



# VHT Pathfinder

**34+ YEARS AND GROWING**

Victor Hiking Trails  
Summer 2025

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*Your membership dollars help fund the creation, improvement, and maintenance of our 70+ miles of trails, bridges, boardwalks, benches, and signs; providing a wide variety of outdoor recreational and educational opportunities for Victor and the surrounding community.*

## Summer has arrived!

We had a very cold and wet Spring, but we are officially into summer, so let's hope we have some great weather for hiking and biking.

The trail maintenance crew is a little behind schedule, so you might find some trails with tall grass. Be sure to check for ticks as I believe we are having a banner year for insects. We will be back on schedule as soon as possible. If you see a tree down blocking the trail, please take a picture of it and send to

Chauncy at [TrailBoss@VictorHikingTrails.org](mailto:TrailBoss@VictorHikingTrails.org) along with the location or the name of the trail and the nearest road crossing.

The Town and Village of Victor have a full schedule of activities this summer, including Farmer's Market on Wednesdays in the Village Hall parking lot, Music on Main, Taco Tuesdays on the third Tuesday, Concerts in Victor Municipal Park on Thursday evenings, and a bike fest on August 22 and 23 in Dryer Road Park.

The event that VHT is looking forward to is the Explore Victor Fest on Saturday, September 13th. There will be large vehicles for the kids to see, food trucks and many arts and crafts vendors. Of course, VHT will be there promoting the 70 miles of shared-use trails open to the public in Victor and the connections to the surrounding trails in our region. Come visit us and see what new trails we have planned for Victor.

We just celebrated National Trails Day on June 7th and the ADK Outdoor Expo at Mendon Ponds Park on June 14th. We had good weather for both events, met many new people and enrolled another member. Several families were interested in joining and many folks said they use our trails often. We will continue to spread the word.



**VHT 2025 Officers:**

Lisa Roberts– Chair  
 Nancy Fisher– Vice-Chair  
 Barb Starr– Secretary  
 Ruth Rugaber– Treasurer  
 Scott Reinhart– Trail Blazer  
 Chauncy Young– Trail Boss  
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 Jeff Miller – Education Dir.  
 Karen Guidarelli — Community Engagement Director  
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 Dave Wright– Business Operations Director

**VHT Pathfinder**

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*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:

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 Instagram, YouTube  
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**VHT MONTHLY HIKEs****2025 Hikes**

**Jul 12– Hike at Grimes Glen in Naples**

**Aug 9– Special Memorial Hike at Dryer Road Park**

**Aug 10– Bike on the Outlet Trail in Penn Yan**

**Sep 13– Climb Aboard Victor**

**Jun 29– Bird Watching with Liz Magnanti**

**Jul 19– Finger Lakes Cannabis**

**Jul 27– 1816 Farmington Quaker Meetinghouse**

**Aug 24– Watering Holes in Canandaigua**

**Green are Educational walks and meet at 2:00 PM**

Note: Please check the MeetUp app 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 2025. 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 send a message to [Webmaster@VictorHikingTrails.org](mailto:Webmaster@VictorHikingTrails.org).

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. Wednesday morning we meet at the Victor Farmington Library at 9:00 AM for a short, easy walk.

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

**April 12—Powder Mills Park.** Six brave hikers came out in a light drizzle to hike some of the trails in the park.. Everyone was prepared for the weather with their rain gear. The group covered 4.2 miles in a little over 2 hours. There was one section of trail that was extremely wet, requiring the team to look for high ground as they climbed over and under tree branches and downed trees.



**May 10—Fishers Park.** 8 hikers covered 4.4 miles on the Auburn Trail, Domine Trails, Lehigh Valley Trail and Fishers Park. It was a very nice Spring day.



**June 7—NTD at VMP.** Not the large turnout we were hoping for, but everyone that attended agreed it was a wonderful way to spend National Trails Day. Some went on a nature walk around the park, some did a slow, easy 3.5 mile hike, some did a fast paced, hilly 5+ mile hike and some went on a bike ride on the Auburn Trail. Something for everyone. The picnic meal was delicious, ending with a birthday cake.



*(Photos by Dave Wright)*

*(Continued on page 5)*



## Educational Hikes

### Apr 27– Rush Oak Openings Unique Area, Rush, NY.

It was a beautiful blue sky day for an afternoon walk in this unusual area. It is the last oak openings in New York State. Approximately 20 people gathered to learn about all of the Spring wildflowers that are found in this habitat. This was another combination outing with the Canandaigua Botanical Society and VHT led by Fred Haynes and Bruce Gilman.

*(Photo by Jeff Miller)*



### May 24– Historic Palmyra Museums, Palmyra, NY.

8 members interested in local history visited 5 different museums in the Erie Canal town of Palmyra, NY. Each museum was very different, but they all had similar roots from the 1800's. We had a wonderful tour guide who made the buildings come alive. There are over 180 photos on our Meetup page, showing artifacts from the period.



*(Photos by Dave Wright)*



## Lehigh Crossing Park

The dedicated volunteers, led by Barb Starr, continue to work on controlling the Phragmites that used to surround the pond at Lehigh Crossing Park. This common reed is a tall, perennial grass that is not native to our area and is very invasive, displacing native plants and impacting wildlife. If left unchecked, it would completely take over our little pond and it would become a marsh.

Barb and crew are planting native shrubs and seeing other native plants emerge in place of the Phragmites. Mowing near the pond is restricted, allowing native grass and plants to flourish. Fish, turtles and snakes are loving it. Butterflies and other pollinators are coming back.

The volunteers meet once a week for an hour or two. You can find their schedule on the VHT Meetup page, <https://www.meetup.com/Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup>



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*(Continued from page 3)*

**June 14—Mendon Ponds Park.** Chauncy led 5 hikers on a fast-paced, hilly hike at the ADK Outdoor Expo while several VHT members were at the VHT booth telling folks all about the excellent 70 miles of trails in Victor that are open to the public.



*(Photo by Dave Wright)*



*(Photo by Chauncy Young)*



## Wednesday Library Walkers

We meet every Wednesday at 9:00 AM at the Victor Farmington Library for an easy 2-3 mile walk. Don't let the hot, humid weather keep you from enjoying the outdoors. Just dress properly, use insect repellent and wear good boots. After heavy rains, we may see some muddy trails that we will try to avoid.

*(Photos by Dave Wright)*



## Memorial

Our condolences to the family of Carol MacInnes. Carol was a charter member of Victor Hiking Trails and our Trail Master for over 20 years. She was instrumental in securing many miles of trail during the formative years. An avid hiker, bicyclist, skier and canoeist, she will be greatly missed.

There will be a hike at Dryer Road Park at 9:00 AM on August 9th in her honor. There will be a Celebration of Life at Dryer Road Park at 3:00 PM. All are invited to attend.





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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 renew online using PayPal, 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](http://www.victorhikingtrails.org)

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VHT Map Link

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

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

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