

VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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Victor is one of the fastest growing towns in New York State. Page 4

This hike will again start and end at Mickey Finn's Restaurant, Page 5

VHT thanks all of its volunteers Page 6

Lots of photos on pages 7—10.

The year in review

There is no doubt that 2012 will go down in the history books as the year of the boardwalk. Between Boy Scout Eagle projects, special projects and VHT trail improvements, over 500 feet of new boardwalk was constructed on our trails.

These were greatly needed improvements on trails that were seasonally wet and muddy. Although the trails were passable, they were getting wider as hikers tended to go around the wet sections. This is not desirable from a conservation point of view.

Along with the typical boardwalks, we have to include the stairs and railing project constructed by Matt Spitzer and Troop 60, located on the Auburn Trail by the bridge over Great Brook. The trail is steep and the clay surface was slippery when wet, making travel up and down the trail challenging.

A small but important trail improvement was constructed this Summer by Maggie's Kids. They built a footbridge across a wet area on the Seneca Trail by the old Auburn Golf Driving Range. Additional bridge improvements were made on that section of the trail by VHT crews.

The boardwalk placed in Fishers Park by Sean White and Troop 60 (again) was a fantastic improvement that will be appreciated by hikers for many years to come. See the Fall, 2012 issue of VHT Pathfinder for details and pictures.

Another Eagle Scout project in Fishers Park was competed by Kean Houck in early October. Kean lives in Victor and belongs to Troop 469 in Fairport. His project upgraded a herd path to a main walking trail that starts behind the tennis courts located on the east side of the park off Wangum Road. The trail improvements include approximately 200 feet of cut and fill to create a walkable trail at the base of a hill and a 14' bridge over a small creek with 8' approach

ramps to either side. See page 5 for photos.

Over on Monkey Run Trails is a section that was always wet due to a spring flowing out of a side hill. A boardwalk for that piece of trail had been on our "to do" list for many years. Thanks to Andy Napolitano and Troop 341 from Pittsford, we now have a boardwalk on a Monkey Run trail. See page 10 for pictures of Andy and his project.

Our last project for 2012 was a boardwalk through a wet area in back of the Fishers Landing plaza on Route 96. The trail, actually two trails, connect to the Lehigh Trail and Lehigh Crossing Park. Through a generous donation from the DiMarco family and with the help of many workers from The DiMarco Group, Baldwin Real Estate Corporation and Doodle Bugs! Children Center, 200 feet of five-foot wide boardwalk was laid down on a sunny Saturday in November. See page 9 for pictures.

These are great examples of the Town of Victor, Victor Hiking Trails, Boy Scouts and local businesses working together to enhance the quality of life in Victor.

We have several projects lined up for 2013. With the funds on hand and some additional donations, and help from our volunteers, we will have another successful year.

If you would like to help with trail maintenance or special projects, call 585-234-8226 and leave a message or send a note to Wizzy Geno, our Volunteer Coordinator, at Volunteer@VictorHikingTrails.org.

See you on the trails,

Dave Wright

HIKES FOR 2013

VHT 2013 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman
 Nat Fisher– Secretary
 Chauncy Young– Treasurer
 Carol MacInnes– Trailmaster
 Larry Fisher– Trail Boss
 Peter Ingalsbe– Membership
 Ralph Weber – Education
 Wizzy Geno— Volunteer
 Coordinator

VHT Pathfinder

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- Jan. 12– Harriet Hollister Spencer Recreation Area
 Jan. 26– Moonlight hike. Meet at Mickey Finn’s at 7:00 p.m. Note date change.
 Feb. 9– Mendon Ponds Park
 Mar. 9– Fishers trails ending at Chauncy’s home
 Apr. 13– Braddock’s Bay. Greece, NY
 May 4– Historic Victor Walk and Ride
 May 11– Crescent Trail hike, White Brook Nature Trail
 May 17-19– Adirondack Weekend
 Jun. 1– National Trails Day, hike the Auburn Trail end-to-end
 Jun. 8– Ontario Pathways bike ride
 Jul. 13– Griffis Sculpture Park and Zoar Valley
 Aug. 10– Letchworth Park, south end
 Sep. 7– Hang Around Victor Day and Victor Fest
 Sep. 29– VHT Challenge Hike III
 Oct. 12– Finger Lakes Trail, Prattsburg
 Nov. 9– Ganondagan, Fort Hill, Dryer Road Park
 Dec. 14– Seneca Park / Genesee River gorge

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details. All hikes meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot 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 car pool 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 more hikes in Victor or the surrounding communities. We are also leading shorter and easier hikes to encourage families and younger hikers to join us. This year we will 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

Sep. 30– The second annual VHT Challenge Hike was a great success, in spite of the less than favorable weather. 20+ hikers met at the top of High Point to hike the Seneca Trail, end-to-end. With the exception of two, everyone made it all the way to the south entrance of Boughton Park, a distance of 13.2 miles.

Additional photos can be found on page 8.

The VHT Challenge Hike III is scheduled for September 29, 2013. Are you up for it?



Oct. 13– The Historic Walk in Victor and the Bike Ride on the Auburn Trail each had a good turn out. The walk was led by Douglas Fisher, son of local historian J. Sheldon Fisher and Babette Huber, Victor Town Historian. The bike ride was led by railroad buff Joel Richter who told about the importance of the railroads in Victor and Fishers.



Nov. 10– Black Creek Park only had 4 hikers enjoy the beautiful trails. They saw several people jogging and others walking their dogs. A very nice park for exercise.



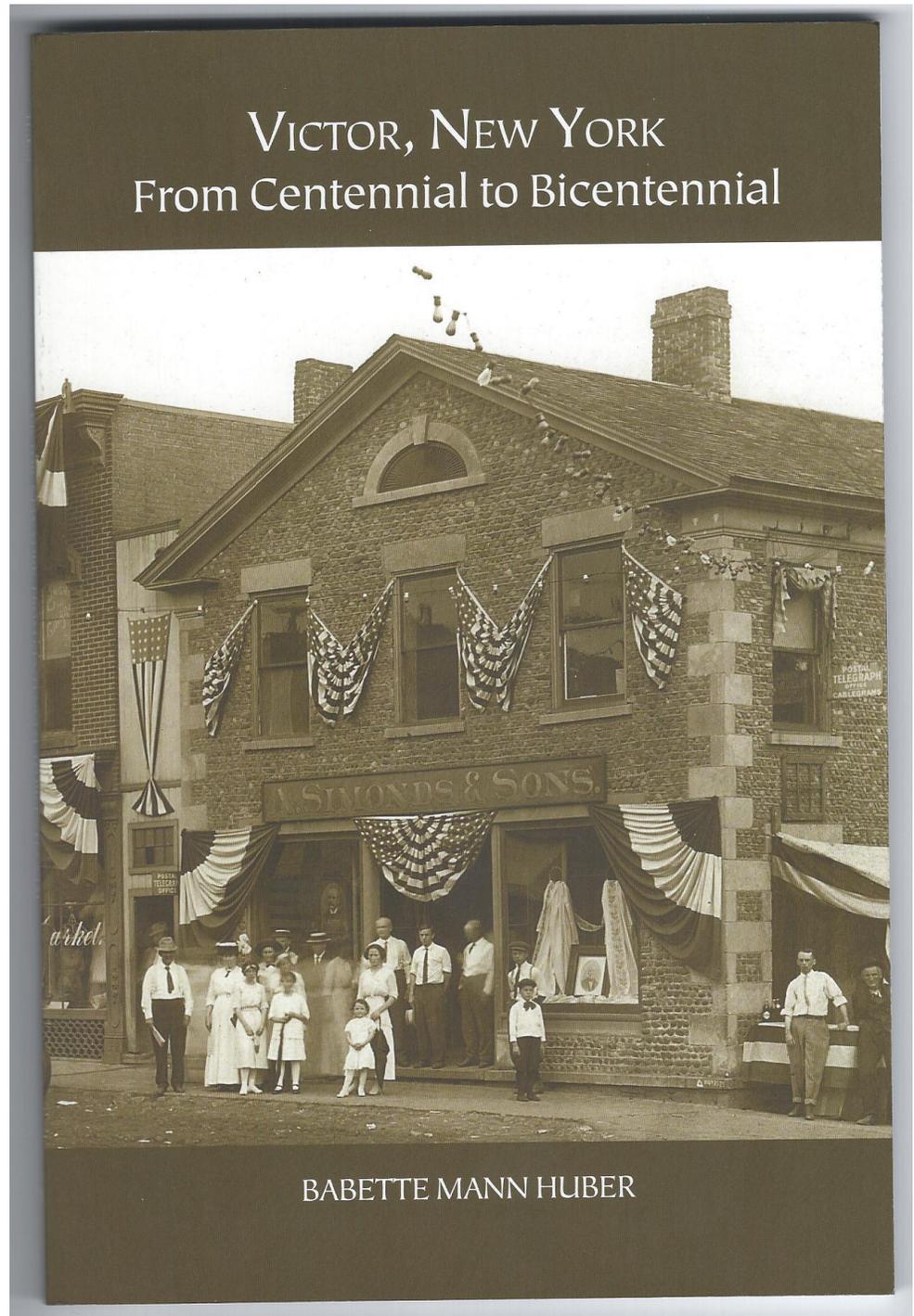
Dec. 8– 17 trekkers were led on the trails in Boughton Park by Robert Lasher. They learned why the East Pond was so low all Summer and how the flora had made drastic and quick changes. Now that the repairs are finished and the pond is filling back up, expect to see more changes. Plans are to lower the West Pond in 2013 to do similar repairs to the dam and spillway. Additional photos can be found on page 7.

Victor history book for sale

Babette Huber, Victor Town Historian, has written a book covering the last 100 years of the town and village of Victor. Over 200 photos capture the highlights of Victor's second century. From less than 2500 residents in 1912 to now with a population of over 14,000, Victor is one of the fastest growing towns in New York State.

A DVD is also available of interviews of Victor senior citizens telling what life in Victor was like in the "good old days". They can be purchased for \$10 at Mead Square Pharmacy or Town Hall. The premier showing will be held at Victor Town Hall on January 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

VHT is selling copies of the book for \$16 as a fund raiser. They also have copies of the DVD for sale. Please call 585-234-8226 to order your copy today.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to Victor Hiking Trails on 12-12-12 for the United Way ROC the Day event. We do not have the official tally yet, but the preliminary number is \$330.60. We know that several friends of VHT and members also made substantial end-of-year donations and for that we are truly grateful. We promise to use the funds wisely to improve the trails in Victor.

Moonlight hike back by popular demand

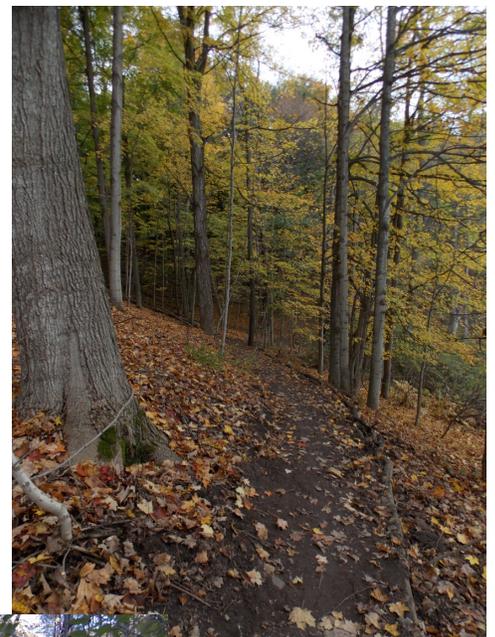


Last year VHT led a moonlight hike on the Auburn Trail, starting at the East end of Mickey Finn's parking lot. This was one of the highest attended hikes that they had in 2012.

This hike will again start and end at Mickey Finn's Restaurant, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 26, 2013. If we have enough snow, bring your cross country skis. If we have a lot of snow, bring your snowshoes. Regardless of the weather, come for an hour or two of hiking on the Auburn Trail and through the parks, followed by refreshments and music at Mickey Finn's.

Photo by Dave Wright at Ring of Fire, Bare Hill, 9-1-12

Kean Houck's Eagle Project in Fishers Park



Photos by Chauncy Young

VHT 2012 Volunteer Dinner

At the end of the trail maintenance season, VHT thanks all of its volunteers by treating them and their spouse or guest to dinner at Mickey Finn's Restaurant. This year we had 24 friends enjoy a well deserved meal and a chance to talk about the highlights of the past year and plans for the coming year. If you would like to help maintain the trails, work on special projects or be on the board, call 585-234-8226 or send a note to Wizzy Geno, Volunteer Coordinator, at Volunteer@VictorHikingTrails.org.



Membership update

By now you should have received an email or letter notifying you when your membership dues need to be paid. All members have been placed in a new data file managed by our new membership chairman. He will send you a notice / reminder by email in the future when your anniversary is approaching. If you are not sure if we have you listed on our roster, please send an email to Pete Ingalsbe at Membership@VictorHikingTrails.org. If you do not have email, leave a message on our phone line at 585-234-8226.



Polar Bear Riders on the Auburn Trail.

Boughton Park East Pond VHT hike on 12/8/12



Photos by Dave Wright



VHT Challenge Hike II

September 30, 2012

Seneca Trail end-to-end



A new boardwalk connects Fishers Landing and Lehigh Crossing Park

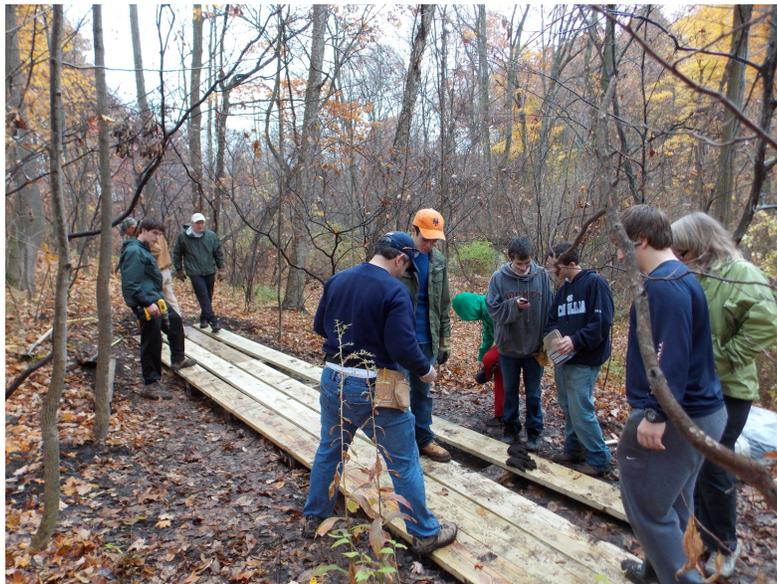


This was about half of the volunteers who helped build the boardwalk.

Photos by Dave Wright and Chauncy Young

Andy Napolitano and Troop 341 build a boardwalk on a Monkey Run trail.

Twenty-two Boy Scouts and leaders from Troop 341 in Pittsford, sponsored by the Pittsford 1st Presbyterian Church, spent 2 weekends and 140 man-hours building a boardwalk on the White Trail in Monkey Run.



Andy is happy that the boardwalk is finished.



Parents Sally and Ken are proud of Andy's accomplishment.

Photos by Chauncy Young

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Ask about the VHT member discount.

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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 promptly so we don't have to come after you. We will use your dues for new and improved trails.

Filling the gaps in Victor

Check out our website at
www.victorhikingtrails.org

Current and archived newsletters can be downloaded from our website.

Join us on Facebook!

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

Name _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

City _____ **Zip** _____

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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 ___
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Amount submitted \$10 ___ \$20 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ other \$ _____

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

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