

THE ALPINE



January ▲ February ▲ March ▲ 1994

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

Stepping Into a Green Future

Nancy Keith, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Hikers know this profound lesson: the greatest heights can be scaled, one step at a time. That knowledge inspired some of the keenest trail scouts in the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, back in 1990, to organize the first Mountains to Sound March. Nearly 100 people spent five days tracing a footpath from Snoqualmie Pass to downtown Seattle. The event was a wake-up call to everyone in the Cascades region who values the proximity to beauty and nature that can be found in the Cascade Mountains along Snoqualmie Pass. The March organizers could see that without strong action now, many of these precious resources will not remain for the future.

Those first steps gave rise to formation of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, a private, non-profit organization funded by individuals and businesses. The Trust is the catalyst of a strong regional effort to protect the wild and scenic forest lands along the I-90 corridor.

The Trust has pursued an inclusive strategy exemplified by its 63-member Board of Directors. They come from business and government, from recreational and environmental groups, academia, and concerned households. They represent many viewpoints, but they share a vision of the future when the region will be home to millions more people and have a critical need for the deep forests, clear waters and wildlife that can be found today along the Snoqualmie Pass corridor.

The Trust's first big effort went into raising nearly \$900,000 to fund the organization's first four years. The second phase was assembly of an 80-person Advisory Committee of technical experts who could lay out the specific problems and solutions along the possible Greenway.

As the Trust and Technical Committee looked at the realities of land use along the urban edge, they quickly realized that if future trails are to pass through forests—instead of parking lots—the original goals of enhancing wildlife and recreation habitat would have to expand. They said the Greenway had to become effective in the complex framework of environmental, land use and economic decisions. So, Greenway goals now include trails, historic sites and towns, education projects, tourism, forest and farm issues, and transportation planning.

The past year has brought enough success for the new organization to believe that the goal of a healthy, 110-mile, multi-purpose Greenway will be reached. A grant from the Bullitt Foundation has produced a beautiful book by Dan Chasan documenting the history of Snoqualmie Pass and the potential of the Greenway idea. Harvey Manning's new guide, *Hiking the Mountain to Sounds Greenway*, makes the perfect field companion to the Chasan book.

From the original footsteps and trails of the 1990 March, some large pieces of conserved land have begun to grow. In December, the ridge of Rattlesnake Mountain will pass from the ownership of the Weyerhaeuser Company to the Department of Natural Resources and King County for conservation uses. The green jewel of Meadowbrook Farm, between Snoqualmie and North Bend,

will remain pastoral open space into the 21st century, thanks to the combined efforts of city and county officials, the Trust for Public Land, and funding from King County's Conservation Futures fund.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is using a federal grant to carry out a major planning study for Greenway projects in the I-90 right-of-way. WSDOT has also nominated the freeway corridor as an "Endangered Scenic Byway" and is developing a handbook for roadside landscaping, so that volunteer groups can bring back the green along developed sections of the highway.

The National Parks Service has approved funding for a Greenway recreation project on Lake Cle Elum. In October, Key Bank of Washington funded distribution of Dan Chasan's Greenway book to school and public libraries throughout the region.

The natural and human history of the area from Edgewick Road to Preston will soon be featured in a series of Greenway roadside signs, thanks to a grant from the Washington Forest Protection Association. In October, the Mountains to Sound Greenway idea received a significant boost from the eastern side of the Cascades with official endorsement by the Kittitas County Commissioners.

Continuing the invaluable link between the IATC and the Greenway, Boeing Company employee and IATC president, Ken Konigsmark has been loaned to the Greenway Trust for up to two years. Ken is now Director of Special Greenway Projects. His energy and knowledge are vastly expanding the capabilities of the small Trust staff.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust has chosen to work for a broad, linking vision and action plan. This should help support and unify the efforts of many resourceful groups and individuals working on particular problems or places in the Greenway. Increasingly, private and public documents and projects refer to the Mountains to Sound Greenway as a reality to be planned for, included and funded. Thus do dreams and footsteps make the world.

The practical realities of the future Greenway are laid out in the Trust's Draft Concept Map, going out for public comment now through Spring 1994. The Map presents over 60 sites and projects that, if accomplished over the next 10-20 years, will insure the wild and scenic future of these mountains amidst the flood of people and machines.

The Greenway Concept Plan now needs the realistic, critical review that only the public can give to it. You can help by reviewing the Plan, showing it to others and inviting the Trust to present it to community groups. To obtain a free copy of the plan, schedule a presentation, or learn more about the Mountains to Sound Greenway and volunteer opportunities, call the Mountains to Sound Greenway office at 382-5565. ▲

Progress Report: CMRW Park Master Plan

Ralph Owen

As of late November, the **Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park Master Plan** and its written reports are still being finalized by the planning team, which consists of King County Parks Management Team, the Master Plan Citizen's Advisory Committee, and the Portico Group acting as project consultants. This continuing activity reflects a slide in the schedule which targeted completion and submittal of the plan to the King County Council by late 1993. However, good master plans, like great wines, often take longer to produce than originally expected. As a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee, I appreciate the fact that King County Parks is allowing the time to be spent to finish the job, rather than being overly concerned with schedule. I am confident that the Trails Club membership will support the master plan that is being developed.

The Portico Group is preparing four technical reports which will document the master planning process. The draft version of the first of these documents, *Site Inventory & Analysis*, was released to the other members of the planning team for review in late August. Comments were returned in early September for incorporation into the final report. The draft of the second document, *Park Program Report*, was released to the planning team members in mid-November, with comments due by November's end.

The Park Program Report contains the key to the future of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and, by precedent, to the future of other similar King County Parks properties such as those on Squak and Rattlesnake Mountains. This document attempts to define a "wildland park" and includes a statement of purpose, goals and objectives for the wildland park, as defined by the planning team. This report establishes the policy, as well as many management guidelines, which becomes the basis for all subsequent planning and design decisions for the wildland park area. As reported in the last *Alpiner*, the plan recommends that virtually the entire park be preserved for wildlife habitat, open space, low impact recreation, and interpretation of history and the ecosystems. The planning team has identified the preservation of wildlife as being the first priority use of much of the park, and the management plan is being formulated to reflect this priority. One impact of this will be to reduce the numbers of trails in a large contiguous block of wildlife habitat and refuge to be designated in the eastern portion of the park.

The updated completion schedule has not yet been provided. King County Parks is currently targeting a final Citizen's Advisory Committee in December '93 or January '94. The final reports and submittal to the Council would follow this meeting. We will plan to provide the promised detailed report of the master plan to the members in the next *Alpiner*. ▲

President's Report IATC Successfully Accomplishes 1993 Goals!

Ken Konigsmark

This issue marks the start of another new year for each of us individually and as a club. Per IATC custom, we will kick off the new year with our Annual Meeting, which will be held on January 24, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Issaquah Community Hall next to the fire station. I urge you to attend, especially if you are willing to play a more active role in important Club matters. We will be electing three Board members, plus approving a new VP for Operations and a new Treasurer. These are critical positions to be filled. The IATC Board encourages members who are eager, capable, and willing to become more actively involved in Club issues to volunteer for consideration for any of these positions. If you have an interest and would like to learn more, please call Art Wallenstein at 392-7813. We need energetic members with fresh ideas who are willing to get involved.

We will also be defining and prioritizing IATC goals for 1994 at our Annual Meeting. Our efforts in achieving the 1993 goals, which were defined last December, were highly successful and are described in a separate article. In order to maintain the Club's focus and to direct efforts to the highest priorities, it is essential to establish clearly defined goals up front. Come to the Annual Meeting on January 24th and help the Club define these goals for 1994.

Wishing a happy holiday season to all my fellow IATC members! ▲

Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the members of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, a Washington nonprofit corporation, will be held on January 24, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. at the Issaquah Community Hall (next to the fire station). The purpose of the meeting is to elect directors and to conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Three directors are to be elected to fill the positions presently held by Bill Longwell, Fred Weinmann, and Maryanne Tagney Jones, whose terms are expiring. The Nominating Committee has nominated the same three persons to fill these positions. ▲

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

Ken Konigsmark

In the Winter 1993 edition of the *Alpiner*, we listed the 1993 goals which had been adopted by the Board of Directors during our last Annual Meeting. It is appropriate to look back and review these goals, recognizing the results of the past year's efforts. The Board had adopted 12 primary goals for 1993, and efforts throughout the year focused on making tangible progress toward their accomplishment. A summary of accomplishments for each of the 12 goals follows:

- **Goal 1: Actively support State Parks acquisition of Section 9, Squak Mountain.** Phase 1 acquisition of Section 9 and funding for a south trailhead were approved by the State Parks Commission in June. Due to key support from Gus Nelson, the Trust for Public Land, Bruce Hilyer, and State Parks, this acquisition should be completed very soon, greatly increasing the size of Squak Mountain State Park.
- **Goal 2: Promote the Mountains to Sound Greenway (MTSG) concept.** IATC has and continues to strongly support the MTSG. MTSG, the Club, and the City of Issaquah worked in partnership on National Trails Day. Club members constructed a new Rattlesnake Ridge trail, which directly supports MTSG planning. The Club and MTSG combined efforts to support open space acquisitions in 1993 and to get approval for the City of Issaquah's Trails Plan.
- **Goal 3: Lobby to protect and preserve Grand Ridge.** Thanks primarily to the lead efforts of Roger Delmar, with help from many other IATC members, the County Council was persuaded to keep Grand Ridge zoned rural instead of zoning it for massive development. We expect this issue to resurface again in 1994, however.
- **Goal 4: Promote and protect Cougar Mountain Wildland Park.** Cougar Mountain remains protected as the largest urban wildland park in the nation, thanks to the continued vigilance and efforts of IATC members, the public, and King County staff. A Citizen's Oversight Committee includes IATC representation and is completing a well-defined master plan for the park. An additional 442 acres will soon be acquired through the King County Conservation Futures 1993 program.

- **Goal 5: Support DNR acquisition of Section 12 on Tiger Mountain.** IATC letters to Jennifer Belcher, Commissioner of Public Lands, have detailed the Club's concerns regarding the need for public ownership of these lands. DNR supports this requirement and will continue to search for opportunities to acquire Section 12.
- **Goal 6: Impact selection of the Issaquah Trails Coordinator and then form a close working relationship.** Margaret Macleod was hired in 1993 as the new Trails Coordinator. IATC members who have met and worked with Margaret are unanimous in their praise for her superb skills and efforts to date. A close working relationship already exists which will benefit Issaquah, IATC members, and the entire region as trails and open space planning progresses.
- **Goal 7: Promote and support the implementation of the Issaquah Trails Plan.** In concert with Margaret's efforts, IATC fully supports implementation of the plan and has lobbied the city council and other agencies for support. IATC will continue to participate in refining the plan as needed to integrate improvements.
- **Goal 8: Continue to promote hikes and special events.** IATC again held numerous free guided hikes throughout 1993, providing Club members and the public the opportunity experience new trails and sights. IATC played a key role in Issaquah's first National Trails Day, offering many guided hikes and staffing an informational booth.
- **Goal 9: Establish ties with State Parks, County Parks, DNR, and others.** Actively support cooperative efforts including maintenance, search and rescue, and volunteer patrols. IATC expanded and solidified its ties to public agencies, working in partnership with many of them to define plans, develop new trails and protect our Issaquah Alps open space. Club members maintained and built trails, served on citizen committees, actively participated in management plans and helped to patrol the trails as an information and assistance source to the public.
- **Goal 10: Lobby against the proposed Issaquah bypass and I-90 interchange.** IATC members have stated Club opposition to these roadway plans to local representatives and testified publicly against their implementation.
- **Goal 11: Work with the Bullitt Foundation to acquire additional land on Squak Mountain.** This is on hold for now.
- **Goal 12: Build a dynamic political advocacy group.** As in the past, IATC members continue to respond to the call for volunteers when hot political issues arise. IATC is recognized and respected locally as a key advocacy organization. However, we do need more members willing to represent the Club in meetings, public hearings, etc. Volunteer if you are interested!

In reviewing these accomplishments for 1993, it becomes clear that the IATC had a very successful year. Things are happening now, such as implementation of the Issaquah Trails Plan, that will greatly help to protect and enhance what IATC members value. As 1993 passes, it will be critical to set our Club sights on the right goals for the coming year, with the expectation that the progress made in 1993 will continue on in 1994. ▲

Book Sales/Distribution: Marty Hanson • 392-2458
Issaquah Advocate: George Comstock • 392-8929
Cougar Advocate: Harvey Manning • 746-1017
Squak Advocate: Ken Konigsmark 392-3099
Tiger Advocate: Larry Hanson • 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
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SCAT Opens Doors To Invite Public Comment

Teri Morris-Hansen

The Squak, Cougar and Tiger Interagency Committee (SCAT) held its first public meeting November 17 at Tibbetts Valley Manor in Issaquah. The meeting was held to "get input from the public on what issues they feel are most pertinent for the Issaquah Alps area," said Margaret Macleod, City of Issaquah Trails Coordinator. Approximately 50 people gathered, most of them bikers who were urging multi-use of the Alps trails. A handful of members of the IATC were present along with a few horseback-riding enthusiasts and other interested citizens.

Doug McClelland, Department of Natural Resources, led the 5-minute presentation segment of the meeting before breaking into small discussion groups. He said that although the Tiger Mountain State Forest is a working forest it is more like an "urban forest in a working environment." He pointed out recent developments on Tiger Mountain, including designation of the West Tiger Mountain Conservation Area, "almost all [of which] you can see from Issaquah," he said, "including Tradition Lake." Rules have also been created: "No shooting, street-legal vehicles only, installation of new signs via King County Parks." He noted that there has been an "explosion of use with 150 to 250 cars parked at the High Point trailhead at varying times. This can present a conflict with the conservation efforts." He made additional comments on the new trailheads at Poo Poo Point and High Point along with the construction of a 55-foot bridge costing \$500,000. Phase II is beginning at a cost of \$800,000 for

improvements on the South Tiger Mountain trailhead, Tiger Summit trailhead and 12 miles of trail reconstruction. The DNR has hired Jim Russell as a full time law enforcement officer to patrol Tiger Mountain.

Kerry Anderson, representing the City of Issaquah, said "We want to be known as the Trailhead City," and shared his vision of a greenway linking the 21 parks surrounding Issaquah. "We have over 20,000 acres of open space around us." He noted how this directly influences the City's watershed. "Salmon are dying due to the dirty water," he said and improving the watershed could resolve the problem. He made a special point to publicly thank Harvey Manning for his role in the creation of Issaquah's open spaces. "I really take my hat off to the Alps Club and particularly for Harvey, who started this thing years and years ago."

"We truly have a central part to play because we're in the middle," said Randy Person, representing Washington State Parks. He made the first public announcement that "the check has been cut and delivered" for the \$1.8 million purchase of the east half of Section 9 on Squak Mountain. When the escrow is completed they will proceed with the purchase of the other half. He neglected to mention the IATC's role in this significant acquisition. He described Section 4, the beginning of Squak Mountain State Park donated by the Bullitt family, as "by deed restricted to human foot traffic only." Washington State Parks' next project is the construction of a trailhead off

the May Valley Road. "We would like to have a contiguous piece of public open space available for wildlife and recreational purposes."

Shelley Farr, representing King County, which owns and manages the 2,800-acre Cougar Mountain Park, said "we are completing a master plan" and "focusing on interpretation and environmental education." Later in the small group discussions Farr said, "It's amazing how little input we get from the public." She assured her group that "these suggestions will be taken seriously."

During the summary of the small group discussions, over 15 sheets of comments were read. The comments appeared to be largely the voice of the bikers who were observed to move from group to group offering up their single-minded agenda for multi-use trails. Other individuals were observed doing this same type of traveling, giving their comments ranging from improving parking and trail availability for the needs of the horseback riders, to obtaining scientific data prior to all decisions regarding use of the trails. The SCAT Committee will review a compiled list of the points made and discuss how to resolve the issues. Margaret Macleod will mail the summarized list to the attendees of the meeting.

Ken Konigsmark made the final comments of the evening. "I think it's important to point out that these meetings do not mean that the subject of managing the Issaquah Alps is up for review." He added, "The City of Issaquah Trails Plan is already in place and should guide the overall management of the Issaquah Alps." ▲

Taylor Mountain, Past and Present

by George Jackman

'Nondescript' is a frequently used adjective whenever Taylor Mountain is mentioned. Nevertheless, for those who value seclusion and the opportunity to explore forested areas not yet discovered by the weekend hordes, this backwater, trans-alpine hummock has something to offer. If you know where to go on the mountain, there are views south to Rainier, north to Mount Baker, east across the Raging River Valley to Rattlesnake Mountain and the Cascades, west to the Issaquah Alps and the Olympics; extraordinary cross-country skiing opportunities when the now level is below 1500'; and, of course, Shaun Falls.

The trail system on Taylor Mountain had its beginnings in 1982 when three IATC hiker leaders decided to explore an existing railroad grade on the west slope of the mountain. Subsequent exploratory bushwacking hikes, both organized and impromptu, as well as considerable individual effort, resulted in a trail system that approximated the figure 8 as it looped up and down the mountain. Many of us still remember the West Taylor Mountain Trail (WTMT) to the top, Della's Way which traversed acre upon acre of foxglove that covered an old clearcut and then descended to the ruins of the old World War II explosives factory, and the Stump Loop Trail. At one time in the mid 1980's, we had developed and were hiking on an estimated 12 miles of trail on the western slope of the mountain.

Some years later, an exploratory scramble up a steep canyon on the north slopes of the mountain located a magnificent 50' waterfall which was promptly christened "Shaun Creek Falls." The next two years were devoted to building a spur trail off the West Taylor Mountain Trail to the edge of the canyon and on down to the falls. This was the trail described by Jack Melill in the last Alpiner.

Current trail building efforts on Taylor Mountain are focused on developing an east-west route across the top of Taylor, north of and parallel to the Cedar River Watershed boundary fence, so that we can hike across Taylor to

Rattlesnake Lake via Rattlesnake Mountain summit and the ledge. One IATC work party and several impromptu work days have explored and flagged approximately one mile of the route as of October 1993.

Logging operations and neglect have combined to obliterate a significant portion of the original trail system on Taylor Mountain. You can still hike to Shaun Creek Falls and/or to the top via what remains of the old West Taylor Mountain Trail. However, a new logging road built on top of the middle section of the WTMT has left a quarter mile section of the Shaun Creek Falls trail covered with brush and slash cast aside by the bulldozer. When you come to this section of the trail, simply scramble up to the end. From the end of the road, scramble straight ahead over the slash and you will intersect the Shaun Creek Falls trail immediately. Whether or not future logging operations will allow us to maintain the trail to Shaun Creek Falls remains to be seen.

One last note: the northern, western, and southwestern slopes on Taylor Mountain are owned by the Weyerhaeuser Corporation (state owned land on Taylor Mountain was traded to Weyerhaeuser for some of their holdings on Tiger Mountain). We hike, explore, cross-country ski, and snowshoe in this area with their tacit approval. Whenever their logging operations destroy or obliterate our trails, we are discouraged to say the least. However we should not complain. All those clear cuts on Taylor Mountain have been replanted, and in several areas where we used to hike through clear cuts (Della's Way) the forest now stands some 30' high and we will be using these new forests for recreational purposes for another 40 to 50 years before the next harvest. To expect this land to somehow revert back to public ownership is not realistic. Therefore it is in our best interest to respect their property and acknowledge their hospitality as a good neighbor should. ▲

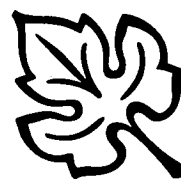
What the Issaquah Alps Mean to Me

Joe Toynbee

If a circle is drawn on a map with a radius of 20 miles and centered at 4th & Pike in downtown Seattle, the north end of the circle passes just south of Everett, the west end just west of Bremerton, the south end just north of Tacoma, and the east end just east of Tiger Mountain State Forest. An examination of the area inside this circle leads to only one conclusion: nothing else comes even close to the Issaquah Alps in terms of wild land on mountainous terrain in public ownership. The Alps do indeed, as Harvey Manning puts it in Footsore 1, "poke Puget Sound City right in the eye".

I am fortunate, living as I do on a hill in South Seattle, to be able to look right into the heart of the Alps. From the street in front of my house I see the south end of Cougar Mountain on the left, Squak Mountain on the right, and West Tigers 1, 2, and 3 rising between them. These peaks are often visible when the Cascades and Olympics have disappeared for days in the murk. What lies before me is the western portal of the Mountains to Sound Greenway. In my imagination I can travel all the way to Snoqualmie Pass and beyond through still wild country.

The 121st Psalm contains the wonderful lines: "I will lift mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." The hills to which I lift my eyes almost daily are the Issaquah Alps. ▲



Boeing Loans IATC President to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Sarah Young

Recently, IATC president Ken Konigsmark was very pleased to learn that his employer, The Boeing Company, had selected him for a Community Service Loaned Executive assignment with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. Boeing's program places employees for up to two years, at full salary and benefits, with community service organizations such as the Greenway Trust. Ken will be dedicating his efforts towards making the concept and vision of the Greenway a reality for our region.

Jim Ellis, president of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, stated that "this is a strategically important contribution, as well as a generous one, and we are deeply grateful to Boeing."

Ken is already entrenched in his Greenway assignment and greatly appreciates the opportunity offered by Boeing. "This is like a dream come true for me – to be able to devote my full-time effort to something that I love, believe in passionately, and that will benefit the entire region by preserving key elements of what defines our quality of life: green open space, recreational trails, protection of views and wildlife habitat, and preservation of historical and cultural landmarks. I am very enthused about this opportunity and intend to deliver a high return to the Greenway on the investment that Boeing is making through me."

As a close partner in the Greenway vision, the IATC wishes Ken and the Greenway the best in this important endeavor. ▲

County Acquires Spring Lake Bog

Carey Beeman

King County recently acquired an 80-acre addition to the Spring Lake / Lake Desire Open Space Parcel. It was a wise acquisition of a beautiful, accessible piece of land which includes a bog of about 40 acres bordering the southwest corner of Spring Lake. This bog, which represents thousands of years of natural evolution, was relatively unknown. It is a rare jewel, deserving of the most ardent stewardship.

I first explored this area in June of this summer with Kathy Shertz of the South County Trail Coalition. At that time, the signs of human intrusion were there to a small extent—a beer can, the remains of a campfire,

gum wrappers... Even that was repugnant in this pristine and lovely place, but I was even more disheartened to return this fall and see how rapidly this area has shown the wear and tear of discovery. The damage by the mountain bicyclists was most evident. There were several long muddy ruts and other damage caused by people without regard to the fragile ecosystem. It was immediately obvious that we are loving this area to a quick demise and that the most environmentally responsible stewardship would be to close off access to the bog and encourage King County Parks to issue only permitted access for educational purposes. ▲

Ralph Owen: Up and Over the Alps

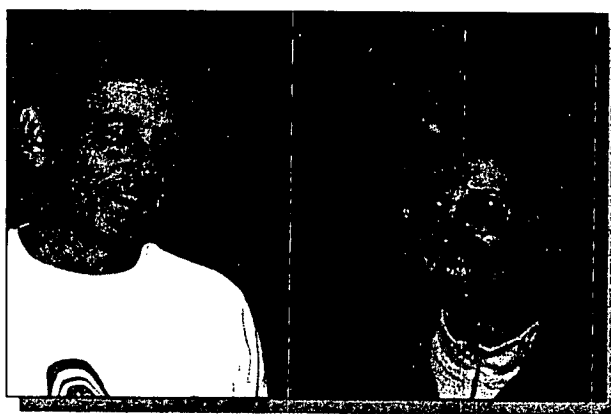
Teri Morris-Hansen

He works full-time as a low-speed air dynamics engineer at Boeing, collects Northwest Coast Indian art, and carves totem poles, doors, and masks. In his spare time he leads advanced hikes for the IATC. "Hiking is a good way to introduce people to the area," says Ralph.

As an advanced hike leader Ralph has a few suggestions for those interested in improving their hiking skills. "The way to get in shape for walking is walking. That's the only way to do it. If you haven't come with us before, take a shot at a level lower than you think. The easiest way to get back into hiking is start where you're comfortable and work up higher."

Ralph is also known for leading the Club's event hikes such as traverses. One of his favorites begins at 6 a.m. at Newcastle Beach Park, goes up and over Cougar, Squak and Tiger and ends about 9 p.m. in Preston—a total of 30 miles. Once, on a much shorter hike on a cold, wet day Ralph had to carry out a hiker who broke her leg. He piggy-backed her back to the trailhead about 1/3 mile!

Peggy Owen, Ralph's wife, is also a hike leader for the Club. "She's a fanatic," says Ralph. "She has the summers off and she explodes into the woods." Although they hike together, Ralph also enjoys solitary hiking. "I go out and explore with one of the dogs." Ralph likes to tease



Peggy that when he hikes alone he takes one of their dogs along so "that way I know that if I don't come back home Peggy will send someone out to look for the dog."

As a Board member of the Club, Ralph describes himself as an environmentalist, but not a politician. He strongly supports the concept of looking at the entire Squak, Tiger and Cougar areas as being maintained as a block. "Not just so a few hiking trails are through it," he says, "but as a block of wildlife habitat essentially holding the line so wildlife will still be in this area as development encroaches around it. We will visit as hikers, but not take over." ▲

A Look Back at Hiking, 1993

Ann Weinmann

Much thanks to the following hike leaders for this year's success. We had approximately 1000 hikers between January and October, 1993.

Peggy Barchi, Al Blalock, Jim Cadigan, Mary Cadigan, Steve Cavit, Cliff Cooper, Betty Culbert, Bert Dru, Leonard Eisenberg, Trudy Ecob, Bob Gross, Larry Hanson, Joann Howe, George Jackman, John Johnson, Warren Jones, Ann Leber, Bill Longwell, Bill McFerren, Bob McGraw, Tom Mechler, Peggy Owen, Ralph Owen, Will Thompson, Ted Thomsen, Joe Toynbee, Tom Walsh (and anyone else I accidentally missed!).

1993 pacesetters:

- **Ralph Owen:** Most exploration of new routes
- **Peggy Barchi:** Most hikers on a single hike (28, 3/4 of them kids!)
- **Bob Gross:** Most adult hikers (October 9 Talus Caves, 26)
- **Doug Trueman:** Only hiker to complete 1993 Grand Traverse with Joe Toynbee and Ralph Owen
- **Harvey Christopher:** Hiker from furthest away, England. Second place to **Andy Anderson** from Lowell, Michigan (he found us in a book in Michigan about things to do in Washington)
- **Joe Toynbee:** Most persistent leader for trail maintenance
- **George Jackman:** Most hikes to the same destination, and they were all worth it
- **Joann Howe:** Best food hikes for birds and two-legged beasts. ▲



Trail Maintenance: How You Can Help

Joe Toynbee

With the exception of Cougar Mountain Wildland Park, where King County crews are doing an excellent job, trail maintenance in the Issaquah Alps is pretty much up to trail users. Neither State Parks on Squak nor the DNR on Tiger has the funds at this time to maintain trails.

For this reason, the Club is launching the "many hands make light work" program. It will work like this. Each participant in an IATC hike will be asked to bring a pair of hand clippers or a small folding saw. This will not be mandatory: at the least each hiker will bring a pair of hands. During the hike a small amount of time will be allowed to throw debris off the trail, do some brush clipping or perhaps saw through some small branches. If in a group of ten hikers, each one tosses ten pieces of debris or clips ten branches, the cumulative effect will be great.

Each Issaquah Alps leader will be asked to discuss the program briefly at the beginning of the hikes. The U.S. Forest Service has a similar project called "flick a stick, knock a rock and dig a drain." Please do what you can to help. It is a small contribution to make to the health of our marvelous Alps. ▲

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes and Events*

January Hikes

Saturday January 1

Winter Botanizing on Tradition Plateau including a few wetland plants
2A (slow pace) 10:00 a.m.
Fred and Ann Weinmann 392-9230

Sunday January 2

Coal Creek Falls
1B 12:30 p.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Monday January 3

Taylor Mtn. Shaun Creek Falls
2B 9:30 a.m.
George Jackman (206) 221-3925

Wednesday January 5

Lake Tradition (slow pace)
1B 1:00 p.m.
Tom Mechler 255-0922

Saturday January 8

West Middle Tiger Loop
2B (6 mi/1000 ft gain) 9:00 a.m.
Warren Jones 888-0262

Sunday January 9

Tradition Lake Plateau
Beginners Hike
2A (4 mi/150 ft gain) 1:00 p.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Tuesday January 11

Twin Falls
2B 9:30 a.m.
Al Blalock 746-4155

Friday January 14

Lake Tradition/Big Tree
1B 10:00 a.m.
Pat Kaald 746-8741

Saturday January 15

Snoqualmie Ridge Loop
3B (9 mostly level miles) 8:30 a.m.
Bill Longwell 222-6775

Sunday January 16

Rattlesnake North/West Vistas
2C 9:00 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Monday January 17

Cougar Mtn. Red Town to AA Park
2B (7 miles) 9:30 a.m.
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Thursday January 20

Cougar Mtn/Red Town Family Hike
1A 10:00 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday January 22

Tiger 2 to Tiger 3 via RR Grade
3B 8:30 a.m.
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Sunday January 23

South Side of Snoqualmie Falls
Snow walk on Paved Trail
2A (3.6 level miles) 1:00 p.m.
Bob DeGraw 821-4250

Monday January 24

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
7:00 p.m.
Issaquah Community Center
(next to the Fire Station)

Saturday January 29

Cougar Mtn. Views
2B 9:30 a.m.
Ann Leber

Sunday January 30

Issaquah to High Point Loop
2B 9:30 a.m.
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

February Hikes

Tuesday February 1

Little Si
2B 9:30 a.m.
Al Blalock 746-4155

Saturday February 5

Taylor Mtn. Shaun Creek Falls
2B 9:30 a.m.
George Jackman (206) 221-3925

Sunday February 6

Lake Tradition Plateau
1B 1:00 p.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Friday February 11

Snoqualmie River Trail
2A 9:30 a.m.
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday February 12

Coal Creek/Tree Fossils
2B 9:30 a.m.
Ann Leber

Sunday February 13

Cougar Ring—Short Version
3C 9:00 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

"Shooting Tradition Plateau"

Amateur Photography
1A 12:00 noon
Bob DeGraw 821-4250

Monday February 14

Squak Mtn.
2C (6 mi/1200 ft gain) 9:30 a.m.
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Thursday February 17

Tradition Plateau Family Hike
1A 10:00 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday February 19

Squak Mtn Loop (slow pace)
3C (7 mi/2000 ft gain) 9:00 a.m.
Tom Mechler 255-0922

Sunday February 20

Cougar East Side/Tibbett Creek Loop
2B (4mi/1000 ft gain) 10:00 a.m.
Clifton Cooper 932-3124

Saturday February 26

West Tiger 3
3B 8:30 a.m.
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Sunday February 27

South Tiger Loop
2B 9:00 a.m.
Ann and Fred Weinmann 392-9230

Monday February 28

BOARD MEETING
7:00 p.m. at Clubhouse, 1st & Bush

March Hikes

Tuesday March 1

Lake Tradition
2A 9:30 a.m.
Al Blalock 746-4155

Saturday March 5

Taylor Mtn. Summit
3B 9:30 a.m.
George Jackman (206) 221-3925

Sunday March 6

Lake Tradition Plateau
2B 1:30 p.m.
Steve Cavin 271-7780

Friday March 11

Cougar Mtn. Leaden Cholor
2B 9:30 a.m.
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday March 12

"Bass Hike" Commencing from Little Si.
(bring binoculars and telephone lens)
2B 9:00 a.m.
Bob DeGraw 821-4250

Sunday March 13

Red Town Rumble, Coal Creek Falls and DeLeo Wall
2B (6 mi/1100 ft gain) 10:00 a.m.
Clifton Cooper 932-3124

Thursday March 17

Sunset Park Family Hike
1A 10:00 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-544

Saturday March 19

Poo Poo Point
2C (7 mi/1700 ft gain) 12:30 p.m.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Sunday March 20

Tradition Plateau
2A (7 flat miles) 12:30 p.m.
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday March 26

Little Si and Moss Vista
2B 9:00 a.m.
Peggy Owen 746-1070

West Tiger 1

3C 8:30 a.m.
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Sunday March 27

Tradition Plateau/Best Trails
2A (5 mi/150 ft gain) 1:00 p.m.
Ted Thomsen 454-8643

Twin Falls and Little Si to Climbing Wall
3B 9:30 a.m.
Ann Leber

Monday March 28

BOARD MEETING
7:00 p.m. at Clubhouse, 1st & Bush

Tuesday March 29

Twin Falls
2B 9:30 a.m.
Al Blalock 746-4155

*** Note the NEW HIKE MEETING PLACE by the old Stationmaster's house at 1st and Bush. This new location is at the other end of the gravel parking lot where we used to meet, only a few hundred yards away. Park beside the Clubhouse in the gravel lot or on the EAST side of the logs opposite the Issaquah Food Bank. Do NOT park on the side of the logs closest to the Food Bank.**

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

Leader's Choice

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

Trail Party

Trail maintenance work party.

Exploratory

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.

Family Hike

For parents and children. Easy pace. Call leader for hike particulars.

MEETING PLACE

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of 1st and Bush next to the "IATC Clubhouse", the little gray Stationmaster's house. To get there, take Exit 17 (Issaquah Front Street) from Interstate 90 and turn south into downtown Issaquah. Go about one mile through town on Front Street past the light at Sunset and turn left on Bush Street. Go one block and turn into the lot on the left. Park beside the Clubhouse or on the east side of the logs opposite the Issaquah Food Bank. Do NOT park on the side of the logs closest to the Food Bank.

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 encourage to adopt a trail, or section of trail, and be responsible for maintaining it. ▲



Peggy Barchi: A Mom on the Trail

Teri Morris-Hansen

"It's important, especially in this day and age, for kids to get out and learn about the outdoors," says this active stay-at-home mom who over the last four years has volunteered to lead family hikes for the IATC. With her boys in tow (Luke, 5, and Mitchell, 3), Peggy Barchi offers a monthly mid-week hike designed to appeal to families with young children. She organizes her hikes to feature parks, lakes and animals.

Peggy likes her sons to get outside and she also enjoys meeting other families who attend her hikes. She welcomes anyone to join in "who wants to go at a slow pace. My hikes are 1 to 2 miles at the most." But, as she adds with a chuckle, "I like to warn people we are going to be going very slowly and stopping to look at slugs and snails."

In addition to keeping up with her family's hunting and fishing activities and her own assortment of animals around her home on the Cedar River, Peggy is establishing herself as a *freelance writer* with several publishing credits for her articles about children and the outdoors. She has written *Eastside Toddler/Family Hikes*, which is a list of over 15 local walks appropriate for families with babies in backpacks, toddlers or anyone else interested in some easy exercise (available through the IATC).



Peggy would like to encourage anyone interested in leading family hikes to give her a call. "I'm not trying to keep a lock on the family hike leader position!" Because of her love of the outdoors and the joy she finds in helping kids learn about nature, she plans to continue leading hikes well beyond her own children's pre-school years. "I will probably be doing this forever!" she says. ▲

Come Hike With Us, Too!

The Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club is just like the IATC. Except in a different place, "beyond the Alps," in a neighboring and by no means despicable mountain range, the Cascades. The concept behind the success of the IATC—make defenders of the trails by putting feet on them—needed to be extended. And so it has been.

"You don't have to be a member to hike with us!" But if you are a member, you get the newsletter listing the upcoming hikes. If you love the IATC, you'll go crazy over the SVTC. For further information call 888-2426. Or send \$10 (check or money order) to Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club, 45053 SE 166th, North Bend, WA 98045. Annual dues are \$10 (family). Memberships are renewable on May 1. Memberships received after January 1 are applied through April of the next year. ▲

The Flowering of the Alps

Fred Weinmann

In the only comprehensive coverage published to date, Harvey Manning, in 1981, lists 246 plant species occurring in the Issaquah Alps. This list along with informative narrative descriptions (as always in Harvey's entertaining and amusing style) of each species appears in one of the lesser known of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club publications, *The Flowering of the Issaquah Alps* (1981). The list is remarkably complete, including many small inconspicuously flowered species (e.g., little western bittercress), numerous aggressive non-natives (like Canadian thistle and black mustard) as well as virtually every tree and shrub one would encounter on Cougar, Squak and Tiger Mountains.

Observations from several sources furnish information for an addendum to Harvey's list: Elapse of 12 years has provided time and opportunity for the introduction and establishment of additional non-native species; the same 12 years have provided ample opportunity to discover additional native species; also, the geographic range covered by the original list can justifiably be expanded to include the entirety of Rattlesnake Mountain—and Taylor too for that matter. Harvey (with the assistance of Ed Alvorsen) gives special attention to Rattlesnake Ledge but does not include the remainder of the mountain. We also ought to add the common graminoids (grasses, sedges, and rushes) as they are encountered by every venture into the Alps at all seasons; they are often attractive, and many live in specialized habitats (e.g., wetlands) well worth a little extra effort to locate. And finally, by taking minimal additional geographic liberty we can include the specialized plants of the bogs which occur in several locations at the foot of the Alps: intriguing plants like bog laurel, labrador tea, wild cranberry and the insectivorous sundew.

For unusual plants in the Alps, the epicenter is Rattlesnake Ledge. At under 2200 feet it barely exceeds the height of Squak; but its physical proximity to alpine seed sources combined with airy exposed climate and rocky outcrops has effected the occurrence of many species typically associated with higher, more remote sub-alpine climes—rock penstemon and bluebells of Scotland being two elegant examples. There is also a sprinkling of typically east side, dry area plants such as Douglas maple, choke cherry and death camas. The ledge is also habitat for the most diverse fern flora of the Alps. Here on the ledge, the beautiful invaders co-mingle with a broad representation of the typical Issaquah Alps flora. More than twenty plant species of the Alps are known only from Rattlesnake Ledge.

Monthly trips to the ledge in 1993 yielded several attractive discoveries and some of the best floral displays of the last ten years. Three attractive finds not previously reported from the Alps are:

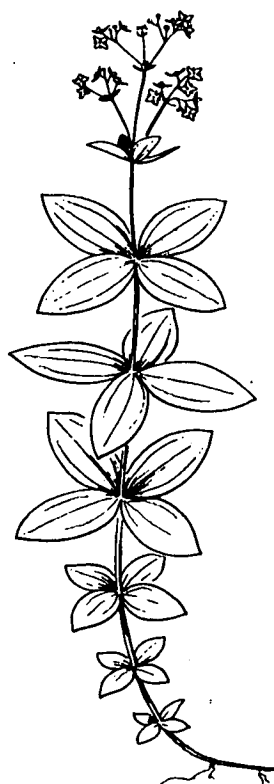
Bronze bells (*Stenanthium occidentale*), a beautiful bronze-to-purplish lily spotted on Rattlesnake ledge by Mary Cadigan on a botanical foray on May 22, 1993. The species is largely confined to alpine and sub-alpine habitats and has not been previously reported from anywhere in the lowlands of Puget Sound. It's worth a search next spring along the old rock face route. Look for 1/2-inch bronze bells pendent from 10-inch stems.

Oregon cleavers (*Galium oreganum*) was found in abundance on Rattlesnake in moist soils on June 13, 1993. This is not the sticky narrow leaved cleavers (also known as bed-straw) so common on all the trails of the Alps. Its whorled leaves, four to a node, are fattish, oval and do not stick to your clothes. Masses of 1/4-inch white flowers emerge from the stem tips. The plant closely resembles the very rare *Galium kamtschaticum*. We thought we may have discovered the rare species until we keyed it out. Nevertheless, Oregon cleavers is a handsome plant in its own right.

Field chickweed (*Cerastium arvense*) was identified in bloom on Rattlesnake Ledge on several occasions during spring of 1993. This is not your garden variety weedy chickweed with minute white flowers (even though the name "arvense" meaning "of the field" is usually applied to weedy species). Flowers of field chickweed are fully 1/2- to 3/4-inch in diameter, bright white, with greenish to purplish accent lines on deeply notched petals. Plants grow en-masse on gravelly soils along the rock face route.

An additional 75 plus species beg for inclusion in an addendum to *The Flowering of the Issaquah Alps*. ▲

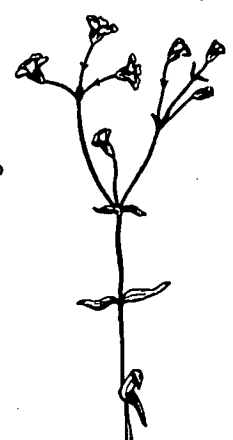
*Reproduced from *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest*, C. Leo Hitchcock, Arthur Cronquist, Marion Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. University of Washington Press, 1969.



*Galium oreganum**



*Stenanthium occidentale**



Cerastium arvense

Trails Update

Take note that Licorice Fern Trailhead remains closed due to continuing construction.

An impressive piece of trail work headed up by Bill Longwell and Joe Toynbee has been completed. Nine individuals from the IATC and SVTC clubs have collectively contributed 21-person days since October in maintaining three trails along the Mountains to Sound Greenway: the Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT), Rattlesnake Ledge, and the trail from Pratt Lake to Pratt River.

The Rattlesnake Ledge Trail has had increased use since this year's trail work. The Seattle Water Department contacted the IATC through Ted Thomsen to build the 1.3 mile trail. This ledge trail may become part of Ted's and others' dream of a ridge on the southside of I-90 from Snoqualmie Pass to Tiger Mountain.

The Pratt Trail could help open up the whole Pratt Valley to hiking.

Lastly, the TMT always needs continuing rehabilitation, especially on the less travelled mid-section (miles 6-10).

Eventually the IATC and SVTC plan to work with the Forest Service to maintain these and other trails. ▲

Annual IATC Potluck

The annual Issaquah Alps Trails Club Potluck will be in April this year. Volunteers are needed to help with programming, decorations, kitchen, clean-up, and parking. Please call Mary Cadigan, 641-4046 to volunteer. ▲

Your Money and Your Club

The IATC has always tried to keep annual dues as low as possible in order to encourage membership. For many years the annual dues were \$5: they are now only \$10, which is very reasonable. One reason for the low dues is that many members become Contributing Members by sending in \$15, \$20, or more.

All members are strongly urged to become Contributing Members and send in more than \$10. This additional money will greatly assist in our truly noble task of trying to save as much as possible of the Issaquah Alps for public recreation and wildlife habitat. ▲

