

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINE



January ▲ February ▲ March ▲ 1995

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

The Future Lies Ahead: Our Agenda For Cougar Mountain

Harvey Manning

September 12, 1994, the King County Council adopted, by a vote of 13-0, the Master Plan for Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park—just short of 15 years after the park proposal was first floated in public by (who else?) the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. On this foundation we will build. From this paradigm there will spring a social recognition of the necessity to preserve “the wildness within” and to provide it with statutory defenses.

First and meanwhile, the paradigm still needs rounding out to final dimensions, a fixing-up of boundaries at this point and that:

China Creek, China Summit, Wildside Trail

When walking the Wildside Trail, how would you like to be in the front yards of a row of condos? On the Indian Trail or the Cave Hole Trail, would your view across the Curious Valley be more enjoyable if you were looking at a hundred houses, listening to a hundred lawnmowers and stereos?

The purposes of a newly formed citizens group, FRIENDS OF CHINA CREEK, include: “To preserve the undeveloped areas of upper China Creek in their pristine natural state. This land is currently owned by private developers who intend to build extensively in the area, potentially up to the Cougar Mountain park boundary.”

The group has been formed by new residents in the area who chose their homes for the access to what they supposed was permanently protected green. They are working with King County and the new City of Newcastle, fully supported by the Trails Club.

To receive a full statement of purposes and goals, and how you can help (by writing letters and attending meetings of the city council), write: Friends of China Creek, Steve Cobert, 6928 -119th Place S.E., Renton, WA 98056

Military Road

When walking the Military Road Trail along the north edge of the Coal Creek section of the Wildland Park, how would you like to see the native plants replaced by lawns, the sound of birds singing replaced by vacuum cleaners humming?

The City of Bellevue is moving toward annexation of this tract. When and if that is done, the owner intends development which could make this entire Red Town sector of the park undeserving of the name of “wildland.”

Though they have not yet chosen a name, local residents have formed a group to defend THE MILITARY ROAD, and are conducting studies of

the area and holding discussions with the City of Bellevue, King County, and the developers, looking toward obtaining by purchase or zoning or dedication, the buffer required to guard the wildness and the wildlife habitats and travel corridors.

To join the effort (be informed to whom to write letters and when), write or call: Jennifer and Dick Ulman, 16718-164th Avenue S.E., Bellevue, WA 98006 746-3579

The Far Country

The King County Council budgeted funds to buy several lots from the new Weyerhaeuser development up Far Country Creek needed to buffer the park boundary at the edge of the Far Country basin, but the purchase has not been made. Has overload of Parks Department staff lost our opportunity to guard the wildness of this very far-feeling corner?

Big Tree Ridge, Precipice Trail, Lower Precipice Trail, Stranger Trail

Virgin forest (since a forest fire of 80 years ago) including ancient Douglas fir, hugely sprawling maples, and a wildlife sanctuary hanging in the air above I-90... Of the entire Mountains to Sound Greenway, no parcel ranks higher in “greenway-wildland-wildness within” importance than The Precipice.

What will we do? What *will* we do? We're working on it. Time is running out.

We're taking hikes there every month. Come walk with us!

Lewis Canyon

The trail established by Ralph Owen from I-90 Exit 13 along Lewis Creek follows (we have just learned) an old logging railroad grade! More history in a later issue.

Meanwhile, Bellevue Parks has just (this past September) completed a new trail extending from Ralph's Trail along the creek and up the canyon wall to the city's new Lakemont Park.

We lead this hike every month. Come walk with us! See the wickedly proposed route of the dastardly Lakemont Boulevard. Help us convince the city of Bellevue not to inscribe its Council's names in the Hall of Shame.

But compliment Bellevue Parks for a superb new stretch of wild-canyon, wild-creek trail. Elsewhere in Bellevue, come see the extension of Betty's Trail (Betty Culbert, that is, Trails Club instigator of the route) down toward, but not quite to, Coal Creek Park.

Cynthia, We're Sorry

The previous issue of *The Alpiner* reported the latest word we had at deadline time on progress of the Cougar Mountain Regional wildland Park Master Plan through the King County Council. “At the last minute, two Councilors, Sullivan and Hague, introduced an amendment to allow bikes in the park.” Our profound apologies to Cynthia Sullivan. We were misinformed by a front page story in the *Journal American*. We do not know who misinformed the newspaper, Councilor Hague or the Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club. To the best of our knowledge, the public apology herein is the only one she has received from anyone.

She has informed us that when persistently lobbied by the Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club, she asked to see its proposal for an experimental trial of wheels on selected routes and told them she would give it due consideration. The club failed to present her with any sort of proposal. Instead it drafted an amendment which Jane Hague submitted to the Council at the very last minute on September 12. Coached by bike club officers who kept running up to the council dais (normally off-limits to the public) to whisper in her ear, Councilor Hague argued ardently for the amendment, and did gain one other vote, that of a fellow named Vance. Cynthia voted with the 11-2 majority defeating the amendment and the 13-0 majority adopting the wheel-free Master Plan. ▲

Vasa Creek

A trail (partly street-side walkway) up the Vasa Creek greenbelt would connect the Metro 210 bus stop in Eastgate to “Hilltop Pass” and the top of Betty's Trail, establishing a major trailhead for “Wilderness on the Metro 210,” the banner under which the Trails Club was organized in the spring of 1979.

However, a church located exactly at the trailhead is seeking to build a condo exactly on the trailhead. The local community, under the leadership of FRIENDS OF VASA CREEK is collaborating with anti-condo church members to convince the minister this is not a proper religious enterprise.

Cougar Mountain East Village

After years of sometimes hilarious dog-and-pony shows, the east slope of Cougar may be seeing the light of reason. A tentative proposal by a new player, Intrawest, would protect the wildland extending from the park down the canyons of West Tibbetts Creek and Claypit Creek to Highway 900. Discussions are in progress. The same development encompasses a part of the west slope of Squak Mountain. This publication will report as matters move on. ▲

President's Report

Ken Konigsmark

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to my fellow hikers. If you feel "shut-in" by the weather and by the snow at higher elevations, there are still countless hiking opportunities any time of the year in the Issaquah Alps. Get out and enjoy them during these winter months; check the IATC hike schedule (enclosed) and join in on one of the scheduled hikes!

Some items of interest to report to club members:

- The interagency SCAT (Squak, Cougar, and Tiger) Committee, comprised of representatives from State Parks, King County Parks, Department of Natural Resources, and the cities of Issaquah and Bellevue, is finalizing an updated map of the Issaquah Alps area. While it won't be as detailed as club maps which show contours and topographic details, the new map will provide a full look at the Issaquah Alps as a whole, showing trails, trailheads, and providing a host of information about the Alps area.

Club members Harvey Manning, Bill Longwell, and Ted Thomsen assisted in a final review of the map to ensure consistency between IATC maps and this new publication. It is hoped that the map will be publicly available, at a small cost, after the new year. IATC members should find it very useful, and I believe the SCAT committee has done a superb job in completing this needed project.

- After years of dedication, two IATC Board members and our Treasurer have recently stepped down. Jim Cadigan had capably served as club Treasurer and, earning a well-deserved break, has now passed these responsibilities to Barbara Halverson. We thank Jim for his work, and also thank Barbara for her willingness to step forward into these important duties. Earlier this year, Bill McFerrer had stepped down as VP, Operations for the club, and has been very capably replaced by Teri Morris-Hansen. Both Bill and Teri deserve a big thanks for the immense work they have both done for the club.

Board members Roger Delmar and Joe Toynbee each recently submitted a letter of resignation, which the Board regretfully accepted. We have been fortunate to have two strong members step forward to fill these vacancies, George Comstock and Melinda Livingstone, both of whom have been very active in club affairs for several years. Both Roger and Joe continue on as club members and, while we will miss their efforts on our Board, both will still be very active in other IATC activities.

- IATC again staffed a club booth during Issaquah Salmon Days in October, providing information to the thousands who visited the booth. It is no small effort to coordinate this, and I would like to recognize the particular efforts of Dave Kappler, Teri Morris-Hansen, and our new special events coordinator, Carolyn Graham, as well as our booth volunteers, who invested much time and effort in presenting a good club appearance at Salmon Days. It was tough getting enough volunteers this time, however... if Carolyn or Teri call for help on projects in the future, I urge you to help out if at all possible. If you would like volunteer now to help on events in the future, please give Carolyn a call at 885-0224, so that she may keep a file of potential volunteers to help make her job a little easier. ▲

Tiger Mountain State Forest Update

Jim Matthews

Well, here it is November and the rain signals the end of the 1994 fire season for those of us here at the DNR. What a busy one it was. Now that the smoke has cleared, so to speak, it's back to business as usual. Here's what's happening in the Tiger Mountain State Forest.

On October 15, the seasonal closure of the three multiple use trails went into effect. The Iverson, Northwest Timber, and Preston Railroad Grade Trails are the affected trails. This is an effort to protect our investment and resources from damages of use during the wet rainy months.

We just spent \$10,000 on new trail repairs and restoration of the Preston Railroad Grade Trail. The good news is: it looks great and the honor camp that did the work did an excellent job. The bad news is: it was only enough to do one fourth of the total 4.4 mile trail system. So, I'll be spending my time this winter looking, begging and maybe whining a little to find funding to complete the rest of the trail system and to repair the Iverson Trail as well.

The Mountains-to-Sound Greenway folks volunteered a work party for the Preston Railroad Grade Trail. We were going to tackle a graveling project on November 5, unfortunately we were snowed out. I can't tell you enough how much I appreciate the gesture. What a great bunch!

If you and a couple of your friends want to volunteer for a work party, give me a call and we will try to set something up for this spring. I can be reached at (206) 888-5125 or (206) 925-1631.

The graveling project on Preston R.R. Grade Trail still awaits. ▲

Tibbett Property Acquired At High Point!

Ken Konigsmark

During a joyous celebration held onsite on November 3rd, the large FOR SALE sign that had ominously marked the entry point to Tiger Mountain State Forest at High Point, was felled for good. The 18-acre Tibbett property is now in public ownership, and continued public access is guaranteed for the thousands of visitors who frequent the most popular trailhead in the Issaquah Alps and in the state.

The successful acquisition was negotiated skillfully by the City of Issaquah, after having received \$1.5M in King County Office of Open Space "Conservation Futures" funding. Margaret Macleod (Interagency Trails Coordinator), Kerry Anderson (Parks Department Manager), and Leon Kos (City Administrator) all played critical roles in the negotiation process. And, of course, without the financial support from King County for this and several other significant acquisition initiatives in the Issaquah area, the Tibbett property acquisition would not have been possible. Beyond preserving the property from commercial development and ensuring continued public access to Tiger Mountain, the acquisition may, in the future, allow for a new parking facility for the hundreds of cars which currently line up along the access road from High Point.

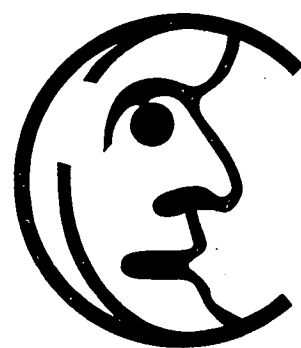
Thus, from the thankful members of the IATC to both the City of Issaquah and the King County Office of Open Space... CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP EFFORTS ON A SUCCESSFUL, MUCH APPRECIATED ACQUISITION!! ▲

The Apparatus

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Joe Toynbee Passes Director's Torch to Melinda Livingstone

Teri Morris-Hansen

Joe Toynbee is stepping down from his IATC board position, however, he is quick to say that he will remain active in club work: leading hikes and doing trail maintenance. Joe hiked on one of the first IATC hikes led by Harvey Manning in 1979. "We met at the Issaquah Park and Ride and Harvey led us up toward Cougar Mountain. He carried a walking staff, and with his white hair and beard he reminded me of Moses," Joe recalled with a chuckle.

Joe soon began leading hikes and was part of the "Wednesday Weed Wackers," a club formed to work on trails each week through the winter.

Joe says he is pleased with how the club has evolved; particularly under the leadership of Ken Konigsmark. "As the club matured, it was necessary for it to become more formal and organized. Also, having the clubhouse has been marvelous," Joe said.

Joe and wife Beverly enjoy an active retirement. They spend countless hours hiking and camping around the Northwest in the VW camper van. Joe is also planning to become more involved with some volunteer work in the Kubota Garden Foundation near his home in Seattle and also as a tax counselor with the American Association of Retired People.

Joe considers the IATC a "noble enterprise." "It has been a very worthwhile activity. It's always been worth my time." Joe adds, "I feel strongly that the Board needs to consist of citizen activists. People who can go to the public meetings, spout off. Be the shock troops, if you will."

And, as if ordered, in steps new board member (and shock trooper) Melinda Livingstone.

As co-chair of the Friends of Grand Ridge and a founding member of the King County Executive Horse Council, Melinda brings a wealth of community experience to the IATC. She joins the Board and will finish Joe's term of office.

Melinda became involved in community affairs as a long-time resident of the Pine Lake Plateau. She experienced the overwhelming impact of Klahanie and quickly jumped into the fray when Burlington Northern announced the sale of its property, now known as Grand Ridge. "It was an interesting and incredible learning situation for myself," Melinda said. "I got a good sense of the citizen process." One other inspiring experience she had was that "people tended to come into the group at the right times." Often, when the situation appeared hopeless,

an individual would come forward with a plan or the ability to pull other groups together and kept "the whole movement energized and focused."

As a mom with grown children, a husband, career, horses and property to take care of, Melinda still found herself recently searching for a meaningful way to remain involved in the community. Although she is quick to point out that Grand Ridge continues to be a smoking gun, there is little required of her for the time being. When she voiced this to two IATC club board members, word quickly spread and she was soon voted on to the Board.

Melinda relates that she never started out wanting to become known as a community activist. Her hobby of horseback riding and love of the area created in her the desire to get involved. "Now I've switched that and I feel for myself it's important to give to the community. My hobby just happened to lead me into land use issues, but 10 years later I'll stay with it because it's an important thing." Based on her experiences, Melinda wants to encourage others that something that appears small, like writing a couple of letters, really make a big difference. ▲



What's Happening At Cougar Mountain

Steve Williams

Master Plan

Yes! The Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park Master Plan was approved by a unanimous vote of the King County Council on September 12, 1994. A note of thanks to your councilperson for their support would be appreciated. (Future progress will be dependent on similar yes votes for funding).

National Urban Wildlife Conference

Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park hosted an all-day field trip for wildlife experts from the U.S., Canada, and England on October 23, 1994. We walked the AA Ridge Trail to the clay pit, and then toured the #3 Airshaft, the North Fork Falls, the Red Town signs, RR grade, and historic features. Noted along the way were claw marks on trees from porcupine, bobcat and bear, lush vegetation, and deer tracks everywhere. At the clay pit we looked east to the Cascade Mountain Range and talked about wildlife corridors, the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway, and the opportunity for the clay pit to eventually become a wildland lake. We finished the tour at the landfill summit, contrasting expansive views of Seattle and the green park skyline with the thousands of houses (which weren't there 10 years ago) creeping in around the park from the north, south and west.

Some interesting comments came from the tour group:

- The gentleman from England was very impressed with the inter-agency cooperation and general level of public awareness in this area. (He and several others had participated in the public workshop the day before).

- The Ohio and Oklahoma 'flatlanders' were impressed with our variety of terrain. The Issaquah Alps are definitely mountains in their book.
- The Arizona people were impressed with our dense green 'jungle' of vegetation, and especially with Douglas Fir forests and the Mountain Beaver mammal. (Both are unique species; common here in the Northwest and along the Pacific coast, but found nowhere else in the world).
- The Native Plant Society member of the group immediately recognized our problem with 'invader' plants. English Ivy, Himalayan Blackberry, Scotch broom and Japanese Polygonum are all introduced species not native to the Northwest. Although they have been in the area less than 100 years, these plants quickly invade cleared areas and choke out the native plant species to create large monocultures. The group consensus was that these plants should be removed or at least limited as soon as possible.
- There was similar consensus that domesticated and non-native animals are becoming a huge problem. Parks all over the world are finding that gray squirrels, geese, starlings, and house sparrows are overpopulating and then running the native species out. Often the problems occur because people like to feed these animals, but don't understand that it is not healthy for the animals or for the ecosystem as a whole. We have a big education job

ahead of us. (Don't bring gray squirrels to CM park!)

- The group was in agreement that saving large areas of natural habitat is essential, but the Canadian carnivore expert felt that Cougar Mountain is just marginally big enough to sustain black bears; and that long term it would be best if dogs were not allowed in the park, leash or no leash.

All in all, the tour and the three day symposium which followed were very refreshing and supportive for us. Everyone seemed to feel that the northwest is a wonderful place to be, and that we are on the right track in what we are doing. The key to the future will be education; and all of us making little changes in our own lives to support, to preserve, and to enjoy the natural world that is around us.

Finally, Dr. Kate Stenberg of the King County Environmental Division (and an IATC member), deserves tremendous thanks for her chairperson role in organizing the conference and making it a success. Who would have guessed that Harvey's Elves and the "Alps" of 20 years ago would be recognized as a model for environmental preservation worldwide today!

Inside the Park

Look for a vastly improved raised boardwalk at the millpond-dam, and for new interpretive signs on frogs, salamanders and wetlands. You may also encounter stockpiles of crushed rock in various places; these will disappear as we fill in mud-bogs along existing horse trails this winter. ▲

Botanic Soothsayers

Fred Weinmann

Has time grown sleepy at his post
And let the exiled Summer back?
Or is it her regretful ghost,
Or witchcraft of the almanac?
—Edward Howard Sill

The IATC schedules as many hikes in January, February and March as in June, July and August; in fact, 30% more hikers participated in winter quarter hikes in 1994 than in spring, summer or fall hikes; but our presence is not the only source of winter activity in the Alps. We have abundant growing green company. Most obvious are the familiar cedars, firs, and hemlocks which are so prevalent in the Northwest; combine these with the evergreen hardwoods like Madrona; and the shrubs like salal and Oregon grape; and sword fern and licorice fern and the mosses etc.; and the whole adds up to our label as the Evergreen state.

But this is not about the evergreens. This is about the early risers, those that can't or don't wait for spring but instead soothsay its arrival. They awaken early during the low light, short day, and high rains of winter's heart. This is a time, in January and February, when watching flowers and observing spring growth has limited competition for our attention as we amble the alps in the dawn of the new year.

Here are some to look for:

Skunk Cabbage

In January, the sharp spear-tip points of the tightly folded spathe and new leaves pierce the surface of black mucky soils. This interesting looking early evidence gives little clue to the eventual massive yellow hood or monster cabbage leaves. Easily observed on the Tradition Lake Plateau swamp trail, but also common in most other swampy areas: Shy Bear Trail on Cougar, the TMT where it crosses 15-mile Creek, etc.

Pussy Willow

The true pussy willow emerges in January on trees of Scouler's willow before any evidence of leaves. The silvery gray fur balls are formed by dense hairs at the base of the hundreds of individual flowers forming the "catkin". Willow trees are either female or male but never with both gender of catkin on the same tree. They rely on spring winds to carry pollen between male and female trees. Several other willow species with less furry catkins flower in March and April.

Here is Henry David Thoreau's journal description of the early pussy willow and skunk cabbage:

"Methinks the first obvious evidence of spring is the pushing out of the swamp willow catkins... then the pushing up of the skunk-cabbage spathes..."

Stinky Geranium

This alien plant has an unpleasant, rank odor and invades our trailsides and gardens at will. It has at least two redeeming features: The bright pink geranium flowers (at least a few) can be seen during any month of the year (We found some blooming on the TLP New Year's day hike on January 1, 1994) and it is very easy to pull up, roots and all.

Indian Plum

Clusters of white flowers dangle from leafless twigs like Christmas tree ornaments. Beginning in February, this earliest blooming shrub provides grand displays. Single plants are quite common throughout the alps lowlands; impressive displays occur en-masse along the Bus Trail and its connectors with the trail around Lake Tradition.

Salmonberry

Comes early and stays late. In 1994, our first rose pink bloom of this classic northwest bramble was seen on January 30, well before emergence of new leaves. As familiar yellow-orange berries replace early flowers, blooming continues into summer on other portions of the plant. Bears, kids and hikers graze their way through the seasons.

Red Alder

February displays of Red Alder turn hillsides red. The color derives from millions of maturing male catkins which formed first last fall when they were greenish but now have become deep red or wine colored. Allergy sufferers are acutely aware of the massive pollen production by Red Alder in mid-winter.

Colt's Foot

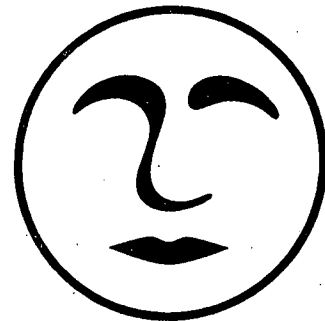
By February, the maple-shaped leaves and round flower balls of Colt's Foot have emerged along some of the seepy trailsides of the Alps. Massive displays delay until March.

Evergreen Violet

Familiar yellow flowers with purplish accent lines begin to appear in February. Heart-shaped green leaves can be found in all seasons of the year.

These and more greet us during January and February hikes. The visual displays have musical accompaniment. Pacific Chorus frogs begin calling in the same months from the wet places they have selected for mating and egg laying. All of this happens before you become distracted by the harbingers of spring's imminence with their more dazzling floral displays, e.g., the Red Currant, Western Trillium (Wake-robin), etc.

Happy slogging! ▲



Birds, Butterflies And Flying Squirrels

Harvey Manning

Joining the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is a sufficient joy unto itself. No longer does one haul brush and stumps to the dump, fuss around tidying up patches of forest, obliterate native plant habitats with alien grasses and Eurasian weeds and DuPont poisons. It is quite permissible to own birds so long as one understands this means being owned by the birds. Tacking up a discreet little sign identifying your property as a Wildlife Sanctuary instructs the neighborhood's new arrivals who feel socially compelled to enrich the nurseries with five figures worth of exotic shrubs and instant lawn that your property is not the squalid slum of a sluttish Mother Nature but what **their** property should look like, and **will** once they learn to live **with** the land, not just on it.

The serendipity is receiving the newsletter, *Crossing Paths*. Information is given on how to create a sanctuary and the sort of plants favored by your feathered and furry friends. The Fall 1994 issue tells us: "Learn to love the 'fuzzy' look of diverse habitat, rather than hanging on to the old 'neat and tidy' mindset"... A fascinating article informs us of a fact little-known even to the most avid of local wildlifers: that we live in habitat for *Glaucomys sabrinus*, the Northern flying squirrel. Because it is nocturnal (well, it does come out in the mountains on dark enough winter days), it is uncommonly seen. Unless you make an effort. Here we are told how "You, Too, Can Switch from Nighttime Television to Squirrel Watching."

To join, write: Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 16018 Mill Creek Blvd., Mill Creek, WA 98012.

Be sure to ask for the Fall 1994 *Crossing Paths* to learn about the flying squirrels possibly dwelling unseen in your sanctuary.

Editor's Note: The Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station at 15416 S.E. 16th Street, Bellevue, is a demonstration Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary. The yard is open during daylight hours year round. ▲

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes and Events

January

Sunday January 1

Poo Poo Point via Yah-er Wall
3C 10:00 am Boots required; steep and difficult

Warren Jones 888-0262

Monday January 2

Tradition Lake Plateau
Big trees, wetlands and botany
2A 10:00 am

Ann Weinmann 392-9230

Thursday January 5

Cedar Butte via Twin Falls
3B 8:30 am
George Jackman 221-3925

Saturday January 7

Taylor Mtn./Shaun Cr. Falls
6 Mi/600 ft gain 2B 10:00 am
George Jackman 221-3925

Sunday January 8

Rattlesnake NW trails and coal mine
3B 9:00 am
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Tradition Plateau family hike
Human and natural history
2A/B 10:00 am

Dave Kappler 392-3571

Tuesday January 10

Cougar Mtn: Red Town to Shy Bear Pass to Far Country Lookout to Red Town
2B 9:00 am
Jim Klotz 747-4141

Thursday January 12

Lake Tradition Plateau
2A 9:30 am
Al Blalock 746-4155

Sunrise Peak

1A 10:00 am Family Hike
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday January 14

Cougar Precipice, Military Rd, Big Tree Ridge/AA Gorge
2A 1:00 pm
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Sunday January 15

Cougar Mtn/Long View Peak
2B 9:30 am
Tom Walsh 453-8319

Monday January 16

Squak Mtn (It's better than it sounds); Boots required
2C 9:30 am
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday January 21

Twin Falls
1A 1:00 pm; 3 mi./400 ft.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Sunday January 22

Lewis Gorge/Lakemont Park
Lakemont Freeway proposed route
2A 1:00 pm
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Cougar Mountain perimeter
4B 9:00 am

Bill McFerren 641-1853

Monday January 23

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday January 28

Newcastle ballfield restoration; cleanup and replant natives; bring tools;
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Penny Manning 746-1017

Issaquah and High Point Rails/logs and mines slow 1 mi walk and drive
2A 8:30 am
Bill Longwell 222-6775

Sunday January 29

Red Town to Coal Creek Parkway
2B 9:30 am; Family hike
Ann Leber

February

Thursday February 2

Tiger Mtn./Middle Tiger Loop to Octopus Pt.
3B 9:30 am
George Jackman 221-3925

Friday February 3

Cougar wild and historic park
2B 9:30 am
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday February 4

Taylor Mtn./Shaun Cr. Falls
2B 10:00 am; 6mi/600 ft gain
George Jackman 221-3925

Sunday February 5

Lake Tradition Plateau
1B 1:00 pm; 5 mi./500 ft.
Bob Gross 392-0539

Seattle and Walla Walla RR Renton to Newcastle
3B 9:30 am
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Saturday February 11

Cougar Precipice, Military Rd, Big Tree Ridge/AA Gorge
2A 1:00 pm
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Sunday February 12

Lower Tiger Traverse; Preston to Issaquah
3C 8:30 am
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Tuesday February 14

Tiger Mtn Trail: High Pt to Dwight's way and return
2B 9:00 am
Jim Klotz 747-4141

Thursday February 16

Little Si
2B 9:30 am
Al Blalock 746-4155

Saturday February 18

Marshall's Hill/Coal Cr Falls
2B 9:30 am; Family hike
Ann Leber

Sunday February 19

Newcastle ballfield restoration; cleanup and replant; bring tools
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Penny Manning 746-1017

Tradition Lake Plateau from downtown Issaquah
4B 9:00 am

Bill McFerren 641-1853

Tuesday February 21

East and Middle Tiger Loop
3C 9:00 am
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Thursday February 23

Lk. Hills Greenbelt
1A 10:00 am Family Hike
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday February 25

Cougar Mtn/DeLeo Wall View
2A 9:30 am
Tom Walsh 453-8319

Sunday February 26

Lewis Gorge/Lakemont Park
Lakemont Freeway proposed route
2A 1:00 pm
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Tradition Plateau family hike
Human and natural history
2A/B 10:00 am
Dave Kappler 392-3571

Monday February 27

*Board Meeting at Clubhouse
7:00 pm, First and Bush*

March

Thursday March 2

Taylor Mtn./Shaun Creek Falls and West Ridge view to summit
4B 8:30 am 10 mi/1700 ft gain
George Jackman 221-3925

Saturday March 4

Taylor Mtn./Shaun Creek Falls
2B 10:00 am; 6 mi/600 ft gain
George Jackman 221-3925

Sunday March 5

Tiger Mtn Trail
WORK PARTY (Bring loppers)
3C 8:30 am
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Tuesday March 7

Twin Falls
2B 9:30 am
Al Blalock 746-4155

Thursday March 9

Preston Trail
1A 10:00 am Family Hike
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday March 11

Tiger Mt. Trail to Railroad Grade
2B 8:30 am
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Sunday March 12

Cougar Precipice, Military Rd Big Tree Ridge/AA Gorge
2A 1:00 pm
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Tuesday March 14

Cougar Mtn: Red Town to Shy Bear Pass to Far Country Lookout to Red Town
2B 9:00 am
Jim Klotz 747-4141

Friday March 17

Tiger Mtn Trail to RR grade loop(boots required)
2B 9:30 am
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday March 18

West Tiger 3
3C 1:00 pm; 6 mi/2100 ft
Bob Gross 392-0539

Sunday March 19

Lewis Gorge/Lakemont Park
Lakemont Freeway proposed route
2A 1:00 pm
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Grand Ridge Traverse

4B 9:00 am
Bill McFerren 641-1853

Saturday March 25

Cougar views
2B 9:30 am; Family hike
Ann Leber

Sunday March 26

Squak Mtn west side
2C 1500 ft gain; 9:00 am
Steve Cobert 226-0000

Monday March 27

*Board Meeting at Clubhouse
7:00 pm, First and Bush*

Tuesday March 28

Little Si
2B 9:30 am
Al Blalock 746-4155

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

Hike Summary 1994

Fred and Ann Weinmann

Thanks to the 27 leaders who led a total of 1100 hikers around and about the Issaquah Alps this year with an average of 8 hikers per hike. Interestingly, Winter Quarter was the most active with 1/3 more participants than the other quarters. Fred and I and the trails club express a hearty thanks to our dedicated leaders!: Peggy Barchi, Al Blalock, Mary and Jim Cadigan, Steve Cavit, George Comstock, Betty Culbert, Bert Drui, Trudy Ecob, Bob Gross, George Jackman, John Johnson, Warren Jones, Paul and Pat Kaald, Dave Kappler, Ann Leber, Bill Longwell, Robert DeGraw, Penny Manning, Harvey Manning, Bill McFerren, Tom Mechler, Ralph and Peggy Owen, Ted Thomsen, and Joe Toynbee. ▲

Short Notes For a Long Walk (More Ramblings in the Snoqualmie Valley)

Bill Longwell

Before development swallows up this still rural valley, a walker and persistent explorer passing along the Snoqualmie Valley Trail may still find much about the early human record along Milwaukee Road spur line. (See Alpinist, April 1992, April 1994.)

CARNATION (MP 22.2)

Established in 1902, Carnation's original name was Tolt, named for the Native American band living here, *the Tolthue*. In 1917 E. A. Stuart, first president of Carnation Farms, promised a milk-condensing plant here if the community would change its name to Carnation. First the town, and later, the state complied. The plant shut down in the 1950's, but the name remained.

In 1993 the high school in this area changed its name from Tolt to Cedarcrest, but the middle school kept the old name.

STILLWATER (MP 24.6, 2 miles north of Carnation)

Named in 1910 by its first postmaster, this community began as a logging camp, and most of the loggers came from Stillwater, Minnesota. A store and a garage and a few homes remain on the flatland. The hills to the north, however, are alive with the sound of development.

TELEPHONE and TELEGRAPH POLES

Numerous cedar poles still stand along the railroad grade as mute survivors of the Milwaukee Road's spur line that ran here from Cedar Falls to Monroe between 1911 and 1972. Sharp-eyed walkers can find these poles along the entire line, but many are clustered near Stillwater. Look for the old wire lines (still intact for almost the entire distance), metal fittings, an occasional insulator and think of all the messages that passed along these wires.

STUART (MP 25.9)

The Milwaukee Railroad established a short set-out track and a river-crossing trestle here. The place was named Stuart, in honor of E. A. Stuart, first Carnation Farms president. (The old Stuart Building in Seattle, part of what was called Seattle's "Metropolitan Center," was also named for E. A. Stuart.)

Here at this river crossing spur, a prize Holstein bull could board a private railroad car and travel anywhere, perhaps to the Chicago stockyards. The spur survived until the 1930's.

ORIGINAL FOREST (MP 27.4)

Carnation Farms purchased its land here in the lower valley in 1910—1600 acres of virgin timberland. Workmen cleared the land and put it under cultivation.

To find remnants of the old forest, walk the trail to milepost 27.4 (a red barn and two yellow houses stand across Highway 203 from here). This spot lies between Highway mileposts 12 and 13. Stumps of large cedar trees still dot the pasture here.

If you like to hike and watch cows at the same time, this is the trail to walk. You might like to know that in 1936, 26 years after the land was cleared, "Daisy," a Carnation Farms cow, produced in one year 38,606.6 pounds of milk, or 18,000 quarts, enough milk to keep your family in business for 24 years.

NOVELTY (MP 28.5)

In its early years accessible only by riverboat, Novelty once was a large community of dairy farmers, with a church, a school and a store. The store burned down in 1969 and was never rebuilt. The house standing across from the junction of Highway 203 and the Novelty Hill Road dates from 1904. Most of the farmhouses stand near the river, instead of the road, because the river, originally, was the only transportation route. The railroad changed all this. The town site was named for Novelty, Missouri. A cemetery stands on the hill north of the old town site. This is a busy corner.

DUVALL (MP 31.0)

Named for a farmer and sawmill operator and platted in 1910, this community has existed since 1875. The first train arrived at the newly-built station at 2 p.m., May 15, 1911. The train, pulled by Great Northern engine #391, was named the Cherry Valley Limited. In 1911, The Great Northern had planned to abandon its Stevens Pass tunnel and instead run a new line up the Middle Fork and over Dutch Miller Gap to Wenatchee. Of course, this never happened. The Milwaukee Road purchased the line and extended it to Cedar Falls, above North Bend. Visit the restored train station that stands near the river and under the Duvall-Woodinville bridge. Duvall is installing a traffic light here, the first in the Lower Snoqualmie Valley. ▲

