

# VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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91 people, of all ages, came out to help us celebrate the joining of two trails, two trail groups, two towns and two counties. *Page 3*

Dr. Graham Bradley, an expert in geomorphology at SUNY Oswego, explained the formation of the interesting spires at the water's edge. *Page 3.*

A life-long resident of the Hamlet of Fishers, Nat was a long-time member of Victor Hiking Trails... *Page 5.*

Twenty years and over \$2 million later, we have a completed trail and a substantial bridge. *Page 6.*

## National Trails Day, another success

Saturday, June 7th was the 22nd Annual National Trails Day hike. And Victor Hiking Trails had another terrific day. Nearly 100 enthusiasts came to our day of hiking in Victor. It was a perfect day for easy hikes on the trails around the hamlet of Fishers, NY.



Many of the hikers arrived at 8:30 a.m. at the Fishers fire station #1 for a free continental breakfast, followed by brief remarks by VHT Chairman Dave Wright and Victor Parks and Recreation Director Brian Emelson.

## AMERICAN HIKING SOCIETY NATIONAL TRAILS DAY®

The large group was then divided into two smaller, more manageable, separate groups. One group, led by Dave Wright, hiked on the Auburn Trail, Domine Trail, Lehigh Trail, Lehigh Crossing Park, and back on the Auburn Trail for a 3-mile hike, ending back at the fire station. The second group, led by Chauncy Young, hiked over to Fishers Park to walk the many trails in the park. They also hiked three miles and returned to the fire station about 10:45 a.m. After a quick snack, the two groups then switched and hiked the other trails.

A free pizza lunch was enjoyed by everyone while the winner of the 50/50 raffle was announced. Additional drawings were made for donated gifts from The North Face, L.L.Bean, Tri Running and Walking, Mickey Finn's, and several others.

The last hike was on the newest section of the Auburn Trail, from the fire station to Powder Mills Park and back. Most of the hikers who did this hike also did the first two hikes, so they were awarded a free year of membership in VHT.

Congrats and thank you to all who came out to support VHT!!!

## HIKES FOR 2014

### VHT 2014 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman  
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman  
 Open– 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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*The Victor Hiking Trails  
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Dave Wright, Editor  
 Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.  
 85 East Main Street  
 Victor, NY 14564

(585) 234-8226

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July 12– Conklin Gully Creek walk.  
 Aug 9– Grimes Glen Creek walk.  
 Sept 6– Hang Around Victor Day. Stop by our booth.  
 Sept 13– Bike ride on the Lower Genesee Riverway Trail.  
 Sept 28– 4th Annual Challenge Hike, Boughton Park to Perinton. Meet at Bed, Bath & Beyond at Eastgate Plaza, Turk Hill Rd.  
 Oct 11– Keuka Outlet Trail hike from Penn Yan to Dresden.  
 Nov 8– Monkey Run and MaryFrances Bluebird Haven. Meet at MaryFrances 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.**

**WANTED**– A secretary to attend our board meetings, once a month. Take notes at the meeting, type and submit to the chairman.

**WANTED**– Trail Maintenance crew leader for Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings. It would be good if you had a hitch to pull a small trailer.

## Past Hikes

**April 12 – Canadice Lake Trail hike.** Five trekkers hiked along the access road on the west side of Canadice Lake to the trail that traverses up the side hill, known as Rob's Trail, to the top. The upper property, owned and maintained by The Nature Conservancy, can also be accessed by an entrance on NYS Route 15A. Once farmed, this open field is slowly reverting back to forest.



**April 13– Special hike with Crescent Trails.** WOW, what a turn out for VHT and CT!!! 91 people, of all ages, came out to help us celebrate the joining of two trails, two trail groups, two towns and two counties. David Schaffer, Crescent Trails Trailmaster, was the key coordinator of this special hike from Valen-town Museum in Victor to Woodcliff Hotel in Perinton. The town supervisors of Perinton and Victor cut the ribbon, officially opening the trail connection.



**May 10 – Chimney Bluffs hike.** Twelve folks hiked at the NYS park Chimney Bluffs, located on the east side of Sodus Bay at the shore of Lake Ontario. Dr. Graham Bradley, an expert in geomorphology at SUNY Oswego, explained the formation of the interesting spires at the water's edge.



Dr. Graham Bradley, Geologist at SUNY Oswego at Chimney Bluffs with cobblestone in a sandstone matrix from ancient glaci-ations till found in Africa. -- © Ralph Weber

**Jun 7 – National Trails Day, Fishers Park.** See front page for details.

**Jun 14 – Mendon Ponds Park.** Eight hikers did a quick trek around the eastern part of the park, enjoying the cool, brisk morning. It was also an opportunity to visit the organizations gathered at the park for the ADK Outdoor Expo. The VHT tent was visited by many interested folks wanting to learn more about our trails.

## Upcoming Hikes

**July 12– Conklin Gully Creek walk.** Ralph Weber, our Education Chairman, is working with the Naples Historical Society to have a hike leader knowledgeable about the area. They may be able to come on this hike or the one scheduled for next month. At any rate, bring your water shoes, dry socks and regular hiking boots so you are prepared for water and land. Bring a snack, bag lunch and a drink. Meet at Victor Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the parking area on Route 245 at Parish Hill Road.



Conklin Gully, July, 2004.

**Aug 9– Grimes Glen Creek walk.** This is the creek in Naples that gets the most visitors. Now part of Ontario County Parks, a new pedestrian bridge has been installed. The artwork on the bridge was done by Darryl Abraham, a Naples artist. We will hike on the path along the creek, in the creek and under the falls. Bring your bathing suit and a towel. Plan on lunch by the falls. Meet at Victor Town Hall at 9:00 a.m. to carpool to the parking area at the entrance to the park at the end of Vine Street.



**Sept 13– Bike ride on the Lower Genesee Riverway Trail.** The ride will start at the Seneca Park Zoo parking lot. Meet at the south end, away from the zoo entrance. We will ride north on the old railroad bed to the O'Rourke Bridge, cross the Genesee River, and follow the Riverway Trail back to the zoo. Side trip may include the pier, the lighthouse, and the lower falls, depending on the capabilities of the group.



## It was an honor to have worked with him

As many of you already know, we lost a dear friend and hard working volunteer on May 15th. Nat Fisher was our Secretary of the Board and a crew leader for our Wednesday night trail maintenance team. A life-long resident of the Hamlet of Fishers, Nat was a long-time member of Victor Hiking Trails and a past member of the Fishers Fire District. If you needed a volunteer for anything, Nat was always ready and willing to help. He was our go-to guy.

A special fund is being collected in his memory to be used to rebuild a bridge at Fishers Park in his honor. Donations can be mailed to Victor Hiking Trails. Our website is also set up to receive donations.



## Art on the Auburn Trail

After several years of planning and waiting for dry weather, the mural under the NYS Thruway has been started. Artist Emily Waldman, a Pittsford resident and student at Cornell University, has painted the “canvas” a beautiful shade of blue, sketched the outline, and started to paint the scene. She has asked the community to help with the painting and on Saturday, June 21st, she had several helpers stop by for an hour or more to fill in the blanks. Emily hopes to have it completed soon, so stop by to see what the mural looks like. We won't spoil the surprise by telling you what the final scene will look like.



Emily and the mural.

*Photo by Chauncy Young.*

## Ribbon Cutting on the Auburn Trail

The Auburn Trail was opened by Victor Hiking Trails in 1994 when the Town of Victor obtained a license from property owner RG&E. We cleared brush and debris from the old railroad bed and put up our VHT trail markers. One of the old stone culverts that allowed the train to pass over Irondequoit Creek was slowly washing into the creek, stone by stone. We applied for a grant and held several fund raisers to replace the culvert with a footbridge. Little did we realize how big of a project this would be. Twenty years and over \$2 million later, we have a completed trail and a substantial bridge. To



Brian thanking the people who helped improve the Auburn.

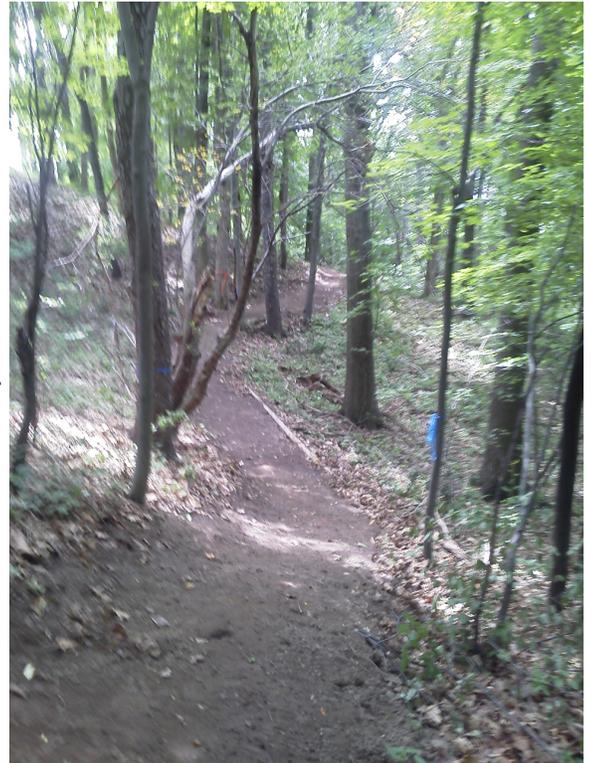
celebrate the completion of this project, Brian Emelson, Town of Victor Parks and Recreation Director, invited all of the volunteers, staff, committee members, friends, neighbors and professionals who contributed to this project, to an official ribbon cutting.

Approximately 30 folks listened to remarks by Victor Town Supervisor Jack Marren, VHT Chairman David Wright, Fisher Associates engineer Chris Smith and Brian Emelson, cheered the ribbon cutting and enjoyed the special cake and refreshments.

## Eagle Projects on the trails and in the parks

One done, two to go. Kyle Bensink, a Life Scout with Troop 61 in Victor, has completed his Eagle Project. The Seneca Trail now has a new, easier route, between High Point and Turk Hill Road. The trail used to traverse the steep hill under the 345 KV power lines by Office Max. It was very difficult to keep the trail mowed and a challenge to hike up, especially in the winter. With permission from the Rainaldi Bros. Inc., a new trail was laid out through the woods with some nice gentle grades. Kyle and his scout volunteers came on Saturday, June 21st, cut and filled a side hill path, removed dead trees and brush and marked a wonderful trail. It will be better for the hikers and better for trail maintenance. Thank you Kyle and Troop 61.

Ben Kransler, a Life Scout with Troop 60 in Victor, will be building a much needed boardwalk in Lehigh Crossing Park. He has the design completed, made a material list and got quotes from several lumber companies. He is scheduling the work for July, so it may be completed by the time you read this. Look for the new installation by the "Beaver Bridge", near the Auburn Trail.



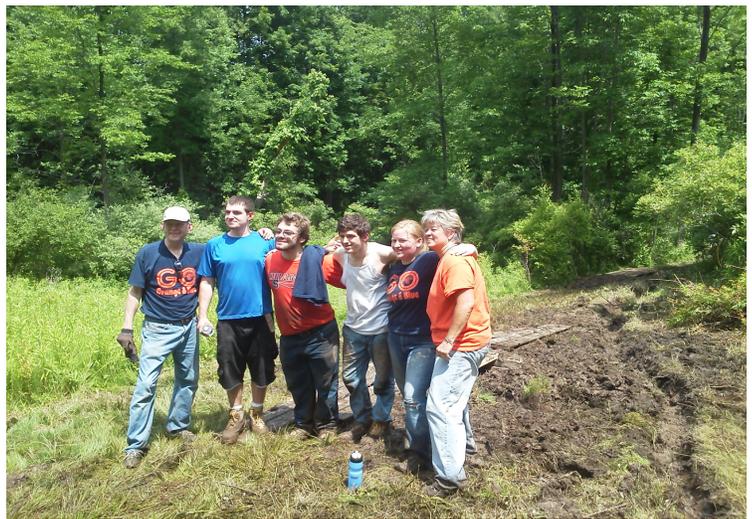
Seneca Trail at High Point.

Connor Reese, also a Life Scout with Troop 60, has taken on a bridge project in Ganondagan State Historic Site. He also has a design, material list and cost, so he will be in construction mode soon. Look for pictures in our next issue.

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## Community project completed

Carrie Fisher, one of Nat Fisher's daughters, invited a group of students from the Rochester School of the Deaf to come to Victor and work on a project in Ganondagan State Historic Site. The Seneca Trail traverses a side hill that has a spring that is always wet. Several years ago a group of VHT volunteers dug a ditch along the trail to catch the water and direct it under the trail. Over the years the ditch filled in and the trail got very muddy again. The RSD students came to the site on Monday, June 23rd with shovels and picks, created a new ditch and fixed the drain. This will greatly improve the trail. Thank you for coming to Victor.



Rochester School of the Deaf Students.

## ADK Outdoor EXPO

This year's EXPO was another great opportunity to spread the word about our 55+ miles of hiking and biking trails in Victor. Although the temperature never got above 60°F and the wind coming off 100 Acre Pond was making it feel colder, we were comfortable in Chauncy's EZ UP tent. Thank goodness we had the two sides and rear panel installed! The visitors were steady all day and they were very interested in talking to our volunteers. Thank you to all who came out to help.



## Trail Maintenance for 2014

Date	Trail	Start Location
7/9 We	Seneca	Auburn Creek Trailhead, Rt. 251 about 1/8 mile West of Rt. 96
7/12 Sa		Hike
7/14 Mo	Seneca	Willow Brook Rd. trailhead just south of the Thruway bridge
7/16 We	Seneca	High Point
7/19 Sa	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd corner of Rt. 444 into Gonandagan
7/21 Mo	Trolley	Lehigh Crossing Park, Rt. 251 about 1/8 mile West of Rt. 96
7/23 We	Monkey Run	Valentown Road Trailhead at the gas pipeline access road
7/26 Sa	Seneca	Boughton Hill Road West of School St. to Apple Farm.
7/28 Mo	Fishers Park	Main St. Fishers Parking lot
7/30 We	Seneca	Auburn Creek Trailhead, Rt. 251 about 1/8 mile West of Rt. 96
8/2 Sa	Seneca	Trailhead South end of Victor Crossing plaza, Rt. 96
8/4 Mo	Domine	Lehigh at Wangum Rd. then Fishers Landing, Rt. 96
8/6 We	Auburn	East Victor Rd trailhead going east, then School St. trailhead
8/9 Sa		Hike
8/11 Mo	Seneca	Auburn Creek Trailhead, Rt. 251 about 1/8 mile West of Rt. 96
8/13 We	Hundred Acre	South end of Yale Ct. then Blue Bird, Victor-Egypt Rd.
8/16 Sa	Seneca	High Point
8/18 Mo	Seneca	Willow Brook Rd. trailhead just south of the Thruway bridge
8/20 We	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd corner of Rt. 444 into Gonandagan
8/23 Sa	Seneca	Cherry St. to Boughton Park
8/25 Mo	Trolley	Lehigh Crossing Park, Rt. 251 about 1/8 mile West of Rt. 96
8/27 We	Monkey Run	Valentown Road Trailhead at the gas pipeline access road
8/30 Sa	Seneca	Boughton Hill Road West of School St. to Apple Farm.
9/1 Mo	Domine	Lehigh at Wangum Rd. then Fishers Landing, Rt. 96
9/3 We	Auburn	East Victor Rd trailhead going east, then School St. trailhead
9/6 Sa		Hang Around Victor
9/8 Mo	Seneca	Trailhead South end of Victor Crossing plaza, Rt. 96
9/10 We	Seneca	Auburn Creek Trailhead, Rt. 251 about 1/8 mile West of Rt. 96
9/13 Sa		Hike
9/15 Mo	Seneca	Cherry St. Apple Farm
9/17 We	Seneca	RG&E Substation, Dryer Rd corner of Rt. 444 into Gonandagan

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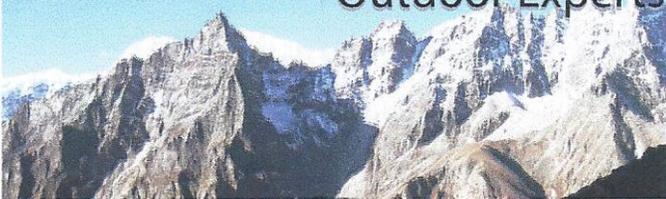
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**Annual membership is for 12 months, beginning when you first join. Please send your renewal check promptly so we don't have to come after you. We will use your dues and donations for new and improved trails.**

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