

# VHT Pathfinder

The Official Newsletter of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

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## Scout Projects Completed

Another great year for VHT trail improvements, thanks to local scouts.

**Nyle Masoom** completed building a small 12' long bridge and a 70' long boardwalk on the Seneca trail near the Apple Farm. He had lots of help from his troop and a few volunteers from VHT. See page 6 for photos.

**George Heltz** completed his bridge over Fish Creek at Victor Hills Golf Course, near East Victor Road. The 5' wide by 40' long bridge, with a 20' ramp on the east side and a 20' long elevated extension on the west side cost \$7500. George raised \$6000 through a GoFundMe account. Victor Parks and Recreation donated \$1000 and VHT donated \$500. I would encourage everyone to see what can be accomplished when you set a goal and stick with it. Unfortunately, there is construction along the trail right now, so you will need to wait until the trail is open again. See page 6 for photos.

**Laura Buggie** completed her project on July 16th. It is a new boardwalk on the yellow trail behind Monro Muffler on Route 96. Laura thanks the DiMarco Group, owner of the property, for a generous donation of \$1800 to pay for the materials. See page 6 for photos.

### Inside this issue:

We are working on a special hike this year.... *Page 2*

...to learn some basic astronomy and see the 24" telescope. *Page 3*

We will be hiking the south end of this section of trail. *Page 4*

Tickets will be available soon for the popular **Santa Train Excursions**, *Page 5*

## Update on Nat Fisher Memorial Bridge

VHT applied for and received a grant from the American Hiking Society for \$2500. With the funds already donated by friends of Nat, we are ready to start the removal of the old bridge and install the new bridge. All of the paperwork has been submitted to the DEC and ACOE. Removal of the old bridge and preparation for the foundations on both sides of the creek has started. If you would like to help, check out our Meetup calendar and website for dates and times. See page 6 for photos.

## Secretary Needed

The VHT Board of directors is in need of a secretary. This person would attend the monthly meetings held on the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Victor Town Hall, take notes and send the minutes of the meeting to the board members. That's it! Be a part of the team that helps make Victor a great community. Call 585-752-8313 to volunteer.

**VHT 2016 Officers:**

Dave Wright– Chairman  
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman  
 Suzy Paquin– Secretary  
 Barb Cole– Treasurer  
 Carol MacInnes– Trailmaster  
 Chauncy Young– Trail Boss  
 Peter Ingalsbe– Membership  
 Ralph Weber – Education  
 Suzy Paquin— Volunteer  
 Coordinator  
 Lisa Roberts — Social Media  
 Coordinator  
 David Coleman— Camping  
 Larry Fisher—Parks Liaison

**VHT Pathfinder**

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 Pathfinder* is published  
 quarterly for the  
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We encourage  
 submissions of letters,  
 editorial items and  
 advertising pertaining to  
 trails, Victor and the  
 environment.

Ask about our rates.  
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*VHT Pathfinder*, please  
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 Victor, NY 14564

(585) 234-8226

[www.victorhikingtrails.org](http://www.victorhikingtrails.org)  
 Also on Facebook  
 and Meetup  
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**HIKES FOR 2016**

October 8th— Finger Lakes Trail, Bristol Hills Branch, south end

November 12th— Valentown to Woodcliff and return. Meet at  
 Valentown at 9:00 a.m. One hour tour of  
 Valentown before hike.

December 10th— Lehigh Crossing Park. Meet at park at 9:00 a.m.

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details and last minutes updates. Also, if you join Meetup, Victor Hiking Trails, 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 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.**

**Challenge Hike**

We are working on a special hike this year and the final details are not set yet. So check Meetup or Facebook or our website for an announcement. We are planning for a Sunday morning in October. Hope you will be able to join us.

## Past Hikes

**July 9— Bike Ride on Ontario Pathways.** Lisa Roberts led a group of four on a ride from Phelps to Stanley and back. Because some of the trail is on a busy road, they did not go all the way to Stanley. They went about six miles. Then they drove to Manchester and rode on the paved Manchester Gateway Trail, a distance of about 3 miles.

**August 5— Mees Observatory.** 20+ members met at Jumpoff for an evening hike at Ontario County Park at 6:00 p.m. and then drove to the U of R Mees Observatory to learn some basic astronomy and see the 24" telescope. There was no moon, so the stars and planets were very visible, but the threat of rain meant no viewing through the telescope. There are several pictures on our Meetup page.



**August 13— Conklin Gully.** Because of our local drought, the creek was nearly empty. 5 hikers made it up to Angel Falls and then came down via the North Rim Trail. Lunch at Roots Café' was enjoyed by all.

**September 3— Ring of Fire at Bare Hill.** Twelve folks from the Victor area drove to Bare Hill and hiked to the summit for the traditional bonfire at 9:00 P.M. The weather was perfect with a slight crescent moon.



**September 10— Hike in the Village.** Chauncy Young led a hike around the Village while other members talked to visitors about the many trails in town.

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## Farmington Family Fun Fest

VHT had a booth at the first annual FFFF to show residents all the hiking and biking trails that are available in Victor and to talk about the new Auburn Trail extension that will connect Victor and Canandaigua with a multi-use trail. The goal is to have the Farmington section completed by the end of 2017. It will run from Mertensia Park to Purdy Road. The City and Town of Canandaigua will be responsible for the construction of a wide sidewalk on Brickyard Road.

## Upcoming Hikes

**October 8— Bristol Hills Branch, Finger Lakes Trail.** We will be hiking the south end of this section of trail. Fall colors should be near peak. Expect some hilly terrain with plenty of rest stops for water. Looking at 7 to 8 miles of hiking. Bring a bag lunch and something to drink. Wear sturdy hiking boots. Meet at Victor Town Hall at 9:00 a.m.. Check Meetup for alternate meeting location and time.

**November 12— Valentown to Woodcliff.** Meet at Valentown Hall, across from Eastview Mall on High Street, at 9:00 a.m. for a special one-hour tour of Valentown Hall. After the tour there will be a hike to Woodcliff Hotel and back on the Seneca

Trail and a section of the Crescent Trail in Perinton. Bring a snack and drink for this hilly hike of about six miles.

**December 10— Lehigh Crossing Park.** Meet at the park, located on Route 251 about 1/4 mile south of Route 96, at 9:00 a.m. The hike will include the trails in the park, the Lehigh Trail, the red and yellow trails out to Fishers Landing Plaza, the Omnitech Place Trail, the Auburn Trail and the Trolley Trail. All of these trails are fairly flat and easy. Bring a snack and drink. Dress for the weather in layers.

### VHT is now a Meetup Group

Now you can find VHT on Meetup. No cost to join.

This is another means of communicating our monthly hikes, weekly trail maintenance sched-

ule, scout projects and special events.

To join, search for Victor Hiking Trails Meetup or go to this:

<http://www.meetup.com/Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup/>

### Mural Update

Our resident artist, Emily Waldman, has committed to finishing the mural under the NYS Thruway this year. Note the details she has added to the background. She has amazing talent. She needs all the help she can get to accomplish this goal. Please check our website and Meetup to see when her next scheduled paint party will be held. Be a part of this community project.



## Trail Maintenance — 2016

Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out and helped clear the trails of wild rose, Russian olive, sumac, and other invasive brush. We had a great turnout on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Usually 6 to 8 happy workers. Friday mornings were hit and miss during the season. Usually 3 to 5 would be able to make it. Saturday was reserved for major projects and we had many this summer as noted on page 1..

Special thanks goes to our Trail Boss Chauncy Young. He was at every session again this year. He started an hour before the session and worked on the equipment for at least a half hour after each session. He bought a drink for everyone after the work was done. He put in extra sessions cutting downed trees when they blocked the trails. He made sure all the equipment was in tip-top working order. He made sure that everyone who came to help had an important job. If it wasn't for Chauncy, the trails would not be as great as they are.

As we plan for the 2017 season, with more trails being added to the area, please let us know if you will be able to help keep the trails clear. Don't wait until next May. Sign up for our Meetup page. Make the commitment today.



### **The Santa Train Excursions will run in 2016!**

Tickets will be available soon for the popular **Santa Train Excursions**, sponsored by Victor's Friends of the Railroad, Inc. to be held in the Village of Victor, NY.

Be sure to bring your camera for a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will be along for the ride.

Check out the website at [www.friendsoftherailroad.org](http://www.friendsoftherailroad.org) or Facebook/Friends of the Railroad for more information



Nyle Masoom's volunteers from Troop 167 of Pittsford built this 12' long bridge on the Seneca Trail. It is on Ganondagan property near the Apple Farm.



Laura Buggie's boardwalk on the Yellow Trail at Fishers Landing Plaza.



George Heltz (back row, 8th from left) and his volunteers.



The old bridge in Fishers Park, ready to be dismantled.



Town of Victor backhoe helped dig the trenches for the foundation on the east side.



Carole and Larry Fisher dig the trenches on the west side.

## The Emerald Ash Borer Has Arrived

Over the last few years I've been involved in early detection projects working with a number of organizations, including NYS Parks, in searching local parks, forests and historic sites for signs and symptoms of the Emerald Ash Borer insect. The goal is to find signs and symptoms of this insect so that management efforts can be put into place to minimize its damage to ash trees. Based on the latest mapping data by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, I won't have to travel far to find signs of Emerald Ash Borer.

The Emerald Ash Borer, or known as EAB, has been in the local, regional, and national news. If you haven't heard, EAB is a boring beetle native to Asia. This beetle feeds on ash trees just under the bark. It's believed to have been introduced into this country through wooden packing materials from Asia. It was first identified in 2002 in Michigan and has spread to at least 18 states. The distribution of ash wood products, including fire wood, is known to be a contributing factor to its spread. What's at stake? It's estimated that the num-

ber of ash trees already lost are in the millions. The loss of these trees means entire ecosystems can be negatively affected including bird, insect, fish, etc.

I recently made a comparison of EAB mapping that is done by the NYS DEC that tracks the spread of EAB throughout the state. I compared a mapping that was done in May 2015 and one done in June 2016. It's clear that the range of EAB has extended further through western NY. The June 2016 map has identified positive EAB locations in both Farmington and Victor. My personal experiences also demonstrates its spread. I was doing some presentations at Hickory Hill Campground in Bath this summer and on my first visit noted extensive dead ash trees. I approached the owner, who explained that they have had to remove over 600 ash trees from their site from effects of EAB. I have conducted EAB surveys at Harriet Hollister State Park in Springwater and reported positive EAB signs and symptoms (tree crown thinning,

*(Continued on page 8)*



A piece of firewood that has S-shaped EAB galleries on it.



Deceased ash trees with S-shaped EAB galleries on them.

*(Continued from page 7)*

vertical bark splits, epicormic shoots, “D” shaped exit holes, woodpecker activity, and “S” feeding galleries under the bark) to both NYS Parks and the New York National Heritage Program. I also spoke with Brigitte Wierzbicki, Lead Conservation Steward at Ganondagan. She reports that in conducting EAB surveys in April 2016 EAB was determined to be on the site due to heavy woodpecker damage and ash tree mortality. She also reports that ongoing monitoring will continue, damaged trees will be removed, and management of the impending forest succession once the ash trees are gone.

I attended many trainings on EAB that focused on efforts being put forth to develop early detection methods and subsequent plans to attempt to manage the threat of EAB once identified. These include chemical treatments, introducing insects that prey on EAB, and proactive ash tree removal. In conversations I’ve had with those working on these projects, a barrier has been the lack of data on successes of the various methods as these methods are still being tested. This is compounded by the rapid spread of EAB. This is forcing groups to begin thinking in terms of how to manage forests after the decrease of ash are decreased. I had the opportunity of working with The Mid Atlantic Regional Seed Bank, or MARSB, on their ash seed collection project. In their mission it states “Our goal is to collect seed from targeted native plant species across every eco-region in the Mid Atlantic.” Ash seeds were collected and sent to

both long term and short term storage facilities to be maintained and kept viable. These seeds will be available to plant ash trees to replace the ones lost to EAB. I was able to collect seeds locally, including at Boughton Park (thank you Boughton Park Board!) for this project.

Unfortunately, Emerald Ash Borer arrived. The good news is there are many organizations committed to managing EAB and its affects in both the short and long term. Along with numerous web based resources specific to EAB, here are some great additional resources available on this topic.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation [www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

NYS Department of Agriculture  
[www.agriculture.ny.gov](http://www.agriculture.ny.gov)

New York Natural Heritage Program  
[www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29338.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29338.html)  
MARSB

[www.marsb.org](http://www.marsb.org)  
New York Invasive Species  
[www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info)

If you have questions or would like information about volunteering opportunities please contact me at [shagbarkbrook@outlook.com](mailto:shagbarkbrook@outlook.com).

Bob Lasher  
Master Naturalist Level III



D-shaped exit hole in the bark.

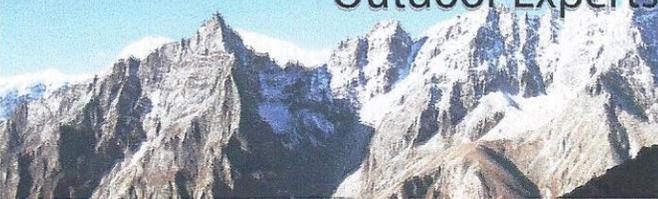
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View it and download it in full color.

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

*Filling the gaps in Victor*

Check out our website at  
[www.victorhikingtrails.org](http://www.victorhikingtrails.org)

Join us on Facebook!

And Meetup!



VHT Map Link

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

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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.

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