



VHT Pathfinder

26 YEARS AND GROWING

Volume 23, Issue 4
Winter, 2018

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New Trail Connection

When the Auburn Trail was improved with a Federal grant back in 2006, it had a few deficiencies. Because the railbed had been sold to adjoining landowners in several places, it was not always possible to follow the original tracks in every location. One example is the west side of Maple Avenue where the tracks are still in place and occasionally used. It was necessary to bypass that section and find an alternate route.

Another example is between East Victor Road and the parking area on Break of Day Road. Not all of the landowners wanted a trail in their backyard, so alternate routes were constructed. One route was to follow on the road with a wide shoulder and appropriate signage.

Victor Hiking Trails is always trying to improve our trails, especially when safety is an issue. It is always better to walk or ride on a trail and

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Before major work.



After major work.

VHT 2019 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
 Jeff Miller— Volunteer
 Coordinator
 Lisa Roberts — Social Media
 Coordinator
 David Coleman— Camping
 Larry Fisher—Parks Liaison

VHT Pathfinder

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*The Victor Hiking Trails
 Pathfinder* is published
 quarterly for the members
 of Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.
 We encourage
 submissions of letters,
 editorial items and
 advertising pertaining to
 trails, Victor and the
 environment.
 Ask about our rates.
 To submit articles for the
VHT Pathfinder, please
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www.victorhikingtrails.org
 Also on Facebook
 and Meetup
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VHT MONTHLY HIKES FOR 2019

Jan 12, 9 AM Harriet Hollister Spencer State Recreation Area
 Feb 9, 9 AM Mendon Ponds Park
 Feb 9, 1-3:30 PM Victor Parks & Rec Winter Fest—VHT Hike 2:00 PM
 Mar 9, 9 AM Indian Hill, Crescent Trails
 Apr 13, 9 AM Ganondagan State Historic Site
 May 11, 9 AM Bentley Woods and Domine Trails
 June 1, 8:30 AM National Trails Day Hikes
 June 8, 9 AM Outdoor Expo at Mendon Ponds
 July 13, 9 AM Wesley Hill Nature Preserve
 Aug 10, 9 AM Grimes Glen and Tanner Falls, Naples
 Aug 31, 5:30 PM Bare Hill Ring of Fire, Middlesex
 Sep 7, 10 AM Hang Around Victor
 Sep 14, 9 AM Fillmore Glen State Park
 Sep 29 8 AM Challenge Hike
 Oct 12, 9 AM Finger Lakes Trail
 Nov 9, 9 AM Powder Mills Park
 Dec 14, 9 AM Fishers Park

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 2-3 hours. Always bring a 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 past years 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

October 13th— Ontario County Park.

Five hikers started at Jump-off and followed some of the new trails created by GROC, the local mountain bike club. It was a little misty at the beginning, but it stopped soon after the hike began. The group covered about 5 miles and enjoyed the hike.



November 10th— Abraham Lincoln Park. 7 people came out for a very windy but sunny morning hike along the east shore of Irondequoit Bay. They did some loops as well as out and back to cover 5 miles in 2.5 hours.



December 8th— Dryer Road Park. Nine hikers played in the snow on the trails in Dryer Road Park as well as the trails in the Fort Hill section of Ganondagan State Historic Site. The air was cool and crisp. And the sun almost came out a few times. They managed to hike five miles in a little over two hours.



VHT Meetup Group is growing

Now you can find VHT on Meetup. No cost to join. There are over 930 members as of Dec.

This is another means of communicating our monthly hikes, weekly trail maintenance schedule, scout projects and special events.

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

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

More Hikes and Events in Victor

TBD— We have several Scout projects scheduled for 2019. Keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and Meetup for dates.

Jan 6, 9 AM Fishers Park and More. Join Chauncy for a hike on the trails in Fishers Park and the trails surrounding the park. It will be a strenuous, fast-paced 6-7 mile hike. Meet in the parking lot behind Fishers Fire Station #1 on Main Street Fishers.

Jan 19, 5 PM Sunset/Full Moon hike. Meet at Finn's Tap Room on Railroad Street off Maple Avenue for a moderate 3-4 mile hike. Led by Chauncy.

Jan 20, 9 AM Lehigh Crossing Park and More. Another strenuous fast-paced 6-7 mile hike led by Chauncy. Meet in the Lehigh Crossing Park parking lot on Rt 251 near Rt 96.

Jan 26, 9 AM MaryFrances Bluebird Haven. Moderate 5 mile hike led by Dave W.

Feb 23, 8 AM Apple Farm to Boughton Park and Back. This will be a moderate 7-8 mile hike led by Dave W.

Mar 10, 10 AM Powder Mills Park, moderate 5 mile hike led by Paul K.

Mar 23, 8 AM Moderate 6 mile hike at Lehigh Crossing Park led by Dave W.

Apr 27, 8 AM Dryer Road Park, moderate 6 mile hike led by Dave W.

May 25, 8 AM MaryFrances Bluebird Haven, 5 mile moderate hike led by Dave 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.

VHT Volunteers Dinner

October 24th was our annual VHT Volunteers Dinner at Finn's Tap Room. 37 members enjoyed the food and drinks as well as the camaraderie and fellowship. Please consider helping VHT during 2019 with trail maintenance, special projects led by scouts, events like National Trails Day or Hang Around Victor or maybe even leading a hike. It is a very rewarding effort and you will meet new friends.

Mural Dedicated



On Sunday, October 28, approximately 50 people gathered in Fishers on the Auburn Trail at the Thruway underpass to help dedicate the mural known as "From Ideas to Iron". The creation of artist Emily Waldman, it depicts what a blueprint would have looked like in the late 1800's when designing a steam engine and related railroad cars. As the observer moves from the caboose, past the passenger cars and up to the coal car and engine, the design incorporates more details, including the typical countryside with farmland and nature. Emily was commissioned by VHT to paint the mural, with help from the community, to provide trail users with some interesting art. When you have the opportunity, take a stroll on the trail to observe the details that have been depicted in this mural.



Emily Waldman thanking the audience for attending.

When you have the opportunity, take a stroll on the trail to observe the details that have been depicted in this mural.

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avoid the shoulder of a road. So a few months ago Carol MacInnes, our Trailmaster, revisited the Knapp's on Break of Day Road and asked them if they would consider giving VHT a revocable permit to allow the trail to continue onto their property. And they said YES!!!

Shortly after receiving the revocable permit, VHT volunteers began clearing brush and small trees. Exposed stumps were tagged and Kevin Holtz, owner of Holtz Forest and Shade Tree Consulting, brought a stump grinder to the site and removed several stumps.

An informal survey was made to be sure that the trail stayed on the Knapp's property as it progressed down the side of the railroad embankment. A friend called on American Equipment of Farmington to inquire about renting a backhoe and hiring an operator to carve out a bench-cut for the trail. To our surprise they agreed to donate the equipment and an operator.



Looking to the East, down the ramp.

We cannot thank them enough as this saved our volunteers hundreds of man-hours of manual labor with picks and shovels.



The finished product, looking West up the ramp.

Now walkers and bikers can follow the trail and avoid the road. We have already seen many people using the new connection. And we are sure that when the new section of the Auburn Trail in Farmington is officially opened, traffic on the trail will increase again.

More information on our Website

In addition to all back issues of our quarterly newsletters, we are now putting our monthly meeting minutes on our website. After the minutes have been approved, they are posted.

Also, photos of hikes, events and projects can be submitted by anyone. Over the years we have gathered several hundred photos to capture our history.

Jeff Hennick, our Webmaster, continues to improve the information available to the public. His most recent project has been to gather all of the trail and conservation easements in Victor and show them on a map. This is still a work in progress, but will be a powerful tool as we complete more gaps in our system of multi-use trails.

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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
Victor, NY 14564



Filling the gaps in Victor

26 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

Join us on Facebook!
And Meetup!



VHT Map Link

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 _____ 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.

Make check payable to: VICTOR HIKING TRAILS, INC.
And mail to: 85 EAST MAIN STREET
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