



VHT Pathfinder

30+ YEARS AND GROWING

Victor Hiking Trails
Summer 2023

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2023 Hike Schedule	2
Past Hikes	3
Educational Hikes	4
Special Projects	5
Victor Farmington Library	6
National Trails Day	7
Interesting Info	8
Past Hikes continued	9
VHT Hall of Fame	10
Earth Day	11

2023 AARP Community Challenge Grant Awarded to Victor Hiking Trails

By Scott Reinhart, Trail Master

Victor Hiking Trails is pleased to announce that its application for a \$2500 AARP mini-grant was awarded. Out of the over 3600 applications submitted, from all fifty states, only 311 applicants were recognized with a grant.

Utilizing the funding, VHT, with the help of local residents, will be conducting a "Walk Audit" in the Village of Victor. A Walk Audit consists of volunteers literally walking an area bordered on the north by Main Street/96, on the south by the Auburn Trail, on the east by Maple Ave, and on the west by School Street. Utilizing a Walk Audit kit, we will be looking at sidewalks, curbs, bike lanes, access to trails, benches etc. Based on our audit, we will create recommendations for improving the pedestrian experience of the designated area. The grant will also fund the counting of foot traffic, bicycles etc. This project will begin this summer and conclude in the fall.

We are excited about the potential for creating greater opportunities for walking and biking, as well as taking another action step towards a more connected community. Look for more information on the VHT website, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Meetup.

Secretary Needed

Lisa Roberts is stepping down as the VHT secretary. She has filled the post admirably for five years and would like to be the lead person for small improvement projects along our trails and in our parks. Lisa will work with anyone who wants to join the board and help keep the organization on track.

The requirement is to attend one meeting a month on the third Thursday for about two hours. Take the minutes of the meeting, type them up and send to the Chairman for proofreading.

That's it. But it is a very important position that includes voting on important issues that arise every month.

Please send an email to chair@victorhikingtrails.org if you are interested.

VHT 2023 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman
 Lisa Roberts– Secretary
 Ruth Rugaber– Treasurer
 Scott Reinhart– Trailmaster
 Chauncy Young– Trail Boss
 Larry Fisher– Membership
 Jeff Miller – Education
 Paul Knerr— Volunteer
 Coordinator
**Open — Social Media
 Coordinator**
 Jeff Hennick— Webmaster
 Larry Fisher—Parks Liaison

VHT Pathfinder

Volume 28, Issue 2
 Summer 2023
*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

Chair@VictorHikingTrails.org

www.victorhikingtrails.org

Also on Facebook,
 Instagram
 and Meetup
 © 2023

Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

VHT MONTHLY HIKES**2023 Hikes**

Jun 25—Hike and Picnic at Ontario County Park, 5:30—7:30 PM

Jun 25—CEK Mees Observatory, 8-10 PM

Jul 8— Ontario Pathways Bike Ride

Jul 30— Geology, East Bethany, NY

Aug 12— Blueberry JAMBoree, Walworth, NY

Aug 27— Cemeteries of Canandaigua

Sept 2— Ring of Fire, Middlesex, NY. 5:30 PM at Town Hall

Sept 9— Village hike

Sept 30— The Bird House, Monroe Ave

Oct 14— TBD

Oct 29—Old Village Cemetery, Victor. Gravestone rubbing

Nov 11— TBD

Nov 26—Shortsville Reindeer Farm. \$10/person fee.

Dec 9— TBD

Dec 17—Lamberton Conservatory, Highland Park.

Green are Educational walks and meet at 2:00 PM

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details and last minute updates. Also, if you join <https://www.meetup.com/Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup>, 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 AM unless otherwise noted. Most hikes are relatively easy and take 2-3 hours. Always bring a snack and something to drink. Dress for the weather. We rarely cancel due to inclement weather.

As noted in our schedule there are several educational hikes planned for 2023. These are usually on a Sunday afternoon, starting at 2:00 PM.

We usually carpool from Victor Town Hall 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 the VHT Message Line, 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 years we will again be adding an educational element to some of the hikes.

Additional hikes with the Victor PTSA and the Victor Farmington Library will be scheduled throughout the year.

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.**

NOTE: There are several hiking Meetup groups in our area that schedule hikes in Victor. If you like to hike, join those Meetup groups as well.

Educational Hikes

Mar 26—Antique Wireless Association.

Great tour of the facility by 19 people. The group was split into 2 or 3 smaller groups so the docents could explain the history of radio and all of the unique artifacts that are housed in the building. After the tour several members went to the Irish Mafia restaurant for dinner.



Apr 30—Lazy Acre Alpaca Farm.

20 people came to see, feed and pet these gentle animals. It was a misty afternoon like last year, but folks came prepared with umbrellas and rain gear. The learning about the animals and their fibers that are made into wonderful clothing is always amazing. Food and drinks were enjoyed at Flaherty's in Honeoye Falls.



May 21—Bird Watching at MaryFrances Bluebird Haven.

There were 13 bird watchers who enjoyed the afternoon spotting a variety of song birds and local, native birds. Several went to the Thirsty Turtle restaurant for refreshments and comradery.



Special Projects

By Lisa Roberts

A small group of volunteers met over the winter to brainstorm and created a beautification project list.

A few years ago beavers moved into the area that the Seneca Trail went through near the Auburn Creek Apartments, flooding a large section of the trail. However, a good section of the original boardwalks, installed by Eagle Scouts over 20 years ago, remain dry. The group cleared the boardwalk and rerouted a small section of the trail to a drier area. If you're looking for a quiet spot to enjoy birds, wildflowers, or look for beavers, follow the red blazed Seneca Trail as it turns off the Trolley Trail between Rawson Road and Route 251, head just 0.3 mile

past the small bridge near the Beaver Viewing sign and you'll find the boardwalk.



Have you noticed the purple martin bird house on the grassy plateau in Fishers Park? It was installed in April. In less than an hour, volunteers dug a hole and installed a hinged pole with the house on top. Thanks to Larry Fisher who donated the bird house.



A couple weeks later, Chauncy Young, our TrailBoss, and a group of volunteers installed a donated bat house at Fishers Park. It was mounted onto a beautiful piece of native wood and put near a now wet area which attracts mosquitoes and other flying insects that bats eat. Bats are nighttime pollinators and help native species thrive.

(continued on page 7)

Victor Farmington Library Hikers

There was a special spring wildflower walk on April 26 with Bruce Gilman. A retired college professor, Bruce is very knowledgeable about all types of plants. This was an extremely educational walk at Domine Woods.



Bluebells were at their peak on May 3rd when the Wednesday walkers went to Mertensia Park in Farmington. All along Mud Creek, on both sides, were literally acres of bluebells.

The group meets every Wednesday at 9:00 AM at the Victor Farmington Library, 15 West Main Street, Victor, for an easy 2-3 mile walk at one of the local parks. Come and join the group.



National Trails Day® in Victor

Saturday, June 4th was a beautiful day for hiking and biking in Victor. A small group of enthusiasts came to the Victor Parks and Recreation facility for a continental breakfast, a choice of guided hikes and bike rides, a pizza lunch, some raffle prizes and great comradery.

It was also an opportunity to announce the new VHT Hall of Fame inductees and the 2023 Friends of VHT. See page 9 for the story and photos.

(continued from page 5)

Early spring was a great time to get out and remove a section of Japanese knotweed along a tributary of Irondequoit Creek near the Nat Fisher bridge in Fishers. It's very hard to totally remove an invasive species, so this is a pilot project testing some recommended strategies. The knotweed grows incredibly fast and has to be cut down every week for the next few years before it's permanently eradicated. While removing the invasive knotweed, native plants were uncovered. Hopefully the native species will thrive while the knotweed declines.



The volunteers focused on the pond area at Lehigh Crossing Park for the next few projects. First they relocated logs to a few areas around the edge of the pond. The logs are used by turtles, who love to bask in the sun while sitting on the logs, and encourage native birds and insects to visit the pond. Did you know that letting grasses grow up around the edge of a retention pond prevents geese from overtaking the area?



A second project involved relocating bird houses that had been installed in the park, but overtaken by shrubs. They are now refurbished and relocated to spots closer to the entrance and next to the pond. Look for them as you approach the pond area. They already have birds actively using them as homes. A big Thank You to volunteer Barb Starr for leading this project and Victor Parks and Rec Director Brian Emelson for helping out!

There are many invasive phragmites and autumn olive bushes near the pond. The volunteers are also trying a pilot project to remove small sections of them, giving the native species more room to grow.

Check out the VHT website and our YouTube channel for photos and videos of these projects. VictorHikingTrails.org OR youtube.com/@VictorHikingTrails2001.

Want to get involved in these small projects, or have some suggestions for the group? Contact Lisa Roberts at secretary@VictorHikingTrails.org

YouTube Videos

The Victor Hiking Trails YouTube video library continues to grow. There are currently 70 videos covering all of the Victor trails and parks, some nearby trails and parks, how-to care for and use of trail maintenance equipment, recent trail improvements and hiking equipment. If you have suggestions for additional videos or ideas on how to improve the videos, send them to Chair@VictorHikingTrails.com. Please subscribe to the channel and post your comments on the videos. You can easily find our videos on the home page of our website, Look for the icon shown here.



Facebook and Instagram

VHT is also active on the top social media platforms to communicate everything about Victor Trails. They are also easy to find when you are on the VHT website. Look to the far left of the screen for these icons. Feel free to post your photos of the parks and trails in Victor.



ADK-GVC Outdoor Expo

On Saturday, June 10, the Genesee Valley Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club was the host of a wonderful event in Mendon Ponds Park. VHT was there at 8:00 AM to setup our tent, tables, display boards and member applications. By 9:00 AM most of the other groups, clubs, stores and organizations were also setup and ready for the steady line of visitors. We talked to hundreds of people about our trails, website, YouTube videos and group led hikes. Children and adults liked our bird identification game, the lolly pops and granola bars. Chauncy Young led a two hour hike on the trails in the park. It was another beautiful day to spread the word about Victor trails.



Photo by Patty

Continued from page 3

Past Hikes continued

June 3— National Trails Day. Two guided hikes started at 9:20 AM. One was an easy hike led by Dave Wright on the Lehigh Valley Trail, through the Domine Woods on the Yellow Trail, on to the Auburn Trail and back to the Lehigh Trail for a 3.2 mile loop. The second hike was led by Chauncy Young on the Lehigh Valley Trail to Old Dutch Road then through the trails in Fishers Park for a total of 3.5 miles. Lary Fishers led a group of bike riders on the Lehigh Valley Trail for a 10 to 12 mile ride.



At about 10:40 AM, Dave and Chauncy headed out for round two of the morning hikes. Dave took his group west on the Lehigh Valley Trail to Mendon. On the return trip they went into the upper section of Fishers Park before returning to the center for a pizza lunch. Chauncy took his group on a longer and faster hike to work up an appetite for lunch.



After lunch and the raffle give away it was time for one more hike. It was billed as a 5 mile semi-loop hike but was closer to six miles. And the afternoon was warming up, so there was no extra mileage allowed. Congratulations to all who participated in all the hikes and/or bike ride.

We need to thank all of the volunteers who helped make this possible. Without them it would just be another plain day of hiking or biking. The goal has always been to show folks the wonderful trails that we have in Victor and to have a day of fun and celebration.



Photos by Dave Wright

VHT Hall of Fame To Induct Four New Members

By Scott Reinhart, VHT / HOF coordinator

Victor Hiking Trails celebrated thirty years of service to the Victor community in June, 2022 by hosting an open event in the Village of Victor. As part of that celebration, VHT created the Victor Hiking Trails Hall of Fame to recognize the significant contributions made by certain individuals to the creation, maintaining, and expansion of our network of trails. In 2022, for our inaugural class, we inducted fifteen current and former VHT members into the VHT/HOF. For 2023, we are pleased to announce four additional inductees into the Hall of Fame. All four are currently serving VHT as members of its Board of Directors:

Jeff Hennick - Currently serving as VHT's Webmaster and Assistant Chairman. More than thirty years ago Jeff attended the very first meeting of Victor Hiking Trails. Jeff created and still maintains VHT's website. Jeff is a regular volunteer at scheduled trail maintenance events and volunteers for many extra events.

Larry Fisher - Currently serving as VHT's Membership chair, Larry also was present at VHT's very first meeting. Larry served as VHT's TrailBoss for twenty-three years. As TrailBoss, he was responsible for storing and maintaining all the tools and equipment necessary for the creation and maintaining of VHT's trails. A bike enthusiast, he frequently leads VHT bike rides.

Chauncy Young - The VHT Treasurer for nearly twenty years, he was handed the TrailBoss reins (and all the corresponding tools and equipment) by Larry Fisher. Chauncy has taken on the daunting task of scheduling and leading the volunteers to keep our seventy-plus miles of trails in excellent shape. As a regular hike leader, he is known far and wide for setting a torrid pace!

David Wright - Has served as the Chairman of Victor Hiking Trails since the mid 1990's. David also attended the very first VHT meeting, and served as an assistant TrailBoss until taking over as VHT Chair. Under his watch and leadership, the Victor trail network has grown from near zero miles to over seventy miles. He forged remarkable relationships with the Town & Village of Victor, as well as cooperative arrangements with other regional and national trail organizations.

Congratulations to our four inductees! The formal induction will take place at VHT's Annual Dinner: Monday, October 16, 2023, Fire On Main.

Friends of Victor Hiking Trails

The VHT Board of Directors have chosen two individuals who are not members, but have played a large role in helping VHT expand the trails in Victor. Rick Williams, an avid mountain biker and GROC member helped build the trails in Dryer Road Park. Brian Emelson, the Town of Victor Director of Parks and Recreation for over 20 years, has been a strong advocate for trails for all in Victor. Thank you gentlemen for all that you do for the community.

Earth Day, Arbor Day and Victor Tree Planting

By Dave Wright

It was a very busy spring for VHT. For Earth Day on April 22nd we had over 30 volunteers, including several scouts from Troop 6060, meet in the parking lot by TJ Max. They were given large trash bags, disposable gloves and long grabbers. Each group was assigned an area and sent on their way. After a few hours they returned with about 30 bags full of trash.



For Arbor Day, a group of volunteers met at the Boughton Road entrance of Boughton Park to plant a variety of evergreen seedlings. Over time these will fill in spots in the park that have lost many of the trees that have died due to old age. The ponds are close to 100 years old and many of the pine trees were planted over 90 years ago.

The Village of Victor Tree Board called for volunteers to help plant 15 bare root trees on Rawson Road. The trees were donated by VanBortel Auto Group and the large holes for the trees were dug by the Victor Village Department of Public Works. The volunteers planted the trees by carefully filling in the dirt, making sure that there were no air pockets. It looks like they are thriving.



*Your ad can go here.
Call 585-752-8313
for details*



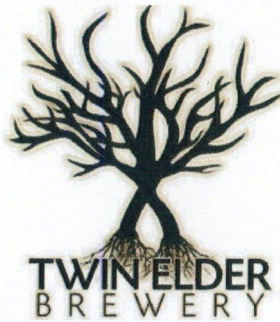
SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • RENTALS

Steve DeRycke
Ag Sales Manager

6112 Collett Rd West
Farmington, NY 14425
Office: (585) 924-5480 ext. 502
Cell: (585) 330-0882
Fax: (585) 924-7624
sderycke@americanequipmentllc.com
www.americanequipmentllc.com



**TWIN ELDER
BREWERY**



**75 COVILLE ST.
VICTOR NY 14564**

**585-902-8166
WWW.TWINELDERBREWERY.COM**

Mary Beth Inchalik

Private Tutor

(Flexible services are available for pandemic circumstances.)

Cell (661) 210-7850

New York State Certified Teacher - 25+ years experience

Multi-Content Areas Ages 3 - Adult

marybethinch@yahoo.com

REFERENCES AND RESUME PROVIDED UPON REQUEST

*Boutique-Style Assisted Living
in a Home-Like Environment*

**VICTOR VIEWS
ASSISTED LIVING**

1440 State Route 444, Victor, NY • 315-576-5082



**CANANDAIGUA
SAILBOARD**

11 Lakeshore Drive
Canandaigua, New York 14424
shop@canandaiguasailboard.com



**20,000 watt
AM 1040 - FM 92.1 - FM 95.5 West
Proud Supporter of Victor Hiking Trails**



Chauncy Young, CFP®, LMT
Managing Member

Sage Financial, LLC



660 Old Dutch Road
PO Box 426
Fishers, NY 14453-0426

Phone: 585-742-1068
Cell: 585-455-1932
Email: cy.sagefinancial@gmail.com

Saxby Implement
 180 Mendon Victor Road
 Mendon, New York 14506
 585-624-2938

Kubota. Cub Cadet.
www.SaxbyImplement.com

FERRIS



**Canandaigua
 National
 Bank & Trust**

The Most Trusted, Reliable Cleaning Service in Town!



(585)924-2060
www.timewisecleaning.com

Pure NYS Maple Syrup & Wildflower Honey

KETTLE RIDGE
 - FARM -
 LOCAL TREES. LOCAL BEES.

515 Log Cabin Road, Fishers NY
Call 585-683-7506 or visit KettleRidgeFarm.com

The Key to RENTALS
 Property Management



Paul M. Rowan
 Licensed Real Estate Broker

585-283-7087
Paul.Rowan@TheKeytoRentals.com
 10 E. Main St., Suite 207, Victor, NY 14564
TheKeytoRentals.com




Massage & Energy Balancing

Chauncy C. Young, LMT

660 Old Dutch Rd
 PO Box 426
 Fishers, NY 14453-0426

Phone: 585-742-1068
 Cell: 585-455-1932
 E-mail: cyoung.lmt@gmail.com




NEON WAVE

237 High Street Ext. Suite 4
 Victor, New York 14564
shop@thisisneonwave.com

**VICTOR PARKS AND RECREATION
 RECREATION OFFICE
 7891 LEHIGH CROSSING
 VICTOR, NY 14564**



TOWN OF VICTOR
 NEW YORK

PH: (585) 742-0140
 Fx: (585) 742-0142
WWW.VICTORNY.ORG

Visit our sponsors and tell them you saw their

Victor Hiking Trails
85 East Main Street
Victor, NY 14564



30+ YEARS AND GROWING

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 or donation promptly so we can continue to create new and improved shared-use trails.

Making Connections in Victor

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

Join us on Facebook!

And Meetup!

Post your photos on Instagram

See VHT videos on YouTube



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 \$ _____
 Sustaining Monthly Donation of \$ _____
 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