



# VHT Pathfinder

**25 YEARS AND GROWING**

Volume 22, Issue 3  
Fall, 2017

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## Victor Hiking Trails- The Early Years

*By Lisa Roberts*

Victor Hiking Trails members are celebrating the organization’s twenty-fifth anniversary this fall. September 24, 1991 was the first official meeting of what is now Victor Hiking Trails, Inc. The idea of forming a hiking group and developing trails in the Town of Victor was the brainchild of Marcia Bryan. Marcia was a member of the Victor Conservation Board, and enjoyed being outdoors hiking and skiing. In the late 1980’s Marcia approached the Town Board with a proposal to develop hiking trails. She was concerned that rapid development in the Town would limit outdoor recreation opportunities and remove many acres of green space. The proposal was met with approval from the Board, but, unfortunately, the Board did not have funding to contribute. However, the Town Board did approve the extension of town insurance coverage to include VHT activities.

Marcia was not deterred, thinking there was probably interest in the community to support her plans. An informational meeting was announced via the local paper. Based on attendance and interest at the informational meeting, the first meeting of the Victor Trail Association was scheduled. Sixteen people attended the first meeting, held on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1991, in the Victor Town Hall.

Some very familiar names were among those involved in forming what is now Victor Hiking Trails. Marcia became Chairperson; Carol MacInnes, Ruth Nellis, & Ron Czadzeck were Trailmasters. Larry Fisher was Trail Boss and David Wright & Lee Carl comprised the Trail Committee. Sue Freeman became secretary; she and her husband Rich managed printing and mailing of the meeting minutes.

Also key to the success of building trails in Victor are the private landowners that grant permits to Victor Hiking Trails. The first landowners that granted access to their land were Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ryon, whose land was at the corner of Valentown Rd and County Rd #9. The trails were officially opened in September of 1993 with a ribbon cutting ceremony and named Monkey Run. Wanting to develop more trails, Harry Lloyd started work that would lead to the development of miles of rail trails in the Town of Victor. Conversion of former railroad beds began in the summer of 1992. A work party led by Chauncy Young, Larry Fisher, Dave Wright, and Rich and Sue Freeman began clearing the old Auburn Line railbed starting at the Fishers Firehall and working north. That work continued through the fall of 1994 and included the first major fund raiser, “Victor Bridge Walk, Bridging Two Counties” in September of 1994.

Victor Hiking Trails learned much from neighboring Crescent Trails Association, and built upon those ideas to become an invaluable part of the quality of life residents of the Town of Victor enjoy.

*(Continued on page 5)*

**VHT 2017 Officers:**

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

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 Pathfinder* is published  
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 of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.

We encourage  
 submissions of letters,  
 editorial items and  
 advertising pertaining to  
 trails, Victor and the  
 environment.

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[www.victorhikingtrails.org](http://www.victorhikingtrails.org)  
 Also on Facebook  
 and Meetup  
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**VHT MONTHLY HIKES FOR 2017**

October 14th—Dryer Road Park to Lehigh Crossing  
 Park

November 11th—Powder Mills Park

December 9th—Lucien Moran Park (Old Rifle Range)

**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.**

**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

### August 12th—Chimney Bluffs State Park.

Several members were curious to see if the high lake levels had eroded the sandstone cliffs. Eight hikers enjoyed a walk along the cliff (that had become narrower) and explored the beach area where possible. It was noted that several clay deposits were exposed due to the Spring and early Summer lake levels and storms. After the hike the group stopped in Sodus Point for a hearty lunch.



*Photo by Chauncy Young*

### September 2nd—Ring of Fire at Bare Hill, evening hike.

It was a beautiful evening for a bonfire at the top of Bare Hill. 12 members followed Chauncy up the lower trails and through a wildflower field to the top of the hill. We relaxed and ate our dinner/snacks as the sun slowly set over Canandaigua Lake. At 9:00 PM Peter Jemison, Park Manager at Ganondagan State Historic Site in Victor, gave thanks for the bountiful crops and lit the stack of dry wood that resembled a teepee. Flames shot 30' into the dark sky and signaled the lake side cottagers to light their campfires. As the embers glowed, the guests formed a circle around the fire and participated in Seneca social dances, the end of another summer.



*Photo by Dave Wright*

**September 9th—Hang Around Victor, Village hike.** It was another perfect weather day and a good time for a hike around the Village. Led by Chauncy Young, the group covered about 4 miles in a little over one hour.

## VHT is now a Meetup Group

Now you can find VHT on Meetup. No cost to join. There are 654 members as of June 17.

This is another means of communicating our monthly hikes, weekly trail maintenance schedule, 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/>

## More Hikes and Events in Victor

**TBD— Bridge or boardwalk building.** We have received a grant for \$1600 from the American Hiking Society to build a small bridge on the Seneca Trail near the north end of Boughton Park. We can now plan on the design and construction of the bridge and the improvements of several culverts where the trail goes through the woods on the Duvall property. We might even have a Boy Scout interested in doing this as an Eagle project.

**October 15— Boughton Park.** Meet at Victor Town Hall at 8 a.m. to carpool to the park. Strenuous, hilly, fast-paced 5-6 mile hike. Chauncy Y.

**October 28— Wesley Hill Nature Preserve.** Meet at Victor Town Hall at 8 a.m. to carpool to the Naples trailhead (6060-6280 Gulick Road). Easy 5 mile hike. Dave W.

**November 4— Auburn and Domine Trails.** Meet behind Fishers Fire Station 1, 7853 Main Street Fishers at 6:30 p.m. for a full moon moderate hike of 6-7 miles. C.Y.

**November 19— Ganondagan-Dryer Road Park-Lehigh Crossing Park-Auburn Trail Loop.** Meet at Finn's Tap Room far end of parking lot, 14 Railroad Street off Maple Ave in Victor at 2:30 p.m. 10 mile strenuous, hilly hike. Stay for food and drinks at Finns after the hike. C.Y.

**November 25— Fishers Park.** Meet at the tennis court parking area on Wangum Road at 9 a.m. Moderate, hilly 5 mile hike. D.W.

**December 23— Auburn, Domine and Lehigh Trails.** Meet behind Fishers Fire Station 1, 7853 Main Street Fishers, at 9 a.m. Easy-moderate 6 mile hike. D.W.

**January 20, 2018— Dryer Road Park.** Meet at 7504 Dryer Road at 8 a.m. Strenuous 5-7 mile hike. Vinny R.

**January 27— Boughton Park.** Meet at Victor Town Hall at 9 a.m. to carpool to the park. Easy-moderate 5 mile hike. D.W.

*Note: These are Genesee Valley Hiking Club hikes. You are encouraged to join their group and sign up for their Meetup group. Yearly dues start January 1 and are only \$8/household.*

*(Continued from page 1)*

The ideas and goals identified back in the winter and spring of 1991-92 still exist today. Victor Hiking Trails, in partnership with the Town, has worked to develop and maintain over 60 miles of multi-use trails. Many of the trails are possible due to over 100 projects such as bridges, boardwalks, and trail clearing. Many groups have partnered with VHT to help make trails a reality, particularly Victor Parks and Recreation, Boy Scout troops, youth school groups and members of VHT that perform trail maintenance.

Victor Hiking Trails wasn't just about building trails. They also wanted to get people out to enjoy the surroundings in their town. The decision was made to hold monthly hikes on the second Saturday of each month, and that tradition continues to this day. The first hike had approximately 30 people from Victor, the Crescent Trail Association, and Pittsford Trail Coalition attend. They hiked from Powder Mills Park to the Fisher Firehall in December of 1992. Over the years, VHT members have held hikes locally and throughout the greater Rochester region. Many years saw members of the club venture to the Adirondacks for overnight trips that included hiking a high peak or two.

**The following people are recognized as being 25 year members of VHT:**

Marcia Bryan  
Dave Coleman  
Lenore Day  
Larry and Carole Fisher  
Rich and Sue Freeman  
Jeff Hennick  
Jane Luce  
Carol MacInnes  
David and Dorothy Wright  
Chauncy Young

**Other members of note who were a significant help in the early years include:**

Roberta Lockwood  
Allen Johnson  
Harry Lloyd  
Dick Ottalagana  
Bernard McCarthy  
Ruth and David Nellis  
Alan Lockwood  
Lee Carl  
Robin Emond  
Norman and Linda Smith

## **New Bandanas are here!**

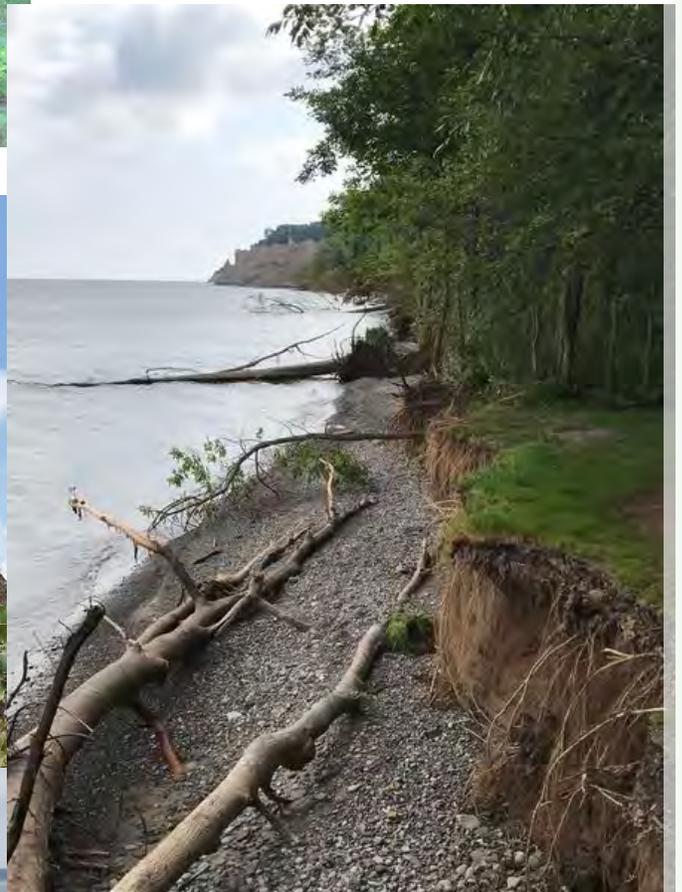
VHT has purchased new bandanas to celebrate our 25 years of creating and maintaining trails in Victor. We introduced them at Hang Around Victor Day. One free one for all members who are paid up with their dues. Additional ones can be purchased for \$2.00 each.

We will have them at our monthly hikes and meetings. Or see Chauncy Young or one of the board members to get yours.

# Chimney Bluffs State Park



*Photos by Chauncy Young*



*Photos by Lisa Roberts*

## Bare Hill Unique Area



*Photos by Dave Wright*

## Victor Municipal Park



*Photos by Lisa Roberts*

Jeff Hennick ready to greet visitors at Kettle Fest at Kettle Ridge Farms.  
*Note the new bandanas on display.*



*Photo by Patty Mangarelli*

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● ● ● | Chauncy Young, CFP®, LMT  
 Managing Member

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Visit our sponsors and tell them you saw their advertisement in the VHT Pathfinder.

Victor Hiking Trails  
85 East Main Street  
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*Filling the gaps in Victor*

## 25 YEARS AND GROWING

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 donation promptly so we can continue to create new and improved multi-use trails.

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!*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
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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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Fund Raising \_\_\_\_\_ Special Events \_\_\_\_\_ History / Education \_\_\_\_\_

Amount submitted \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Corporate membership at \$100 per year allows all employees to be members.

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

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