



VHT Pathfinder

29 YEARS AND GROWING

Volume 25, Issue 4
Winter, 2020

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New Boardwalk on the Auburn Trail at Fish Creek

The last project and one of the largest for 2020 was a boardwalk over a muddy section of the Auburn Trail on the east end of the Fish Creek Bridge. Five-feet wide and 52 feet long, it cost over \$2000 in materials alone. Add in over a 100 hours of volunteer time and you know it is a significant project.

VHT is very thankful for the volunteers from #TrailsRoc who spent the morning of Saturday, October 26th helping. With Chauncy Young directing the workers and everyone working hard, the boardwalk was completed around noon. The pictures below show the different phases of the project.



- Deliver the wood
- Cut the wood
- Layout the location
- Place the supports
- Place the decking
- Screw down decking
- Take group pictures
- That was easy!



VHT 2021 Officers:

Dave Wright– Chairman
 Jeff Hennick– Vice Chairman
 Lisa Roberts– Secretary
 Ruth Rugaber– Treasurer
 Paul Knerr & Scott Reinhart–
 Co-Trail Master
 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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 Trails, Inc.

VHT MONTHLY HIKES FOR 2021**2021 Hikes**

Jan 1, 10 a.m.— Fishers to Powder Mills & back. Meet at Fire Station.
 Jan 9, 9 a.m.— Dryer Road Park. Meet at Park parking lot.
 Jan 17, 2 p.m.— Lollypop Farm, educational hike. Meet in lobby.
 Feb 13, 9 a.m.— Powder Mills Park. 71 Woolston Rd parking area
 Feb 28, 2 p.m.— Cumming Nature Center. \$7 park fee.
 Mar 13, 9 a.m.— Webster Park Trails. Meet at Town Hall to caravan.
 Apr.10, 9 a.m.— Lehigh and Trolley Tr. Meet at Lehigh Crossing Park.
 May 8, 9 a.m.— Fishers Park & Domine. Meet at Fishers Fire House.
 June 5, 8:30 a.m.— National Trails Day location TBD
 June 12, 9 a.m.— Ontario Pathways, Phelps, Rt. 96 parking lot.
 July 10, 9 a.m.— Fillmore Glen. Meet at Town Hall to caravan.
 Aug 14, 9 a.m.— Ganondagan. Meet in main parking lot.
 Sep 4, 5:30 p.m.— Ring of Fire, Bare Hill. Meet at Town Hall.
 Sep 11, 11 a.m.— Hang Around Victor Day
 Sep 18, 9 a.m.— Auburn Trail Bike Ride. Meet at Finns Tap Room.
 Oct 9, 9 a.m.— Boughton Park. Meet at Town Hall.
 Nov 13, 9 a.m.— Ontario County Park. Meet at Town Hall.
 Dec 11, 9 a.m.— Seneca Park along the Genesee River. Meet at T.H.

Note: Check the message line at 585-234-8226 for details and 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.

Some hikes meet at Victor Town Hall rear parking lot, 85 East Main
 Street to caravan to the trailhead. We will carpool when it is safe. 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.

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 educational hikes on
 Sunday afternoons. Let us know what you would like to learn about.

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 and the surrounding area. If you like to hike,
 join those Meetup groups as well.

Past Hikes

October 4 – Edible Plants at Ganondagan State Historic Site.

Twenty-seven people interested in learning about edible plants attended this educational hike. Led by Deborah Denome of Shimmering Lights and Finger Lakes Immersion. Everyone was impressed with her knowledge. For an extra treat, she brought Jerusalem artichokes and made white pine tea for everyone to taste.



October 10 – Whiting Road Park in Webster.

Seven hikers enjoyed a sunny morning hike, completing four miles of hills and meadows in two hours. These trails are open to mountain bikes and has become very popular with these riders.



November 14 – Apple Farm and Seneca Trail North.

Fifteen people enjoyed a great, sunny but cool, morning hiking from the Apple Farm to Ganondagan State Historic Site via the Seneca Trail. In Ganondagan they hiked several trails making a big loop before returning the Apple Farm store via the Yellow Trail.



December 12 – Valentown Hall to Woodcliff and back.

Nineteen hikers made a loop hike from Valentown Hall in Victor to Woodcliff in Perinton via the Seneca Trail and the Crescent Orange Trail. Although it was overcast, they finished before the rains came in the afternoon.

Trail Races

Even though there is a world-wide pandemic, it doesn't mean everything has to stop. It is possible to be outside having fun and still be safe. With the social distancing and wearing a face covering in place, two fall trail races were conducted in Victor where VHT helped out.

The first one was held on Friday evening, October 25th at Dryer Road Park. Sent out in two separate waves, with glow sticks for everyone, headlamps on the runners, and a few race marshals at key intersections, approximately 80 runners followed the course through the woods on the mountain bike trails and returned to the start line. A few missed a turn or two, but everyone enjoyed the race.



The second race was the popular Unlimited Breadsticks Half Marathon Race, sponsored by The Olive Garden Restaurant and hosted by Rochester Running Company. On Sunday morning, October 27th, approximately 60 runners started at Parkview Golf Course. They ran to Boughton Park and then followed the Seneca Trail to Valentown Hall where they enjoyed salad, breadsticks and pasta. VHT received a nice donation of \$1000 for supporting this type of use of the trails and helping at key intersections and road crossings.

Village of Victor Scarecrow Contest

The Victor Local Development Corporation and the Victor Chamber of Commerce held the annual Village Scarecrow Contest during the month of October. Local businesses, clubs, school groups and families were encouraged to create a scarecrow and attach it to a light pole. VHT participated a few years ago and decided to try it again this year. Lisa Roberts, Dave Wright and Chauncy Young collaborated and brainstormed some ideas, collected some materials and crafted Pat the VHT scarecrow. Then they took him/her to Main Street and selected the best location for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians to see the work of art. Citizens were asked to vote for their favorite and holy smokes, VHT won first place. If you voted for Pat, thank you. The \$30 gift card for Finn's Tap Room will be used for some well deserved adult beverages next spring after an exhausting trail maintenance session. Hope some of you can join us.



Speedy Recovery

Larry Fisher, a VHT member and past Trail Boss for 23 years, had a little mishap when he was cutting down a tree. As the tree began to fall he began to move away from it and fell into a ditch, breaking his leg in two places and cutting his head. A few clamps took care of the cut and his lower leg break was only minor, but the upper break was complete and just below the hip. After the surgery, which included a rod and several screws, and went well, and the physical therapy, he was home recuperating. Now he is riding his stationary bike and hopes to be riding on the trails soon with all his bike buddies. Just another reason to be done with 2020.

New Trail for 2021

VHT has a new trail to develop in 2021. Property owner Paul Bishop has given permission to create a trail around his property. He is located just east of the Village on the Park off County Road 9. When the snow is gone and before the leaves open, VHT Trail Master, Trail Boss and Paul will mark the trail for clearing and blazing. There will probably be a need for small bridges and boardwalks. Most of the trail will be in the woods, so it should be easy to maintain.

To the east of Paul's property is some Town property that was designated for a future water tower. VHT has permission to have a loop trail that will connect with Paul's trail.

The long range desire is to have a trail that will connect Village on the Park with MaryFrances Bluebird Haven. The longer trail is part of the Parks & Rec Master Plan. Permission from several landowners will be needed to make that happen..

Leaf Blowing

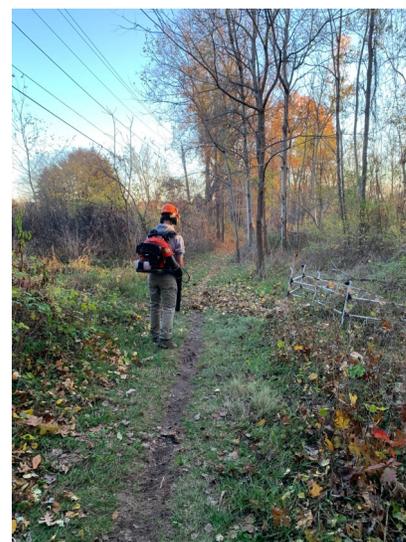
VHT purchased a backpack style leaf blower so that the leaves can be cleared from the trails. This will pay off in the spring by allowing the trails to dry out quicker and be less muddy for hikers and bikers.



Before



After



One of the volunteers

Volunteers

This year's traditional Volunteer Dinner was instead a picnic at the lodge in Victor Municipal Park. With 70 individual volunteers this year, plus a guest for each, we felt it would not be safe to have an indoor gathering. The lodge allowed outdoor eating and proper distancing. As it turned out, it was a small group, but everyone enjoyed salad, pizza, desserts and drinks. Next year will be better. We are very grateful for all of the volunteers who helped out with the normal trail maintenance and special projects to improve all of the 65+ miles of trails. Over 1600 hours were recorded this year, not including the many hours that the board members spend on the paperwork and managing of VHT. Thank you all for making Victor Trails the best in the region!!!

Podcast

Recently, VHT Chairman Dave Wright was interviewed for a podcast by Brian Imrich, a Victor resident and VHT member. Brian's podcast can be found at PubGPS.com. Look for the Victor Hiking Trails/Pandemic Playbook #1 under Local Wisdom podcast. In addition to Victor Hiking Trails you will find several other local clubs and businesses. Enjoy the educational information.



A couple more photos of the November hike at Ganondagan State Historic Site.

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Deborah Denome explaining to the group about edible plants as she found them on a slow walk about in Ganondagan.

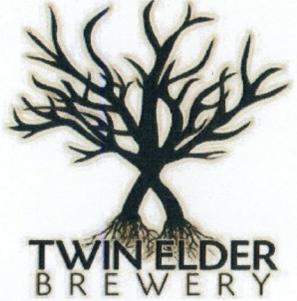
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All VHT newsletters are now available on our website.
View it and download it in full color.



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.

Sustaining Membership
You can set up an automatic (sustaining) membership by going to the donation page on the VHT website.
<https://victorhikingtrails.org/vhtform.php>

Filling the gaps in Victor

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VHT Map Link

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

Name _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

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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.

Make check payable to: VICTOR HIKING TRAILS, INC.
 And mail to: 85 EAST MAIN STREET
 VICTOR, NY 14564