

# Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

# THE ALPINE



April ▲ May ▲ June ▲ 1999

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

## In the beginning . . .

### Hilltop: A Collaborative Community

by Victor B. Scheffer

Bellevue Historical Society

Post Office Box 40535, Midlakes Station,  
Bellevue, Washington 98105.

The book is distributed by the Bellevue  
Historical Society.

Ask your local (independent, non-chain, non-  
Internet) bookstore to order you a copy.

Or request it from your local library.

Before there was an Issaquah Alps Trails Club—indeed, 30 years before there were “Issaquah Alps”—there was a Hilltop Community, beginning in 1948 (the year of incorporation), or 1947 (“John Morse sighted from afar a roadless, brush-covered ridge southeast of unincorporated Bellevue”), or 1946 (“Perry Johanson thought of joining with friends to buy cheap land within commuting distance of Seattle”), or—to get out into that brush—1950 (“Patricia and Harry Burks, a young Quaker couple, were first to break ground . . . lived for two months in a tent without electricity, as they undertook to build a house largely with their own hands”).

In 1994 Victor Scheffer, a biologist known by cetaceans and their fans around the world, and (with his

wife) a Hilltop founder (“those who constituted the original 18 members [families] who agreed to gamble at least \$150 in digging the well”), published this history of the first four and one-half decades.

We suggest you tour Cougar Mountain—a name that did not exist when the Hilltoppers arrived on what they called “Snag Hill.” Drive through Horizon View, Eagle’s Mere, The Summit, Whispering Heights, and a hundred other realtors’ pretties; if you are dressed presentably and can afford \$125 for 18 holes, play the Oki-Doki golf course atop “Mount Trashmore.” Wherever you go amid row upon row of houses or across green fields teeming with golf carts, your eye will be caught by an anomaly—a ridge rising to 1080 feet, appearing to be uninhabited, the 40-odd houses submerged in the green of forests. Yet there are views from Hilltop homes, wide, long views over Puget Sound country, to Rainier one way, Baker the other, the Olympics between, “window” views through the trees. Founder Wendell Lovett spoke for both trees and views: “The best approach . . . is to

consider views as compositions of near and far landscape and try to understand the importance of the foreground trees in framing the distant center of the view.”

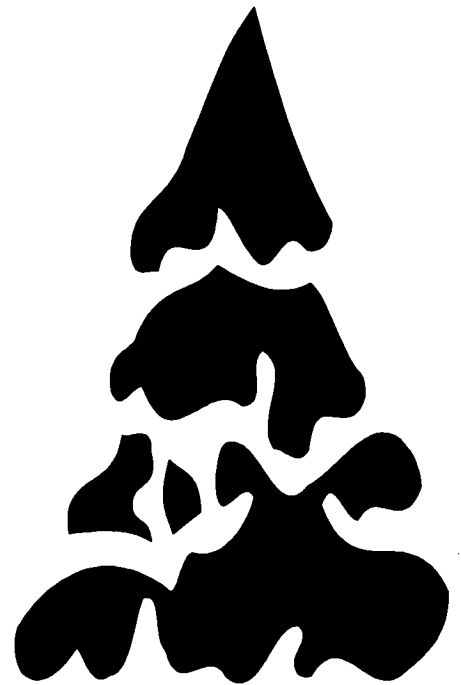
Environmentalism (a word not then in common usage) came to the Newcastle Hills (as they then were known) with Hilltop. From homes high above Coal Creek, Hilltoppers struggled for three decades to control the across-valley growth of “Mount Trashmore.” The transfers of money (cash) from hand to hand have not been publicly traced, but there is no secret that government was fonder of garbage than people. Scheffer sums up, “Although Hilltop may have lost the battle of ‘Mount Trashmore,’ its sustained and eloquent defense of the Coal Creek watershed surely educated government officials if not the men who destroyed a green canyon at the edge of a growing city. These are the kind who use the word ‘environmentalist’ as an epithet.” ▲

—Harvey Manning

## Meet new board member, Secretary Diana Bonner

I was raised in Anchorage, Alaska, but spent most of my adult years in the "lower 48." I have moved multiple times, mostly in the South. I spent the last 17 years in Texas and relocated from Dallas at the end of July to be closer to my children and grandchildren. I love the outdoors and so naturally when I found out about the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) from the chamber of commerce, I couldn't wait to take my first official "hike." Having lived in Texas with countryside so flat, I didn't realize how exhausting a "true

hike" could be. I'm an avid golfer, but it is not something I want to do in the rain. I have met the nicest people on IATC hikes and look forward to being more involved even though I have recently moved to Renton. Fresh air, exercise, and fellowship make hiking a pleasurable experience, not to mention the breathtaking views. When asked to become secretary, I really didn't have much hesitation. I felt I wanted to give back to the organization because it helped me become involved and feel like a part of the community. ▲



## The Apparatus

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Volunteer Coordinator: Open

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Squak Advocates: Steve Drew · 392-4432 and  
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Tiger Advocate: Larry Hanson · 392-2458

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Raging River and Preston Advocate:

Maryanne Tagney Jones · 222-7615

Rattlesnake Mountain and Taylor Mountain Advocates:

Ted Thomsen · 454-8643 and

Ralph Owen · 746-1070

Chief Ranger/Trail Maintenance Crew Chief:

Bill Longwell · 222-6775

Volunteer Trail Maintenance Coordinator:

Charles McCrone · 392-3466

MTS Greenway: Ted Thomsen · 454-8643

Legal Advice: Tom Lucas · 206-624-2650

*NOTE: All telephone numbers are area code 425 unless otherwise noted.*

Hotline: 206-328-0480

Web Site: <http://www.issaquah.org/COMORG/ialps/mialps.htm>

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Articles are welcome, preferably via e-mail to:

[jlstjohn@concentric.net](mailto:jlstjohn@concentric.net). Send diskette or hard copy to post office box number above. Issue deadlines: November 15 for January; February 15 for April; May 15 for July; August 15 for October.

# Claypit musings

Harvey Manning

If it be true that closure of the Mutual-Materials pit is impending, thinking should begin on the design of Great Blue Heron Lake/Marsh. As soon as the mining ceases and King County acquires the land (as has been the firm intention of the master plan for many years, and let us not let anybody forget it), the drain scooped in the containing ridge can be plugged and the pit, whose floor is impervious, will begin to fill. (For precedent, see Jerry's Duck Pond, near the summit of the peak, which Jerry, who then operated the bulldozer cutting the clay for hauling to the Newcastle Brick Plant, excavated pretty much for the hell of it, and which never has gone dry these past 20 years, and has nurtured golly knows how many families of mallard ducklings.) Islands for nesting security? Peninsulas for birdwatching blinds? What species of native trees and shrubs should be transplanted in order to give a jumpstart to growth of heronry habitat?

Another great notion: The scarp of the smaller, upper-level pit drops

steeply to the main (lake) pit. Alder has sprung up thick as hairs on a dog's back, blocking the view. Clearcutting this scrub to restore the view would be no crime against nature, as would be the view-logging of Bellevue Parks greenbelts sought by the Kleptocracy.

The vista over the headwaters basins of Coal Creek and West Tibbetts Creek to Anti-Aircraft and Radio peaks, "this green and quiet place," would underline that this truly is an urban wildland. The view out easterly to the East Sammamish Plateau, as busily urbanizing as are the outside-the-park slopes of Cougar, and across the Snoqualmie valley to the Cascade front, would illustrate still other chapters in the growth of Puget Sound City. Between the Snoqualmie and the Cascades is a vastness of unbroken greenery. A "tree farm," say the ads of the "Tree-Growing Company." But what do the accountants of The Company call it? We all know, don't we? ▲

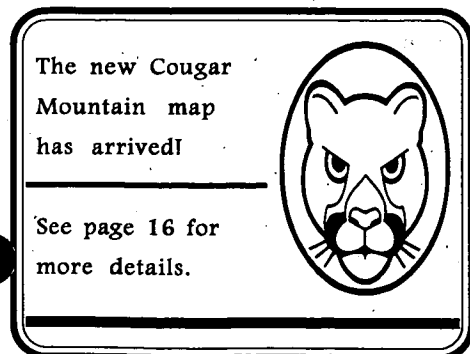
## News flash

### Claypit added to Cougar Mountain Park

Barbara Johnson

The hole in the donut is closed! King County Executive Ron Sims recently announced the purchase of 120 acres in the heart of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. The property has been owned by Mutual Materials. The company mines the clay to use in manufacturing clay products such as clay pots and bricks. Mutual Materials will continue to mine the clay until it is no longer feasible. After that, the land will become part of the park. It has been proposed that the mine be "rehabilitated" as a marsh for heron and other wildlife (see Harvey Manning's article on this page).

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) gratefully acknowledges the work of several county folk who helped make this possible: Executive Ron Sims; Councilman Larry Phillips; and the staff of King County Parks/Natural Resources. ▲



# Passion not principle

Charles McCrone

In my job, I have a lot of contact with junior high and high school youth. Several have interviewed me, with regard to my role as trail maintenance coordinator for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), for their community and volunteer service projects. Often the question has come up: Why did you get involved in doing volunteer work? My answer might be: Am I? In other words, I never decided to be a volunteer. Rather, I followed my passion for Cougar Mountain and this is where it led. The idea of volunteer work reminds me of something you do on principle, because it is a good or altruistic "idea" and I suppose that isn't bad. However, there are a couple of features of volunteer work chosen on principle: One is that it is kind of arbitrary; in other words, there are a lot of different places I could contribute my efforts in an environmental cause. Another is that it is a little easier to put down when something else in life gets pressing. But passion drives, often relentlessly, and it drives one in a particular direction. For me, that is Cougar Mountain.

## What is a "trails club?"

What exactly is a "trails club?" I am sure the answer given by each participant in the IATC would differ in subtle or perhaps dramatic ways. Is it a group fighting to save trails from development? From neglect? A group celebrating the hiking experience? For me, being a part of the IATC is best summed up in the idea

of being a "defender" of trails, and any worthy definition of this term is necessarily multifaceted. In today's world, unfortunately, one cannot defend trails without defending wild places and open space in general. So one is undeniably drawn into the potential confusion of trail preservation versus wildland preservation and figuring out where to draw the line around one's agenda. However, I think the two are intimately, though perhaps messily, linked. A trail is in a sense the "human face" of a wilderness. It is the only way the average person can obtain entrance to it and come to appreciate and know it in a way that imprints it in a soulful way on one's heart and conscience. A trail thus becomes the focal point for the fight to preserve the nature through which it runs.

Another key aspect of trail defense is trail maintenance. The best and most artfully maintained trail looks like it just "happened," like it has always been there, but a mere moment's reflection on the ecology of the Northwest would argue that this certainly isn't the case. Most trails that are not maintained disappear quickly into ancient history, perhaps to be resurrected, but certainly unusable until they are.

The last aspect of defending our trails is hiking them. Leading and participating in hikes completes and perfects the other two components. We save and maintain trails so they can be hiked and enjoyed, but we also hike trails so they will be

maintained and saved. What I mean is that by keeping walkers on the trails, we guarantee that a large enough percentage of the population comes to appreciate the beauty that surrounds them and will fight for it when it is threatened. And as any trail maintainer knows, feet are one of our best weapons against rapacious verdure!

In summary, I believe that a trails club can be a beautiful and complex blend of these elements, which nurture and depend on each other.



## Something lost on Squak—go and find it

Bill Longwell

My friend Phil Hall and I for three years tried to build a trail across the east slope of Squak Mountain above the Issaquah-Hobart Road. We actually constructed a rude trace built from the south side, along the east side, around the south peak, and into Thrush Gap. We were just beginning to apply finishing touches in 1976 when we abruptly switched gears and moved to construct the Tiger Mountain Trail. We never went back to work on that trail on Squak Mountain. The Tiger Mountain Trail took all our trail-building energies.

For three years we tried to build that trail across Squak Mountain.

*continued on page 11*

# Forests grow

Harvey Manning

It was a sloppy drooler of a winter day and I was out for a walk on the Claypit road. The umbrella kept my glasses from going blurry though it didn't prevent my shirt and pants from getting soaked, but who cares? In Dave Brower's words, "Rain is only water and the skin is water-proof."

A pair of vans sloshed by and I recognized faces of the King County Council. Shortly they sloshed by on the way back from the Claypit to the courthouse.

This was, of course, the inspection tour of the pending Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. I attended the council meeting when the matter came up. The member whose pet name was "Chesty" reached for his microphone and began naming major peaks he had climbed and famous wilderness areas he had trekked. He concluded, "That's the poorest excuse for a wilderness I've seen in my life!"

One hardly could argue with Chesty. To sit in a van with steamed windows as it drove 30 miles per hour up and down a gravel truck road through young alder grown up since the pulpwood clearcutting of several years before and the brush of Dirty Bill's firewood clearcuts still in progress, and never get out of the van, surely did not give an experience to compare with the Hoh rainforest or the Big Beaver cedar groves.

The council, of which several members had taken instruction by

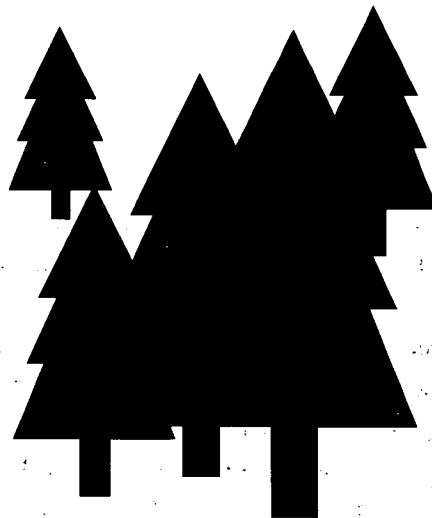
County Executive Randy Revelle and staff, and the Issaquah Alps Trails Club heard him out and proceeded to approval.

These nearly 20 years later, while walking in the park, I often think of Chesty. I can't even tell where Dirty Bill cut firewood, the new alders are so tall and girthy, fit for another pulp-pulping—but that won't happen because this is now wildland—wildland in progress, to be sure, but wildland coming along nicely. I hope Chesty keeps healthy so he can revisit in another 20 years, get out of the van, and go for a walk.

Look backward 20 years in mind's eye and a person can see how the forests did grow. Look forward. . . .



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PRESERVE OUR  
FORESTS



# World record

Bill Longwell

At the end of the school year Phil Hall and I, both teachers, rewarded students who earned high marks in citizenship with a hike to Squak Mountain and, when trails appeared there, we took students to Tiger Mountain. In those days few, if any, hikers ever ventured to walk the Issaquah Alps.

Phil and I would devise an eight-to-ten-mile, three-to-four-hour hike that usually began on Highway 900 and ended at Phil's house on SE May Valley Road. We climbed as many summits and traversed as many trails as possible.

Often, lunch stop came at the tie mill on the northeast corner of Squak Mountain near the northern end of Phil's Creek Trail about three miles from May Valley.

In the '60s and '70s, little vegetation grew on the Cougar-facing side of the tie mill. On the east lay a jungle of log ends and a dense thicket of young trees. But the west side of this ridge was open country. Numerous four-to-six-foot-high stumps stuck out from an acre or more of thick sawdust lying on the steep slopes. Now in the '90s, the sawdust supports a dense growth of fir and salal.

When these young people saw this sawdust pile, they would climb the stumps and vault themselves downhill where they would safely make a landfall several feet beyond the current long-jump record and with much of the 1920s sawdust pile down their necks. That was the highlight of our hike. ▲

# Hike Information

24-hour hikes hotline: 206-328-0480

## Hike Leaders

Hike leaders are volunteers who donate 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 three, 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—or all 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 a hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general well-being while traveling to and from the trailhead or while hiking or working on 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 hike leaders and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 13 should be accompanied by an adult.

Please, no pets on hikes.

## Hike Classifications

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

They do not include travel time to and

from the trailhead (20 to 70 minutes depending on the location of the hike) or meal times (lunch will add another 20 to 70 minutes depending on the mood of the group). Times are based on an assumption of a two-mile-per-hour pace with one-half hour added for each 1000 feet of elevation gain. Trail conditions, weather, and unexpected hazards could 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 of 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 does not automatically mean easy; long does not 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 while having a good time hiking where others seldom tread.

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

NOTE: Group hikes do not lend themselves to pets. Please leave your pets at home when coming on a trails club hike.

## Meeting Place

Trails club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of First and Bush streets next to the IATC clubhouse (the little yellow 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, then go two blocks past the light at Sunset Way, and then turn left on Bush Street. Go two blocks to Rainier and turn into the lot on the left. Park beside the clubhouse or on the east side of the concrete bumpers opposite the Issaquah Food Bank. Do not park on the side of the bumpers closest to the Issaquah Food Bank.

## Clothing

Dress for the Pacific Northwest outdoors—expect rain, snow, sunshine, fog, and everything in between. Bring extra clothing, raingear, 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. Work parties meet (see *Meeting Place* above)

*continued on page 7*

*continued from page 6*

at the same place as regular hikes. 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 is an integral part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) management plan for Tiger Mountain. Work parties must limit their activity to trails listed by DNR as

scheduled for maintenance. Construction of new trails is not allowed. Work parties are a great way to meet people! Individuals and groups are encouraged to adopt a trail—or section of trail—and take the responsibility to maintain it. ▲



## DON'T LEAVE THE TRAILHEAD WITHOUT

- Food
- Water
- Daypack
- Raingear
- Warm clothes
- Appropriate footwear

The above six items are required of everyone who participates in Issaquah-Alps Trails Club hikes!



## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Membership Application

Post Office Box 351, Issaquah, Washington 98027



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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

- ☐ Annual regular dues ..... \$15
- ☐ Annual contributing dues ..... \$25
- ☐ Lifetime membership ..... \$200
- ☐ Limited income ..... \$6

▲ All memberships cover the entire family.

▲ A regular annual family membership is \$15. This covers the cost of printing and mailing *The Alpiner* and a part of the club's overhead expenses.

▲ Contributing memberships at \$25 or more cover the rest of the club's overhead expenses and allow us some financial leeway to plan special events, publish trail guides, and keep our trail maintenance tool supply fit and ample.

▲ Lifetime memberships at \$200 give us room to be creative and visionary and 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.



# April



April 4: Adjust clocks one hour forward

## Friday, April 2, 9:00 a.m.

Little Si  
Good workout and great views of the valley and mountains  
2C, 5 miles, 1300-foot gain  
June Stevens 425-222-5452

## Saturday, April 3, 9:00 a.m.

West Tiger 3 Loop, West Tiger 3 via the quiet route  
Lunch at Manning's Reach  
3C, 8 miles, 2500-foot gain  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

## Sunday, April 4, 1:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain Wildland Park  
Learn history of old (real) Newcastle and the only native plant meadow in King County  
1-2A, "turtle pace"  
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

## Tuesday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.

Monthly orientation for new and old members  
Trails center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Friday, April 9, 9:30 a.m.

Lake Desire, Echo Mountain  
First peek at lilies on peak  
2B, 5 miles, 600-foot gain  
Betty Culbert 425-432-7387

## Saturday, April 10, 9:00 a.m.

Squak Mountain Traverse  
A complete traverse of this lovely peak, north to south  
2C, 6 miles, 1300-foot gain  
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

## Sunday, April 11, 8:30 a.m.

West Tiger 1, 2, and 3  
Get 3 peaks for the price of one  
3D, 9 miles, 2900-foot gain, strenuous  
Lynn Lively 206-789-0550

## Sunday, April 11, 9:00 a.m.

"Path College" trail maintenance party  
All volunteers welcome. For more information, e-mail:  
pollopng@juno.com  
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

## Saturday, April 17, 9:00 a.m.

Ledges Rattlesnake  
Good workout and great views  
2C, 4 miles, 1400-foot gain  
Peggy Owen 425-746-1070

## Sunday, April 18, 9:00 a.m.

Tibbets Creek and Bear Ridge  
Expect some blow-down and step-stone crossings on less-traveled trails with lush forest followed by ridge views. Beginners and back-of-the-pack hikers welcome.  
1-2B, 3 miles, 700-foot gain, slow pace  
Scott Semans 206-322-4180

## Thursday, April 22, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain Trail South flower hike  
Flowers, trees, and shrubs. Joint hike with SVTC.  
2A, 3 miles, 500-foot gain, slow pace  
Bill Longwell 425-222-6775

## Friday, April 23, 10:00 a.m.

Poo Poo Point  
Shortest, steepest, and prettiest route to popular viewpoint  
2C, 5 miles, 1900-foot gain  
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

## Saturday, April 24, 8:30 a.m.

Poo Poo Point  
Launching site for hang gliders and parasails  
2C, 7 miles, 1700-foot gain, "pokey pace"  
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

## Saturday, April 24, 1:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain Wilderness Peak Loop  
2B, 4 miles, 1200-foot gain  
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

## Sunday, April 25, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Loop  
Far Country views, then to Nike Launch Site  
2B, 6 miles, 600-foot gain  
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

## Sunday, April 25, 1:00 p.m.

Tiger Mountain Plateau  
Round Lake and Tradition Lake Loop  
2A, 5 miles, 300-foot gain  
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

## Monday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.

Board meeting  
Trails center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Friday, April 30, 9:30 a.m.

Lake Desire and Echo Mountain  
More spring blooms  
2B, 5 miles, 600-foot gain  
Betty Culbert 425-432-7387

# May



## Saturday, May 1, 9:30 a.m.

South Tiger Mountain Trail to Otter Lake, Holder Creek, and a surprise view on return  
2C, 8 miles, 1500-foot gain  
Jamie McKenzie 425-746-6683

## Sunday, May 2, 9:00 a.m.

"Path College" trail maintenance party  
All volunteers welcome. For more information, e-mail:  
pollopng@juno.com  
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

## Sunday, May 2, 1:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain Wildland Park  
Learn history of old (real) Newcastle and the only native plant meadow in King County  
1-2A, "turtle pace"  
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

## Tuesday, May 4, 7:00 p.m.

Monthly orientation meeting plus hike  
leadership discussion  
Trails center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Friday, May 7, 6:30 p.m.

Annual Preston Trail flower walk  
Trees, flowers, and shrubs on a paved trail  
Joint hike with SVTC  
1A, 3 miles, 100-foot gain, slow pace  
Bill Longwell 425-222-6775

## Saturday, May 8, 8:30 a.m.

West Tiger 3 and Poo Poo Point  
Views all around; maybe see hang gliders in action  
3C, 10 miles, 2500-foot gain  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

## Saturday, May 8, 10:00 a.m.

Tradition Lake family hike  
Plateau and Adventure Trail  
2A, 4 miles, 300-foot gain  
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

## Sunday, May 9, 1:00 p.m.

Lake Tradition Plateau  
2A, 5 miles, 400-foot gain  
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

## Friday, May 14, 10:00 a.m.

East Cougar Loop  
Some trails less traveled and many rough spots. Lug-soled footwear required.  
2C, 6 miles, 1300-foot gain  
Warren Jones 425-888-0262

## Saturday, May 15, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar A-A Peak loop  
Mixing well-traveled and rough trails with many pauses to enjoy. Beginners and back-of-the-pack hikers welcome.  
2B, 3 miles, slow pace  
Scott Semans 206-322-4180

## Sunday, May 16, 8:30 a.m.

Rattlesnake Ledge/Cedar Butte  
Exploratory. We will seek unusual plants on Rattlesnake Ledge via a descent on the old and steep Rock Face Trail, then optional hike to Cedar Butte to search poque and pinesap. Boots with good soles required.  
3-4C, 5 miles, 1000 + 700-foot gain  
Fred Weinmann 425-392-9230

## Thursday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.

Hike leader meeting to finalize hike schedule  
Trails center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Saturday, May 22, 1:00 p.m.

West Tiger 3  
2C, 6 miles, 2100-foot gain  
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

## Sunday, May 23, 8:00 a.m.

Tiger Tops  
Walk from Highway 18 to Issaquah over the top of 5 or 6 of the peaks of Tiger Mountain on a combination of familiar and little-used trails and gated roads  
4D, 15-17 miles, 4000-foot gain  
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

## Monday, May 24, 7:00 p.m.

Board meeting  
Trails center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Saturday, May 29, 10:00 a.m.

Tradition Lake Plateau (2 lakes)  
1-2A, 3-4 miles, 300-foot gain  
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

## Sunday, May 30, 9:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain Loop  
De Leo Wall via Marshall's Hill. Return via Coal Creek Falls.  
2B, 5 miles, 800-foot gain  
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

# June

floating into summer

## Saturday, June 5, 8:30 a.m.

West Tiger 6  
West Tiger 1 + 2 + 3 in one trip with 3 chances for great views  
3D, 9 miles, 3000-foot gain  
Joe Toynbee 206-723-6716

## Saturday, June 5, 1:00 p.m.

Poo Poo Point  
2-3C, 7 miles, 1700-foot gain  
Bob Gross 425-427-8449

## Sunday, June 6, 9:00 a.m.

"Path College" trail maintenance party  
All volunteers welcome. For more information, e-mail:  
pollopng@juno.com  
Charles McCrone 425-392-3466

## Tuesday, June 8, 7:00 p.m.

Monthly orientation meeting for new and old members  
Trails Center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

## Friday, June 11, 9:30 a.m.

Taylor Mountain Forest Park  
Woody road walk in former Manke property  
2B, 5 miles, 600-foot gain  
Betty Culbert 425-432-7387

## Saturday, June 12, 8:30 a.m.

Taylor Mountain via Holder Creek  
Climb to Views from southwest ridge of Taylor Mountain from Issaquah-Hobart Road; explore King County's Taylor Mountain park en route. Ponds, railroad grades, roads, and trails.  
3C, 9.5 miles, 2400-foot gain  
Ralph Owen 425-746-1070

## Sunday, June 13, 1:00 p.m.

Cougar Mountain Wildland Park  
Learn history of old (real) Newcastle and the only native plant meadow in King County  
1-2A, "turtle pace"  
Harvey Manning 425-746-1017

## Saturday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.

Tradition Lake Plateau (2 lakes)  
1-2A, 3-4 miles, 300-foot gain  
Trudy Ecob 206-232-2933

## Sunday, June 20, 9:00 a.m.

Tiger Mountain  
Lower TMT via seldom-used trails  
2B, 4-5 miles, 700-foot gain  
Bert Drui 425-746-0709

## Saturday, June 26, 10:00 a.m.

Cougar Mountain  
Peggy's Trail and Lakemont Gorge. See what is left of the glorious gorge now that a "freeway" runs through it. Will point out natural and cultural history of the trail.  
2B, 3-4 miles, 500-foot gain  
Barbara Johnson 425-746-5573

## Sunday, June 27, 9:00 a.m.

East Cougar highlights  
The Fantastic Erratic, Claypit, and Wilderness Peak  
Beginners and back-of-the-pack hikers welcome  
3B, 4 miles, 1000-foot gain  
Scott Semans 206-322-4180

## Sunday, June 27, 10:00 a.m.

Twin Falls family hike  
2B, 3 miles, 500-foot gain  
Irene Stanford 425-255-5558

## Monday, June 28, 7:00 p.m.

Board meeting  
Trails center, First and Bush streets, Issaquah

24 hr. HIKES HOTLINE (206) 328-0480



# President's report .....

## Barbara Johnson

The year 1998 was a good year for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC). The board went through some major changes, reorganizing our structure and functions. Some of those are still works in progress; others I will tell you about now.

The board held a retreat prior to the annual meeting to look at where the club is after 20 years of existence. We overwhelmingly felt that the accomplishments of the previous years were incredible. More on this later.

Looking into the future, the board felt that we needed to look at the way we function and how to do our work more efficiently and smoothly. Our mission is twofold: to be a hiking club and to be an advocate for protecting and preserving the environment of the Issaquah area.

As a result of discussions at the retreat, several members are working on projects. One is to produce a new mission statement. Another is to contract with a bookkeeping/certified public accounting firm to help us manage our finances in a method that will enable the club to continue to be effective. Still another project is to increase our membership and the number of volunteers to continue our mission. The board will hold a mini-retreat this spring to follow up on the many ideas discussed during the January retreat.

Election of officers was held at the annual meeting in January. The following officers were elected: President, Barbara Johnson; Vice

President of Advocacy, Ken Konigsmark; and Secretary, Diana Bonner. We welcome Diana Bonner to our board. Read more about her in an introductory article on page 2 of this issue.

Re-elected to the board were Treasurer, Steve Drew, and Malena McCrone.

Some of the many accomplishments in 1998 are as follows: secured several acres for open space on the east side of Cougar Mountain; addition of Manke property to King County open space to preserve headwaters of Issaquah Creek; continued support of Meadow Restoration Project in Cougar Mountain Park; provided 1247 hours of volunteer labor for trail building and maintenance; updated Tiger Mountain map and guidebook; updated Cougar Mountain map; monitored proposed Issaquah bypass planning; monitored proposed water tank on Squak Mountain in public open space; continued to monitor events in the cities of Newcastle, Bellevue, and Issaquah that might impact trails and open space; led 122 hikes in which 843 people participated (including WomenWalk Hikes).

The trails club has accomplished a great deal in our 20 years. We plan to celebrate our accomplishments in the near future. We will also participate in celebrating the tenth anniversary of the original Mountains To Sound (MTS) March. Lots of wondrous things from all of us!

### 1999 IATC Goals

#### General

- Create and refine a vision statement.
- Research the feasibility of an administrative staff person.
- Write job descriptions for elected and appointed positions.
- Continue special events such as Salmon Days and Trails Fest.
- Increase number of hikes and hike leaders.
- Continue to utilize web site to increase awareness, advocacy, and club issues.
- Continue to improve accuracy of budget planning and management.
- Improve club exposure, marketing; increase overall membership level.

#### Cougar Mountain

- Continue sponsorship of Meadow Restoration Project.
- Update Cougar Mountain guidebook.

#### Squak Mountain

- Explore opportunities for direct access up East Squak Mountain from downtown Issaquah.
- Participate in/favorably influence management planning for Squak Mountain State Park.

#### Tiger Mountain

- Support expansion of Tiger Mountain state forest and acquisition of Section 12.
- Promote hiker awareness and use of Tiger Mountain summit trails.
- Advocate sufficient law enforcement in Tiger Mountain state forest.

*continued on page 11*

*continued from page 6*

at the same place as regular hikes. 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 is an integral part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) management plan for Tiger Mountain. Work parties must limit their activity to trails listed by DNR as

scheduled for maintenance. Construction of new trails is not allowed. Work parties are a great way to meet people! Individuals and groups are encouraged to adopt a trail—or section of trail—and take the responsibility to maintain it. ▲



## DON'T LEAVE THE TRAILHEAD WITHOUT

• Food  
• Water  
• Daypack

• Raingear  
• Warm clothes  
• Appropriate footwear

The above six items are required of everyone who participates in Issaquah Alps Trails Club hikes!

## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Membership Application



Post Office Box 351, Issaquah, Washington 98027

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ New ☐ Renewal

- ☐ Annual regular dues ..... \$15  
☐ Annual contributing dues ..... \$25  
☐ Lifetime membership ..... \$200  
☐ Limited income ..... \$6

▲ All memberships cover the entire family.

▲ A regular annual family membership is \$15. This covers the cost of printing and mailing *The Alpiner* and a part of the club's overhead expenses.

▲ Contributing memberships at \$25 or more cover the rest of the club's overhead expenses and allow us some financial leeway to plan special events, publish trail guides, and keep our trail maintenance tool supply fit and ample.

▲ Lifetime memberships at \$200 give us room to be creative and visionary and 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.

# President's report . . . . .

**Barbara Johnson**

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*continued on page 11*

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*continued from page 10*

- Create a new Tradition Lake Plateau map.

#### **Grand Ridge**

- Take the lead in planning a trail system for Grand Ridge open space.
- Advocate completion of King County trail connections northward to other county park lands.
- Support efforts to promote and acquire lands to create a Grand Ridge-Mitchell Hill connector.

#### **Issaquah**

- Monitor development planning to protect IATC interests: Kelkari; Pickering Place; etc.
- Continue to maintain close ties with both trails coordinators.
- Support updating of Issaquah Wildlife and Trails plan.
- Monitor proposed bypass planning to protect IATC interests.
- Support Issaquah Creek Greenway planning efforts and property acquisitions.
- Continue IATC participation in Community Roundtable and Comprehensive Plan implementation.

#### **Raging River/Preston**

- Support implementation of and funding for the Upper Snoqualmie Regional Open Space Initiative.

#### **Rattlesnake Ridge/**

#### **Taylor Mountain**

In cooperation with the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club (SVTC), the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River (MidFORC), and others:

- Support implementation of River Corridor Plan for the Middle Fork Valley.
- Promote Department of Natural

Resources (DNR) acquisition of Weyerhaeuser's Raging River basin lands.

#### **Other**

- Continue to represent hiking interests and trail usage issues.
- Support the Washington Trails Association (WTA), MidFORC, and other responsible groups or initiatives for trail enhancements.
- Support Mountains to Sound Greenway initiatives, including planning and participation in the tenth anniversary of the original MTS march.
- Advocate continued and increased funding for management agencies and open space.
- Oppose legislative efforts to diminish environmental/wildlife protection policies.
- Promote wildlife and trail corridors across State Route 900, Issaquah-Hobart Road, and Highway 18.
- Provide major assistance to land managers through IATC trail maintenance efforts. ▲



## Something lost on Squak—go and find it

*continued from page 4*

One time on a warm Sunday in February 1973, Phil and I decided to scout out a route for our proposed east side trail. We crossed two enormous gullies that held wonderful, musical creeks and looked down through leafless trees to homes and out to Hobart Road. Suddenly the views opened up and we approached a rock ledge, four-feet wide and 30-feet long; a ledge certainly out of character for Squak Mountain. We ate our light lunch on the ledge and committed ourselves to building our trail along this route. We planned to include this ledge on our east side trail.

Sad to say on each return trip along this east side, we never again could find this ledge. Not finding it again became a sort of joke between us. That ledge along with a talus slope near Thrush Gap found and also never found again, have remained lost to us on Squak Mountain for 25 years. ▲

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"Something hidden—go and find it  
 Go and look behind the ranges—  
 Something lost behind the ranges  
 Lost, and waiting for you—go!"

from *The Explorers*  
 Rudyard Kipling

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# Study confirms infeasibility of county park land for water tank

**Ken Konigsmark**

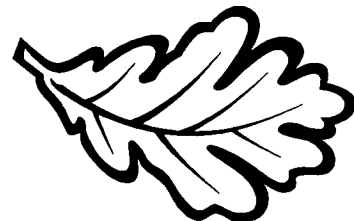
A technical study contracted by the City of Issaquah has confirmed what the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) advocated for from the beginning: King County park lands on the east slope of Squak Mountain are not suitable for a 1.25-million-gallon water tank being planned by the city.

After the IATC protested plans to locate a new road and the tank on lands purchased specifically as a wildlife corridor, the city evaluated four sites, still including the county site. The study concludes that the cost

for the county site exceeds other sites by over \$1.5 million and that it is the “most difficult” site for geologic hazards, mitigation, and design. Further, the road to the site would have to be paved due to its steepness, intruding deep into green public open space. This would then require storm drainage and detention facilities. Forty-foot-high retaining walls would have to be built into the hillside to protect the tank.

The city council must still determine how they will proceed, but given these many negative factors, it is

apparent that use of this site should be eliminated from any further consideration by the city. Assuming this result, IATC members should be proud that once again due to club action our priceless wildlands have been protected from the bulldozers and pavement of continued development. ▲



# Northern Pacific's highway to trestle

**Bill Longwell**

I used to stand at the site of the old Squak Mountain tie mill and watch the yellow and black Northern Pacific trains work through Issaquah, roll past the old train station, make the horseshoe curve to wind behind Issaquah High School, and then crawl across the high trestle that spanned Highway 10 (now I-90). The train then pursued its path to Snoqualmie Falls. The sight of that slow-moving train was always the viewing highlight of my Squak Mountain eerie.

That trestle across Highway 10 stood in its two forms from 1888 to 1975 as a major Issaquah landmark to car travelers on their east-west

journeys. Its two concrete pillars with the red and black Northern Pacific monad marked for the westbound driver an exit from mountainous terrain or the beginning for those heading east. In the railroad's early days (then the Seattle, Lakeshore, and Eastern—the “eastern” goal was Walla Walla through Dutch Miller Gap), this trestle marked the end of immigrant civilization in the area.

The track carried trains past stations in Preston, Lake Alice, Snoqualmie, and North Bend. The original Snoqualmie station still stands with signs that read “Elevation 420 feet” and “Seattle 56.2 miles.” The line ended in Tanner at Salal

Prairie (about two miles east of North Bend).

Northern Pacific built the wooden portion of the trestle in 1902 for \$8,792. The concrete pillars followed in 1939 to ease the construction of Highway 10. Northern Pacific's successor, Burlington Northern, sold the trestle and right-of-way to Preston to the Washington Department of Transportation (DOT) for \$100,000. The DOT almost tore down the trestle in January 1975 to make way for a wider I-90.

Today, hikers and bike riders ply the old grade. A huge highway interchange will rise here in the near future. ▲

# Bear Ridge: an appreciation

## Harvey Manning

The first time I descended the east slope of Cougar on the trail the Indians had built while I was on vacation in Avalon, I was startled to see a car whizzing through the trees. The descent had gone wildly and gloriously on and on, seemingly never to end. Only at the very last moment was the existence of SR 900 revealed.

Since then I've dreamt of Issaquah Parks obtaining the flats at the foot of Lower Bear Ridge, where it rises between the gorges of Claypit Creek and West Tibbetts Creek. Parking space for a dozen cars, the highway screened by the close-knit firs. Half a dozen picnic tables scattered in private nooks by the creeks. A place for picnics on hot summer Sundays (20 degrees cooler inside). A foot-only trailhead.

Lower Bear Ridge lifts abruptly from the "picnic-flats" by SR 900, its narrow cleaver giving views down either side to the two gorges. The trail begins on the Claypit Creek side, up a dwindled-to-path roadway from the mid-1970s, when "The Dentists" had a chipper there, spitting cottonwood and alder chips into the van for hauling to the pulpmill. The way now is shaded by a new growth of alders and cottonwoods, plus the conifers and maples that weren't wanted for pulp.

In a quarter-hour of walking, the pulped area is left behind and the trail built by the Indians continues

uphill on the broadening and gentling ridge, in another quarter-hour or so crossing the crest to the north side and dropping a bit to (seasonal) Erratic Creek and a junction. Straight ahead is the connection to the trail built by the Indians along West Tibbetts Creek, now officially abandoned to give wildlife a place to hide from us.

The left fork crosses Erratic Creek and immediately sets out steeply up the cleaver of Upper Bear Ridge dividing the huge canyon of West Tibbetts from the little gorge of its tributary, Erratic. The ridge trail gives superb vistas out into the enormous wildlife refuge of West Tibbetts; though human feet are not forbidden, the truth is that marvelous jungle is best enjoyed in these views from the edge. Some few minutes from the crossing of Erratic Creek is the (present) boundary of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, and in a few more minutes, lo! The Fantastic Erratic!

Let it be noted that though large areas have been de-trailed, humans

are not banned, so long as they do not whack at the plants or drape them with ribbons. Not only do doughty Indians who love the "teeth that bite and claws that scratch" explore the jungle of West Tibbetts, they travel in the other direction from the Erratic, over the forks of Erratic Creek and along the sidehill to the Mine Road Trail, looping back down to SR 900 or ascending to the Claypit.

This is Bear Ridge the fall of 1998. The future lies not entirely in our hands—but partly it does, indeed, considerably. Remember, just several years ago the Bellybumper, when he was maestro of the East Slope on behalf of The Dentists, had his architect draw pretty pictures of a "parkway" ascending straight up West Tibbetts Creek's canyon (a la Lakemont Boulevard up Lewis Canyon) and a bridge arching high above the canyon and the Claypit gorge. Our efforts sent Bellybumper and his Dentists packing. We don't lose 'em all. ▲



# Return to Newcastle Event Changes

Chuck Lennox  
King County Park System

## The past

Over the last 16 years, the *Return to Newcastle* event at Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park has been a successful community event. With the initiative of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), the event was started as a means to focus attention on a newly emerging park area. Eventually King County Park System joined the IATC and together they produced an event attracting nearly a thousand people each June.

Unfortunately, the park system will no longer be able to produce the event as it has in the past. With the opening of the golf course at Newcastle this spring, we will not be able to access the route on the golf course's entrance road to park cars in the park. The cost of producing the event has also become a factor. In a very tight parks' budget, there is no money available to produce this event and it is difficult to increase the size of the event, given the festival site, in order to increase revenue. Finally, an important factor is that the festival is becoming an impact with the concentration of use on a park area that is already showing a lot of use. We feel it is important to minimize impacts on park lands and to set a management example.

## The future

Because we are interested in continuing the momentum that the IATC started 16 years ago and because of the interest by the public in the history of Newcastle, Coal Creek, and Cougar Mountain areas, King County Parks Interpretive Programs Office would like to try some interpretive programming ideas. One idea is for us to sponsor a tent at the *Return to Newcastle* event at Lake Boren in September, invite the historical societies and the IATC, and encourage the old-timers to have their reunion with us at the tent. We have made preliminary contacts with the City of Newcastle to explore this further. Another idea is to sponsor a lecture series at local libraries (possibly Newport Hills, Issaquah, or Bellevue libraries) that focuses on the history of Newcastle, Coal Creek, and Cougar Mountain. This might be an opportunity for folks to share their stories, information, and artifacts with the public. A third idea is to find a public location in Newcastle for displaying some of the photographs and artifacts that people have gathered from the old town site. Still other ideas might include joint publicity of IATC and King County Park System programs in our respective publications, evening programs at the Red Town Trailhead, teaching kits for local schools, and the devel-

opment of historical tour brochures. Of course, all these ideas are dependent on staff, time, and budget dollars. We are committed to increased programming at Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park.

The King County Park System appreciates the support of the IATC over the years in the establishment and maintenance of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and look forward to your support for interpretive programming at the park. Thank you for your partnership over the last 16 years. ▲

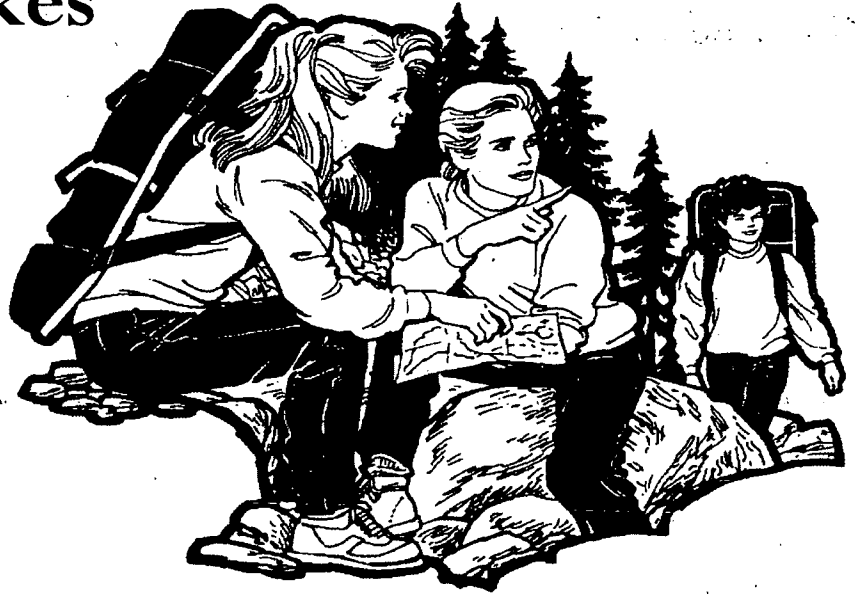


# WomanWalk becomes WomenWalk Hikes

## Aurela Sequoia

**W**omanWalk has changed its name to WomenWalk Hikes. The change from singular to plural reflects the emphasis on this being a collective activity; the addition of the word "hikes" better denotes the activity in which we actually engage. This year we will emphasize the essentials (backpack, hiking shoes, raingear, extra socks, lunch, and one to two quarts of water) and try to make sure that all hikers come properly equipped.

Other changes include announcements in *The Alpiner* of each hike leader and the hike level she will be leading. From April through October, we will offer a minimum of three hikes with some months having four—and even five—different hikes. Most months we will have hikes at easy, moderate, and strenuous levels. In addition, we want to offer opportunities for more women to learn to lead hikes, so think about asking to co-lead a hike with one of the leaders. Hike leaders get great perks—a welcome party before the season begins and a thank-you party at the end. If you would like more information, contact me at 425-888-2683 or e-mail: [WWHikes@hotmail.com](mailto:WWHikes@hotmail.com). ▲



## WomenWalk Hikes, April–June schedule

**A**ll WomenWalk Hikes start from the trails center and begin at 9:15 a.m. on the last Saturday of the month from April through October. To participate, you will need to bring a backpack, hiking shoes, raingear, extra socks, lunch, and one to two quarts of water. Levels of each hike are listed as easy, moderate, or strenuous. ▲

### April 24

9:15 a.m.

#### Easy

Ann Weinman  
425-392-9230

#### Moderate

Helen Bechtel  
425-827-8127

#### Strenuous

Lynn Lively  
206-789-0550

### May 29

9:15 a.m.

#### Easy

Aurela Sequoia  
425-888-2683

#### Moderate #1

Sarah Young  
425-271-9932

#### Moderate #2

Karen Van Pelt  
425-747-9381

### June 26

9:15 a.m.

#### Easy

Gracie Thompson  
425-401-8614

#### Moderate

Patty Emsley  
425-888-2035

#### Strenuous

Liz Escher  
206-306-0656

This first hike of the year will be followed by a potluck lunch at 1:00 p.m. at the trails center. So remember, bring a dish to share!



## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Mail Order Service

Mail your request with your check payable to:

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

Post Office Box 351

Issaquah, Washington 98027

### ▲ *Flowering of the Issaquah Alps*—Revised!

By Fred and Ann Weinmann and Harvey Manning. 1996 updated edition. This new edition lists trees, shrubs, ferns, and flowers found in the Issaquah Alps. Flowers are listed by color, when flowering, and where many of the plants are found. \$9 (includes shipping and handling).

### ▲ *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! \$12 (includes map listed in next column, tax, and shipping).

### ▲ *Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain*

By Bill Longwell. 1998 revised edition. Updated trail information plus the new East Tiger Trail and new DNR trails. Plus encounters with animals. \$12 (includes map listed in next column, 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 of Cougar Mountain, now hidden from all but hikers. More than one hundred photographs, four maps, and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$12 (includes map and shipping).

### ▲ *Eastside Family Hikes*

By Peggy Barchi. 1995 revised and updated edition. Descriptions of family hikes (annotated for families) and picnicking on the Eastside. \$3 (includes shipping).

▲ *Tiger Mountain map*. 1998 revised. \$2 (includes tax and shipping).

▲ *Cougar Mountain map*. 1999 revised. \$2 (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, XXL); color (blue or white); and sleeve length (short sleeve \$13, long sleeve \$17).

▲ T-Shirt: "*Mountains to Sound March*." Specify size (S, M, L, XL). \$11. All shirts are blue and short-sleeved.

**Issaquah Alps Trails Club  
Post Office Box 351  
Issaquah, Washington 98027**

**Non Profit  
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