8 to 15 inches long, with 5 to 9 leaflets; leaflets sharp-pointed, 3 to 5 inches long, with slightly and sparsely serrate margins; borne on short stems, by this characteristic may be distinguished from black ash leaflets, which are stemless.

Fruit - a winged seed, 1 to 2 inches long, broadly paddle-shaped with the wing occupying the position of the blade; borne in long, open, drooping clusters, ripening in September, often not dropping off until early winter.

Distinguishing features - thick twigs; compound leaves with stemmed leaflets; brown buds; ashy-gray, older bark.



American beech has perhaps the widest distribution of any forest tree in the state and for that reason, no doubt, is one of the best known. In the Adirondacks and Catskills, it forms an important part of the hardwood forest, but is almost equally common throughout the rest of the state. Though the tree is of large and stately size, the wood is less valuable than that of many of its associates in the woodlot section of the state, with the result that it has been left standing. Because of its heavy shade, it has also excluded more valuable trees. Beech bark disease, which is a fungus that grows on injuries caused by a scale insect, infects and kills large numbers of beech trees in the northeast. The wood is heavy, hard, strong, tough, and close-grained, and is excellent as fuelwood. It also is used largely in the acid-wood industry, for baskets and crates, and to some extent for furniture.

Bark - smooth, close, steel gray in color, easily recognized by this character.

Twigs - slender, zigzag, smooth, shining reddish brown in color becoming gray on older twigs.

Winter buds - terminal bud present, slender, 3/4 inch long, sharp-pointed, covered with light brown scales; lateral buds not much smaller than terminal bud.

Leaves - simple, alternate, 3 to 4 inches long, ovate, coarsely toothed on margin, bristle tipped; at maturity very thin, dull green in color above, pale green beneath.

Fruit - a stalked burr, covered with soft, curving prickles, containing a nut. Burrs - usually in pairs, open up to let the nuts fall in the early autumn, remaining on the tree into the winter. Nut - triangular, pale brown in color, shining, with sweet edible kernel.

Distinguishing features - smooth gray bark; coarse, sharp teeth on leaf margin; "cigar-shaped" buds.

Yellow birch is an important and prominent timber tree of New York State. It is common throughout the state, except on Long Island, on rich, moist uplands in company with beech and sugar maple, but is found also with red spruce in the swamps and along waterways. The heavy, very strong, hard, close-grained, light brown wood is largely used for furniture, woodenware, flooring, interior finish, airplanes, and agricultural implements. Its value for fuelwood entitles it to a place in farmers' woodlots. Its seeds often sprout and grow from the tops of rotten stumps and logs.

Bark - on young branches close, bright, silvery, yellowish gray in color; with age peeling into thin papery layers that roll back and extend up the trunk in long lines of ragged fringe, making excellent tinder for starting a fire in the rain; on very old trunks becoming rough and furrowed, reddish brown in color.

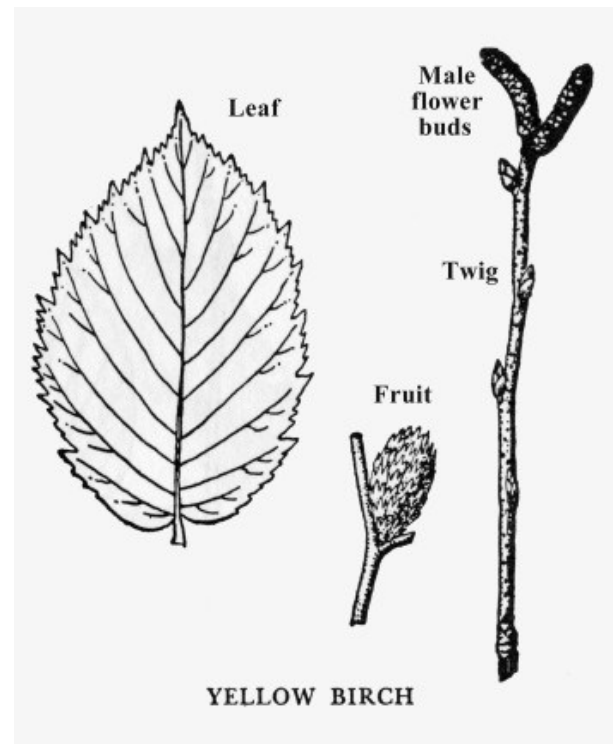
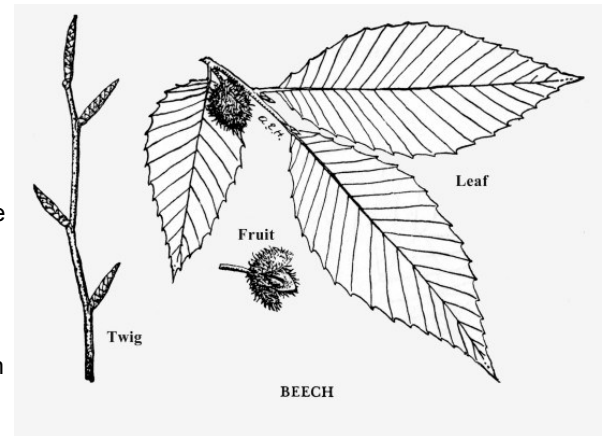
Twigs - similar to those of black birch though more yellowish brown in color and often hairy, slightly wintergreen-flavored; abundant, spur-like laterals as in black birch.

Winter buds - similar to those of black birch.

Leaves - similar to those of black birch; undersurface somewhat hairy, particularly along veins.

Fruit - similar to that of black birch though usually wider in proportion to its length, falling in late autumn and throughout the winter. Bracts - 3-lobed, distinctly hairy, while in the black birch they are smooth.

Distinguishing features - silvery gray to yellowish bark, peeling in thin sheets; slight wintergreen flavor in bark and twigs; undersurface of leaves hairy along veins.



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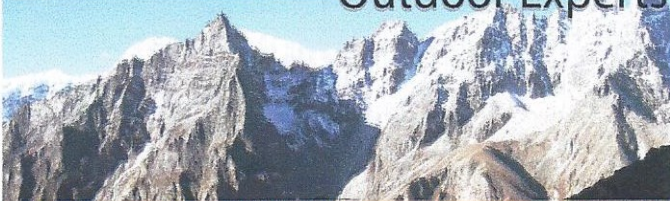
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Hours:
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Sat 8:00 — 3:00

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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.
And mail to: 85 EAST MAIN STREET
VICTOR, NY 14564