Come hike with us on National Trails Day

Saturday, June 7th will be the 22nd Annual National Trails Day hike. And Victor Hiking Trails has another terrific day of hikes planned on the trails in Victor. It all begins with a free continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at the Fishers Fire Station #1 at 7853 Main Street Fishers. There will be plenty of parking at the trailhead, but if you can carpool, that will help.

At 9:00 a.m. we will begin the first of three loop hikes. Depending on the turnout, we may split into two groups and hike separately. One group will head south on the Auburn Trail to the Domine Trail and hike over to the Lehigh Trail. From that point they will hike east to the trestle and back on the Auburn Trail. They should be back to the Station around 10:30 a.m. for a drink and snack. The second group will head directly to Fishers Park to see all of the new bridges and boardwalks that the Boy Scouts installed last year. This hike will also take about an hour and a half. From 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. the groups will hike the other loop. After a pizza lunch at 12:30 p.m. another loop hike will be offered on the Auburn Trail to Powder Mills Park and return. Everyone who completes all three hikes will be offered a free one-year membership to VHT.

Registration for the hikes is required so we can get a count for the breakfast and lunch meals. Please call the VHT information line at 585-234-8226 before June 4th and let us know how many in your party will be attending. You can also go to our website, www.VictorHikingTrails.org to see and print maps of the hikes and learn more about VHT and NTD. We hope to see you on June 7th.

American Hiking Society’s National Trails Day® is a nationally recognized trail awareness program that occurs annually on the first Saturday of June and inspires the public to discover, learn about, and celebrate trails while participating in outdoor activities, clinics and stewardship projects. National Trails Day® is a registered trademark of American Hiking Society. Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. is a proud member and supporter of the American Hiking Society.
Hikes for 2014

Apr 12 – Canadice Lake Trail hike.
Apr 13 – Special hike with Crescent Trails, 1:30 p.m. @ Valentown Hall
May 10 – Chimney Bluffs hike.
Jun 1 – Special hike with Springwater Trails. See page 5.
Jun 7 – National Trails Day, Fishers Park. Meet at Fishers Fire Station 1 at 8:30 a.m.
Jun 14 – Mendon Ponds Park
Jun 14 – Outdoor Expo at Mendon Ponds Park. Come visit our booth.
July 12 – Conklin Gully Creek walk.
Aug 9 – Grimes Glen Creek walk. Special educational hike.
Sept 6 – Hang Around Victor Day. Stop by our booth.
Sept 13 – Bike ride on the Lower Genesee Riverway Trail.
Oct 11 – Keuka Outlet Trail hike from Penn Yan to Dresden.
Nov 8 – Monkey Run and Mary Frances Bluebird Haven. Meet at Mary-Frances parking lot at 9:00 a.m.
Dec 13 – Dryer Road Park and Fort Hill. Meet at Dryer Rd. parking lot.

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details. 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 last 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 problem.

Come enjoy the fun.
Past Hikes

January 11— Harriet Hollister Park is always a hit or miss in the winter and this year we missed. There was a recent thaw followed by a freeze. On 1/11/14 it was cold and rainy, but three positive-attitude individuals still drove to the park to check out the conditions. Sometimes the weather in Victor can be very different than the top of the hill at the south end of Honeoye Lake. They figured as long as they were there, they might as well hike the trails. At least they didn’t have to worry about the cross country skiers or snowmobiles. No one brought a camera, so no pictures to show.

January 17— It was a frigid night with a full moon when 11 hikers gathered in the parking lot by Mickey Finn’s. This year the group started heading west, across Maple Avenue onto Dryer Road and onto the Auburn Trail. When they reached School Street they went north to the Trolley trail and headed back east to Maple Avenue. Staying on the Trolley Trail, they ventured into the Victor Municipal Park to see the new bocce and volleyball courts. Exiting the park onto East Street, they turned onto Coville Street and ended back at Mickey Finn’s for some adult beverages, food and socializing. Again, no camera. Shame on us.

February 8— Again, a very cold day. No one wanted to hike to the hamlet of Mendon, so the eight hiked from the Fishers Fire Station on Main Street Fishers to Chauncy’s home via the Auburn, Domine and Lehigh Trails for some warm drinks and homemade snacks. They returned to the start, hiking through Fishers Park. Guess what? No camera, no pictures.

March 8— At least the sun was shining for part of our hike in Mendon Ponds Park. 11 trekkers met at the beach area parking lot and hiked for about 2 hours, mostly on the northwest side of the park. There were a few hills and some woods to protect them from the bitter wind. The leader brought his camera, but forgot to take any pictures. I promised we will do better next time. Below are some pictures from past hikes.

Photos by Dave Wright

Black capped Chickadee at Mendon Ponds Park.
November, 2011

Dryer Road Park
January, 2012
Upcoming Hikes

**Canadice Lake Trail**— We will meet at Victor Town Hall on Saturday April 12th at 9:00 a.m. and carpool to the trailhead at the north end of Canadice Lake. There is a fairly large parking lot on Purcell Hill Road. See map. If you live south of Victor, you can meet us at the trailhead at 9:45 a.m. We will hike the gravel service road that runs parallel to the west side of the lake for about two miles until we come to the trail that heads up the side of the hill and goes all the way to the top of Bald Hill. There we will hike on Rob’s Trail on Nature Conservancy land. Total length of the hike is about six miles, with one hill. Bring a bag lunch and something to drink. Good hiking boots are recommended. Dress for the weather. We should be back in Victor by 2:00 p.m.

**Chimney Bluffs**— Located on the east side of Sodus Bay on the shores of Lake Ontario, this State Park is known for its sand spires. There are several trails throughout the park.

**Mendon Ponds Park**— The ADK Outdoor Expo at Mendon Ponds is a great way to explore the park, learn about camping, boating, geocaching, map and compass reading, and many other outdoor activities. You can paddle a kayak or canoe on 100 Acre Pond or take a guided hike on the trails. And you can stop by the VHT booth to see what’s new with our trails.
Some may say they "never heard of a Talking Horse" but then came the television sitcom "Mr.Ed" about zany escapades of a talking horse named Mr. Ed, his owner Wilbur Post, and other characters. And so too you may say you have never heard of "Springwater Trails", ... "well listen to this", please read on.

The concept of a Springwater Trail was originally developed in 2006 through a grassroots effort of community persons who respected the beauty and natural resources of Hemlock, Canadice, Honeoye and Conesus Lakes. The Town of Springwater approved the establishment of the Springwater Parks and Trails Committee with eight members on June 7, 2010. The Committee established a weekly hiking group in October 2010 to explore, identify, and research the existing and potential trails in and around the Springwater area.

The Committee presented a plan for the Springwater Trail to the Town Board on November 14, 2011. In March 2012, The Springwater Trails Organization dedicated to supporting the creation of the Springwater Trail was established as a separate entity from Springwater municipality. This organization was Incorporated in May of 2013. Springwater Trails is a 100% volunteer organization with no paid staff.

Springwater Trails, Inc focuses on two primary goals:
1. Planning, clearing and maintaining the Springwater Trail in the town of Springwater.
2. Sponsoring weekly hikes during all four seasons in and around Springwater, open to all hikers.

The website http://springwatertrails.org is maintained to communicate with members of the organization and other interested hikers concerning trail building and hiking opportunities.

The Springwater Trail is envisioned to eventually be a complete loop around the Town of Springwater. The first section was opened on July 1, 2012 and further establishment efforts continue. The trail will pass through the Hemlock-Canadice State Forest and will cross land owned by many Springwater property owners. Leaders of Springwater Trails Inc have been benefactors of some salient guidance toward achieving trail & hiking goals from many existing groups in the area, including the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, the Crescent Trail Association and Victor Hiking Trails. Springwater Trails (S/T) is pursuing cooperative hiking efforts with VHT & other area groups as of late.

Springwater Trails hiking group hikes are planned at myriad locales for almost every Sunday afternoon during all four seasons, with a few holiday Sundays off, and are generally targeted for approximately a 2 hour hike. Hikes often have an optional after-hike social following the hike, either in a "pot-luck" bring a dish to pass format or patronize a local venue often a bar&grill, burger joint, diner, etc. Some Sunday hikes are planned as trail maintenance hikes also usually with an after-hike social. All hikers are welcome at S/T hikes, no need to be a member of S/T to hike with the group. Annual S/T membership dues provide for a years membership in S/T for hikers who wish to become members.

Occasionally S/T holds a joint hike with one or more other hiking groups, and occasionally schedules a special event hike consisting of opportunities in addition to a hike and after-hike social. One such special event hike is scheduled for Sunday June 1, 2014 where hikers from VHT Hiking Group & Olean Hiking Group are both specifically invited to join S/T for a free tour of Mount Morris Dam, hikes in the area, suggested activities for non-hiking family members to participate in & around Mount Morris, and an after-hike social pot-luck picnic.

Additionally of note: Springwater Trails is holding a Spring fundraiser Maple Syrup & Pancake Breakfast/Lunch at a Maple Sugaring farm in March 2014. The fundraiser will be at Stoney Ridge Farms March 22&23, and 29&30. Both weekends are Maple Weekend in New York. Stoney Ridge Farms, located at 625 County Rd 28 at the corner of Rushmore Rd in the Town of Farmington, is having an open-house from 10 to 4 in their new Sugar House with demonstrations of the syrup making equipment, tastings, and lots of information about Maple Syrup. Between 10 and 2, Springwater Trails will be serving a pancake breakfast/lunch with Maple syrup, coffee, juice and (oh yeah) pancakes. All you pancake and real Maple Syrup loving hikers are invited and you will be supporting Springwater Trails at the same time. Non-hikers are also welcome of course. -- Of note, this event is pretty darn close to Victor, so please come on out and enjoy.

Stoney Ridge Maple Farm, situate # 625 County Rd 28 (aka Alderman Rd) on corner of Rushmore Rd, Farmington, NY (Palmyra zipcode 14522) Please park on Rushmore Rd. GPS Coordinates are: 43.009355,-77.277317 http://rodasstoneyridgefarms.wordpress.com/how-to-find-us/

Most common geography of S/T scheduled hikes is Livingston, Ontario, Yates & Steuben Counties. The City of Rochester watershed surrounding Hemlock and Canadice Lakes & surrounds, formerly owned by the City and now owned by NYS and managed as NYSDEC Hemlock-Canadice State Forest is one definitive land resource that provides numerous hike locales within Livingston & Ontario Counties, branch trails of the Finger Lakes Trail pro-

(Continued on page 9)
Backpacking Checklist
(From L.L.Bean)
Backpacking is a challenging and fun way to have an outdoor adventure. Use this list to make sure you have all the gear you need for a fun, safe and comfortable experience.

• Backpack
• Tent
• Ground Cloth
• Sleeping Bag
• Sleeping Pad
• Extra Clothing/Rain Gear
• Hiking Poles/Staff
• Stove & Fuel
• Cookware & Utensils
• Water Purification
• Water Bottles/Carriers
• Itinerary
• Map & compass/GPS
• Headlamp/flashlight/lantern
• Fire Starter Kit
• Sun Protection Apparel/Lotion
• Sunglasses
• First Aid Kit
• Knife/Multi-tool
• Cell Phone
• Clean-up Supplies
• Personal Hygiene
• Food, Bag/Bear Canister
• Repair Kit

Backpack— Check for loose, broken straps. Ensure proper fit for maximum comfort.

Tent— Set up your tent in the backyard before your trip to become familiar with the process and to make sure you have all the components.

Ground Cloth— Protects the bottom of your tent. Make sure the edges are tucked under the tent to prevent water from pooling under the tent floor.

Sleeping Bag— Make sure you choose the correct temperature rating for your area. 20°F bags are generally the most versatile. Wear a wool or synthetic hat to prevent heat loss while sleeping.

Sleeping Pad— Can be full length or 3/4, self-inflating or waffle style. It will insulate you from the ground.

Extra Clothing/Rain Gear— Pack the layers you would need to survive the night in the worse possible weather for the location and season. All base layers should be synthetic or wool.

Hiking Poles/Staff— They reduce strain on the knees and provide added stability, Wrap a few feet of duct tape around the poles for quick access when needed.

Stove & Fuel— Test and retest your stove before your trip. Bring a spare tank of stove fuel and waterproof matches.

Cookware & Utensils— Nesting pots and using aluminum foil for a lid take up less space. A spoon, spatula and sharp knife are a must. Pack one cup, plate and bowl for each member of your group. A mesh bag is a great way to dry and store your items.

Water Purification— Boiling water is effective but is time consuming and uses up precious fuel. Use purification tablets, water filters or water purifiers that use UV light and chemical reactions.

Water Bottles/Carriers— Carry two 32 oz. water bottles while hiking and have a larger collapsible container for your campsite for washing up and doing the dishes.

Itinerary— For any multi-day excursion you should leave a detailed written itinerary with a family member or trusted friend. Make sure they know your route and when you expect to finish. Call them when you are back to your car.

(Continued on page 7)
Map & Compass/GPS—Always carry a detailed map of the area you are visiting. Your compass can be a simple dial style, although one with a base plate is quite helpful when using it with a map. GPS units and smart phones are helpful but you must know how to use your map and compass in case the GPS or phone fails. Always carry spare batteries for your GPS.

Headlamp/Flashlight/Lantern—Always carry a headlamp in case you are out longer than planned. They are also helpful when you are setting up camp or cooking at night, freeing up your hands. Always have spare batteries and a back-up light. For the campsite, it’s a good idea to have a lantern or flashlight.

Fire Starter Kit—This is necessary for starting your stove or in an emergency when starting a fire is critical to stay warm. Your kit should include waterproof matches with a striker in a waterproof container and fire starter such as candles. A small amount of tinder kept in a waterproof container is also helpful. Dryer lint, wax-soaked cotton balls and wood shavings are three examples of good tinder.

Sun Protection Apparel & Lotion—Sun-blocking apparel is a convenient way to protect yourself from the sun. It won’t wear off during the day like lotion. You can buy hats, shirts and pants. For hands and face, use a waterproof sun screen applied before you head out on the trail and reapply a couple of times according to the directions. It is also recommended to use an SPF lip balm.

Sunglasses—Good sunglasses and a brimmed hat will protect your eyes and help keep you comfortable.

First Aid Kit—There are many good first aid kits available that pack small if you don’t want to make your own. A supplemental blister kit with moleskin and blister-specific adhesive strips are recommended. Make sure all members of your group have all their required prescriptions.

Knife/Multi-tool—From cutting off the end of an errant strap to making a fuzz stick for fire starting, a knife has many uses. A multi-tool with small scissors, tweezers, screwdrivers, can opener, etc. solves even more problems.

Cell Phone—A fully charged cell phone can be a great way to get help in an emergency situation, but you may not have service in remote areas. Don’t rely on a cell phone as a substitute for being prepared.

Clean-up Supplies—Keep sponges and scouring pads in a plastic zip bag. They’ll stay wet and a bit soapy. A dishcloth and a roll of paper towels will come in handy. Use biodegradable soap if possible.

Personal Hygiene—Bring toilet paper, a trowel, toothbrush, toothpaste, wash cloth and a towel. Hand sanitizer is good.

Food/Bag/Bear Canister—Next to staying hydrated, keeping “fueled” is crucial to safely enjoying your adventures. Regular small snacks keep your energy going throughout the day. Before heading out, eat foods that are rich in calories and that take a while to digest. On the trail, eat sports bars and gorp (“good old raisins and peanuts”, often supplemented with chocolate) to provide quick energy throughout the day. A sleeping bag stuff bag can be used as a bear bag. Bring plenty of rope to hang your food away from the clever critters. In some places, like the Adirondack High Peaks, bear canisters are mandatory.

Repair Kit—Handy field repair items include duct tape, nylon repair tape, wire ties, safety pins and parachute cord. A needle and thread is also good to have for a quick fix. A space blanket or small section of poly can be used for an emergency shelter.

Visit llbean.com/adventure where you’ll find opportunities to learn more in classes, clinics and tours with L.L.Bean Outdoor Discovery Schools.
Cycling Checklist
(From L.L.Bean)
Whether you are looking for fitness or doing errands, riding your bike requires some preparation. Use this list to make sure you are ready to have a fun, safe and comfortable cycling experience.

- Bike
- Helmet
- Water Bottle/Hydration Pack
- Sunglasses
- Tire Levers
- Spare Tube/Patch Kit
- Bike Multi-tool
- Pump
- Seat Bag
- Bike Computer
- Bike Lock
- Light/Flashers
- Cycling Apparel
- Sunscreen
- Energy Snacks
- Emergency Contact Information
- Cell phone
- Money/Credit Card

**Bike**—Make sure your bike fits properly and is tuned up. If you have any concerns, take it to your local bike shop for a tune-up and a proper fit session.

**Helmet**—Follow manufacturer’s guidelines to make sure it’s the right size. It should be snug but not uncomfortably tight. A properly sized helmet will not move easily and should sit level on your head with the front edge no more than an inch above your eyebrows.

**Water Bottle/Hydration Pack**—A single 24 oz. water bottle is enough for rides of an hour or less; bring two bottles or a hydration pack for longer rides. Sports drinks can help you stay energized on all-day excursions.

**Sunglasses**—Even if the sun isn’t out, wear sunglasses to protect your eyes from road debris and/or bugs. Choose dark lenses for bright days, clear or light tinted for overcast and low-light situations like mountain biking in the woods.

**Tire Levers**—Carry a minimum of two tire levers to help get the tire off the rim when changing a tube.

**Spare Tube/Patch Kit**—Practice changing a tube and inflating at home so you’ll be confident on the road.

**Bike Multi-tool**—A small multi-tool with common Allen wrenches such as 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 mm as well as Philips and flat head screwdriver. A chain tool, chain master link and the knowledge of how to use them to fix a chain can be the difference between continuing your ride and hitchhiking home.

**Pump**—Bring either a small frame pump or an inflator that uses CO$_2$ cartridges (with spare cartridges).

**Seat Bag**—A small compact bag that fits under your seat to hold spare tube, inflator, energy gels, patch kit, tools, money and keys. Larger versions will handle a wind shell, cable lock, gloves, etc.

**Bike Computer**—While not a necessity, they are great for monitoring distance, speed and time.

**Bike Lock**—Nice to have if you plan on stopping and spending time off the bike. Make sure you’re locking the bike to something solid. A cable or chain may be needed in some cases.

**Light/Flashers**—An absolute requirement if you ride early or late in the day. Be sure to have a bright white light in front and a flashing red light for the rear of your bike.

**Cycling Apparel**—High visibility clothing is recommended for riding safety any time of day. Cycling shorts with padding help you stay comfortable in the saddle. Comfort bike seats usually require less padding, while performance road seats pair better with higher-end shorts that have shaped multi-density pads. Full length tights are excellent for cooler days. Bike jerseys with rear pockets are handy for carrying a cell phone, money, keys and snacks. Light weight shells can help keep you warm on cool spring or fall days. Most compress down to fit in the back pocket of your jersey. Padded gloves protect vulnerable nerves in your hands on long rides. If you ride in inclement weather, be sure to have a good waterproof rain suit.

(Continued on page 9)
Pre-ride Safety Quick Check

**Energy Snacks**—They help “bonking” if you are out for more than an hour. Make sure you eat before you feel hungry.

**Emergency Contact Information**—Keep it on you or in your bag in case of an accident or emergency.

**Cell Phone**—Primarily for an emergency, but it’s handy for reaching help in case of a mechanical breakdown or severe weather. Also good if you are running late and need to notify someone.

**Money/Credit Card**—Good for roadside pit stops, lunch or coffee breaks. Also when stopping at the bike shop.

Visit L.L.Bean for all your outdoor sports needs.
## Trail Maintenance for 2014

We meet Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM and most Saturday and Monday mornings at 8:00 AM, from May through September. Volunteers should come equipped with sturdy shoes and proper covering against poison ivy. The work usually lasts about one to two hours. Sometimes we cancel due to rain and then shift the schedule. We may also cancel during extended dry spells or excessive heat. We now have three crew leaders, each responsible for the days we work. Chauncy Young (455-1932) covers Saturdays, Nat Fisher (752-3417) covers Wednesdays and Larry Fisher (880-9090) covers Mondays. Please call the crew members if you are unsure of the location or if we plan to meet. You can also call the Trail Boss any time at 880-9090 for additional information. You can also click the location column on our online calendar [www.victorhikingtrails.org](http://www.victorhikingtrails.org) and get directions to our worksite for the day.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Trail</th>
<th>Start Location</th>
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<td>Seneca</td>
<td>Auburn Creek Trailhead, Rt. 251 about 1/8 mile West of Rt. 96</td>
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<td>RG&amp;E Substation, Dryer Rd corner of Rt. 444 into Gonandagan</td>
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<td>Willow Brook Rd. trailhead just south of the Thruway bridge</td>
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<td>Monkey Run</td>
<td>Valentown Road Trailhead at the gas pipeline access road</td>
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<td>Trolley</td>
<td>Lehigh Crossing Park, Rt. 251 about 1/8 mile West of Rt. 96</td>
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<td><strong>Meeting</strong></td>
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<td>5/19 Mo</td>
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<td>Lehigh at Wangum Rd. then Fishers Landing, Rt. 96</td>
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<td>Fishers Park</td>
<td>Main St. Fishers Parking lot</td>
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<td>Auburn</td>
<td>East Victor Rd trailhead going east, then School St. trailhead</td>
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<td>Seneca</td>
<td>High Point</td>
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<td><strong>Event</strong></td>
<td>National Trails day</td>
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Visit our sponsors and tell them you saw their advertisement in the VHT Pathfinder.
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.

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 __
Special Events __ History / Education __

Amount submitted $10 ___ $20 ___ $100 ___ $250 ___ other $__________

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

All VHT newsletters are now available on our website. View it and download it in full color.

Filling the gaps in Victor

Check out our website at www.victorhikingtrails.org

Join us on Facebook!

VHT Map Link