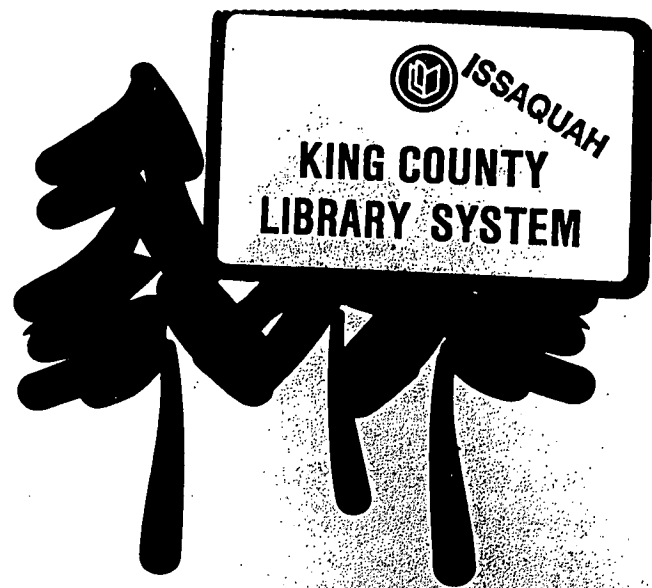


# THE ALPINE



April ▲ May ▲ June ▲ 1995

Use in Library

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

## Late Flashes From The Cougar Front

Harvey Manning

We're nearly there, within shouting distance of the ultimate and logical and necessary Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park first proposed in public by the Trails Club in 1980. However, as summarized in the January-February-March 1995 issue of *The Alpinist*, all around the perimeter, the boundaries need tidying up. Being the largest in-urban wildland in the nation has its down side. The sharks are circling. They have pearly teeth, dear. Flashing, gnashing...Developments are crowding in, and where the park border is an inadequate defense line, leaving the invasion route open to dollar-thirsty savages, the "civilizing" of one acre adjacent to the park may de-wild 10 or 20 acres inside the park. To be sure, that civilized acre will sell at a premium, since people will pay more to have a permanent greenbelt as front yard, but to so exploit a park's wildland is a "taking" of a publicly created (by your tax dollars) value for private profit. Immoral! But unless the public stoutly resists, legal. There's no law against greed and sleaze.

The months ahead are crucial. Following is a quick rundown on what is or may be happening. (This report is written in mid-February. Watch the public press for breaking news.)

### East Village

I like the way it was put by Joanna Buehler, president of Save Lake Sammamish, in the January issue of *Mountains to Sound*: "If Intrawest's final plans continue to meet and satisfy our concerns, then we'll have the best possible development without having to slug it out through protracted hearings."

Another example of our cheerful willingness to work with rational developers for the commonweal. But Joanna conveys another message: the big "If."

### Big Tree Ridge

The owners are friends of the land, want the ancient forest preserved, but the tax assessor is merciless and the sharks smell blood. However, there is pending a possibility. Watch the next *Alpinist*. Maybe even the local press. It loves the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway. Jim Ellis gets respect.

### Lewis Canyon

Us old campaigners well and vividly recall when the R.H. Thompson Expressway was thought a sure thing to blast straight through the middle of the University of Washington (Washington Park) Arbo-

retum and across or under Union Bay. In case you haven't noticed—IT DID NOT. See the famous "freeway ramps to nowhere," the dead ends hanging in midair. The highwaymen do not win 'em all. Lakemont Boulevard is not a done deal. Exit 13 is not necessarily the opening breach in the "Chinese Wall."

Meanwhile, in that sector Bellevue Parks is splendidly working with us to reconstitute Peggy's Trail from I-90 to SE 60th ("Wilderness on the Metro 210"). —From there on up to the boundary of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park is an issue that has been pending so long it verges on scandal. King County Parks, where are you?

### The Far Country

King County Parks, where are you?

### Military Road

Jennifer and Dick Ulman, 16718-164 Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98006, 746-3579. (Call them!) Organizers of Wildland Park neighbors as a local militia, and acting simultaneously as spearhead-advocates for the Trails Club, they are engaged hot and

See *Cougar*, Page 3

## Board Approves Club Goals for 1995

Ken Konigsmark

At the IATC Annual Meeting on January 23, the Board finalized and approved club goals for 1995. The Board felt it essential to share this information with club members to portray the extent and involvement of the club in a variety of key issues. Your assistance is needed in working on the following goals, organized by geographic and/or "advocacy" area:

### Cougar Mountain

(Advocates: Harvey Manning/Ralph Owen)

- 1) Support efforts to carry out acquisition efforts for Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, as embodied in the Master Plan
  - Support partner efforts to preserve open space in China Creek and Military Road areas
  - Participate in planning for E. Cougar development; secure large public open space
- 2) Continue to support Save Lake Sammamish opposition to Lakemont Blvd.
- 3) Support efforts to preserve Cougar park access from Newport Way (Exit 13). Complete Lewis Creek and Peggy's Trail and access route to Cougar park

- 4) Support acquisition of the Gunn property for Cougar trailhead

### Squak Mountain

(Advocate: Ken Konigsmark)

- 1) Monitor/favorably influence management planning for Sections 9 and 5
- 2) Support acquisition of M & H, Santana, and Intrawest properties as open space/trailhead

### Tiger Mountain

(Advocates: Larry Hanson/Ken Konigsmark)

- 1) Support expansion of Tiger Mountain State Forest and acquisition of Section 12, Schroeder, Group One Expert, and Overbeck parcels
- 2) Support and supplement DNR trail maintenance, management, and enforcement efforts
- 3) Develop partnership relationship with new DNR Tiger Mountain staff
- 4) Work with City of Issaquah and DNR to develop a public map for Tradition Lake plateau

See *Goals*, Page 2

## Legislative Alert!

Recently introduced HB 1617 threatens, if passed, to abort the long-fought and planned acquisitions of key open space parcels in the Alps. HB 1617 would enact a moratorium state-wide on WWRP land acquisition funds for the 1995-1996 biennium and eliminate funding for previously approved acquisitions.

What does this mean to the Alps? The potentially irrevocable loss of Phase 2 Section 9 on Squak Mountain. The loss on Tiger Mountain of four critical, privately held parcels. The loss of millions of dollars in planned funding for the public acquisition of these parcels.

If these funds are lost and these properties are not acquired now, they stand to be lost permanently and irreversibly to land development.

The IATC urges you to write Representatives Philip Dyer and Brian Thomas, who sponsored and support this bill before this proposed legislation becomes law. Addresses are:

- Representative Philip Dyer, JLOB 337, Olympia WA 98504
- Representative Brian Thomas, JLOB 334, Olympia WA 98504 ▲

# President's Report

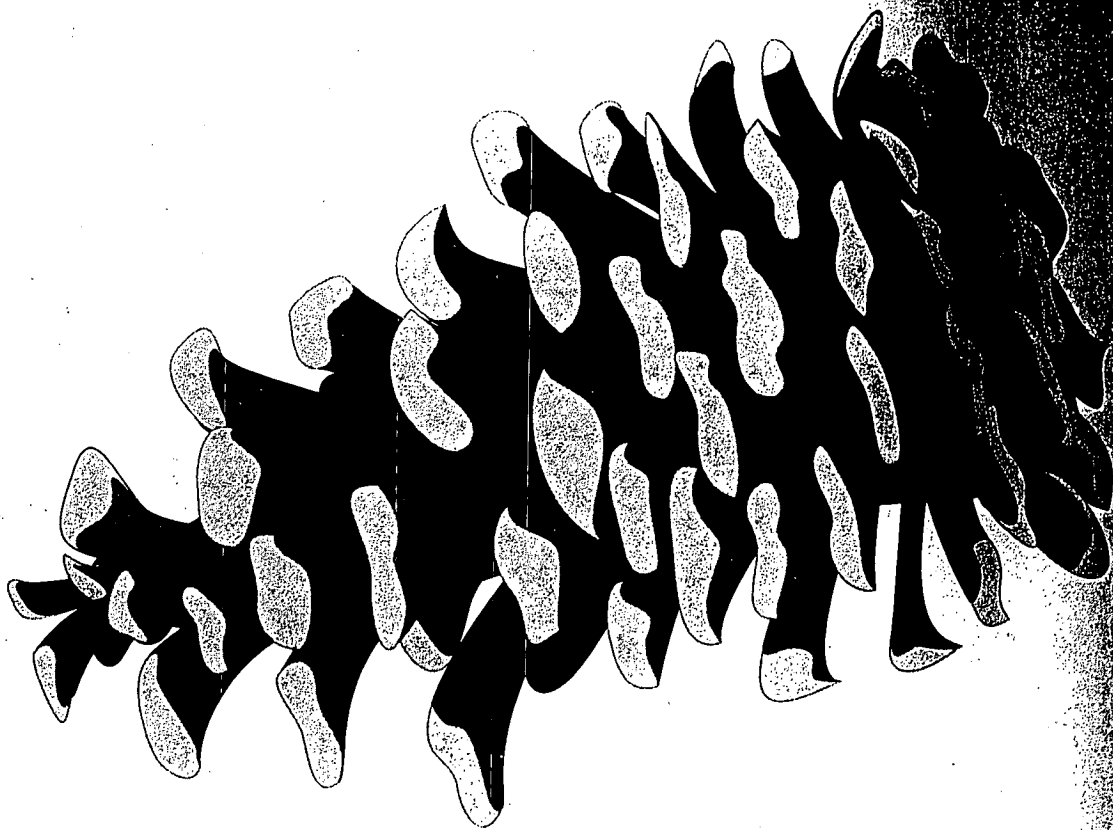
Ken Konigsmark

**T**HANKS TERI! Teri Morris-Hansen served IATC for the past year as the club's VP, Operations, doing a superb job in overseeing everything from membership processing to club advertising to special event support. Teri has decided to focus more attention on the family business and on her family, and will depart from her IATC duties, while still remaining an active club member. We wish Teri the best and thank her for all of her hard work over the past year.

IATC is very fortunate to have Marilyn Moon step forward to assume duties as VP, Operations. Marilyn has new ideas and goals for this position that she will be working on and the Board is very confident that IATC operations will remain in capable hands. Thanks, Marilyn, for volunteering for this key position!

**1994 Trail Maintenance Summary:** In the last *Alpiner* an impressive summary of the 1994 IATC free, guided hikes program was included. In this issue, we'd like to summarize the important, often times thankless work done by a dedicated corps of IATC members who provide maintenance on the trails we all enjoy. Led by Bill Longwell and Joe Toynbee, this crew amassed 328 hours of trail work on Issaquah Alps trails in 1994 (43 on Squak, 265 on Tiger, and 20 on Rattlesnake Ridge). If that weren't enough volunteer work, they also completed major maintenance work on Alpine Lakes Wilderness trails totaling another 283 hours. These efforts, including removing windfall logs, brushing, building and repairing bridges, repairing tread, and other laborious tasks, are not easy. Thanks to this hard-working IATC volunteer group, we all enjoy safer and better trails year-round.

**Membership or Alpiner Questions??** IATC has retained the services of Connie Hinton to provide efficient and accurate management of club memberships and mailings. Connie has done an excellent job in getting an up-to-date database established. If, however, you have questions or problems regarding receipt of your *Alpiner* or your club membership, please call Connie to resolve these issues. Connie may be reached at 391-6830 during business hours, M-F, 9 a. m.-5 p.m. ▲



## Goals From Page 1

### Grand Ridge

(Advocate: Melinda Livingstone)

- 1) Monitor development planning to ensure open space goals are met
- 2) Monitor/favorably influence interlocal agreement planning
- 3) Monitor and participate in planning for the new Sunset Way interchange and road system

### Issaquah

(Advocate: George Comstock)

- 1) Monitor development planning to protect IATC interests (Park Pointe, E. Cougar, others)
- 2) Support SLS and partner efforts to challenge Manke development plans
- 3) Maintain close ties with City Trails Coordinator. Assist and advise, as appropriate, to support implementation of the Issaquah Wildlife and Trails Plan
- 4) Monitor proposed bypass planning; identify and protect IATC interests

### Raging River/Preston

(Advocate: Maryanne Tagney Jones)

- 1) Support public acquisition of the Preston Mill Site and Parcel B

- 2) Monitor development planning for the industrial park; support Preston Community Club
- 3) Support an equestrian park on DNR's Mitchell Hill lands

### Rattlesnake/Taylor

(Advocates: Ted Thomsen/Ralph Owen)

- 1) Monitor/favorably influence management planning for Rattlesnake Ridge
- 2) Support establishment of a public connection between Tiger and Rattlesnake Ridge
- 3) In cooperation with Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club, MidFORC, and others:
  - Participate in and influence public planning process for Mt. Si NRCA
  - Support DNR/Champion land exchange
  - Support public planning effort for future of the Middle Fork valley

### Other

- 1) Continue to represent hiking interests in trail usage issues; support WTA, MidFORC, and other responsible initiatives for trail management
- 2) Support increased agency presence and enforcement on public lands in the Issaquah Alps
- 3) Support Mountains-to-Sound Greenway initiatives, including the proposed forest expansion/bio-solids fertilization program
- 4) Advocate continued and increased funding for management agencies and open space
- 5) Oppose legislative efforts to diminish environmental/wildlife protection policies
- 6) Promote wildlife and trail corridors across SR900, Issaquah-Hobart Rd, and Hwy. 18

### Internal IATC Goals

(Advocate: Board of Directors)

- 1) Review Advocate staffing; adjust and supplement as needed
- 2) Support guided hike program by adding hike leaders and maintaining a summer schedule
- 3) Establish IATC Board policies on key issues
- 4) Develop plan for new T-shirts, book printings, and maps
- 5) Identify and install a new IATC Vice President, Operations
- 6) Provide better support for, or reconsider participation: Annual banquet, Return to Newcastle, Salmon Days
- 7) Improve club exposure, marketing, and overall membership level ▲

## The Apparatus

President: Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839

VP, Operations: Marilyn Moon • 392-1732

Treasurer: Barbara Halverson • 255-4642

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

George Comstock • 392-8929

Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839

Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615

Kathy Shertz • 228-8666

Melinda Livingstone • 392-7455

Hikes Coordinator: Ann Weinmann • 392-9230

Membership Records: Connie Hinton • 391-6830

Special Events: Carolyn Graham • 885-0224

Book Sales/Distribution: Marty Hanson • 392-2458

Alpiner: Sarah Young • 271-9932

Volunteer Coordinator: Art Wallenstein • 392-7813

Issaquah Advocate: George Comstock • 392-8929

Cougar Advocates: Harvey Manning • 746-1017 and Ralph Owen • 746-1070

Squak Advocate: Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839

Tiger Advocates: Larry Hanson • 392-2458

and Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839

Grand Ridge Advocate:

Melinda Livingstone • 392-7455

Raging River and Preston Advocate:

Maryanne Tagney Jones • 222-7615

Rattlesnake Mtn. and Taylor Mtn. Advocates:

Ted Thomsen • 454-8643/Ralph Owen • 746-1070

Chief Ranger: Bill Longwell • 222-6775

MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen • 454-8643

Legal Advice: Tom Lucas

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## Cougar From Page 1

heavy at close quarters with the Bellevue City Council, our noble cause aided and abetted by certain people in government whose names will not be given here. The foe, who to this point is arrogant and churlish? *Quadrant*. Shame on you, Weyerhaeuser! And fie, too! You spend millions trying to de-tarnish your image, but when given a chance to show a little sensitivity, you march as always to the ding-ding-ding of the cash register. (Or is that the snip-snip-snip of clipping coupons?) Penury is not thrift.

To be issued a pike or musket, call the Ulmans. Come to meetings of the Bellevue City Council. No hissing, no stamping of feet. Just glower politely.

### China Creek

Friends of China Creek, Steve Cobert, 6928-119 Place SE, Newcastle, WA 98056. Militia chief-tain and Trails club advocate. Sign up with him as a Friend! Rally round the flag! Attend meetings of the Newcastle City Council.

The developers believe they own the new city. (Do they?) Their surveyors are ribboning up the wildwoods exactly beside the Wildside Trail. To label these humans as sharks, vultures, or jackals is to libel decent creatures.

### Letters

If you are a resident of the Cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, or Newcastle, and you have concerns about any or all of the matters within their jurisdictions, write the appropriate City Council and Mayor, asking that your letter be distributed to all the members.

If you are a resident of any other city, or of unincorporated King County, write your County Councilperson, with a copy to the County Executive.

We're not soliciting a blizzard of mail, the "post-card blitz" by the semi-literates beloved by professional agitators for nut-case campaigns. Well-thought-out, rational, knowledgeable letters, however few in number, impress public officials who care and there are more who do than you may think from reading the papers. ▲

# News Briefs...

## Sammamish Stewardship Saturday

Kevin Hall

Join your neighbors, Save Lake Sammamish, and public agencies, business, and other local conservation organizations in donating a Saturday morning to protect and enhance the watershed of Lake Sammamish on Saturday, April 8, Sammamish Stewardship Saturday, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Participants will be able to join in various projects, including wetland enhancement, litter pick up, storm drain stenciling, and exotic plant removal, for which you can sign up that morning. You may pre-register by calling 206/641-3008.

Participants should bring work clothes, heavy shoes or boots, gloves, rain gear, a shovel and a lunch. Morning coffee, juice and snacks will be provided, but please bring a coffee mug to reduce waste.

How to get there: Take I-90 east from I-405. Use Exit 15 for Lake Sammamish State Park and turn left at the light. At Sammamish Road, turn left, and take the park entrance on the right in 1/2 mile. Park in the first parking area on the left. ▲

## National Trails Day 1995

Mark Boyar, Ken Konigsmark

For National Trails Day 1995, the Washington Trails Association is coordinating a "Middle Fork Snoqualmie Weekend." To be held June 3-4, the weekend will highlight the tremendous recreation potential of the Middle Fork Valley.

The weekend will include informative hikes, work parties, a cookout on Saturday night, and other events organized by hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, and water groups. A number of trips will focus on the exciting opportunities for road-to-trail conversions.

Speakers at the Saturday night campfire will discuss the latest recreation plans for the valley, its history and wildlife, and long-term visions for our beautiful granite walled "backyard wilderness."

For more information, call WTA at 625-1367. ▲

## What's Happening at Cougar Mountain

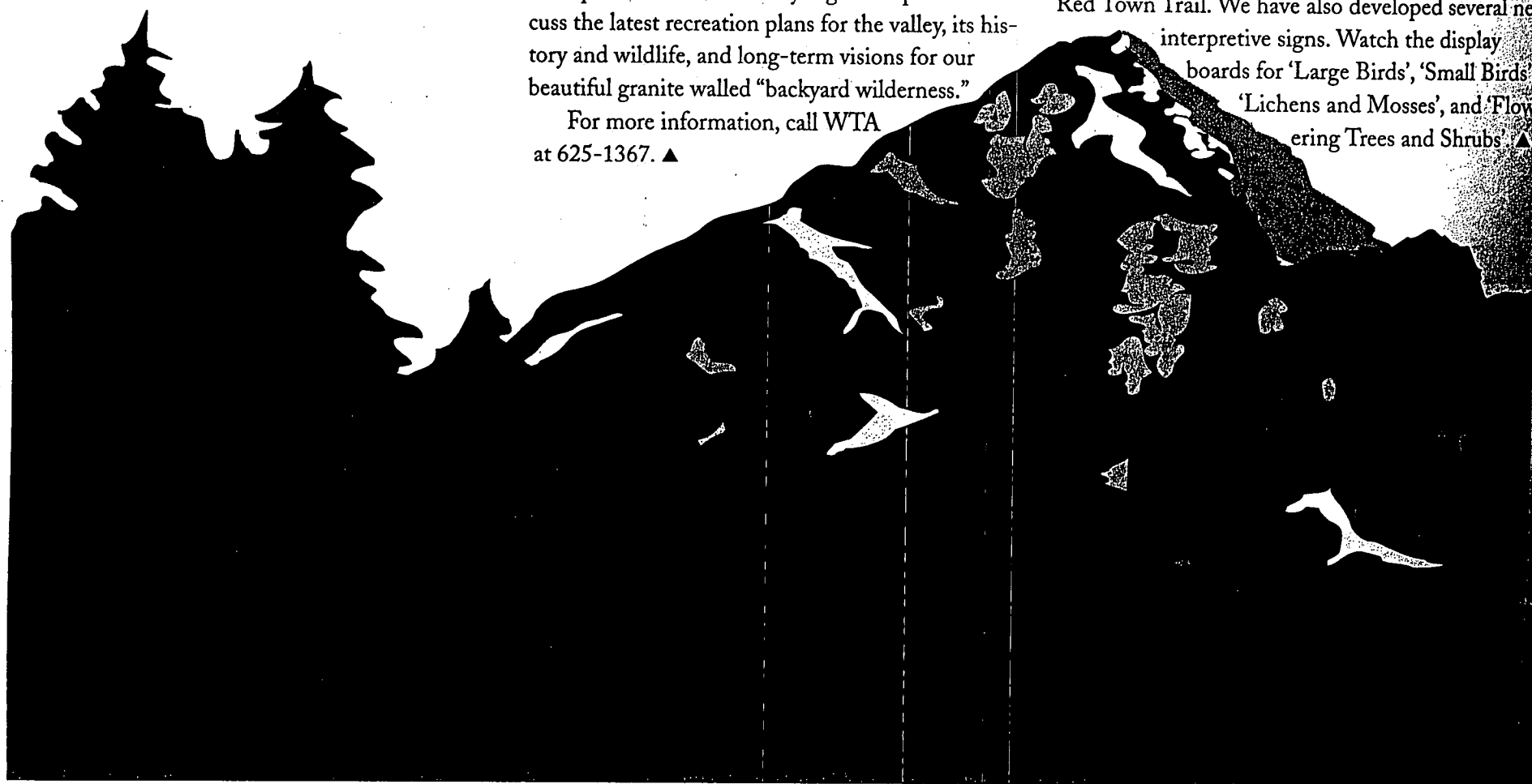
Steve Williams

**Meadow Restoration:** This is one of the most exciting cooperative projects we've ever had. Volunteers and staff have cleared more than 400 Scotch Broom plants from the historic Red-Town Ballpark site. Coal miners played baseball, and their families picnicked here by the side of Coal Creek from 1912 to 1950. However, in the 1960's a prospecting bulldozer moved all the topsoil to one side, and invasive Scotch Broom and blackberry plants took over. Our goal now is to restore the meadow to its original condition with all native plants. (A thing quite rare in our area).

Phase II will involve moving topsoil and then replanting the area with wild grasses and meadow flowers. Washington Native Plant Society members are providing expert advice. King County's Surface Water Management Plant Salvage Team has provided hard-to-find shrubs like Cascara. And Alps Coordinator Penny Manning has done an amazing organizational job. She still needs volunteers to plant flowers and help with essential weeding and watering this spring. Get in on the fun! Call 746-1017 for more information!!! Please everyone, help keep dogs, kids, horses & hiking boots off of these tender plants while they are getting started!!!

**New County Interpretive Staff:** King County Parks recently hired four professional interpretive staffers who will be developing and leading programs throughout the county. Chuck Lennox will be working directly with Cougar Mountain and upland forest interpretation. He has an extensive background in environmental education, and worked for 15 years for the National Park Service in places like Denali, Glacier and the Grand Tetons. Chuck will be offering a variety of different programs at Cougar Mountain this year. Other staffers are Kaitlin Jacobson, Kathy Kuba, and Shelly Brittingham. Programs can range from wetlands and birding on the Soos Creek Trail to saltwater ecology at Seahurst or Richmond Beach Parks. Call 296-4171 for more information.

Within the park, there will be more rock work to firm up mud-sumps on horse trails, and we will be cutting back the wall of blackberry vines along Red Town Trail. We have also developed several new interpretive signs. Watch the display boards for 'Large Birds', 'Small Birds', 'Lichens and Mosses', and 'Flowering Trees and Shrubs'. ▲





# Our Other Cougar Mountain Wildlands

Harvey Manning

The underlying and overriding reason and justification for our building and maintaining and signing trails, writing guidebooks, and guiding hikes is not the personal pleasure we may get out of it, but the putting of feet on the land, feet whose attached minds and hearts become friends of the land, helping frustrate knavish tricks (and confound the politics) of enemies of the land, the wheels and motors and bulldozers and blacktop and million-dollar ticky-tack. —Yes, the reason is the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, largest in-urban wildland in the nation and, due to its proximity to the heavy-beating heart of Puget Sound City, among the most important ornaments of the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway.

However, that's not Cougar's whole wildland story. We are defending Lewis Canyon and will continue to do so against the defilement, the desecration by the Lakemont Boulevard nightmared up in the diseased imaginations of the henchmen of Be-lial. (If this be religious bigotry, make the most of it.) This canyon should be a park—the City of Bellevue's grandest wildland park.

The subject of today's lesson is the Cougar Mountain Precipice from Lewis Canyon to Klein Gorge to AA Gorge to Stagecoach Creek and Telephone Ridge. Specifically, Big Tree Ridge featuring ancient Douglas firs which rode out the gigantic fire of 1912, relicts of the virgin forest that was and is and Anti-Aircraft (AA for short) Gorge, which with Owen Chasm and Klein Gorge form a triptych of (in words of the poet) "holy and enchanted" places where the freaked fancy hears "weird women wailing for their demon lovers."

## On Newport Way

A quarter-mile west of SR 900 on Newport Way are two trailheads, a hundred feet apart. The most westerly has two signs nailed to the fence around the AA Creek storm water-retention basin. The IATC signs say "Summerhill Ridge" and "To Precipice Trail." The unsigned easterly trailhead is an obvious slash through the hellberry thicket. The broad gravel shoulder of Newport Way provides plentiful parking for both trailheads.

## East Trailhead: Precipice Bottom Trail, Stranger Trail, Military Road, Big Tree Trail, etc.

The trail, on private property but open to our feet because it's owned by a friend (Trails Club member) and may soon (we hope) be acquired by a public agency, ascends past the site of our friend's old home to a Y junction. The right fork is the Precipice Bottom Trail which we built several years ago is an access to Big Tree Ridge, etc. The left fork was built in the past year by an accomplice, unknown, and that's why we call it the "Stranger Trail." They form a loop which makes a dandy one-hour saunter. To describe clockwise:

Stranger Trail ascends to cross Military Creek, crosses the toe of Military Ridge to cross Extra Creek, and steeply climbs Stagecoach Ridge to a junction with Lower Precipice Trail. Turn right and cross Extra Creek, Military Ridge and Military Creek to Little Big Tree Ridge. At the junction with the Big Tree Trail, which goes down left, continue straight down the ridge, back to the Y, and thus to Newport Way.

To do an add-on that makes a two hour strolling loop, where Stranger Trail intersects Precipice Bot-

tom Trail, turn left on the latter, drop to the splendid gulch (not quite a gorge) of Stagecoach Creek, climb to Telephone Ridge, and turn right, uphill, on Telephone Trail (route of the buried telephone cable), which intersects the Precipice Trail. To the left, across the Puget Power swath, old logging road-trails lead to the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. For the loop, turn right on the P.T. which here utilizes an Historical Treasure, a quarter-mile of the approximately 125-year-old Military Road which hasn't seen wheels (and they were wheels of horse-drawn wagons) since the turn of the century. After crossing headwaters of all the creeks and tips of all the ridges, the P.T. levels out on the broad shelf at the top of the Precipice and then turns sharply downhill onto Big tree ridge. Where the P.T. turns left, off the ridge and into AA Gorge, continue down the ridge, passing clusters and singletons of ancient firs, through groves of billowing old maple trees—virgin forest—nearly to its foot. At a junc-

**"For the loop, turn right on  
the Precipice Trail which here  
utilizes an Historical Treasure,  
a quarter-mile of the  
approximately 125-year-old  
Military Road which hasn't  
seen wheels... since the  
turn of the century."**

tion, Stranger Trail No. 2, pioneered just last fall, goes left, rounds the crest of the ridge, and drops into AA Gorge, close above where it ends at Summerhill homes, climbs out of the gorge, and comes to Three-Way Junction (see below), near the uppermost house of Summerhill.

The Big Tree trail drops off the ridge into Big Tree Swale, climbs to Little Big Tree Ridge, and there intersects the Precipice Bottom Trail for a return to Newport Way.

## West Trailhead: Summerhill Ridge, Anti-Aircraft Gorge, Precipice Trail, etc.

At the signs noted above, the trail sets out along the west bank of AA Creek. It appears to be a private backyard path but, in fact, follows a corridor dedicated to Issaquah Parks by the developer. The residents (some of them Trails Club members) smile at quiet walkers who keep their dogs leashed.

A few feet above the last house is the foot of The Precipice. On either side of AA Creek, Big Tree Ridge and Summerhill Ridge leap abruptly up, enclosing AA Gorge. At Three-Way Junction, three paths diverge.

The most used is the main Summerhill Trail, which begins by switchbacking up the ridge on a

logger's cat track of 1977, then becomes a trail built by Ralph Owen before construction of Summerhill. It intersects the Precipice Trail, the most awesome of Ralph's engineering masterworks. The P.T. way to the right, to Klein Road and beyond through Montreaux to Lewis Canyon, is likely to be re-established now that Ralph has given up working for a living, but for now is not recommended for casual use. To the left, the P.T. swings along the sidehill into the spooky cleft of AA Gorge, crossing the creek exactly where its two forks waterfall to their confluences. enough of a trickle continues through summer to keep the scene shadowy green and cool. The ascent of the far wall, up onto Big Tree Ridge, has a sign at the top, "Harvey's Mudslide." approaching from Big Tree Ridge the view down is intimidating but there is no real danger. When in doubt, keep the center of gravity low (sit down and slide). The fixed handline isn't truly necessary but has a soothing effect on quaking nerves. (Once, in a foot of snow, ice ax-equipped Harvey enjoyed a splendid glissade, ending beneath a wall of icicles. Do come in a cold snap. Bring ice pitons and ice hammer.)

The left fork from Three-Way Junction is Stranger Trail No. 2, into AA Gorge and on up Big Tree Ridge. Looking for a spot to unload the picnic basket and let the little kids play in the waterfalls? Here it is, a quick toddle from Newport Way.

The middle trail, up the gorge, near the creek, on a 1977 cat road, is a trip in itself. Side trip left for overlooks of waterfalls. To the left are in succession: a short, steep, rude path to the Summerhill Ridge trail; Ralph's original Summerhill Trail, long neglected yet still very easy, slanting up to the ridge trail; and a route from the end of the cat road to secret beauties of the inner gorge and then up to intersect the Precipice Trail.

Do all the trails. Loop yourself loopy. (See the hikes schedule in this issue for samplers.) ▲

## Join Former Coal Miners at 'Return to Newcastle'

King County parks will sponsor 'Return to Newcastle', our annual celebration of local history, parks, and open space on Sunday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event is held in the Newcastle area of Cougar Mountain, near the Red Town Trailhead—follow the signs from Newport Way and 150th.

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

King County will arrange musical entertainment, good food will be on sale, and the Trails Club will lead history walks and hikes. Volunteers will be conducting Living History talks. Trails Club books and maps will be on sale. Parking is \$3. Spend an hour or the whole day! See you there! ▲

# Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes and Events

## April

### Saturday April 1

Cougar Mtn. Longview Peak  
2B 9:30 a.m.  
Tom Walsh 453-8319

### Sunday April 2

Lake Tradition Adventure Trail,  
Big Tree and more  
2A 1:00 p.m.  
Ann Leber

### Tuesday April 4

Twin Falls, 4.5 mi.  
2B 9:30 a.m.  
Al Blalock 746-4155

### Friday April 7

Echo Mtn./Lake Desire  
FLOWER WALK  
2B 9:30 a.m.  
Betty Culbert 432-7387

### Saturday April 8

Tiger Mtn. Caves  
4 mi. 700 ft. gain  
2B 1:00 p.m.  
Bob Gross 392-0539

### Sunday April 9

Coal Creek Historical Hike  
2A 9:00 a.m.  
Bert Drui 746-0709

### Sunday April 9

Work party to restore meadow  
ecosystem at historic Redtown  
Ball Park—Bring tools/gloves  
10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Penny Manning 865-8619

### Saturday April 15

Peggy's Trail from I-90 Exit 13, up  
Owen Chasm to Owen Falls, return  
via Lakemont Park and new Lewis  
Gorge Trail  
2B 1:00 p.m.  
Harvey Manning 746-1017

### Sunday April 16

Cougar Mtn. Park via Peggy's Trail/  
Lewis Creek Trail and North Village  
perimeter trails  
7 mi. 1400 ft. gain  
3C 9:30 a.m.  
Ralph Owen 746-1070

### Monday April 17

Cougar Mtn. WILDFLOWERS  
2B 9:30 a.m.  
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

### Wednesday April 19

Kelsey Creek Park  
Family hike  
1A 10:00 a.m.  
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

### Friday April 21

IATC ANNUAL POTLUCK  
*See Alpiner Article*  
Preston Community Club, 6-9 p.m.

### Saturday April 22

Tiger Mountain South FLOWERS  
2A 9:00 a.m.  
Bill Longwell 222-6775

### Sunday April 23

Downtown Issaquah to the top of  
West Tiger III  
3B 1:30 p.m.  
Steve Cavit 271-7780

### Monday April 24

BOARD MEETING at Club House  
7:00 p.m., First & Bush

### Tuesday April 25

Little Si  
4.5 mi. 1100 ft. gain  
2B 9:30 a.m.  
Al Blalock 746-4155

### Friday April 28

West Tiger 1 Loop via a dozen roads  
and trails of the wild west side  
9 mi., 3100 ft. gain, *Boots required*  
3D 8:30 a.m.  
Warren Jones 888-0262

### Saturday April 29

Anti-aircraft Gorge/Summerhill  
Ridge, Big Tree Ridge—Two good  
standard trails, an old goodie rediscovered  
and three brand new delights.  
2A with short bit of safe C, 1:00 p.m.  
Harvey Manning 746-1017

## May

### Friday May 5

Preston Trail FLOWERS  
1A 6:30 p.m.  
Bill Longwell 222-6775

### Saturday May 6

Cougar Mtn. Longview Pk.  
2B 9:30 a.m.  
Tom Walsh 453-8319

### Sunday May 7

Peggy's Trail from I-90 Exit 13, up  
Owen Chasm to Owen Falls, return  
via Lakemont Park and new Lewis  
Gorge Trail  
2B 1:00 p.m.  
Harvey Manning 746-1017

### Thursday May 11

Anti-aircraft Peak  
Family hike  
1A 10:00 a.m.  
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

### Friday May 12

Echo Mtn./Lake Desire  
FLOWER WALK  
2B 9:30 a.m.  
Betty Culbert 432-7387

### Sunday May 14

Talus Caves/West Tiger 1 loop  
2B 9:00 a.m.  
Bert Drui 746-0709

### Monday May 15

Squak Mtn. State Park  
2C 9:30 a.m.  
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

### Saturday May 20

Anti-aircraft Gorge/Summerhill  
Ridge, Big Tree Ridge—Two good  
standard trails, an old goodie rediscovered  
and three brand new delights.  
2A with short bit of safe C, 1:00 p.m.  
Harvey Manning 746-1017

### Sunday May 21

Lake Tradition Plateau  
4 mi. 400 ft. gain  
1A 1:00 p.m.  
Bob Gross 392-0539

### Monday May 22

BOARD MEETING at Club House  
7:00 p.m., First & Bush

### Saturday May 27

Peak hopping on Tiger Mtn. to at  
least 5 of the named peaks, 12-16 mi.  
walk returning to Issaquah  
4D 8:30 a.m.  
Ralph Owen 746-1070

### Sunday May 28

Work party to restore meadow ecosys-  
tem at historic Redtown Ball Park.  
Bring tools/gloves  
10:00 am-2:00 p.m.  
Penny Manning 865-8619

## June

### Saturday June 3

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY  
"The Big Round"  
City Hall to West Tiger to Poo Poo  
Point and return  
3+C 10:30 a.m.  
Steve Cavit 271-7780

### Sunday June 4

*See Alpiner article*  
RETURN to NEWCASTLE  
10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

### Tuesday June 6

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

### Saturday June 10

Middle Tiger  
6 mi. 1200 ft. gain  
3B 1:00 p.m.  
Bob Gross 392-0539

### Saturday June 10

Peggy's Trail from I-90 Exit 13, up  
Owen Chasm to Owen Falls, return  
via Lakemont Park and new Lewis  
Gorge Trail  
2B 1:00 p.m.  
Harvey Manning 746-1017

### Sunday June 11

West Tiger 1, 2 and 3  
3C 9:00 a.m.  
Bert Drui 746-0709

### Monday June 12

South Tiger Trails  
3B 9:30 a.m.  
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

### Friday June 16

Lake Tradition BIRDS  
1A 6:30 p.m.  
Bill Longwell 222-6775

### Saturday June 17

Snoqualmie Ridge BIRDS  
1A 8:30 a.m.  
Bill Longwell 222-6775

### Sunday June 18

Anti-aircraft Gorge/Summerhill  
Ridge, Big Tree Ridge—Two good  
standard trails, an old goodie rediscovered  
and three brand new delights.  
2A with short bit of safe C, 1:00 p.m.  
Harvey Manning 746-1017

### Wednesday June 21

Lake Tradition/Round Lake  
Family hike  
1A 10:00 a.m.  
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

### Wednesday June 21

SUMMER SOLSTICE  
Work party to restore meadow  
ecosystem at historic Redtown Ball  
Park. Bring tools/gloves  
3:00-7:00 p.m.  
Penny Manning 865-8619

### Saturday June 24

Cougar views  
2A 10:00 a.m.  
Ann Leber

### Sunday June 25

Northeast Tiger Traverse Highway 18  
to Preston  
3C 8:30 a.m.  
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

### Monday June 26

BOARD MEETING at Club House  
7:00 p.m., First & Bush

### Tuesday June 27

Twin Falls 4.5 mi.  
2B 9:30 a.m.  
Al Blalock 746-4155

# Hike Information

## HIKE LEADERS

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. ▲



## Who's Keeping Track?

Teri Morris-Hansen

Have you ever wondered who keeps track of all our membership information? With thousands of names, addresses and dues schedules, it's a formidable task. The IATC has functioned adequately for many years thanks to our wonderful volunteers who have contributed thousands of hours in this often thankless duty.

But, in 1994, we found ourselves without a volunteer and a steadily increasing membership. That's when we were fortunate to discover the computer talents of self-employed club member Connie Hinton. Working from her Issaquah home, Connie operates a secretarial service and now has a contract with the IATC maintaining our membership records.

Connie enjoys using computers and with her degrees in secretarial science and a BS. in business management, she is always interested in technological advancements. A big plus for all this technology is that it enables her to work from home in what she calls an "environmentally friendly work style."

Connie and husband, Mark, are enthusiastic hikers. Their two favorite hikes are Tiger 3 and the trail to Poo Poo Point. "It's fun in any weather," they agree. Connie can be reached through the IATC mailing address: P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027, or by phoning during business hours (M-F, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.) at 206/391-6830. ▲

## 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. ▲



## IATC Annual Banquet Scheduled for April 21

Ken Konigsmark

The IATC Annual Podluck Banquet has been scheduled for 6:00-8:30 p.m., Friday, April 21st this year. Please mark your calendars now, as we do not anticipate sending out a special mailing for the event this year.

We will be utilizing a different facility, the Preston Community Center (directions below) for the banquet. All club members are encouraged to attend, bringing a dish to share per the following:

A-D (desserts),  
E-H (hors d' oeuvres),  
I-N (main dish or casserole)  
N-R (pasta/rice salad),  
S-Z (vegetable/fruit salad)  
Please bring your own placesetting.

The program will include a speaker and a group slide show. Bring your favorite IATC slides to share with the group.

**DIRECTIONS for Banquet:** Take I-90 to Exit 22 (Preston). Turn to the north, then eastwards into Preston going past the mini-mall on the right. About 1/2 mile from I-90, on the left and directly across from the old Preston Mill site, sits the Community Center (a large rock and log structure). ▲

## Meet the New Folks at DNR

Barbara Johnson

Many of you have heard that Doug McClelland, the "mayor" of Preston, has been promoted to King District Manager. Congratulations, Doug, on a well deserved promotion! Brian Vrablick is the new Issaquah Unit Forester. Welcome, Brian!

Brian has been working for the Department of Natural Resources for four years. He graduated from Wazzu in Natural Resource Management. Before coming to the Issaquah Unit, Brian worked for DNR in Tonasket, Republic, Loomis, and Forks. In the Loomis Forest area, Brian worked on Lynx Habitat area management. Some personal info: Brian graduated from Lindberg High School in Renton. He loves to play basketball and is a Sonics fan. He is getting married in June.

Some of the issues Brian is dealing with include: continuing the current philosophy of Tiger Mountain being a "working forest in an urban environment," the Mountain-to-Sounds Greenway, continuing to manage the trust lands, and maintaining the trail systems on Tiger and Mt. Si.

Another new face in the Issaquah Unit is Darcy McNamara, the Conservation Steward. Darcy began working for DNR in June 1994. Darcy's focus is

to work on the Mt. Si Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA) plan. Since June, her job description has expanded to include environmental education and interpretation.

With the help of other experts, Darcy has been doing research and master planning for the NRCA. For instance, 308 species of plants have been identified on Mt. Si, including the lovely-sounding "dung moss," so named because it is pollinated by flies, and we all know where flies alight! Darcy is also working on Rattlesnake Ridge issues and works with Margaret Macleod on the management plan.

A new interest group is being formed named "The Friends of Mt. Si." This group will include user groups who will volunteer their time to deal with issues on Mt. Si and to help work on projects such as, "Walk The Plank Day" in March, where each volunteer carried one or more planks for boardwalks up the trail, thus reducing the need for helicoptering in the lumber. For information about joining "Friends of Mt. Si," call Deborah Gurney at 888-1516.

Looks like Brian and Darcy have a lot on their menus for the near future. Again, Welcome! ▲



## Orchids of the Issaquah Alps

Ann Weinmann

Not so big and not so diverse as in Amazonia but our Alps do have several attractive orchids. Like their larger cousins of faraway places they are showy, beautiful and belong to the family Orchidaceae. The difference is that you sometimes need a magnifying glass to fully appreciate them.

Heart-leaved Twayblade (*Listera cordata*) is the least fancy of the group. It has a pair of heart-shaped leaves at midstem and a spike of tiny greenish-purple flowers. It is found along the Rattlesnake Ledge trail. Next, and much more common is Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera oblongifolia*) seen in the shady lowland Alps. Its basal green leaves have a distinctive snakeskin pattern, while the spike of greenish-white flowers merit a close inspection to see their irregular orchid flowers.

The next two orchids actually look similar and share the same first name, *Habenaria*, but they live in very different habitats. *Habenaria saccata* or Slen Bog Orchid, as it is commonly known, likes wet areas. A foot or so tall, it has basal leaves and a stalk

of greenish-white flowers which bloom in June. Again, to appreciate its intricate orchid features use a hand lens. *Habenaria elegans* too has basal leaves but these have disappeared by the time the stalk of flowers appear in July. One of the distinguishing characteristics of this orchid is its long spurs (a key feature of the flower). These can be easily seen even without a hand lens. This orchid was discovered in the Alps this summer by Marty and Larry Hanson who keep track of floral happenings at Yah-er Wall.

Another not so commonly found one is Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*) known from the Rattlesnake Ledge and Yah-er Wall areas. Its basal leaves haven't the snakeskin appearance of the Rattlesnake Plantain and are much narrower. The creamy white flowers form a spiraled spike. A more colorful orchid is the fancy Spotted Coralroot (*Corallorhiza maculata*), sometimes over a foot tall and easily picked out on the forest floor. The stem is purple to reddish-brown while the flowers are white with magenta spots.

Finally, and perhaps the most spectacular is the Phantom Orchid (*Cephalanthera austinae*) which is on the list of rare plants for the state of Washington. Re-discovered by Harvey Manning last summer on private land on Cougar Mountain, it had been noted by local residents years ago but hadn't appeared again until recently (at least to our knowledge). Among the sword fern, salal, and salmonberry with very little overstory, it is out of its usual moist habitat, but real it is. The leaves are gone by blooming time in mid-summer. Its flowers are the largest of our orchids, palest cream to white with a speck of yellow at their throat. Its ghostly appearance makes it a rare treat to see.

The ultra showy fairy slipper (aka calypso, lady slipper, deerhead, or Venus slipper orchid) has been once reported from Beaver Valley, but never confirmed or rediscovered. It's one to search for in late April. But, even without the calypso, the orchids of the Alps are worth seeking out for their intrinsic interest and beauty of form. ▲

## Go Ahead— Volunteer!

Teri Morris-Hansen

Years ago a good friend of mine asked me, "Why do you always volunteer?" and I was stumped for a ready answer. Like many others, it has always been a natural response for me to volunteer. Volunteering is a way of living that was modeled for me by family and friends and something I was taught at an early age.

One of the great aspects of volunteering is that I have often been able to get the experience of working at a job I would not likely be hired to do. These jobs have ranged from being a teenage "candy-stripper" gingerly carrying a painfully obtained spinal fluid sample across a huge, crowded hospital to sewing theater costumes to working as a birth control counselor. And most recently, a year as Vice President of Operations for the IATC.

This past year has been a highlight in my 20-plus years of volunteer work. I've met many wonderful people and had a chance to see up close the workings, challenges and successes of the IATC advocates. I'm in awe of what these volunteers have learned about the mechanics of government, the political personalities and issues. I'm really pleased to have been part of the machinery that kept the club rolling along so that the advocates could do this vital work. I would like to send out a big thank you to all those folks who were so helpful to me this past year and a great big thanks to Marilyn Moon who is stepping in as our new VP of Operations.

The IATC is a worthy organization to which to give your precious time and talents. The doors are open in many areas from leading hikes to helping out with administrative work, to attending public meetings and to learning the skills of advocacy.

I encourage you to follow your interests and invite you to make them known to our Volunteer Coordinator Art Wallenstein at 206/392-7813. Your involvement is welcome!

## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Membership Application

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

- ☐ Annual Regular Dues ..... \$12  
☐ Annual Contributing Dues ..... \$22  
☐ Lifetime Membership ..... \$120  
☐ Limited Income ..... \$6

- ▲ All memberships cover the entire family.  
 ▲ A regular annual family membership is \$12. This covers the cost of printing and mailing the Alpiner and a part of the club's overhead expenses.

▲ Contributing memberships at \$22 or more cover the rest of the club's overhead expenses and allow us some financial leeway in planning special events, publishing trail guides and keeping our trail maintenance tool supply fit and ample.

▲ Lifetime memberships at \$120 give us room to be creative and visionary, to venture forth on projects otherwise beyond our means and dreams.

- ☐ I would like to get involved with the club's activities. Please send me a volunteer questionnaire.

## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Mail Order Service

P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

▲ *Guide to Trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, Coal Creek Park, May Creek Park*  
 By Harvey Manning and Ralph Owen. 1990 updated edition. This new edition brings you all the old favorites plus new favorites—new trails on the west side connecting to Renton and May Creek plus *all new maps!* \$10.00 (includes map, tax and shipping)

▲ *Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain*  
 By Bill Longwell. 1989 updated edition. New trails: Tradition Plateau Trail (adding Swamp and Wetlands Trails), the *new* Bootleg Trail, the *new* Preston Trail. Plus encounters with animals. \$10.00 (includes map, tax and shipping)

▲ *The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History*  
 By Richard K. McDonald and Lucille McDonald. A complete history of the once-thriving coal mining area on Cougar Mountain, now hidden from all but hikers. More than 100 photos, four maps and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$12.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Tiger Mt. map* \$2.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Cougar Mt. map* \$2.00 (includes tax and shipping)

▲ *Tradition Lake map* Free with self-addressed stamped envelope.

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

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

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

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