



VHT Pathfinder

30+ YEARS AND GROWING

Victor Hiking Trails
Fall 2023

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VHT Awarded AARP Community Challenge Grant

VHT is one of twenty-nine recipients out of over three thousand applicants to be awarded a 2023 AARP Community Challenge Grant. The \$2500 award supports efforts to improve community walkability. In order to accomplish that goal, VHT identified an area of the Village of Victor to conduct ten Walk Audits.

The area, bordered on the north by Main Street, on the east by Maple Ave, on the west by School Street, and the south by the Auburn Trail provided an opportunity for VHT volunteers to study sidewalks, crossings, and pedestrian amenities (benches, shade, etc.). Each of the ten Walk Audits were scheduled on different days and times to provide a variety of variables and conditions. Individual Walk Audits covered a pre-planned route through a portion of the designated area. The participants were equipped with pens, clipboards and reference forms for recording suggestions for both improvements, as well as ideas for making the Village a more inviting place to walk and ride a bike. The final Walk Audit was conducted on September 13th.

The next steps will be to compile all of the input into a presentation with supporting materials. The final report will be presented to the Village and Town Boards for their consideration.

An inviting and walkable Village benefits everyone, and is part of VHT's long-range plan of creating another mode of "getting around" through an infrastructure of interconnected trails and sidewalks.

Secretary Needed

VHT is looking for a volunteer to join the board of directors as the new secretary.

The only 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 or if you have any questions.

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
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 Jeff Hennick— Webmaster
 Larry Fisher—Parks Liaison

VHT Pathfinder

Volume 28, Issue 3
 Fall 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
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 contact:

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VHT MONTHLY HIKES**2023 Hikes**

Sept 30 – The Bird House, Monroe Ave

Oct 14 — Ontario County Park

Oct 29 — Old Village Cemetery, Victor. Gravestone rubbing

Nov 11 — Harriet Hollister Spencer State Rec Area

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

Dec 9 — Dryer Road Park

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](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.

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.

Past Hikes

June 25– Evening Hike at Ontario County Park. In preparation for the educational event at the CEK Mees Observatory, nine folks met at the park and enjoyed a picnic supper and a short hike on the trails in the park.

July 8– Ontario Pathways Bike Ride. Only 3 riders met at the trailhead in Canandaigua, but it was a beautiful morning for a ride. They rode for about 5.5 miles and then headed back to the start, taking about an hour and a half. Refreshments were enjoyed at a local pub.



August 12– Ganondagan State Historic Site.

Eight hikers enjoyed a beautiful morning on the trails at Ganondagan, Fort Hill and Dryer Road Park, covering 5.7 miles in 2.5 hours.



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Educational Hikes

June 25– C.E.K. Mees Observatory.



There were 21 attendees interested in seeing what was up in the sky. They were educated on the history of the observatory and how it is used to view the sky.

The early forecast was predicting a great night for viewing, but as often happens in our area, the prediction turned to possible showers. That meant that the big doors could not be opened.

Despite the bad luck, everyone enjoyed the tour and learned about the research being conducted.

Of course, everyone is preparing for the total solar eclipse that will happen on April 8, 2024. Get your special viewing glasses now while they are available.

July 23– Geology in East Bethany, NY. 12 fossil hunters joined Fred Haynes from the Rochester Academy of Science Fossil Section in East Bethany. They scoured an old railroad bed and found many examples of fossils from millions of years ago.



August 27- Canandaigua Cemeteries. If you want to learn about local history, take a tour of a local cemetery. It is especially educational if you have a guide from the Ontario County Historical Society. 8 folks learned about individuals who made a difference during their life.



Photos by Jeff Miller

Special Projects at Lehigh Crossing Park

By Barb Starr

My third visit to Lehigh this week was yesterday afternoon (August 15, 2023). Patty Sampson Bouchard joined me for 2 productive hours removing some invasives. It is an area near the gazebo where there is a rock outcropping next to the 2 logs that were placed a few months ago.

Each of the logs added throughout the pond are being used on sunny days by multiple painted turtles of multiple sizes, indicating a healthy population, I believe.

Today as Patty and I worked to remove some more Phragmites, we were greeted by a Great Blue Heron swooping low over the pond as if saying hello to us (what else could it be?), a water snake sleek and shiny, swimming by as we toiled on the edge of the water, and a large Bullfrog announcing its presence with a boisterous splash next to our work area.

And yet, not a single mosquito buzzed nearby, and I know we were emitting plenty of CO₂. Several people walked their dogs, 2 children and their mom biked by. There were others as well. No sounds of traffic, no feelings of rush, no feelings of tension or irritation.

For Patty and I, satisfaction that we were in the right place, doing the right thing. In just 2 hours, we cleared 15 feet of pond shoreline, further opening a view with just a little more of the beauty and peacefulness that we so need in this world.

Common Reed knows no other way than to suck up all the space and oxygen it can. The clearing won't be permanent, but with 2 hours, 2 people, and simple hand tools, we gave sunlight and breathing room for Blue Vervain, Joe Pye weed, brilliant yellows of various GoldenRod species, Boneset, Jewel Weed, Asters and Cattails.

A few people who see, who care, who work together can make a little difference in a little space that perhaps others will see and take notice, and it will make a bigger difference.



Victor Farmington Library Hikers

Every Wednesday morning at 9:00 AM a group of walkers meet at the Victor Farmington Library, 15 West Main Street in the village of Victor for an easy 1 to 2 hour walk. Sometimes they stay within the village limits and sometimes they carpool to a local park or trail.

On special occasions they have a guest leader, like Dr. Bruce Gilman, retired botany professor at Finger Lakes Community College. Bruce led a group of 32 interested hikers on a walk at Bentley Woods in Fishers. This is a landlock property owned by the Nature Conservancy with limited access. Bruce has visited the park many times to observe the variety of trees that are protected from strong winds by a ridge.



Usually there are 10 to 15 walkers who enjoy a slow, easy hike at one of several Victor parks. This hike was in the shade of Domine Woods in Fishers on a warm Wednesday morning. The group covered about 2 miles in an hour and a half.

After the hike many of the folks go to the Busy Bean Café for a cup of coffee and a bite to eat. It's a great opportunity to get to know your fellow walkers.

You can sign up on the VHT Meetup page or just show up at the library.



Trail Maintenance

Trail Maintenance season is winding down, but it really never ends. As the grass and bushes slow down their growth, the mowers and power tools can be winterized for the year. But the leaf blowers come out as the trees drop their leaves. And when the wind and heavy rains knock over the weak trees that always seem to land on the trails, the chainsaws get a workout.

The late fall and winter can be used for trail improvements. All those problems that we didn't have time to tackle during the summer can now be addressed. It could be as simple as diverting water off the trail or it could be building a new bridge across a creek for a new trail. Check on our Meetup page for dates, times and location for these special projects. Volunteers are always needed.

With all of the heavy usage of the mowers, some are starting to show their age. We have applied for a grant to replace one of the mowers, shown in the photo. They cost about \$5K. Included in the grant is an enclosed trailer to haul the equipment to the trailheads. The one we are looking at is about \$8K. We also need to purchase a new 10'x10' tent for participation in events. Hopefully we will be successful in getting the grant.



From the very beginning, all of our trail maintenance equipment has been maintained and stored by our Trail Bosses. We have only had two; Larry Fisher and Chauncy Young. When we only had a push mower and loppers, that was okay. Now we have 3 walk-behind brush-hogs, several gas-powered hedge trimmers, a string trimmer, a chainsaw, many hand tools, wheelbarrow, paint,, the list goes on for several pages. We are looking for a facility where we can store all of the equipment and easily access it. If you or anyone you know has a place that could be used, please let us know.

Trail Counts

VHT has purchased trail counters to be placed on the trails so we can collect data that will be useful for pursuing future grants. They will also give us an idea of which trails are used the most and which trails see only a few hikers and bikers. They will be counting 24/7 so we can see what time of day gets the most use. And they can be out in all types of weather so we can see trail usage daily, weekly, monthly, season to season and year to year.

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.



Hometown Days and Climb Aboard Victor

On Saturday, September 9th, VHT participated in the Hometown Days in Victor Village. We had a great location in the Fire on Main restaurant parking lot, with the wind to our back. The morning was cool and there was a steady procession of visitors stopping at our booth to learn about VHT and all the trails. Unfortunately, the afternoon brought some sprinkles that discouraged people from coming out. It was still good to see some old friends and meet some new ones.

The following Saturday was Climb Aboard Victor, hosted by the town of Victor. This was the second annual and it was a huge success. This year it was held in the village, so it was spread out between the Fireman's Field, Adams Street and the Victor Farmington Library. People got some exercise.

Thank you to the volunteers who helped at both of these events. They did a great job of promoting VHT, collecting some donations and hopefully getting some new members.

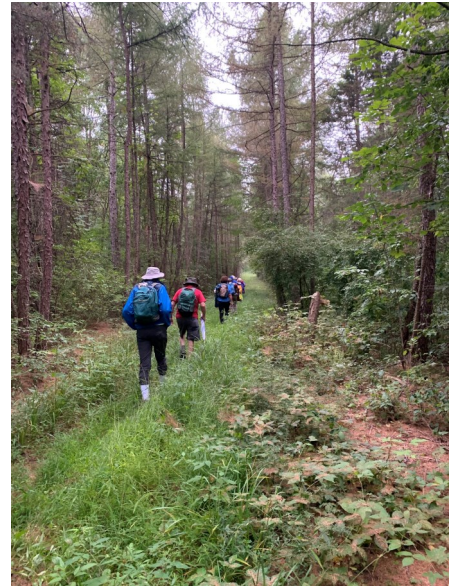


Continued from page 3

Past Hikes continued

Sept. 2– Ring of Fire at Bare Hill.

The hike from the parking lot to the top of Bare Hill is a little over one mile. But when the grass and golden rod is 5 feet high, it makes for a challenging hike. Eight trekkers enjoyed a picnic dinner, a beautiful sunset, a roaring fire and several social dances led by Seneca people from Allegany.



Photos by Dave Wright

Sept. 9 –Village Walk

Chauncy Young led a small group, starting at Finn's on the Auburn Trail to the village to see what Hometown Days was all about. After viewing all the tents on Main Street and in the Fire on Main parking lot they returned to the Auburn Trail.

*Your ad can go here.
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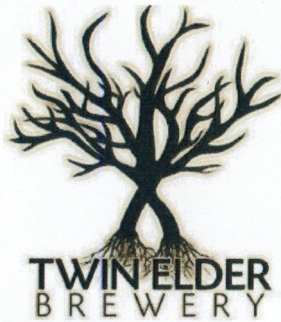
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View it and download it in full color.

Annual membership is for 12 months, beginning when you first join. Please send your renewal check 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

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VHT Map Link

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