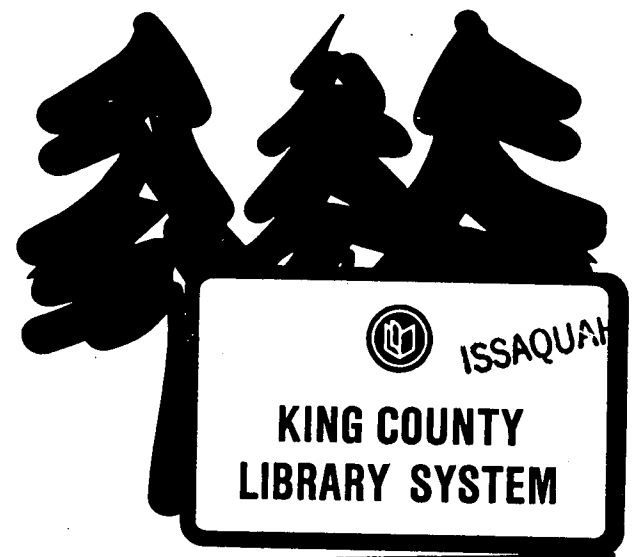


APR / MAY / JUN 93

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINE



April ▲ May ▲ June ▲ 1993

Grand Ridge: Open Space or Parking Lot?

Roger Delmar

Even a casual reader of the Eastside newspapers is probably well aware that Grand Ridge has come off the back burner and is now center stage. Things have happened! The Club has been closely involved and we have made strides in the right direction. Very definitely, we believe that what happens on Grand Ridge will have a long term impact on the rest of the Issaquah Alps. That's one big reason we're in this. Since the last Alpine, the following major Grand Ridge events have taken place.

The Issaquah/Sammamish Community Coalition has formed and continues to function. (The Coalition consists of the IATC, Save Lake Sammamish, Preston Community Club, Issaquah Environmental Council, Friends of Cougar Mountain, Friends of Grand Ridge, Friends of Open Trails, and Concerned private citizens of Greater Issaquah.) This loose confederation of groups with like interests on Grand Ridge has been very effective. It has given new energy to many who were tired of the seemingly impossible task of fighting the well-financed and powerful development community as well as the City of Issaquah, which has assumed the developer's line on Grand Ridge.

The King County Council's East Sammamish Community Plan Panel held their public hearing in Issaquah. Approximately 40 people testified, 85% strongly supporting continued rural zoning. These well organized, factual presentations had an impact. Participating members of the Club are heartily thanked. The Panel held meetings with the City of Issaquah and on Jan. 30th held final hearings and then voted 3-0 to retain rural zoning and temporarily, until the aquifer wellhead studies are complete, extend this rural boundary westward to include the aquifer recharge land. This is a major move in the direction for which the Club has been working.

The Issaquah Mayor and City Council have committed themselves to continue to push for urban

development on Grand Ridge. The City contends that urbanization will save Grand Ridge from destructive, unrestricted rural development. They envision Grand Ridge being covered by mega-mansions, gigantic homes, tennis courts, pastures and the like.

We have confirmed however, that the County has the ability to limit the scope and extent of rural development. Rural clustering, and strict per lot limits on clearing and impervious surfaces can be imposed. We continue to push for the preservation of a very large, contiguous forested open space. Those who contend that Blackhawk-Port Blakely's urban plan give us large open spaces miss the point. The urban "open space" is not contiguous nor is it "open" by our definition. Open space to the developers includes ball fields, parks, and land with no structures. Except for the land bordering I-90, the open space in the urban plan is on separated parcels, in areas not suitable for development due to environmental constraints or lay of the land.

Backers of annexation and the urban plan continue efforts to diffuse our opposition. The divide and conquer approach is being followed by these proponents of urbanization.

A trail leading across the southwestern face of Grand Ridge has been located and opened. Those interested in hiking this trail and seeing the sights on this beautiful peace of land overlooking the city can contact Roger Delmar.

Letters to the County Council (402 Courthouse Building, Seattle WA 98104) and the City of Issaquah (P.O.Box 1307, Issaquah WA 98027) supporting the rural character of Grand Ridge and limited development are still needed. The full County Council still must vote on the rural zoning recommendation. **THIS IS NOT YET A DONE DEAL. YOUR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT. ▲**



Join Former Coal Miners at 'Return to Newcastle'

Bill McFerren

King County Parks will sponsor "Return to Newcastle", our annual celebration of local history, parks, and open space on Sunday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event is held in the Newcastle area of Cougar Mountain, near the Red Town trailhead. For directions, call Ralph Owen at 746-1070 or follow the signs from Newport Way and 150th.

Historical artifacts will be on display along with photographs and maps. Former miners and their families will attend to tell about the coal mining days in what is now Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, King County's largest park.

King County will arrange musical entertainment, good food will be on sale, and the Trails Club will lead history walks and hikes throughout the day. Trails Club books and maps will be sale. Spend an hour or the whole day! See you there! ▲

"...our annual celebration
of local history, parks,
and open space
is happening on
Sunday, June 6"

Grand Alps Traverse Lives on in 1993

Fred Weinmann

Inspired by Jack Hornung, nurtured by Joe Toynbee and made real by scores of hikers and hike leaders... In 1988, 1989 and 1991 we breathed the beauty of the Alps in one long day. In 1990 and 1992 the experience was embedded in the Mountains to Sound Greenway events. In 1993 the grand traverse is scheduled to be a two-day event on the weekend of June 12-13. We will plan to traverse Tiger Mountain on the 12th and Squak and Cougar Mountains on the 13th. Fine hikes of 12-14 miles can be expected on each day.

This is an occasion to celebrate the Issaquah Alps and their position in the heart of the Mountains to Sound Greenway. The event is intended to be moderate enough in its rigor to accommodate all those with a sincere interest in participating in a group hiking experience and having a reasonable level of fitness. Our goal is to maximize that experience rather than to besiege the mountains in a test of our energy and endurance.

Some particulars: June 12: Meet at the normal IATC place in the gravel parking lot adjacent to

City Hall South at 8:30 a.m.; June 13: Meet at the Cougar Mountain Red Town trailhead at 8:00 a.m.

IATC gurus will meet you to organize separate hiking groups and hike leaders, explain the route, etc. Arrangements for pizza or other guzzling following each hike will be by group consensus.

If you need more information about the traverse, please call Fred or Ann Weinmann at 392-9230 or leave a message at 553-1414.

Put it on the calendar!!! ▲

President's Report: The IATC Focus For 1993

Ken Konigsmark

Greetings! As the newly appointed President of the IATC, I consider it essential to share with club members the goals that the Board has established for 1993, as well as the recent organizational improvements which are already helping the club to function more effectively.

A majority of the Board met on December 12, 1992, in order "to conduct in-depth planning for the Club's future leadership, organization, direction, and action plans." This fruitful exchange of ideas formed the basis of what was presented to, and endorsed by, the full Board and other attendees at our January 25th Annual Meeting. The goals which have been established will be the focus of Club efforts in 1993, and a newly expanded Club structure will help us to more effectively seek to accomplish them.

The 1993 goals, approved by the IATC Board of Directors, include:

- Actively support the State Parks acquisition of Section 9, Squak Mountain
- Promote and support the Mountains to Sound Greenway concept
- Lobby to protect and preserve Grand Ridge
- Promote and protect Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park
- Support DNR acquisition of Section 12, Tiger Mountain
- Continue to promote hikes and special events
- Influence selection of the Issaquah Trails Coordinator; form a close working relationship
- Promote and support the overall implementation of the Issaquah Trails Plan
- Establish Club ties with State Parks, County Parks, DNR, others. Actively support cooperative efforts (maintenance, search & rescue, volunteer patrols, etc)
- Work with the Bullitt Foundation to acquire additional Squak Mountain acreage
- As a Club, lobby against the proposed Issaquah bypass and I-90 interchange
- Increase coordination with the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club
- Build a dynamic political advocacy group

All of these goals are directly linked to the purposes for which the Club was formed in 1980; that being, in a nutshell, to protect and promote the preservation of green and open space and the envi-



ronmental qualities of the Issaquah Alps for purposes of public enjoyment. To better support these goals and respond to future issues, six new "Advocate" positions were created within the Club structure. Each Advocate is responsible for "taking the lead" on behalf of the Club on issues which impact their respective geographic area. Advocates report to the Board at each monthly meeting on matters regarding their area. IATC Advocates include the following: Tiger Mountain- Larry Hansen; Squak Mountain- Gus Nelson; Cougar Mountain- Harvey Manning; Grand Ridge- Roger Delmar; City of Issaquah/Pine Lake Plateau- George Comstock; Preston/Raging River- Mary Anne Tagney-Jones.

Advocates may form "Advocate Teams" to focus additional efforts or to share the duties within their area of interest. If interested in volunteering to support any of the six Advocate groups, please call the lead Advocate.

The Board also approved the Officers and Board Members for 1993, which include:

Ken Konigsmark (Pres), Harvey Manning (Chairman of the Board), Bill McFerren (VP, Opns), Jim Cadigan (Treas), and Pam Wallenstein (Secretary), and Ted Thomsen, Joe Toynbee, Sarah Young, Bill Longwell, Fred Weinmann, Mary Anne Tagney-Jones, Ralph Owen, Roger Delmar, and Ken Konigsmark (Board Members). Additionally, the Club has Key Contacts for special activities or efforts, including Ted Thomsen (Mountains to Sound Greenway), Ann Weinmann (Hikes Coordinator), Membership (Cynthia Blair), Special Events (Mary Cadigan), and Alpiners/Publications (Sarah Young).

I view it as a privilege to serve as President of the IATC. With over 3,000 members, the IATC is both respected and influential as an organization, a positive force in the constant battles threatening the priceless Issaquah Alps. I, the Board, the Officers, and the Advocates encourage your continued support for our Club efforts as we pursue our goals for 1993. See you on the trails! ▲

newsbriefs...

Issaquah Alps Rate Highly in Issaquah Forum '92

Sarah Young

The Issaquah Forum '92 was a community project to discover and articulate a common future for Issaquah. It focused on identifying human and natural treasures in the greater Issaquah area and defining Issaquah city and regional priorities for the year 2020. Fifty Issaquah treasures were defined and ranked—the Issaquah Alps figured into many of these 50. Among them were:

- Issaquah Alps Trails
- View of the lush, open, tree-covered mountain tops of the Issaquah Alps
- Issaquah Alps left in natural state
- Issaquah Creek and salmon run
- Lake Tradition
- View of Tiger Mountain and green hills going east on I-90
- Trees on Squak Mountain
- Tiger Mountain State Forest
- Trailhead City
- Clouds, mists that float and rise through Issaquah Alps

Open spaces, wetlands, scenic views, indigenous wildlife, Salmon Days, and our very own Harvey Manning were also among the 50.

Now what can we do to protect these treasures? ▲

Bus Road Trail (Tiger Mtn) Closed To Bikes/Horses

Ken Konigsmark

To Tradition Lake plateau hikers who have witnessed the deterioration of Bus Road Trail over the past couple of years, welcome news was received in mid-January when DNR decided to close this trail to anything but hiking. The overuse and abuse of this trail had, in the wet winter season, turned it into a four inch deep flowing stream, which then drained silted runoff into Tradition Lake.

Signs have now been posted at both ends of the trail advising users that it is open only to hiking. With the recent dry spell (mid-Feb) the trail is in good shape, although hikers are encouraged to avoid the remaining muddy spots and to be especially careful in wetter weather not to erode the trail further. Repair work on the trail may take place this spring, if funding allows. ▲

The Apparatus

President: Ken Konigsmark • 392-3099
VP, Operations: Bill McFerren • 391-3359
Treasurer: Jim Cadigan • 641-4046
Secretary: Pam Wallenstein • 392-7813
Board of Directors:
 Harvey Manning, Chairman • 746-1017
 Fred Weinmann • 392-9230
 Ted Thomsen • 454-8643
 Bill Longwell • 222-6775
 Ralph Owen • 746-1070
 Joe Toynbee • 723-6716
 Roger Delmar • 392-9553
 Ken Konigsmark • 392-3099
 Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615
 Sarah Young • 271-9932
Hikes Coordinator: Ann Weinmann • 392-9230
Membership Records: Cynthia Blair • 562-7227
Special Events: Mary Cadigan • 641-4046

Book Sales/Distribution: Marty Hanson • 392-2458
Issaquah Advocate: George Comstock • 392-8929
Cougar Advocate: Harvey Manning • 746-1017
Squak Advocate: Gus Nelson • 392-7428
Tiger Advocate: Larry Hansen • 392-2458
Grand Ridge Advocate: Roger Delmar • 392-9553
Raging River and Preston Advocate: Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615
Chief Ranger: Bill Longwell • 222-6775
MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen • 454-8643
Legal Advice: Tom Lucas

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Briefest of updates on Squak & Section 9

Sarah Young

Thanks to the continuing intensive efforts of Gus Nelson and others, the Issaquah Trails Plan has finally been approved, and recruiting for the Trails Coordinator position is underway... The originally proposed \$111 million WWRP budget has been reduced to \$85 million. This clearly puts the public acquisition of the second half of Section 9 (Phase 2) at risk. Your letters are still needed... Signs noting appropriate restricted use of Squak Mountain State Park (foot traffic only) have been posted, and enforcement has begun. ▲

Tiger Mountain State Forest

Larry Hanson

Most of Tiger Mountain is under the management of the Department of Natural Resources. However, Section 12, located very near the center of this urban forest, remains under the private ownership of Manasha Timber Company. Public encouragement to our new Commissioner of Public Lands, Jennifer Belcher, to acquire Section 9 for incorporation into Tiger Mountain State Forest is very much needed.

A second issue involving the State is the proposed discontinuation of the Washington State Conservation Corps (WCC) youth work program. For the past several years this program has provided meaningful jobs for unemployed area youths at a minimum wage to perform trail work, plant trees, assist in firewatch and many other labor-intensive jobs. This is a win-win situation for all concerned—DNR, unemployed youths, and area residents—and even during these cost-reduction times should be continued. Your letters concerning these issues are requested for the well-being of Tiger Mountain State Forest and its trail system. Mail your opinions to Jennifer Belcher, Commissioner of Public Lands, Dept. of Natural Resources, Olympia WA 98504. ▲

Greenway update

Ted Thomsen

During the past year, our 50-person Technical Advisory Committee (under the leadership of Bob Rose with the expert assistance of Jones & Jones) has spent thousands of hours in research, discussions, and public meetings putting together a draft Concept Plan for the Mountains to Sound Greenway. After approval from our Board, the draft Plan should be ready by late spring for distribution to all interested persons, agencies, and organizations for discussion and comment. Many exciting and visionary concepts are emerging from this effort.

An inspiring book, generously funded by the Bullitt Foundation, is now being printed—watch for this photograph-rich absorbing history of the Greenway concept, *Mountains to Sound, the Creation of a Greenway Across the Cascades* by Dan Chasan, in your favorite bookstore this July. An invaluable book on Greenway hiking trails is under preparation by Harvey Manning and Ira Spring; this enticing and inciting hiker's companion should hit the stands by Christmas.

Our able and imaginative Executive Director, Donna McBain, has devoted much of her time in recent months to our continuing efforts to preserve a number of key parcels along the Greenway, including Rattlesnake Mountain property under option from Weyerhaeuser, the Tibbott parcel near High Point, Meadowbrook Farm, Toll Gate Farm, the Snoqualmie Winery site, and Section 9 on Squak Mountain. It is too early to tell whether all these deals will succeed, but if they don't it will not be for lack of trying every feasible approach.

Thanks to the remarkably persuasive efforts of our leader and President Jim Ellis, we have now raised more than \$750,000 of our \$900,000 four-year operating budget for the Greenway Trust. Space constraints preclude mention of other significant Greenway projects now moving towards the front burner, so say tuned! Roll on Greenway! ▲

Year of the Auspicious Animal: Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park

Harvey Manning

Watch for the re-routing around the mucks at Blackwater Pond, Marshall's Hill, and the Section Corner Bog; pruning of foliage to keep open the windows of Long View Peak, Radar Park, Far Country Lookout, Million Dollar View, and Quarry Trail; building of a bridge below Coal Creek Falls to serve as a falls-gazing and picnicking spot; the extension of activities to lower Coal Creek Park, May Creek Park, and newly acquired open spaces on Squak Mountain. (Though the headquarters of King County Parks refuses to address the "greater ecosystem," the folks in the field are doing so.)

Around the Table:

The master plan is moving toward a tentative fall rendezvous with the King County Council. Happily, good feelings prevail at meetings of King County Parks (Bud Parker, the chair, and Steve Williams, chief tender of ground); the Portico Group (Mike Hamm and Becca Hanson, at last given the signal to commence); and the Citizens Advisory Committee (Jane Bierman, Mary Cadigan, Margy Cox, Sarah Haynes, Gary Higbee, Dave Kappler, Jim Maclin, Harvey Manning, Gus Nelson, Kathleen Noonan, Ralph Owen, Peggy Owen, Roger Wickstrom).

We are told that the fat-tire bikers continue howling but that they will not prevail on Cougar Mountain, though Tim Hill has ordered the rest of King County parks thrown wide open, and the vaunted King County Trail Plan has been revealed to be a Bikeway Plan. We are given to understand that the scofflaws who continually violate the law on Cougar and sneer at Parks personnel may soon be in for a rude surprise. If you missed the February 3 Eastside Week, be sure to look it up. Read about the Coming of the Law to Tiger Mountain in the person of Jim Russell, the local DNR Police Chief. One mountain isn't big enough for him and his corps of aids.

Help from On High:

It has been revealed that Picture Butress, on the west end of Marshall Hill's summit lift, has been acquired, and other open space additions are pending. When we asked why good news is so perversely withheld from us, we were informed (1) King County Parks has no public information program; (2) within Parks, the Office of Open Space doesn't talk to other people in Parks, much less the public.

As soon as we can extract the information, we'll publish an updated map of the Wildland Park, showing new acquisitions and others necessary to provide proper "defense lines."

The favorable attitude of the citizenry toward funding the Green bodes well. The King County Council, led by its Committee on Parks and Open Space, chaired by Larry Phillips, passed a money measure which was vetoed by Tim Hill. But that's not the end of the matter, though it nearly is of Hill. Meanwhile, to keep up momentum, the Council has budgeted \$300,000 for one or several small but crucial boundary improvements, as opportunity arises.

The Lone Ranger Rides Again:

I have been representing the Trails Club at hearings on the golf course which Warren Razole and Wally Toner propose to build atop the trash they have piled atop the coal mines between China Creek and Coal Creek. The Club position has been

that we could swallow a golf course if conditions were met: (1) the fairways and their rich old men and women in go-carts were so screened that we could not see or hear them from Red Town, Cave Hole Road, etc.; (2) the forests be in much larger measure retained in order to maintain the wildlife habitat between Wildland Park and Coal Creek Park.

Coal Creek Development Corporation made no concessions and offered no compromises. On February 1 the Zoning Adjustor, Irving Berteig, granted conditional use permits which would give Razole-Toner everything they asked. The time for appeal was so short I had no chance to summon help. Purely as an individual, I put up my \$125 (well hell, I'd just have thrown it away on food, taxes, and clothing) plus \$50 in photocopy and postage. I mention this not to squeeze tears from your eyes but purely to suggest how angry I felt.

The appeal date tentatively is April 13. Meanwhile I've sent out to press and public officials dozens of copies of the appeal, which though full of my usual sound and fury, also details the many factual errors made by Berteig, a nice man, but Cougar-ignorant. In my opinion, the fix is in at the Highest Level. Should you wish to see the appeal, send me a dollar for photocopying the nine pages, another dollar or so for mailing and gas and coffees. Say \$3 or \$4 and I'll lick the envelope personally.

Another Part of the Forest:

State Senator Phil Talmadge, dissatisfied with the upper-level management of State Parks (logging Deception Pass State Park, diverting Twin Falls into a pipe, trying to evict the birds from Lake Sammamish to make room for the soccer players, seeking to turn over the Miller Peninsula to super-wealthy Japanese golfers, etc.) has introduced in the current session SB 5500, co-sponsored by Senators Cantu, Fraser, Quigley, and Deccio. The measure would require the State Parks and Recreation Commission to obtain prior legislative authorization before screwing around as they have been.

Again not seeking sympathy, I ventured into the I-5 maelstrom the morning of February 11 and was the sole citizen at Olympia speaking in support. (The sole speaker in opposition was Cleve Pinneux, Directory of State Parks.) The point I made was that State Parks had a muddled sense of mission, didn't know exactly what it was supposed not to do, and needed the sort of shackling the Congress imposed on the US Forest Service and Nation Parks Service with the Wilderness Act. SB 5500 does not do it all—we need a "State Parks Organization Act." But SB 5500 is a solid plank to build on.

(By the by, we need a "King County Wildlands Act" to inform King County Parks what a wildland is and to straighten up all those county and municipal agencies which treat parks as "public use zones" for highways, sewers, utility lines, and bulldozer parking lots.)

Thus Spake Number 47:

Issaquah Forum 1992, sponsored by the Pomegranate Foundation, asked participants to draw up a list of "Issaquah Treasures." The final cut of 50 included some 30 treasures which in sum are tantamount to the vision expressed by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club in 1979. Modesty (almost) forbids me to note that I made the cut, as Number 47. ▲

Lake Desire and Spring Lake Close-in, Small, Varied

Betty Culbert

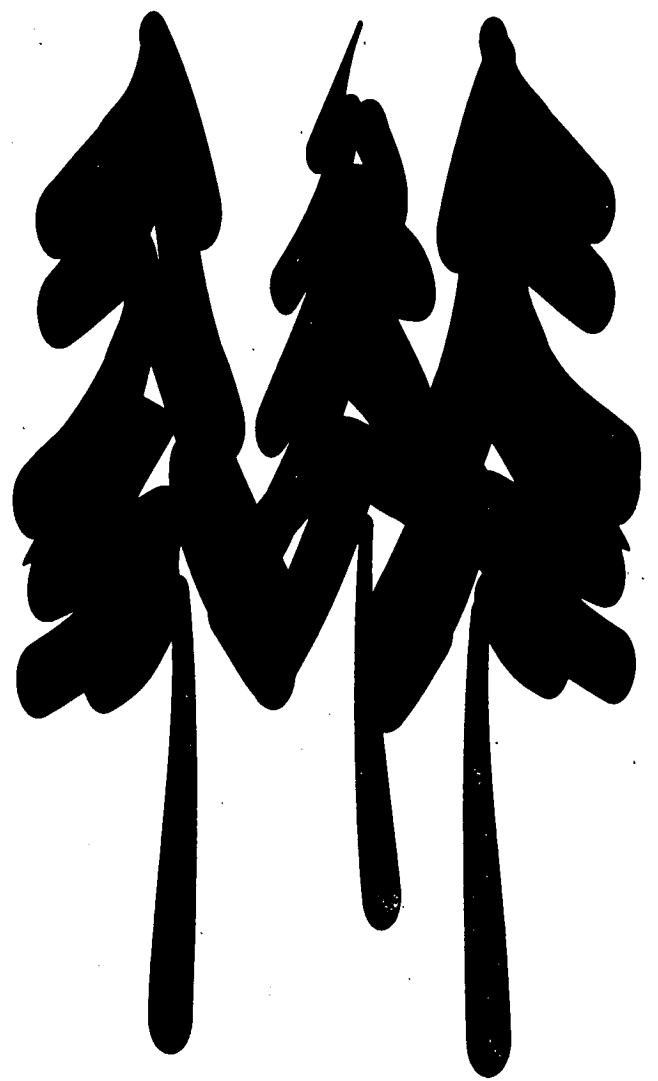
One of King County's new acquisitions is Lake Desire-Spring Lake Open Space, nearly 300 acres of wooded walks which are a delight in any season. Some of us think of it as a little Cougar Mountain. Tucked in like Cougar among developed land, it offers a quiet green space at about 1/10th the size. It too was ripe for development and a downturn in the economy in the 1960's saved it from being a "planned" golf course community on the lake. This pleasant forest has been known by the neighborhood hikers and horse people for years and they have cared for it, clearing trails of trees and draining puddles.

Spring Lake is still Otter Lake on many maps and along one shore an area we call the Swamp needed to be added to the parkland to preserve its magical beauty. The whole area is actually a bog and in wet seasons you bounce along the springy path. Not safe for horses, hikers—treading lightly—can enjoy the wonderful springtime display of bog laurel and labrador tea. Along the lake are irises, and water lilies float off shore. Before the lake level changed, Indians used to come here to gather cranberries. I was introduced to the area by the granddaughters of a Maple Valley homesteader who once met a crying Indian maiden left behind by her tribe as they pushed on to harvest camas growing nearby in meadows where now Highway 18 lies. I have tasted a cranberry from the very few bushes still left. But the most exciting plant is the sundew, an insect eat-

ing plant which grows in the patches of peat along the lake. It is so tiny you need magnifying glasses to appreciate it, but it's worth the wet feet and mystical walk through the bog of mixed fir and pine trees that seem to float on the spongy soil.

This small bit of open space offers the best view of Mount Rainier around the Alps—absolutely so pristine you can't even see the houses that you know stretch for miles around. At 900 feet, the top of the highest of the twin hills—called Echo Mountain by the locals—is a wonder in the spring. Masses of fritillaria (chocolate lily) and fawn lily live under serviceberry bushes. Other damp areas produce monkey flowers, and a species of wild valerian called sea blush turns the whole meadow pink between the rock outcroppings. Walking down through the usual mix of northwest forest are solomon's seal, fairy bells and an example of a slender tooth wort.

There is even a nice lunch spot along the lake, and it was here that Gail Palm saw otters sunning on a dock where private and public properties meet. Sometimes only a few feet separate hiker from the private land owner, yet you can get a true feeling of wildness in this tiny public space that yet needs an appropriate name to describe it and its wonderfully diverse zones. After you have experienced it (see hike schedule), you could write to King County to suggest a name and to urge them to get the swamp into public domain to help keep it magical for all.



Update on Recreation Projects in Tiger Mountain State Forest

Dept. of Natural Resources Corner—Issues of importance from your staff at Tiger Mountain State Forest. Contributed by Doug McClelland, Wendy Sammarco, Dan Pomeroy, Susan Combs-Bauer

Some exciting recreation improvements are in progress in the Tiger Mountain State Forest. Phase one of our Recreation Plan is beginning. Do you remember the process of developing the initial Tiger Mountain State Forest Recreation Plan? The plan outlined a phased project approach. Funding for the phases is being applied for through the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation. The DNR received funding for Phase one and work is beginning!

- Poo Poo Point (work in progress): Composting toilet; parking area with gravel surface for 12 cars; longer parking spaces to accommodate hang gliding equipment; information board for educational purposes; picnic table; benches; hitching rails; improved launch site through volunteer efforts

The estimated completion date is March 1993.

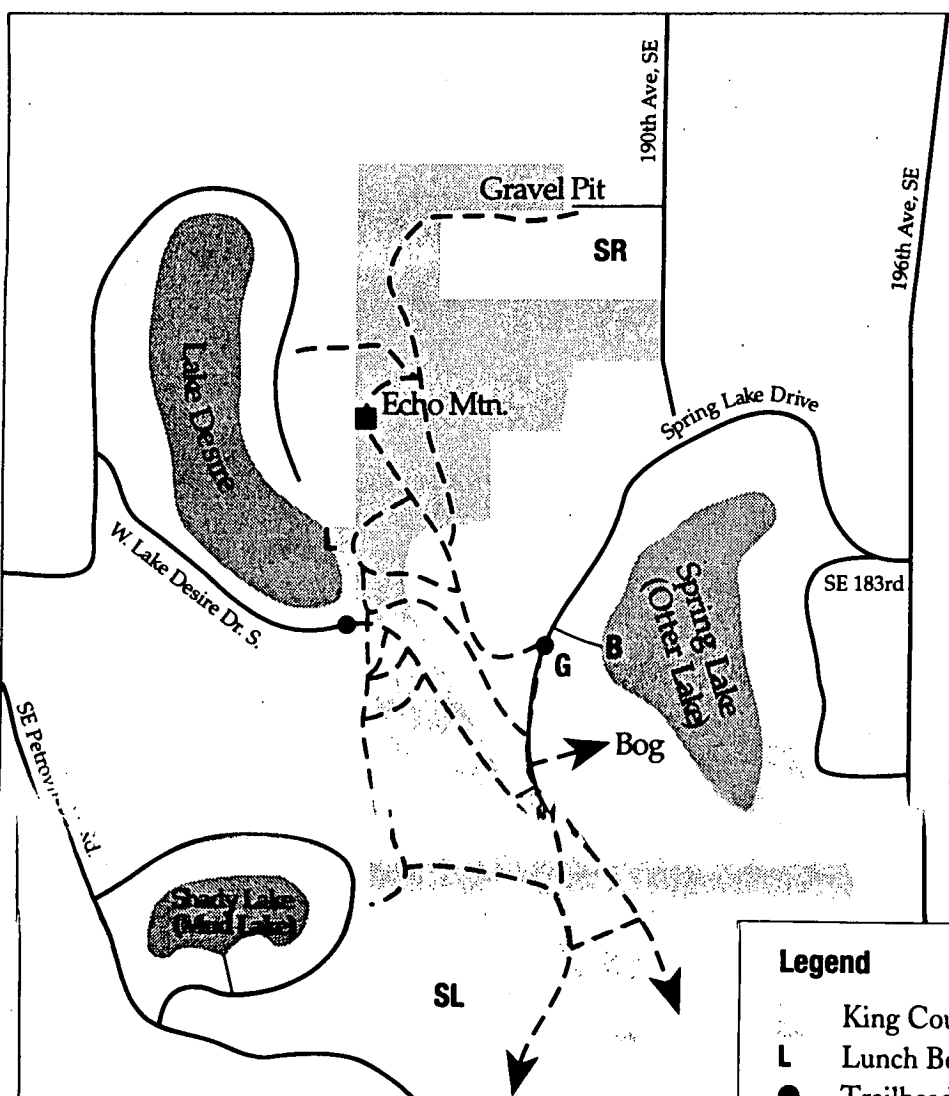
The gate will continue to be locked at 15 Mile Creek until completion.

- Trail Contract (work to begin early 1993): barrier free trail to Tradition Lake with gravel surface and benches (about 3/4 mile); improved drainage, surface tread, and some rerouting of the following trails: Bus Road, Poo Poo Point, TMT (first 2 miles from High Point), Around the Lake, and West Tiger 3; new multiple use trail "Waterfall Trail" (Highway 18 side of Tiger), first mile

The estimated completion date is late summer of 1993.

- High Point Trailhead (work to begin early 1993): composting toilets; open air shelter; picnic tables; benches; information board

The estimated completion is late summer 1993. This will be a walk-in trailhead; no parking will be provided.



Legend

- King County Parcel
- L Lunch Beach
- Trailheads
- Echo Mtn. Summit
- SR Shadow Ridge Housing
- G Gate
- B Boat Ramp
- SL Future Spring Lake Park Estates

Directions: Take 196th Ave, SE from Maple Valley Highway to SE 183rd. Go right, then right again on Spring Lake Drive to road end near KC Boat Ramp and park.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes and Events

Friday April 2

Cougar Mtn./Bear Ridge to Anti-Aircraft Park
2C 9:30 a.m.

Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday April 3

West Tiger Mtn. Trail Work Party
3B 8:30 a.m.

George Jackman 221-3925

Sunday April 4

West Middle Tiger Loop
2B 9:30 a.m.

Warren Jones 888-0262

Tuesday April 6

Tiger Mtn. Leaders Choice
3C 8:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Saturday April 10

Cougar Mtn./Wilderness Peak
3C 9:30 a.m.

Tom Walsh 453-8319

Rattlesnake Ledge

Wetland and Alpine Plants

2C steep/slow 8:30 a.m.

Fred and Ann Weinmann 392-9230

Sunday April 11

Tradition Lake Plateau
1B 1:00 p.m.

Bob Gross 392-0539

Monday April 12

Taylor Mtn. Shaun Creek Falls

2C 9:30 a.m.

George Jackman 221-3925

Wednesday April 14

TMT "End to End"

4D 8:00 a.m.

JoAnn Howe

Friday April 16

Lake Desire Flower Walk

2B 9:30 a.m.

Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday April 17

Tiger Mtn. Trail Maintenance
3C 8:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Sunday April 18

Cougar Mtn. Licorice Fern/DeLeo Wall
2A 10:00 a.m.

John Johnson 633-3805

Wednesday April 21

Tiger Mtn. Leaders Choice
3C 8:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Thursday April 22

Sunrise Park Family Hike
1A 10:00 a.m.

Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday April 24

Cougar Mtn. DeLeo Wall
2B 10:00 a.m.

Patty Olwell 391-6719

Tiger Mtn. South
Flower Identification

2A 9:00 a.m.

Bill Longwell 222-6775

Tradition Plateau-Geology

2A 10:00 a.m.

Kirt and Larry Hanson 392-2458

Sunday April 25

Cougar Mtn. History Hike and Drive
2B 12:30 p.m.

Ann Leber 746-3291

Wilderness Creek

3C 9:00 a.m.

Peggy Owen 746-1070

Monday April 26

Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Issaquah Community
Hall (next to Fire Station)

Friday April 30

Preston/King County Trail
Flower Identification

1A 6:30 p.m.

Bill Longwell 222-6775

Saturday May 1

Taylor Mtn. Ridge

Work Party

4C 8:30 a.m.

George Jackman 221-3925

Sunday May 2

Explore East Tiger Trails
and Main Summit

4C 8:30 a.m.

Ralph Owen 746-1070

Tradition Plateau

Birds and Flowers (slow)

2A 10:00 a.m.

Larry and Marty Hanson 392-2458

Tuesday May 4

Twin Falls

2B 9:30 a.m.

Al Blalock 746-4155

Wednesday May 5

Tiger Mtn. Leader's Choice
3C 8:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Saturday May 8

Rattlesnake Mtn.

Trail Maintenance

3C 8:30 a.m.

Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Sunday May 9

Tradition Lake Spring Gambol

2A 1:00 p.m.

Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Squak Mtn. Central Peak

3C 9:00 a.m.

Clifton Cooper 932-3124

Monday May 10

West Taylor Mtn. Trail
3B 9:30 a.m.

George Jackman 221-3925

Tuesday May 11

South Tiger Mtn. Loop

2B 9:30 a.m.

Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Thursday May 13

Lake Desire Flower Walk
2B 9:30 a.m.

Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday May 15

Twin Falls/Ribbon Lace Falls
3B 9:30 a.m.

Ann Leber 746-3291

Tiger Mtn. Trail Maintenance

3C 8:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Sunday May 16

Cougar Mtn./Wilderness Peak
3C 9:30 a.m.

Tom Walsh 453-8319

Tuesday May 18

Lake Tradition Plateau

2A 9:30 a.m.

Al Blalock 746-4155

Wednesday May 19

Lake Sammamish Family Hike

1A 10:00 a.m.

Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Friday May 21

Tiger Mtn. Leader's Choice
3C 8:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Saturday May 22

Middle Tiger Trail Maintenance
3C 9:30 a.m.

John Johnson 633-3805

Rattlesnake Ledge

Wetland and Alpine Plants

2B 8:30 a.m. (slow/steep)

Fred and Ann Weinmann 392-9230

Sunday May 23

Lake Tradition Plateau
1B 1:00 p.m.

Bob Gross 392-0539

Grand Ridge Super Tour

3B (six hours) 8:00 a.m.

Roger Delmar 392-9553

Monday May 24

*Board Meeting (note different location)
7:00 p.m. Issaquah City Hall Council
Chambers (across from Fire Station)*

Friday May 28

Preston/King County Trail

Bird Identification (quiet hike)

1A 6:30 p.m.

Bill Longwell 222-6775

Saturday May 29

Tiger Mtn. Caves

2B 12:30 p.m.

Bob Gross 392-0539

Sunday May 30

Squak Perimeter Trail

3C 8:30 a.m.

Ralph Owen 746-1070

Friday June 4

Tiger Mtn. Leaders Choice
3C 8:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Saturday June 5

CELEBRATE NATIONAL
TRAILS DAY (*see article*)

Rattlesnake Mtn.

4C 8:30 a.m.

Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Tradition Lake

2A 10:00 a.m.

Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Sunday June 6

Tiger Mtn. Leaders Choice
2C 10:00 a.m.

Patty Olwell 391-6719

Tuesday June 8

Twin Falls

2B 9:30 a.m.

Al Blalock 746-4155

Wednesday June 9

Mercer Slough Family Hike

1A 10:00 a.m.

Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday June 12

GRAND TRAVERSE PART 1
(*see article*)

Tiger Mtn. Traverse

3C 8:30 a.m.

Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Wilderness Peak

via Licorice Fern Trail

2A 12:30 p.m.

Bob Gross 392-0539

Sunday June 13

GRAND TRAVERSE PART 2
(*see article*)

Squak and Cougar Traverse

4D 8:00 a.m.

Ralph Owen 746-1070

Cougar Mtn. Wilderness Loop

3B 9:30 a.m.

Ann Leber 746-3291

Thursday June 17

High Point Railroad Grade
Family Hike

1A 10:00 a.m.

Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Friday June 18

Lake Tradition

Bird Identification (quiet hike)

1A 6:30 p.m.

Bill Longwell 222-6775

Saturday June 19

Snoqualmie Ridge Wetlands-Bird ID

1A (almost no pace) 8:30 a.m.

Bill Longwell 222-6775

Tiger Mtn. Trail Maintenance

3C 8:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Sunday June 20

Cougar Ring via Wilderness Creek
3C 8:30 a.m.

Ralph Owen 746-1070

Tuesday June 22

Lake Alice Road—Tokul Creek
2C 9:30 a.m.

Al Blalock 746-4155

Saturday June 26

Tiger Mtn. Leaders Choice
3C 8:00 a.m.

Will Thompson 488-8592

Sunday June 27

Trails of Lake Tradition Plateau
2B 12:30 p.m.

Ann Leber 746-3291

Monday June 28

Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Issaquah Community Hall

Wednesday June 30

Cougar Mtn./Licorice Fern Wall to
Long View

3B 9:00 a.m.

Mary Cadigan 641-4046

A Message in Support of the Washington State Trails Association

Ken Konegsmark

As a member of Washington Trails Association (WTA) myself, I heartily endorse this organization to my fellow members of the IATC. WTA is a true partner in protecting our priceless wildlands, with a specific focus on preserving and expanding the hiking trail network in Washington. In addition to supporting this noble goal, membership in WTA also includes a subscription to a superb, monthly magazine, "Signpost for NW Trails," which I find to be overflowing with great reports on Washington trail conditions, informational tips, etc. If you do any hiking on trails outside of the Issaquah Alps (and who doesn't?), WTA is working to preserve these trails for all of us. I urge you to join WTA today, and to actively help support their efforts.

What is WTA? Who Joins

WTA is a grassroots organization made up of concerned individuals, conservation organizations, public agencies, and outdoor businesses. Our members are people who enjoy being active outdoors. They are avid backpackers. They enjoy leisurely dayhikes. They jog, skateboard or ride bikes on paved, urban trails. WTA members are people who enjoy trails where ever they are found, be they narrow paths in high mountain meadows or broad rail-trails in Seattle neighborhoods.

What does WTA do?

WTA protects and promotes the state's trail system. The organization is effective in achieving its goals because it works actively with federal, state and local agencies to improve trail resources; lobbies effectively to increase funding for trails; coordinates with community education programs, conservation groups and clubs to provide the public with information on trail issues and use; and joins forces with conservation and outdoor groups to develop a united constituency for trails.

Benefits of membership in WTA

A discounted subscription rate to *Signpost for Northwest Trails* magazine; free non-commercial classified advertising in *Signpost* and reduced rates for display ads. Free use of the Signpost darkroom; the satisfaction of knowing you're helping to protect a vital local, state, and national asset—an integrated system of recreational trails. For more information on joining WTA please call (206) 625-1367 or write WTA at 1305 Fourth Ave., Suite 512, Seattle, WA 98101.

Hike Information

HIKE LEADERS

The hike leaders are volunteers who have donated their time to lead people who want to hike and explore the trails in the Issaquah Alps and other nearby foothills (Cascades) in King County. Hikes are scheduled and led year-round regardless of weather. *Minimum attendance is 3, including the leader.*

Trails in the Issaquah Alps may be good or bad, easy or hard, muddy or dusty, brushy or clear, steep or flat, easy or hard—or all of the above. Some are not much more than animal trails. As *volunteers*, neither the hike leaders, the Trails Club or club directors are in any way responsible or liable for hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general wellbeing while traveling to and from the trailhead or while hiking or working any trail.

The club's sole purpose is to show hikers where the trails are and to lead the way. The public, other clubs, youth groups, church groups and others are welcome and wholeheartedly invited to join with the hike leader and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 13 should be accompanied by an adult. *Please, no pets on these hikes.*

HIKE CLASSIFICATIONS

Each hike has a number and letter designation after it (e.g., 2C). Numbers indicate the hiking time and letters indicate the degree of difficulty.

Hiking Time

Class 1: 2 hours

Class 2: 4 hours

Class 3: 6 hours

Class 4: 8 hours

These are *approximate* hiking times, not including travel time to and from the trailhead (20 to 70 minutes, depending on the hike) and meal times (lunch will add another 20-70 minutes, depending on the mood of the group). The times are based on an assumption of a two mile per hour pace, with a half hour added for each 1000 feet in elevation gain. Trail conditions, weather, and unexpected hazards can extend the hiking time.

Degree of Difficulty

A: little or no elevation gain, up to 500 feet, no difficulties for average walker

B: some climbing: up to 1200 feet, or some other difficulty

C: more climbing: up to 2500 feet, or some other difficulty

D: much climbing: over 2500 feet elevation gain.

This is an *estimated* degree of difficulty. Most trails in the Issaquah Alps are not up to the high standards of state and national parks. Issaquah Trails can be very steep in parts or muddy and brushy. Hikers may gain 1000 feet in just one mile of a five-mile, 1500-foot elevation gain hike. Sometimes there are trees to climb over or nettles and berry bushes to beat through. *Short* doesn't automatically mean easy and *long* doesn't automatically mean tough.

HIKE DESCRIPTION MODIFIERS

Exploration

The leader shows trails and points of interest along the way. The trails to be hiked or points visited depend on the weather and the group's interests.

Leader's Choice

The leader had not decided where to hike before publication of the hike schedule.

Trail Party

Trail maintenance work party.

Variation

The leader may detour, take short cuts and loops, explore or otherwise deviate from the main trail to make the hike more interesting.

Exploratory Bushwhack

The leader goes cross country off the main trail system to explore animal trails, canyons, old logging roads, or old railroad grades. Expect to go through brush, over logs, tiptoe through wildflowers and/or mud and have a good time hiking where others seldom tread.

Youth Hike

For children ages six to 12. Parents must come along.

Toddler's Walk

For parents with very small children or infants.

MEETING PLACE

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot just south of Issaquah City Hall. To get there, take Exit 17 (Issaquah—Front Street) off Interstate 90 and turn south into downtown Issaquah. Go one mile or so down Front Street, past the light at Sunset to S.E. Andrews. Turn left into the KC Foods complex. Go one block to parking area between First Avenue and Rainier Blvd. Park south of Andrews Street.

CLOTHING

Dress for the Pacific Northwest outdoors—expect rain, snow, sunshine, fog and everything in between. Bring extra clothing, rain gear, food, drink, matches, flashlight and first aid supplies. Wear comfortable hiking boots or hiking shoes.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Volunteers organize and schedule trail maintenance parties periodically as listed in the hike schedule. These work parties meet at the same place as the regular hikes (see "Meeting Place" above). The Club is well supplied with heavy trail maintenance tools, but workers may also bring their own loppers, weed whackers and other tools. Trail work parties last at least four hours. *Trail maintenance is vital to the Club's work and an integral part of the DNR management plan for Tiger Mountain.* Work parties must limit their activity to those trails listed by DNR as scheduled for maintenance—**no construction of new trails is allowed.** Work parties are a great way to meet people! Individuals and groups are also encouraged to adopt a trail, or section of trail, and be responsible for maintaining it. ▲

America's First National Trails Day

Ted Thomsen

On June 5, 1993 America will celebrate National Trails Day, launching a new era of trails development. In an effort led by the American Hiking Society, thousands of trails clubs will host events that will reach out to more than a million Americans. Through thousands of these events, these volunteer organizations will raise awareness of trails and some of the issues facing their community's resources.

The unifying idea of National Trails Day is the vision of Trails for All Americans, a plan to establish a nationwide network of trails and greenways that would bring trails to within 15 minutes of most American homes. Federal, state, local and private

paths would be linked together as part of the nation's planned infrastructure of green, akin to the interstate highway system.

In preparation for National Trails Day, we have scheduled a number of trail maintenance parties during April and May. Two special hikes celebrating the day have been scheduled for June 5 (see hike schedule). Additional events are being planned by the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and other organizations throughout the region.

It's going to be a historic day for America's hikers! Don't miss it! ▲

Sightings

Marty Hanson

It is mid-February and a blast of cold clear air has replaced the balmy temperatures of last week. Buds have begun to swell and even open. The lowland willow trees are becoming brighter daily, reminding me of some lines by Robert Frost "Nature's first green is gold, her hardest hue to hold". A walk on Tiger Mountain today revealed pussy willows blooming next to frozen streamlets. Spring has been put on hold for a while.

Being an avid (this does not mean expert) birder, graduate of many birding classes and living on Tiger Mountain, I would like to share some observations and perceptions with you. Winter resident birds are fewer in number than in summer but easier to see with fewer green leaves to hide behind. Flocks of chickadees and kinglets forage together, covering large areas. Black-capped Chickadees are found mostly at lower elevations and Chestnut-backed Chickadees on the higher slopes. Golden-crowned Kinglets are the predominant resident species but a few Ruby-crowned Kinglets may winter here also. Tiny Bushtits and Dark-eyed Juncos also travel in separate flocks. As spring approaches these birds will separate into pairs for breeding and will assertively defend their chosen territories against others of their kind. Rufous-sided Towhees and Varied Thrushes commonly forage on the ground. Pileated, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers are active all year searching for insects and larvae in tree trunks. Most use nest holes for winter roosting. Large rectangular holes on trees are *only* made by Pileated Woodpeckers. Recently I watched two Red-breasted Sapsuckers taking sweetly to each other but not so sweetly to me!

During January the snow-covered roads, closed to vehicular traffic, were wonderful for walking. On the main (Upper) Tiger Mountain Road between Fifteen Mile Pass and Hidden Forest Trail, I observed a medium-sized all white bird walking toward me on the road, looking much like a displaced chicken. I stopped, stood still, and watched the White-tailed Ptarmigan approach, then walk around me on top of the untracked snow. In winter the Ptarmigan's unique feathered feet provide warmth and act like snowshoes on soft snow. We both turned to watch each other in passing. Later than week I saw many more of the same characteristic snowshoe-like prints in the snow near the sum-

mit of East Tiger Mountain. These birds are not supposed to be on Tiger Mountain or live below the timberline—ever. Was it a casual winter visitor due to the low snow levels? Perhaps, but the peaks of Tiger are often covered with snow in winters. The Issaquah Alps still have many secrets and treasures to be discovered.

As you read this, winter will be past and spring should be in full bloom. A glorious time it is, the most melodious in the year. Most of the previously mentioned birds will be settling in on their territories and preparing for nesting. Birds in migration may be seen in passing, and there are new arrivals almost daily. Brightly colored singing males announce their presence, searching for mates and defending their new-found territories. The arrival of the male Rufous Hummingbird in early spring coincides with the blooming of the flowering red currant—with the female Rufous coming later. Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, and a variety of warblers find summer homes on Tiger Mountain. Two very plain, mostly brown species have possibly the loveliest of bird-songs. The tiny Winter Wren brightens dark woods with its very long complex song, always breathtaking to hear. A flute-like ascending spiral of song, heard often in the early morning and evening signals the presence of a Swainson's Thrush, common but very shy and a challenge to see. Hammond's, Willow and Pacific Slope (formerly called Western) Flycatchers are all lookalikes and best identified by their songs and calls. Wilson's Warbler has the "quick-three-beers" song of an Olive-sided Flycatcher as he sings from a high exposed coniferous limb.

These birds (and more) have all been seen and/or heard on Tiger Mountain but are certainly present throughout the Issaquah Alps. Look them up in your field guide. If you don't have one, I'd recommend *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, National Geographic Society, available from Seattle and Bellevue Audubon Society. Others which are good are *A Field Guide to Western Birds*, R. T. Peterson, and *Birds of North America*, Golden Press. Both can be found in bookstores. With binoculars, a field guide, and a little patience, many new discoveries await you in your ramblings in the Issaquah Alps.



The Birds Arrive...

In the adjacent table, Bill Longwell has provided observations of arriving migrating birds.

	Purple Finch	Dusky Flycatcher	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Alder Flycatcher	Western wood Peewee	Western Tanager	Swainson's Thrush	Blackthroated Gray Warbler	Wilson's Warbler
1986	—	May 8	—	—	—	May 8	May 23	May 8	—
1987	—	April 22	—	May 19	—	May 19	May 12	April 26	—
1988	—	April 27	May 30	May 29	May 15	May 15	May 12	April 14	April 30
1989	April 16	April 16	May 20	June 3	May 20	May 12	May 13	April 14	—
1990	—	April 18	May 11	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 11	March 11	May 5
1991	April 13	April 4	June 9	May 18	May 23	May 15	May 15	April 18	May 3
1992	April 13	April 24	May 10	May 31	May 10	May 10	May 10	April 24	April 24

Editor's Desk

Did You Miss Your Alpiner?

Many of you have received a late Winter Alpiner, and some of you no Alpiner at all. At mailing time, we found that our membership database had been corrupted and, after carefully restoring our membership lists from earlier records, we sent out approximately 250 Alpiners to those who had been omitted. We apologize for the delays and omissions. If you or a friend still have not received your Winter Alpiner, please call Bill McFerren at 391-3359.

In response to problems with membership lists and mailing labels, we decided to move our membership record keeping in-house. Thanks to Mark Bullock for rapidly setting up a new and user-friendly membership database that is customized to the Club's needs. And a big thanks to Bill McFerren and the Wallensteins for the painstaking effort they put into bringing the corrupted membership database up to date. We can now maintain our membership records at lower cost and more effectively than contracting with an outside vendor.

Letter to the Editor

"I was touched by the note of thanks to me in the last Alpiner. Please thank the writer and originator of these sentiments. But may I turn the thanks around? Any contributions I have made were solely due to the inspiration, unstinting support and downright forbearance of my Trails Club comrades. It will be a long time if ever before I again meet the likes of you." — Jack Hornung, 1-15-93

Send us an Article or Photo

Deadline for Summer Alpiner articles is May 22 (unless other arrangements are made with Editor)—we are seeking member contributions to the Alpiners. If interested contact Sarah Young at 271-9932.

'92 Hikes—Where the Boot Tread Meets the Trailhead

"To save a trail you must walk it" (Harvey Manning). In 1992 the Issaquah Alps Club led 238 hikes with the able help of 39 volunteer hike leaders. In all 1528 people participated in these hikes. Most conservatively, that's well over 1500 miles of trail saving. Thanks to all the hike leaders and to Fred and Ann Weinmann for organizing the quarterly hike schedule! ▲

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Mail Order Service

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

▲ *Guide to Trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Coal Creek Park, May Creek Park*

By Harvey Manning and Ralph Owen. 1990 updated edition. This new edition brings you all the old favorites plus new favorites—new trails on the west side connecting to Renton and May Creek plus *all new maps*. \$8.50 (includes map, tax and shipping)

▲ *Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain*

By Bill Longwell. 1989 updated edition. New trails: Tradition Plateau Trail (adding Swamp and Wetlands Trails), the *new* Bootleg Trail, the *new* Preston Trail. Plus encounters with animals. \$8.50 (includes map, tax and shipping)

▲ *Bedrock and Boots—An Introduction to the Geology of the Issaquah Alps*

By Marvin Pistrang. A thorough but simple chronology of the geology of the Alps from the early Eocene period to modern times. \$3.50 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History*

By Richard K. McDonald and Lucille McDonald. A complete history of the once-thriving coal mining area on Cougar Mountain, now hidden from all but hikers. More than 100 photos, four maps and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$11.50 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Tiger Mt. map* \$1.75 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Cougar Mt. map* \$1.75 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Tradition Lake map and Grand Ridge map* \$1.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *T-Shirt: "Issaquah Alps Trails Club"* Specify size (S,M,L,XL) color (blue or white) and sleeve length. Short sleeve: \$11, long sleeve: \$15.00.

▲ *T-Shirt: "Mountains to Sound March"* Specify size (S, M, L, XL). \$11.00. All shirts are blue and short-sleeved.

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

- Annual Regular Dues \$10
- Annual Contributing Dues \$20
- Lifetime Membership \$100
- Limited Income \$5

▲ All memberships cover the entire family.

▲ A regular annual family membership is \$10. This covers the cost of printing and mailing the Alpiner and a part of the club's overhead expenses.

▲ Contributing memberships at \$20 or more cover the rest of the club's overhead expenses and allow us some financial leeway in planning special events, publishing trail guides and keeping our trail maintenance tool supply fit and ample.

▲ Lifetime memberships at \$100 give us room to be creative and visionary, to venture forth on projects otherwise beyond our means and dreams.



Issaquah Alps Trails Club
P.O. Box 351
Issaquah, WA 98027

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