



VHT Pathfinder

27 YEARS AND GROWING

Volume 25, Issue 2
Summer, 2020

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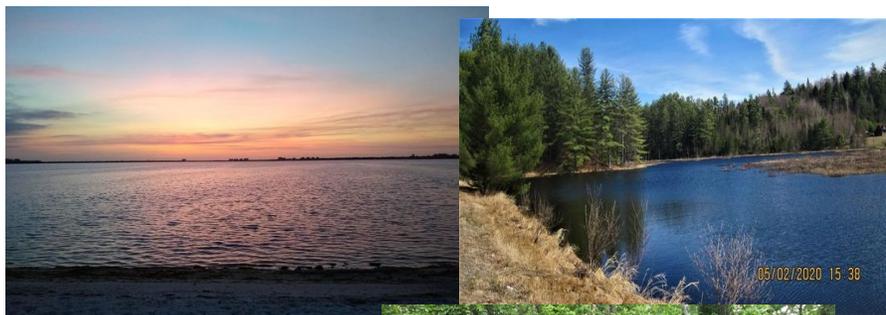
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National Trails Day 2020 in Victor

National Trails Day was supposed to be the highlight of our 2020 events. But because we are still battling COVID-19, the board of directors decided it would be better to be safe and go with plan B. Of course, it was a perfect day for hiking, so we hope everyone was able to get out and enjoy the day in their own special way.

We encouraged everyone to hike safely and take pictures to document our special NTD. If you did, please visit our Meetup page for this event and post your pictures so we can create a collage to celebrate the day.

Here are a few examples of what we are looking for.



VHT 2020 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman
 Lisa Roberts– Secretary
 Ruth Rugaber– Treasurer
 Paul Knerr & Scott Reinhart–
 Co-Trailmaster
 Chauncy Young– Trail Boss
 Jeff Hennick– Webmaster
 Denni Harbaugh– Membership
 Jeff Miller – Education
 Open— Volunteer
 Coordinator
 Lisa Roberts — Social Media
 Coordinator
 Larry Fisher—Parks Liaison

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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
 contact:

Dave Wright, Editor
 Victor Hiking Trails, Inc.
 85 East Main Street
 Victor, NY 14564
 (585) 234-8226

www.victorhikingtrails.org

Also on Facebook
 and Meetup

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VHT MONTHLY HIKES FOR 2020

July 11, 8 a.m. - Changed to Fishers Park & Domine Trails
 August 2, 2 p.m.– Educational Fossil Hike at High Tor's Conklin Gully
 August 9, 8 a.m.– Keuka Outlet Trail Bike Ride
 Sept 5, 5:30 p.m.– Ring of Fire hike and bonfire
 Sept. 12, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.– Hang Around Victor Day
 Oct. 10, 9 a.m.– Whiting Road in Webster
 Nov. 14, 9 a.m.– Apple Farm Seneca Trail North, meet at Apple Farm
 Dec. 12, 9 a.m.– Valentown to Kreag Rd. Park, hike one direction,
 carpool back

Note: Please check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details and last minute updates. Also, if you join <https://www.meetup.com/Victor-Hiking-Trails-Meetup>, you will get notifications of hikes and other events and reminders and last minute changes if you are signed up for a hike.

All hikes meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot, 85 East Main Street, 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 the VHT Message Line, 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

Due to COVID-19, all VHT group hikes were cancelled late winter into early summer this year. We encourage everyone to get outdoors and enjoy the trails, staying at least six feet apart and wearing a mask when social distancing cannot be maintained. In July VHT will cautiously start leading local hikes where no carpooling is required.

We have noticed a large increase in trail users and we are very happy to see that. We had a wet spring that caused some problems on some sections of some trails. Our trail maintenance volunteers have been addressing those areas and making some improvements. We want everyone to have an enjoyable experience while walking or riding the trails.

Trail Maintenance

Due to the wet spring and late snow (May 22!), trail maintenance got a late start and needed to adjust the schedule. Because the time, day and location is placed on our Meetup page, we have had some great turnouts. We added some early Friday mornings to get caught up and we are nearly back on schedule.

In case you think trail maintenance is just mowing the grass and trimming the bushes, I can assure you it is more than that. In the spring we touch up the painted blazes, blow the leaves off the trail, clear downed trees that are blocking the trail, reroute the muddy sections of trail and build small bridges and boardwalks. If you like the trails, go on our Meetup page and sign up for an hour or two. We can always use another volunteer.



Auburn Trail Update

Last year the Town of Victor contracted to have a new sewer line installed to service Fishers and the southern portion of Victor. The route that was selected was the Auburn Trail. Although it has been a problem, we were promised that when the project was complete the treadway would be as good as new.

The project is nearly complete. The last item on the list is to install and compact 2" of stone dust on top of the existing treadway. They started this week at the Phillips Road crossing and finished at Brace Road. It will take a few rain showers and trail users to bond the dust and set the surface for a bike friendly ride. Hope we get some light, steady showers soon.

Included in the project is the new section of the Auburn from Maple Avenue to School Street. This section has been on our wish list for several years and will be a great improvement for all of the bicyclists.



New Trail Signs

Our Auburn and Lehigh Trails have great signs at all road crossings to let trail users know what trail they are on. The rest of our trails, not so much. Yes, you can go to our website and look to see where you are and see the name of the trail. But we thought it would be helpful to have signs at the trail entrances to let people know what trail they are traversing.

Lisa Roberts volunteered to make and install the signs. You should begin to see them on the trailheads. Below are a couple of examples. Let us know what you think.



Trail Reroutes

As noted previously, we had a wet, cold spring and an abundance of trail users, causing some problems on some trails. A good example is on the Seneca Trail, south of the Apple Farm. This section of the trail is on property owned by Tom and Ebetts Judson. A section of the trail is on low land and tends to collect water in the spring when the snow melts and we get heavy rains.

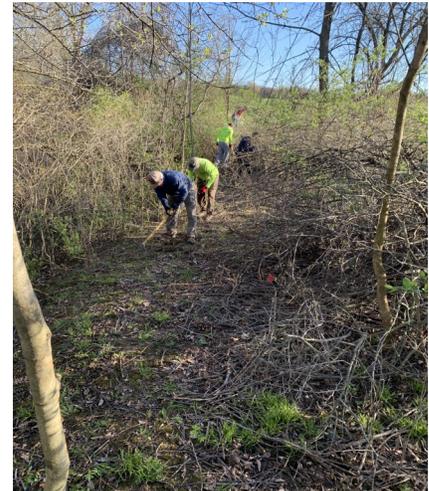
The Judsons and VHT decided it would be better to change the route of the trail to higher ground. Thanks to Tom with his tractor and brush hog and several volunteers, we now have a better trail.



Seneca Trail on Judson property.



Clearing the new Seneca Trail on the Judson's property



Also on the Seneca Trail, but at the northern end, the trail at High Point has been moved off the grass and down below the berm to make for more interesting travel. It also eliminated a steep section of the trail.



A reroute was created in Monkey Run on the White trail, although we hope that will only be temporary until we can have some boardwalk installed.

If you see a section of trail that needs our attention, please send a message to our website or call 585-234-8226 and leave a message.

New Bridge over Great Brook

If you hike on the Seneca Trail or on the trails in Ganondagan State Historic Site, you may have seen the new bridge near School Street. This is a state park project that has been on the list for several years.

When LL Bean came to Victor, they gave VHT \$2000 for trail improvements. We worked with the state to design a new wooden bridge, five-foot wide that would replace our one-foot wide bridge. We thought we had approval and \$6000 for material from the state.

Then they changed their mind and decided to build the new visitor's center/museum. So the bridge was put on hold. Until this winter. This new bridge has been built for more than pedestrians. You can drive a truck across it. It is not officially opened yet, but very close to complete.

When the bridge is open, we will remove our little temporary bridge and find a new place for it. Stay tuned and watch the news for the opening.



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New Bridge on Judson's property

When the Seneca Trail was rerouted on the Judson's property, we found that we had to cross a small seasonal creek. A group of volunteers was assembled, material was delivered to the site, and in about two hours we had a 16' long by 32" wide bridge installed. It still needs a ramp on one side, but it is usable for hikers and bikers.



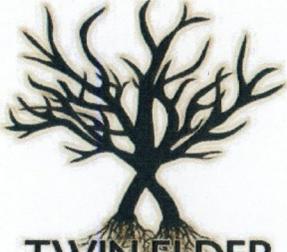
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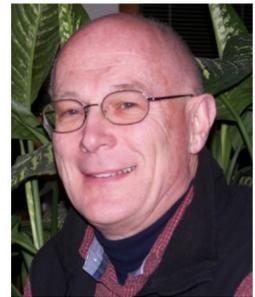
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27 YEARS AND GROWING

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.

Filling the gaps in Victor

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** _____

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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 _____
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 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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