

09/11/NOV/DEC 1995

Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

THE ALPINE



October ▲ November ▲ December ▲ 1995 Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

Once More Unto the Breach, Dear Friends

Harvey Manning

It is now 19 years since first the notion was floated of "a great big green and quiet place on Cougar Mountain," and 16 years since our group came together to seek, among other goals, a Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. That park, far and away the largest in King County, and the largest in-urban wildland in the nation, is something like 90-95% complete. Still needed on the east are the twin canyons of West Fork Tibbetts Creek and Claypit Creek, and on to the west, the slopes from China Summit down to Coal Creek and through the headwaters of China Creek. A third large acquisition, semi-detached from the park proper, is wanted on the north, including Big Tree Ridge and Anti-Aircraft Gorge, usually referred to in the negotiations in progress as the "Gunn property." (We here take a moment for fond memories of our member, Mary Louise Weeks Gunn, who passed away August 7 at the age of 95. We vividly recall the tears in her eyes as she spoke of the real estate developers who were pestering her to sell them the scene of her childhood in the wildwoods—a scene she poignantly wanted to see preserved. As do we...)

Aside from these sizable acquisitions and several smaller tracts essential to round out logical borders, the remainder of our concerns is tidying up here and there, and hooking up to neighborhood and regional trail systems.

"Tidying up..." The term makes it sound like business for a feather duster. And it would be, in a world of sanity and probity. But in our world, a bludgeon would be handier. Most of the tidying has to do with "edge effects," which is to say how the wildness of the wildland park is affected by development of private property adjoining the preserve.

In our experience, the folks who build next to or near the park are wildland lovers, strong park defenders, and usually they can have their cake and eat it too. However, at several places land developers want to exploit the wildness. To employ their favorite rallying cry, but turning it back on them, they are striving to carry out a "taking" for private profit of a value created by years of public effort and millions of public dollars. (Who would not pay a premium for a lot with a 3000 acre front yard guaranteed never to be invaded by roads, houses, shopping centers?)

Let me cite specifics:

A developer named Finkbeiner, an entrepreneur with an established reputation around the region as a member of the "in your face" species, is determined to thrust a "Finkbeiner Salient" into the Klondike Basin, the largest of the park's

sky-country enclaves of green peace. His "Highlands at Bellevue" proposes 46 lots, 42 of which lie on the opposite side of Radio Peak from the Klondike, separated from the wildland by a guardian ridge. But four are atop the ridge. Nowhere in the basin nor on the ringing ridges could a walker seeking sanctuary escape the sights of houses, the sounds of automobiles and lawnmowers and radios from the Finkbeiner Salient. The plain and naked intent of Finkbeiner is a "taking" of the wildness that has been set aside by you, by me, by the people of King County.

Quadrant, a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser, intends to make the historic Military Trail along the park's north boundary the front yard for a row of homes, the native vegetation replaced by lawns and patios and picture windows. Weyerhaeuser, the "gentle giant," is spending millions of dollars trying to clean up its image as chief destroyer of America's forests. For the cost of a fraction of one its double-truck newspaper ads it could give the entire boundary strip to the people. It could then say, "What a good boy I am," and not be accused of fraud.

What government agency has the right and the power to protect the Cougar wildland from the Finkbeiners and the Weyerhaeusers, to prevent a corporate "taking" of public value, to defend the "wildness within" Puget Sound City?

For one, the City of Bellevue. But Bellevue has seceded from the region, is a "freedom island" where developers may for their personal benefit, free from consideration of the public good, "max out" profits.

What about King County? County Executive Randy Revelle led in obtaining this regional—this national—treasure. Where stands now the King County Executive? The King County Council?

One more citation of a specific and I am (for now) done.

Several days before this writing the plans were publicly revealed for two golf courses adjoining the park on the west. One of these atop the old Newcastle "Demolition Landfill" (garbage dump) site, we've known about for years, and our major objection is that it is planned to extend unnecessarily far east, intruding on the wildland sights and sounds of very wealthy old men from several continents riding around the greensward in electric buggies. But the second golf course, until now no more than a chimerical rumor, would occupy the wetlands of China Creek headwaters and slop over China Summit, down toward Coal Creek, to within several feet of the Wildside Trail.

Who's in charge? King County government still has jurisdiction over some matters here. The brand new City of Newcastle is the main public

player. The State Department of Ecology has something to say about those wetlands.

Details will follow... Not yet has the fat lady sung... I conclude with some verses to be recited by various players.

By us (from Shakespeare)

*Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more...
Stiffen the sinews, summon up the blood...
Disguise fair nature with hard-favour'd rage;
then lend the eye a terrible aspect...
Now set the teeth and stretch the nostril wide...*

By the City Council of Bellevue and such other public officials who look into their hearts and are dismayed by what they see (from Tennyson)

*Arise, my God, and strike, for we hold Thee just,
Strike dead the whole weak race of venomous worms,
That sting each other here in the dust;
We are not worthy to live. ▲*

Celebration—the Acquisition of Squak Section 9!

Ken Konigsmark

A formal ceremony was conducted on September 15 at Lake Sammamish State Park to commemorate the transfer of ownership of Section 9 on Squak Mountain from the Trust for Public Land to State Parks. With the State Parks Commissioners and Director Cleve Pinnix in attendance, along with numerous other dignitaries and guests, the formal transfer of ownership marked the approximate doubling of the size of Squak Mountain State Park, with Section 9 acquisition matching the Section 4 land generously donated previously by the Bullitt family.

Instrumental to the acquisition was former IATC president Gus Nelson, whose dogged efforts surmounted many challenges and obstacles in pursuit of state funding for the acquisition. Gus deserves a big thank you from all IATC members for his critical role in enlarging this State Park. Secondly, the Trust for Public Land played a vital role in securing an option for, then holding the property until such time that funds became available. Without this key assistance, the purchase opportunity may not have been possible.

IATC joins in congratulating State Parks on this now-completed acquisition, and publicly thanks all those who helped to make this gift for future generations possible. ▲

President's Report

Konigsmark

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club, thanks to the dedicated efforts of many volunteers, continues to serve the hiking community which enjoys our Issaquah Alps. Some of the most recent contributions include the printing of an updated "Guide to the Trails of Tiger Mountain" by Bill Longwell; an updated "Eastside Family Hikes" booklet by Peggy Marchi; a new order of IATC shirts, accomplished by Mary Lynch; and Fred Weinmann is in the process of updating his "Flowering of the Issaquah Alps" guidebook, which will then be reprinted by the club. You can order any or all of these items (except "Flowering") on the enclosed order by mail, at prices shown on the last page of the *Alpiner*. High Mountain Rendezvous, REI, and other local stores also carry many of these items.

Issaquah's Salmon Days will be held on October 7-8, with IATC again hosting a popular booth at the festivities. Volunteers are critical in setting up and staffing the booth—special thanks to Dave Kappler who continues to do the dirty work of set-up and tear-down of the booth, and Marilyn Moon and Carolyn Graham who seek out volunteers for 2-hour shifts at the booth. We need help, so if you'd like to join in, please call Marilyn at 392-1732 or Carolyn at 885-0224.

Issaquah Alps area, threatening the treasures we all value so much. Read on to find out the latest on some of these proposed projects and how the club involves itself in these challenging issues.

Growth and Development Around the Issaquah Alps- Pressure from all Sides!

As we've seen the valley floor of Issaquah paved with power-retail centers over the past year, these developments represent only a fraction of what the future holds in terms of development pressures. This report will summarize many (but not all) of the evolving development challenges that threaten the sanctity of the Issaquah Alps area, and our ability to enjoy the natural qualities

we too often take for granted today.

Manke Lumber Co.

Just east of Tiger Mountain and Hwy 18, on the southerly flank of Taylor Mountain, the Manke Co. proposes to grade new roads in preparation for development of a 1732-acre site into 84 twenty-acre parcels, which would likely be further subdivided into 5-acre parcels. This is a critical parcel which abuts Weyerhaeuser's tree farm and the Seattle Watershed, and provides an essential wildlife corridor to Tiger. Further, it is the headwaters of Carey and Holder Creeks, which become the South Fork of Issaquah Creek, which represents 70% of the inflow to Lake Sammamish. IATC joined in an appeal of the planned road construction, and it appears that the project will be on hold for a few months until additional studies are completed. It will, however, be back.

Grand Ridge

An Interlocal Agreement between Issaquah, King County, and Port Blakely for 3250 new homes and 4 million square feet of office/commercial space on Grand Ridge was to have been completed by December 1994. As of August 1995, it remains in draft form, which has not been available for review by the public. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement was published and commented upon at a public hearing by IATC, with a final EIS now being formulated. IATC continues to remain concerned about the scope and details of the development plan, and will closely be reviewing the Interlocal Agreement. Directly related to the Grand Ridge development is the proposed expansion of the I-90 Sunset interchange a 4-lane bypass highway around the base of Tiger, connecting to Issaquah-Hobart Road. IATC opposes the bypass and continues to voice this position with the Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee as well as the City of Issaquah.

Intrawest

The east slope of Cougar contains approximately 573 acres of land zoned for urban development, with future housing construction almost

Salmon Days!!

As the 1995 Salmon Days Festival celebrates its 26th year, the IATC will be right in the thick of things selling books, T-shirts and passing out club literature as one of the many non-profit groups included in the October 7-8 event. Call Marilyn at 392-1732 or Carolyn at 885-0224 if you can volunteer during the event. Hope to see you there! ▲

inevitable. IATC and Save Lake Sammamish have participated in numerous meetings with Intrawest to define the type and location of development that would best preserve the natural qualities and wildlife and trail connections of this area. Intrawest is seeking annexation by the City of Issaquah, which will soon be reviewed by the City Council.

Cougar Mountain

Planned developments around Cougar Mountain Park include Quadrant Corporation and a proposed "Highlands at Bellevue" along the northerly edge of the park, a development near Licorice Fern Wall along the southerly edge, and a new 36-hole golf course planned along the west edge at the old Newcastle landfill. Each development proposal presents critical issues related to the integrity of the park, and IATC is involved in each of these.

While this list of planned developments may make your head swim, it represents only a portion of the activities now proposed. IATC will continue to be a voice for the protection of our natural resources as these plans move forward, and additional club member or citizen involvement is always welcomed.

Partnership to Preserve Lake Sammamish Announced

King County Executive Gary Locke announced in August a series of steps being taken to keep Lake Sammamish's steady decline in water quality from worsening. \$2.7 million is allocated to a series of near-term actions that will help to reduce the pollutants currently flowing into the lake. He also announced the formation of an 8-member "Partners for a Clean Lake Sammamish Task Force," which includes IATC Board member Fred Weinmann and IATC President Ken Konigsmark.

"I am willing to devote my time to this effort in hopes that it will result in action, not talk," noted Konigsmark. "To me, this effort will help to determine just how far the County and citizens really are willing to go in order to preserve our natural resources. That's critical for Lake Sammamish, and it's potentially precedent-setting for other, similar environmental issues that are challenging us throughout King County." ▲

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

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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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Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area Planning Process—Off To A Start

Malin Ely

Anyone who has driven on I-90 through North Bend has surely noticed the looming face of Rattlesnake Mountain on the south side of the highway. The steep slopes of the mountain contain a patchwork of forest, including fragments of old growth, recently harvested areas, rocky ravines, secondary growth timber stands, and snag-rich areas. As many of you know, the north face of the mountain was purchased in 1993 by the Department of Natural Resources and King County with King County Regional Conservation Futures Bond and DNR Natural Resources Conservation Area funds. The two agencies are now jointly developing a management plan for the co-owned, 1800-acre Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area.

Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area functions as an outstanding scenic backdrop for the Snoqualmie Valley and is a critical link in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. The Department of Natural Resources and King County purchased the 1800-acre parcel in order to protect the area's ecological systems, exceptional scenic landscapes, wildlife habitats, and recreational attributes for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

The scenic area provides an important visual, recreational, and habitat connection between the Cascade Mountains and the Issaquah Alps. Protection and enhancement of ecosystems and wildlife systems in the area needs to be balanced with recreational needs of the increasingly populated region surrounding Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area. A management plan is being developed that will provide balance between resource conservation, low-impact recreation, and environmental educational activities according to guidelines established in the DNR Statewide Management Plan for Natural Resource Conservation Areas.

The management plan will be developed over the next year. The University of Washington College of Forest Resources is coordinating the planning through a cooperative agreement between the two agencies. Malin Ely, a graduate student in land-use planning at UW, is coordinating the inventory and mapping of the site, working with the public on management issues and concerns, and will be drafting the management plan over the next year.

A public meeting on the Rattlesnake plan was held on September 21 in Preston. The public was encouraged to offer information and ideas about Rattlesnake Mountain, but the agencies are still eager for comments and ideas. To be included on the mailing list or to provide suggestions regarding present and future recreation use, ecological and wildlife inventory and sensitivities, environmental education, and other management activities, please contact Malin Ely through the Department of Natural Resources. You can phone her at (206) 888-1566 or write to her at:

Department of Natural Resource
South Puget Sound Region
28329 SE 448 St.
PO Box 68
Enumclaw, WA 98022-0068

A draft of the plan will be available for public comment and review in the spring, and will then go to both agencies for approval in early summer. Public comments and suggestions are welcome throughout the planning process. ▲

Meadow Restoration at the Ballfield

Barbara Johnson

Many of us have walked the Red Town Trail to the Ballfield. Over the years, you may have noticed that what remains of the ballfield has gradually disappeared under cover of alders and exotic grasses and shrubs. Penny Manning noticed and decided to do something about it!

In November of last year, Penny approached King County Parks and discussed the possibility of opening up the ball park by clearing Scotch Broom and other exotic plants. In January of this year, the first work party was held and volunteers arrived ready to yank weeds. Once these weeds were cleared, the meadow was replanted with plugs of native wildflowers and grasses. Volunteers also added topsoil and moved a "mountain of dirt." (Actually, the mound of topsoil that had been bermed by a previous user.) The volunteers were guided by Parks staff: Steve Williams, Jack Simonson, and Machel Jones.

An article in the Seattle Times encouraged several new volunteers. There are about 30 regular volunteers who have spent many hours working on the restoration project. It is an ongoing task as the original mission has evolved from opening up the ball park to creating a Northwest native plant meadow/prairie. At first Penny had planned to clear a small area. But the project, like Topsy, "jest grew" to nearly an acre. It will take several years for the plants to fill in the space available and for all the microhabitats to become established.

Penny has had lots of help from some familiar names to regular readers of the Alpiner: Fred Weinmann, Art Kruckeburg, John Kahan and Curt Warber who have agreed to be part of an advisory committee to provide guidance and information. The advisory committee has recommended that sterile grasses be planted in areas where there are no native plants in order to discourage the growth of weeds. The added cost is estimated to be around \$100. Penny is looking for donations. This writer has pledged \$20 to "Save the Meadow...any others willing to step up and donate?"

Future plans include planting in the fall, and perhaps field trips guided by Issaquah Alps Trails Club volunteers, ethnobotany classes, studies by native plant enthusiasts, interpretive signs, picnic tables, protective screening or fencing, and a perimeter trail.

Penny is in the process of applying for another grant from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to add more native plants. She is looking for more help from those who would like to "Adopt a Plot" and monitor and maintain a given area. Since this project is something new in habitat recreation, it is a prime area to be studied and watched to see what happens.

If you would like to see for yourself what volunteers can do, please come and view the meadow. Remember to stay on the trail and enjoy the fragile flora from a distance. If you like what you see, volunteer!

The butterflies have found the meadow, you should too.

Even if you don't know a dandelion from a salmonberry, if you're interested in participating in an exciting project, please call Penny at 865-8619 to sign up. Training will be provided. This promises to be a very exciting and innovative activity. Kudos to Penny and her tremendous enthusiasm! ▲

Hiking opportunities on Rattlesnake are described in various local hiking books (established by none other than the Issaquah Alps Trails Club) which leads from the Rattlesnake Ledges above Rattlesnake Lake up to the communications tower on the east peak of Rattlesnake Mountain. Views from the top of the mountain are spectacular. Most of the Mountains To Sound Greenway is in full view from Snoqualmie Pass to the east to the Snoqualmie Valley and Mt. Si to the north and east, and on towards Tiger Mountain to the west.

"The historic route from Rattlesnake Lake up through the ledges, over the east and west peaks and down to the Snoqualmie Winery...this is my favorite hike in the spring and fall..."

—Ted Thomsen,
Issaquah Alps Trails Club

"Rattlesnake Mountain is a special gift to us all, and decisions about this and other public lands are not made in a vacuum. We depend on citizen participation to work with us toward the best long-term decisions,"

—Jennifer Belcher,
Commissioner of Public Lands,
and administrator,
Department of Natural
Resources

West Tiger Mountain—Mount Si—Rattlesnake Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Areas

Darcy McNamara, Conservation Steward, Department of Natural Resources

Summer greetings! Now that the dust has settled after a flurry of public meetings held in late spring, I wanted to update everyone on what's new in the King District's Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) program. It has been a busy summer! This letter will bring you up to speed on the major happenings.

Mount Si and West Tiger Mountain NRCA Management Plans

Thanks to everyone who took the time to come to a public meeting or send comments on the Mount Si and West Tiger Mountain NRCA draft management plans and the boundaries. Your comments were very helpful and a number of changes were made to the draft plan based on them. The draft plans are being reviewed one last time by DNR staff. Once that is completed, I will send you information about the changes made to the plan and then send the finalized plan to the Commissioner of Public Lands for adoption.

Mount Si Public Use Plan

There was a good turn out at the scoping meeting held on May 23. It was a working meeting, with the group identifying public use issues, prioritizing them, and coming up with some possible solutions. The number one priority was solving the access issue at Little Si. Many of the neighbors were present to discuss their concerns, which include people walking down the middle of the street, parking overflowing, litter, and noise (see below). As the summer progresses, Susan Combs-Bauer and I are continuing to scope out other issues, identify trails, and gather comments. Please call me if you have questions.

Little Si Issues

As stated above, there is a lot of concern about the Little Si area. We have been hard at work addressing some of the short term solutions identified at the Mount Si Public Use Plan scoping meeting. So far we have:

- Added information to the bulletin board about alternate trails in the area at the suggestion of the neighbors. Also, we added more ideas about being courteous when walking through the neighborhood (such as walking against traffic). The bul-

letin board was moved up the trail (1/2 way up the steep hill) and a bench was installed. The new location was suggested by the Friends of Mount Si who pointed out that the previous location encouraged people to congregate outside the fences of private property owners. Also, by placing the bulletin board strategically where everyone needs to take a breather, people just might read it! In other bulletin board news, the rock climbing community applied for and received a grant from REI to build a bulletin board at the climbing area to better inform the climbers about issues at Little Si. This should be built in the fall.)

- Replaced the chain across the trail head (that always fell down) with bollards that will block vehicular access. (In the event of a fire, the bollards can be removed). The sign at the trail head was repainted—it looks much better.

- Installed a sanican at the parking lot. This will be monitored carefully for vandalism or abuse.

These are all short term measures to help make the situation more tolerable. We have also taken action towards some long term solutions:

- We met with King County regarding Three Forks Park as possible future trailhead and expressed your concerns about access. While a number of properties have been purchased in the Three Forks area, most are not suitable for building a parking lot (due to wetlands or the river). The County is working to locate a willing seller with land that is suitable for a parking lot. Work is just beginning on a master plan for the area. We will work closely with County staff as they move forward on the plan.

- We met with DNR staff from Olympia and they are now working to help locate property with a willing seller that could serve as an alternate access for Little Si.

These activities will take some time, but they are a priority with the NRCA program in the King District. Please contact me if you have any comments or questions on this issue.

Walk the Plank/Boardwalk Update

After volunteers successfully carried 300 planks up to Snag Flats, we completed building the boardwalk and educational area. Interpretive

signs about the old growth forest are being installed this week with the help of the Friends of Mount Si. Our deep thanks to everyone who has helped on this project—it could not have been done without your enthusiasm, strength, and determination!

West Tiger Mountain NRCA

Phase One of the restoration work is complete at the Talus rocks. Just 10 years ago this area was dense with plants and thick moss, but because there was no clear trail through the area, people walked everywhere. It has become very degraded with compacted soils and areas of denuded of vegetation. A short loop trail has been constructed and clearly delineated, so hikers will be able to stay on the trail. Stairs were built on a steep hillside to prevent further erosion. A few railings were installed to guide people through the area. The next step is to transplant sword ferns and other plants from the surrounding area into the denuded areas in the fall.

Rattlesnake Mountain Scenic Area

Malin Ely is a graduate student at the University of Washington working with the DNR and King County to develop a management plan for Rattlesnake Mountain. This 1800 acre scenic area is jointly managed by DNR and King County as a natural resources conservation area. Malin is meeting with many people interested in this area to discuss management issues. She has been gathering information all summer and will discuss her findings at a public meeting on September 21 at 7 p.m. at the Preston Community Center. If you have questions or comments about Rattlesnake Mountain, contact Malin at the Stewardship number below or come share your thoughts and ideas at the public meeting. A management plan will be developed based on the issues and concerns expressed by interested people and user groups. A draft plan should be complete by June 1996.

Please feel free to call me, Deborah, or Malin at 206-888-1566 if you have any questions, concerns, or observations about any of the conservation areas. Enjoy the rest of your summer! ▲



Issaquah Alps Trails Club Hikes and Events

October

Sunday October 1

Talus Caves to West
Tiger 3 Loop
3C 9:00 a.m.
Bert Drui 746-0709

Monday October 2

Cougar Mtn. Park
How Wild it is!
2B 9:30 a.m.
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Tuesday October 3

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

Thursday October 5

Rattlesnake Mtn.
6 mi./2700 ft. gain
3D 8:30 a.m.
Warren Jones 888-0262

Saturday October 7 and

Sunday October 8

SALMON DAYS!!!

Saturday October 14

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

Sunday October 15

Lake Tradition Plateau
5 mi./400 ft. gain
2A 1:00 p.m.
Bob Gross 631-4733

Tuesday October 17

Cougar: Wildside Trail
Family Hike
1A 10:00 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Friday October 20

Wilderness Loop on
Cougar Mtn.
2B 9:30 a.m.
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday October 21

Nook Trail and Bus Trail Loop
2B 9:00 a.m.
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Sunday October 22

Tiger Mtn. Trail
work party
Bring loppers for brushing
3C 8:30 a.m.
Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Wildwood Trails in Bellevue Parks:

Coal Creek Valley
2A 1:00 p.m.
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Monday October 23

BOARD MEETING
7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse
First and Bush

Tuesday October 24

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

Saturday October 28

Marshall Hill/Coal Creek Falls
Fall colors!
2B 10:00 a.m.
Ann Leber

Sunday October 29

Squak Mtn. Exploration
Bullitt Mansion
Tour/8 mi.
3C 9:00 a.m.
Bill McFerren 641-1853

November

Saturday November 4

Old to New: Newcastle
2A 9:00 a.m.
Bert Drui 746-0709

Squak Mtn. circuit with
light trail work; bring clippers
3C 8:30 a.m.

Joe Toynbee 723-6716

Sunday November 5

Cougar Mtn. DeLeo Wall
2B 9:30 a.m.
Tom Walsh 453-8319

Tuesday November 7

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

Thursday November 9

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

Saturday November 11

Exploring trails around Redtown
2B 10:30 a.m.
Steve Cavit 271-7780

Monday November 13

Wildwood Trails in Bellevue Parks:
Coal Creek Valley
2A 1:00 p.m.
Harvey Manning 746-1017

Tuesday November 14

Cougar Mtn. traverse north to south
Lewis Creek Canyon/May Valley via
Radar Park and Wilderness Peak
10 mi./2000 ft. gain
3C 8:30 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Lake Tradition Family Hike

1A 10:00 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Friday November 17

Landsburg to Wilderness Park
on new King County RR Trail
2A 9:30 a.m.
Betty Culbert 432-7387

Saturday November 18

Rattlesnake Ledge
3 mi./1100 ft. gain
1C 1:00 p.m.
Bob Gross 631-4733

Sunday November 19

Little Si and Moss Vista
7 mi./1700 ft. gain
3C 9:00 a.m.
Peggy Owen 746-1070

Saturday November 25

Military, Extra, Stagecoach
and Anti-aircraft Creeks
2A/B 1:00 p.m.
Harvey Manning 746-7017

Sunday November 26

Cougar Mtn. Post Turkey
Day Walkabout
2B 9:00 a.m.
Bill McFerren 641-1853

Monday November 27

BOARD MEETING
7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse
First and Bush

December

Saturday December 2

Nike Loop on Cougar Mtn.
2A 9:00 a.m.
Bert Drui 746-0709

Sunday December 3

Lake Tradition Adventure Trail
Big Tree and more
2A 10:00 a.m.
Ann Leber

Thursday December 7

Tiger Mtn. Trail to
RR Grade Loop
3B 9:30 a.m.
Mary Cadigan 641-4046

Saturday December 9

TMT to Railroad Grade
2B 9:00 a.m.
Trudy Ecob 232-2933

Sunday December 10

Wildwood Trails in Bellevue Parks:
Coal Creek Valley
2A 1:00 p.m.
Harvey Manning 746-101

Tuesday December 12

Timberlake Park family hike
1A (very easy!) 10:00 a.m.
Peggy Barchi 432-5446

Saturday December 16

Northwest Rattlesnake/CoalMine
Explore wild trails and vistas
7 mi./1200 ft. gain
3B 9:30 a.m.
Ralph Owen 746-1070

Sunday December 17

Tradition Lake Traverse
2B 9:00 a.m.
Bill McFerren 641-1853

Tuesday December 19

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

Saturday December 30

Military, Extra, Stagecoach
and Anti-aircraft Creeks
2A/B 1:00 p.m.
Harvey Manning 746-7017

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 well-being 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. ▲



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 and Community Volunteers Needed!

Consider volunteering for one of the following much-needed positions.

Hearings Volunteer for the Club

There are ongoing zoning issues literally surrounding Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. If you wish to know more about what is going on, attend one of the many meetings and hearings that are scheduled in the near future. Issues include protection of the integrity of the park, trail easements to and from the park, and a proposed golf course on the Newcastle landfill (see President's Report). If you would like to be a IATC "hearings volunteer," please call Art Wallenstein, the Trails Club Volunteer Coordinator, at 392-7813.

Desktop Publishing

Fred Weinmann is writing a field guide to the common plants of the Issaquah Alps and needs some desktop publishing assistance. Approximately 200 species descriptions with graphics will be included in the guide. Fred hopes to get the many black-and-white line drawings, silhouettes, etc. converted to electronic format by computer scanning. Fred is looking for a volunteer to help design, layout, and format the publication. If you have your own computer and desktop publishing tools, give Fred a call at 392-9230 (h) or 553-1414 (w). Most of the work will be in the November '95 - January '96 timeframe.

Adopt-A-Trail

The King County Parks Department is looking for volunteers to Adopt-A-Trail. If you are interested in working on building and maintaining trails, call Kurt Zander at 296-2990. Please note: Only persons who have been trained by King County Parks staff are covered by insurance and are authorized to do work in King County Parks.

Bellevue Parks

The City of Bellevue Parks and Community Services Department Natural Resource section needs folks who want to make a difference: teaching school children about natural and cultural history, and/or leading nature walks in the Lake Hills Greenbelt or Mercer Slough Nature Park. If the Great Indoors is more to your liking, volunteers can staff the historic Winters House Visitors' Center or the Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station, perform interpretive entry, research cultural history, assist with the design of interpretive brochures and displays, or coordinate with other volunteers. Training will be provided this fall. For more information or to sign up, call Geoff Bradley at 451-7225.

Friends of Mount Si

The Friends of Mount Si is a new, enthusiastic stewardship group, focusing on trail safety, maintenance and education on Mt. Si. The Friends' accomplishments include a trail maintenance/training day, a brochure discussing trail safety and ethics, and installing the interpretive signs at the halfway point on the Mt. Si trail. This fall they hope to promote an event at the trailhead for those who "Walked a Plank" this past spring. Friends of Mount Si extend an open invitation to their monthly meeting held the third Wednesday of each month at the Mercer Island Community Center at 7 p.m. For more information or to get on the Friends' mailing list, please call Deborah Gurney at (206) 888-1566. ▲



Living in Harmony With Wildlife

Barbara Johnson

So why do you think it's called Cougar Mountain? Yup, there is a least one cougar who calls it home. You may have seen articles lately in the local papers describing some "close encounters of the wild kind."

There have been recent sightings of cougar, bob cat, and black bear in residents' back yards and in greenbelts. Some folks are concerned about

the risks to their young children and to themselves. There are more encounters because more people are moving into the wildlife's territory. Many of us enjoy living near a greenbelt with the lush greenery. So do other animals. We all need to learn to share our space with these critters.

If you live near a greenbelt:

- Keep your pets inside or in a secure kennel. (A recent encounter with a cougar was most likely due to the family tossing their pet rabbit's wastes into the ravine behind their house. The cougar smelled prey and came to check it out.)
- Teach your children to stand still if they see a large predator. Cougars, especially, are attracted by the quick motions of children.
- Don't leave pet food or garbage or garbage cans that can be tipped over outside. It attracts all sorts of wildlife, including nuisance raccoons and opossums.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has some guidelines for when and/or *IF* you do meet up with wild things. While hiking in the Issaquah Alps:

- Hike with others and make noise in order not to surprise the animals.
 - Keep pets in sight, on leash, or at home.
- Actual encounters as opposed to a sighting are relatively rare. But — If you encounter a cougar:
- Do not run. The large cat might think you are a deer or some other meal
 - Stay calm and try to appear larger. Hold your hands over your head or pull your shirt or jacket above your head.
 - Move slowly and try to back away.
 - If the cougar behaves aggressively, yell and throw rocks at it. Fight back. Try to convince the cougar that you are not prey.

If you encounter a bear, remember, a bear in the woods or on the trail generally will leave humans alone. They are dangerous when they get into garbage or pet food. If you see a bear and it doesn't see you:

- Leave the area quietly and quickly.
- Do not run. Again, the large mammal might think you are prey.
- Stay calm and quiet.
- Move slowly and try to back away.
- Avoid eye contact and try not to look threatening.
- Some experts recommend that if it attacks, lie still and pretend you are dead. (Easy to say, right?)
- If it is a sow with cubs, try to avoid being between the sow and her cubs.

Considering the number of people hiking in the Issaquah Alps over the years, there have been very few encounters with large mammals. If you do, and you are at a safe distance, stand there quietly and enjoy this special moment. ▲