

# Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

# THE ALPINE



April ▲ May ▲ June ▲ 2002

Cougar ▲ Squak ▲ Tiger ▲ Grand Ridge

## “104,000 Acre Evergreen Forest Acquisition Announced”

Kenneth Konigsmark

In a stunning announcement, two local conservation groups, the Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) and the Evergreen Forest Trust, recently made public their plans to purchase the entire 104,000 acre Weyerhaeuser Snoqualmie Tree Farm. The planned purchase includes the huge swath of Weyerhaeuser lands lying north of Snoqualmie and North Bend and east of Fall City, Carnation, and Duvall.

The goal of the purchase is to ensure that this prime forestland is not converted in the future to sprawling residential developments but rather, will be permanently managed as “working forestlands” that provide timber products, wildlife and fisheries habitat, and public recreational opportunities. The planned purchase will be financed with \$185 million in “tax free forest bonds,” similar to the tax free bonds issued by hospitals or universities to build public facilities. The IRS must first approve of the tax-free status of bonds

used for forestland purchases and, once approved, the purchase is expected to be completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Evergreen Forest Trust will pay back the debt on the purchase from proceeds from future timber sales from the property. The Trust will also provide wider stream buffers and other sensitive area protections across the property. Most importantly, CLC will hold a “conservation easement” on the property, guaranteeing that no development will ever be allowed on the property.

Negotiations and planning took several years and the successful outcome is a tribute to the creativity and commitment of all participants in the transaction. This purchase is important to IATC because it ensures the permanence of a huge block of forestland that, beyond the associated environmental benefits, offers significant future recreational opportunities for the growing Puget Sound population. Weyerhaeuser had allowed free public access by foot, bike,

or horse, and vehicular access with a purchased permit. There are several trails (most notably, Fuller Mountain) within the property and opportunities for more. Evergreen Forest Trust has not yet determined how they will manage public access and use but is expected to be cooperative.

IATC commends the many people involved in this creative effort and looks forward to potentially offering hikes within Evergreen Forest in the years ahead.

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open

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

## President's Message:

### Kenneth Konigsmark

Well, it seems like déjà vu. Having been President for many years in the past, and following a 4-year break in duties, I'm now back in the seat as IATC President for 2002. I want to first commend outgoing President Steve Drew for the superb work he did for IATC during his tenure. Steve brought initiative, organization, and personal sacrifice to his efforts that directly benefited the club in many ways. Thankfully, Steve will remain on the board and continue his contributions. Our Treasurer, Frank Gilliland, has also done enormous and important work to modernize our budget system while improving accuracies in accounting of IATC funds. I welcome David Langrock and his energies into a new role as VP, Advocacy, after having served as a past board member. And, our other officers, board members, hike leaders, trail maintainers, publication authors, and many other contributors all continue to serve the club well as unpaid, but dedicated volunteers. Looks like a good year ahead in 2002.

*The Alpiner* is published in January, April, July, and October.

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Send diskette or hard copy to  
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January; February 15 for April; May  
15 for July; August 15 for October.

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code 425 unless otherwise noted.*

# George Ambrose Mountain Man

Bill Longwell

George Ambrose was perhaps the most colorful character I ever met in the mountains. Long before I ever met him, and certainly long before I began walking with him, his provocative reputation preceded him. He was a storied figure. George Ambrose knew the mountains. He could tell any inquirer about scores of mountain summits; he had reached them. He knew the myriad mountain trails that the Seattle Mountaineers hiked. He was expert in them. He hiked the Issaquah Alps before Harvey Manning named them, when West Tiger II was called Mt. Issaquah, after the small town in its shadow (Issaquah Gap Creek on TMT Mile-post 10 was named from "Mt. Issaquah"). He knew routes through the Issaquah Alps long before trails laced their flanks and the IATC became famous. Yes, George Ambrose was famous in Seattle Mountaineer circles. People there reacted strongly on the topic of George Ambrose; they either liked or they detested him. No middle ground of opinion existed on the topic of George Ambrose. He certainly was a controversial figure and people talked about him. George Ambrose rarely signed up for many Mountaineer hikes, yet he often showed up on them, something verboten in the unwritten, inviolable Mountaineer laws. A hiking group would start out on its trek, either in the Issaquah Alps or in the higher mountains,

walk some miles into the wilderness, and suddenly George would appear, as if from thin air. As the Mountaineer (really the only club that led hikes in those days) group walked single file up or down some trail, George would materialize. He would step from the brush and join the single-file line. Or at some break or lunch stop, there would be George. I think hike leaders would start looking over their shoulders, knowing that George Ambrose could appear at any time. I know, this happened on trips I took with the Mountaineers or on trips I led. Suddenly, there was George. He was famous for it. We all talked about it. Once, on a cold New Year's 1971 hike to the snowy summit of Squak Mountain (it snowed on Squak in those days), suddenly there in the cold, standing among the wind-swept summit buildings, appeared George Ambrose. While we were trying to warm ourselves on that cold and windy summit, George was warming himself with his favorite strong drink. This was part of his reputation. Well, he apparently kept himself warm. We didn't. During some of the years I was hiking with George, I was also teaching his children in a nearby high school. I never talked much, if any, about George Ambrose with his children. They didn't offer much, either, even after he died. George Ambrose once told me he had climbed every summit of every peak or knob along 1-90, then called High-

way 10—the Sunset Highway—between Issaquah and Snoqualmie Pass, on BOTH sides of the highway. That's about 35 miles one way. That's at least 50 peaks, on both sides of the highway. I don't think some of these peaks have been climbed since George Ambrose reached their summits. As I said, George Ambrose was intimately familiar with the Issaquah Alps. The Mountaineers had been climbing those mountains since at least the 1940s, but George was expert. Want to know how to reach a summit in the Alps? Ask George Ambrose. He was our mountain guru. It was fun, picking his mountain brain. George was also a leader of Mountaineer hikes and the Mountaineer leadership wasn't keen about his leading their hikes. Ask any Mountaineer old-timer about George and that person would start reeling off stories about hiking with George. He would lead what we call strenuous hikes; no wimp hiking for George. He walked fast and if you didn't keep up, he didn't care. His speed added to his reputation and so the mythology of George Ambrose grew as people told their stories, factual or apocryphal. George was oblivious to it all. However, George was too many for the Mountaineers; he broke so many rules the Mountaineer brass sacked him; he would

*continued on page 8*

# Grand Ridge Park Master Plan Released

Kenneth Konigsmark

King County Parks recently completed a Master Plan dictating how they will manage the 1200-acre Grand Ridge Park along the north side of I-90 and adjacent to the Issaquah Highlands development. The park was created by the compromise 4:1 agreement in 1996 that allowed Port Blakely Communities one acre of urban zoned land for development for every four acres donated to King County.

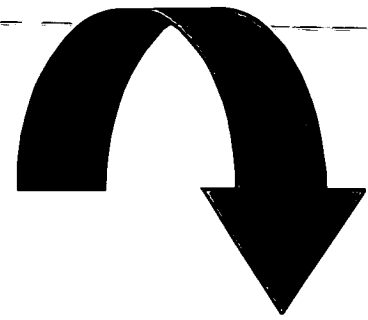
Now, 3250 homes and 3 million sq ft. of Microsoft office space are underway on the urban zoned property while planning was in work for the 1200-acre Grand Ridge Park. The master plan may be accessed in full online at: [www.metrokc.gov/dcfm/Park\\_CIP.html](http://www.metrokc.gov/dcfm/Park_CIP.html)

The plan addresses some but not all of IATC concerns that had been voiced after a review of the earlier draft plan. The primary management goal is to "protect natural systems, to maintain and enhance wildlife habitats and corridors, and to preserve and integral piece of greenway along the rapidly developing I-90 corridor." With thousands of new residents to be living adjacent to this park, this is an essential goal.

IATC recommendations for trails and use of trails within the park were not supported. Most of the historic trails previously existing on Grand Ridge have been disrupted by the ongoing development activity. Thus, within the remaining park,

IATC suggested one north-south trail winding through the length of the park that would be hardened for use by multiple users as part of the county regional trail network. Instead, the plan calls for separate zones of trail use within the park for hikers, horse riders, and bikers or to allow different users access to the trails based on alternating days of the week.

IATC's board remains quite concerned with this approach, fearing that it will create an unworkable trail situation while also leading to resource damage. For more details, access the plan online.



## IATC Email Alert System Lost

**IATC Email Alert System Needs Update** IATC offers an "email alert system" for interested members who wish to get quick notification on issues, educational or volunteer opportunities, or other hiking related information that can be passed along via email. Lots of good information gets passed along this way, above and beyond what's in the Alpiner, to members who wish to receive it. The recent computer virus attacked and wiped out our database of email alert addresses. So, if you were on this "alert list" previously, or if you wish to add your name to the roster of recipients, please email Dino Go at [gob@asme.org](mailto:gob@asme.org) to have your name/address included in future alerts. Ken Konigsmark (425) 957-5094 FAX: (425) 957-5048 Mountains to Sound Greenway office is at: 206-382-5565 or 1011 Western Ave, Suite 606, Seattle, WA 98104, or [www.mtsgreenway.org](http://www.mtsgreenway.org) (NOTICE: Contents of this message should not be construed as representing any official position of either the Boeing Company or the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust unless specifically stated as such)

### Checklist:

- ☒ Food
- ☒ Water
- ☒ Daypack
- ☒ Raingear
- ☒ Warm clothes
- ☒ Hiking shoes



Each item is required in order to participate in an Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike!

**Don't leave the trailhead without them!**

# Mountains to Sound Greenway 2002 Summer Trek Announced!

Kenneth Konigsmark

Hiking enthusiasts, bikers, Greenway supporters, and wagon train riders should plan to join a 3-day Greenway Trek planned for Friday, July 19th through Sunday, July 21st.

The 2002 Trek will start at Hyak, go westward down the John Wayne Trail to Rattlesnake Lake, then across Rattlesnake Mountain to end at Snoqualmie Point (former winery site) on Sunday afternoon. Entertainment and full catered dinners will be provided for the two nights of the Trek, as well as breakfast and lunch for paid participants. Costs are \$75 for the full 3 days for adults and \$50 for children under 18 (accompanied by an adult). Participation options include:

Friday, July 19th: Hikers begin at Hyak, travel thru the 2.3 mile Snoqualmie Pass tunnel and down the John Wayne Trail to camp at Tinkham Campground (10 miles). Entertainment: Cowboy Poet Kevin Barnhart

Saturday, July 20th (3 options):

a. Hikers continue down the John Wayne Trail from Tinkham Campground to Rattlesnake Lake (11 miles) and camp overnight at the lake.

b. Mountain bicyclists start at Hyak and ride all the way to Rattlesnake Lake, meeting up with hikers at the lake (21 miles). Bikers can opt

to camp at the lake and have dinner (\$12) or be shuttled back to Hyak to their vehicles. (\$5 shuttle fee).

c. Wagon Train: Wagon rides will be available at \$25/seat for those interested in riding in a horse-drawn wagon train from Hyak to Rattlesnake Lake, with a shuttle back to Hyak or the option to camp overnight at the lake (add \$12 more for dinner).

Entertainment: Flute/harp duo or flute/cello trio

Sunday, July 21st: Hikers climb up and across Rattlesnake Mountain to Snoqualmie Point; shuttle back to Hyak (11.3 miles)

With it's successful sponsorship of the 1990 Mountains to Sound March, IATC was the founding organization of what became the broader Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. IATC members are welcomed on this latest version of a Greenway march to share in the success of what IATC initiated. It's hoped that a weekend event will enable lots of people to participate, make it easy for them to do so, and still capture the "magic" of previous Greenway Marches. If you want to reserve a spot on the March, are interested in participating, or want additional information, contact Ken Konigsmark at 425-957-5094 or [kenneth.d.konigsmark@boeing.com](mailto:kenneth.d.konigsmark@boeing.com).

## Hikers' Corner



Last year was another busy year for hikers in the Issaquah Alps. We scheduled 170 hikes and work parties. 12 of the hikes were rainouts; on the remaining 158 events we had 1191 hikers. That works out to 7.5 hikers per hike. Of the almost 1200 hikers 400 were non-members and for many of them our hikes were their first exposure to the Issaquah Alps. Our most popular hikes were in the 3 to 5 hour time window, covering typically 6 to 10 miles with different elevation gains. I want to pay special thanks to our dedicated group of hike leaders. Hike leaders who led at least one hike last year are the following: Bert Drui, Trudy Ecob, Hans Fischer, Frank Gilliland, Bob Gross, Kitty Gross, Larry & Marty Hanson, Denis Harney, Ron Howatson, Jackie Hughes, Lauren & Paul Hutchinson, Barbara Johnson, Warren Jones, David Langrock, Lynn Lively, Melinda Livingstone, Bill Longwell, Charles McCrone, Jamie McKenzie, Martha Neville, Ralph & Peggy Owen, Tom Palm, Sara Pommer, Scott Semans, Irene Standford, Aurela Sequoia, June Stevens, Joe Toynbee, Karen VanPelt, Fred Weinman and Fred Zeitler.

Fred Zeitler

## April

**Friday, April 5, 9:30 am**

Echo Mountain

Back by popular demand, Betty Culbert will lead us through new and old trails on Echo Mountain. Expect to see some spring flowers.

2b, 4-5 miles, 600 ft. gain

Betty Culbert (425) 432-7387

**Saturday, April 6, 9:00 am**

**\*Don't forget to set your clocks!\***

Cougar Mountain

Loop hike to 3 waterfalls.

2c, 7 miles, 1500 ft. gain

Fred Zeitler (425) 882-3435

**Sunday, April 7, 9:00 am**

**\*Don't forget to set your clocks!\***

South Tiger Loop

Hike south TMT to Otter lake. Return via South Tiger traverse. Nice views for lunch.

2c, 7 miles, 1500 ft. gain

Jamie McKenzie (425) 746-6683

**Sunday, April 7, 9:00 am**

**\*Don't forget to set your clocks!\***

Trail Maintenance Work Party

All volunteers welcome

for more information contact:

Scott Semans (425) 369-1725

**Wednesday, April 10, 9:30 am**

Little Si

Popular hike with nice views

2c, 5 miles, 1200 ft. gain

Jackie Hughes (425) 641-3815

**Friday, April 12, 10:00 am**

Squak Mountain Loop

From SR 900 hike to Squak's best view site.

2c, 6.5 miles, 1400 ft. gain

Warren Jones (425) 391-7409

**Saturday, April 13, 10:00 am**

Cougar Mountain

Hike AA peak to Clay Pit & Nike Launch Site

1a/2a, 4 miles, 400 ft. gain

Bert Drui (425) 746-0709

**Sunday, April 14, 8:30 am**

East Tiger Mountain

Hike to main Tiger peak from Preston

3d, 10 miles, 2600 ft. gain

Ron Howatson (425) 392-8344

**Tuesday, April 16, 9:00 am**

West Tiger 3

We'll climb steeply via Nook and Section Line trails to a view over Issaquah.

Return Via W. Tiger 3 Trail

2c, 5 miles, 2000 ft. gain

Peggy Owen, (425) 746-1070

**Wednesday, April 17, 9:00 am**

South Tiger Mountain

Identify trees, shrubs and flowers.

Slow pace

1a, 3 miles, 500 ft. gain

Bill Longwell (425) 222-6775

**Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am**

Cougar Mountain

Loop hike to far country lookout, return via Coal Creek Falls.

2b, 5 miles, 900 ft. gain

Barbara Johnson (425) 746-5573

**Sunday, April 21, 9:00 am**

Cougar Mountain

Workout hike to Wilderness Peak, then via Shy Bear and Deceiver trails to Long View Peak

2c, 6.5 miles, 1900 ft. gain

Denis Harney (206) 545-2829

**Sunday, April 21, 10:00 am**

Middle Tiger

Hike to seldom visited peak from Tiger Pass.

3c, 8 miles, 1300 ft. gain

Bob Gross (425) 427-8449

**Monday, April 22, 7:00 pm**

Board Meeting

Trails Center, 1<sup>st</sup> & Bush St., Issaquah

**Saturday, April 27, 9:00 am**

Squak Mountain Loop

From May Valley to Rainier View, west Peak, Central Peak. Return via Phil's creek and equestrian trail

3c, 7 miles, 2500 ft. gain

David Langrock (425) 313-1971

**Sunday, April 28, 9:00 am**

Middle Tiger

Longer version to middle Tiger, via TMT from South

3c, 12 miles, 2200 ft. gain

Tom Palm (206) 783-6005

## May

**Friday, May 3, 6:30 pm**

Annual Flower Walk

Preston Trail. Identify trees, shrubs and flowers on paved trail. Slow pace.

1a, 3 miles, 100 ft. gain

Bill Longwell (425) 222-6755

**Saturday, May 4, 9:00 am**

Cougar Mountain

Workout hike to wilderness peak, then via Shy Bear & Deceiver trails to Long View peak.

2c, 6.5 miles, 1900 ft. gain

Doug Straight (425) 235-5789

**Sunday, May 5, 9:00 am**

Trail Maintenance Work Party

All volunteers welcome

For more information contact:

Scott Semans (425) 369-1725

**Sunday, May 5, 9:00 am**

Rattlesnake Ledges (3)

Good workout, great views

2c, 4 miles, 1400 ft. gain

Frank Gilliland (425) 603-0454

**Saturday, May 11, 8:30 am**

Squak Mountain Ramble

From Sunrise Trailhead hike new trails and old favorites with views of Mt. Rainier

3d, 10 miles, 2900 ft. gain

David Langrock (425) 313-1971

**Sunday, May 12, 9:00 am**

Poo Poo Point

One way hike to great views

3c, 7 miles, 1900 ft. gain

Frank Gilliland (425) 603-0454

**Saturday, May 18, 10:00 am**

Tiger Mountain

Nook loop to Talus Caves. Slow pace

2b, 5 miles, 700 ft. gain

Trudy Ecob (206) 232-2933

**Sunday, May 19, 8:00 am**

West Tiger Mountain Loop

Hike will use 11 trails and about a mile of road

3d, 9 miles, 2700 ft. gain

Ron Howatson (425) 392-8344

**Sunday, May 19, 10:00 am**

Tiger Mountain

Loop hike to Talus Caves, Round Lake, and 300 year old tree.

2b, 4-5 miles, 600 ft. gain

Bert Drui (425) 746-0709

**Friday, May 24, 9:30 am**

Echo Mountain

Another visit covering new and old trails.

Expect to see spring flowers

2b, 4-5 miles, 600 ft. gain

Betty Culbert, (425) 432-7387

**Saturday, May 25, 9:15 am**

Woman Walk Hikes (2)

- 1a, easy hike, AA Peak Perimeter Loop

Kitty Gross (425) 427-8449

- 2b, moderate hike TBD

**Saturday, May 25, 1:00 pm**

Poo Poo Point

Hike from hang glider landing field to top with great views.

With luck we'll see hang gliders take off.

2c, 5 miles, 1700 ft. gain

Fred Zeitler (425) 882-3435

**Sunday, May 26, 8:30 am**

Peak and a Half

Drop from the North Cougar Mountain park to SR 900 via Wilderness Peak. Climb to cross Squak mountain on our way back to cars in Issaquah via newly rebuilt Eastridge Trail.

3c, 10 miles, 2400 ft. gain

Ralph Owen (425) 746-1070

**Monday, May 27, 7:00 pm**

Board Meeting

Trail Center, 1<sup>st</sup> & Bust St., Issaquah

**Wednesday, May 29, 7:00 pm**

Hike Leaders Meeting

Finalize hike schedule for next quarter.

Trail Center, 1<sup>st</sup> & Bust St., Issaquah

**Saturday, June 1, 9:00 am**

## June

Poo Poo Point

Up and back from hang glider landing field with great views.

Doug Straight (425) 235-5789

**Sunday, June 2, 9:00 am**

Trail Maintenance Work Party

All volunteer welcome

For more information contact:

Scott Semans (425) 369-1725

**Sunday, June 2, 9:30 am**

Cougar Mountain

Loop hike to Dc Leo Wall,

return via Coal Creek falls

2c, 5 miles, 1200 ft. gain

Jamie McKenzie (425) 746-6683

**Thursday, June 6, 9:00 am**

Mount Si

Tough climb to great views

3d, 8 miles, 3500 ft. gain

Frank Gilliland (425) 603-0454

**Saturday, June 8, 9:00 am**

W. Tiger 3

Hike the quiet route via TMT to views and lunch at Manning's Reach.

3c, 8 miles, 2500 ± ft. gain

Karen Van Pelt (425) 747-9381

**Sunday, June 9, 10:00 am**

Cougar Mountain

Hike down Coal Creek to Parkway

with small loop on return trip

2b, 6 miles, 1000 ft. gain

Frank Gilliland (425) 603-0454

**Saturday, June 15, 9:00 am**

Twin Falls Family Hike

Popular hike for young & old.

Toddlers in backpacks welcome

2b, 3 miles, 600 ft. gain

David Langrock (425) 313-1971

**Saturday, June 15, 10:00 am**

Tiger Mountain

Nook loop to Talus Caves, slow pace

2b, 5 miles, 700 ft. gain

Trudy Ecob (206) 232-2933

**Sunday, June 16, 10:00 am**

Cougar Mountain

Dc Leo Wall Loop

2b, 4 miles, 600 ft. gain

Bert Drui (425) 746-0709

**Saturday, June 22, 8:00 am**

Tiger Tops Loop

From Hwy 18 we'll visit the tops of Tiger's 6 highest peaks. Route will follow both well known and little used trails, as well as short segments of gated roads.

Views from 5 peaks.

4d, 15-17 miles, 4000 + ft. gain

Ralph Owen (425) 746-1070

**Sunday, June 23, 9:00 am**

Poo Poo Point

Up the Chirico Trail, down old trail to Issaquah.

Great views

3c, 7-8 miles, 1900 ft. gain

Tom Palm (206) 783-6005

**Monday, June 24, 7:00 pm**

IATC Board Meeting

Trail Center, 1<sup>st</sup> & Bush St. Issaquah

**Saturday, June 29, 8:00 am**

Tiger Mountain

We'll do all 16 miles of the

Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT)

4d, 16 miles, 3000 ± ft. gain

Joe Toynbee (206) 723-6716

**Saturday, June 29, 9:15 am**

Woman Walk Hikes (2)

- Easy Hike TBD

- Moderate Hike Bear Ridge Trail

Barbara Johnson (425) 746-5573

**Sunday, June 30, 1:00 pm**

Squak Mountain

Central Peak and Bullitt Fireplace the

"easy way" via high trail head. Moderate pace

2b, 5 miles, 900 ft. gain

Scott Semans (425) 369-1725

### Checklist:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raingear     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warm clothes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daypack | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiking shoes |

Each item is required in order to participate in an Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike!



Don't leave the trailhead without them!



## 2001 Trailwork

Kenneth Konigsmark

The IATC has always served as an activist organization, seeking to better the local environment. That goal has ever guided our club. However, long before the IATC surfaced as a viable pressure group in 1979, individual trail builders, pursuing a dream of a regional trail system, built the original trails on Cougar, Squak and Tiger Mountains. The IATC later incorporated these several trail builders into its club structure and vigorously encouraged them to "keep up the good work." That intrepid group of trail builders have long remained an active, faithful and effective arm of the IATC and its sister organization, the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club. Indeed, several of the original 1970's trail builders still survive as members of a highly organized and effective trail maintenance organization (we no longer build trails) and have added numerous other dedicated workers to their ranks. 2001 was a banner year for trail maintenance; two separate bands plied the trails of the Issaquah Alps and of the Alpine Lakes, where some workers have logically gone to aid the US Forest Service in its trail maintenance activities. 2001 saw at least 260 trips into the mountains (about 500 worker days) and at least 3000 accumulated worker hours. 77 individuals donated trail work time in 2001. Twelve of that large group, experienced and well-trained individuals, went regularly to keep Issaquah Alps and North Bend

Ranger District trails open. Four people in particular performed unparalleled work. Without them many trails would remain unwalkable. These four people performed about 50% of the total work load. Debbie Anschell, a nine year veteran, worked 36 days and donated about 186 hours, in both the Issaquah Alps and in the Alpine Lakes. Ken Hopping, also a nine year veteran, worked 42 days and donated 205 hours. A retired person, Avron Maletsky, went out 49 days and worked 484 hours, mostly on the interface lands between the Issaquah Alps and the Alpine Lakes. IATC Board Member Scott Semans inspired all of us trail maintainers. Working on Cougar and Squak Mountains, Scott worked 80 different days and donated 631 hours! 3000 hours represents about \$90,000 of donated time (thirty dollars an hour is the paid trail crew wage). Yes, that's \$90,000 that public land agencies would have had to come up with to pay for paid trails crews. Of course, they couldn't have come up with that much money. Since trails builders and maintainers have worked on Tiger Mountain, trail volunteers (take for example, the sixteen-mile-long TMT) have volunteered over one million dollars worth of work. The next time you walk a trail and find no logs, no branches, no debris and rocks on the surface, remember trail volunteers have cleared the way before you. JOIN US!

## George Ambrose Mountain Man

*continued from page 3*

lead no more Mountaineer hikes. In spite of the quick-paced miles he covered, in spite of all the summits he climbed with the same alacrity, George suffered from several health problems and one day in early 1973 George Ambrose suddenly died of a heart attack. Of a heart attack? This fast walker? This fast climber? We were all shocked at his sudden and unexpected death and we talked about him. And, we still do. George Ambrose is buried among the mountains, among the peaks he admired, in the small Preston cemetery, just off 1-90, near the old Sunset Highway.



## Spring Schedule 2002

*Continued from page 9*

Newcastle Saturday, May 4 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Programs are free unless otherwise noted. Reservations for all programs are required at least one day in advance by calling (206) 296-4171 and leaving the event, place and time of the selected program; your name, phone number and the number in your party that will attend. Children 12 and under should be accompanied by an adult.

Interpretive programs do not lend themselves to pets. Please leave your pet at home when coming to a park interpretive program.

## Mountains to Sound Greenway 2002 Summer Trek Announced!

Kenneth Konigsmark

Hiking enthusiasts, bikers, Greenway supporters, and wagon train riders should plan to join a 3-day Greenway Trek planned for Friday, July 19th through Sunday, July 21st.

The 2002 Trek will start at Hyak, go westward down the John Wayne Trail to Rattlesnake Lake, then across Rattlesnake Mountain to end at Snoqualmie Point (former winery site) on Sunday afternoon. Entertainment and full catered dinners will be provided for the two nights of the Trek, as well as breakfast and lunch for paid participants. Costs are \$75 for the full 3 days for adults and \$50 for children under 18 (accompanied by an adult). Participation options include:

Friday, July 19th: Hikers begin at Hyak, travel thru the 2.3 mile Snoqualmie Pass tunnel and down the John Wayne Trail to camp at Tinkham Campground (10 miles). Entertainment: Cowboy Poet Kevin Barnhart

Saturday, July 20th (3 options):

a. Hikers continue down the John Wayne Trail from Tinkham Campground to Rattlesnake Lake (11 miles) and camp overnight at the lake.

b. Mountain bicyclists start at Hyak and ride all the way to Rattlesnake Lake, meeting up with hikers at the lake (21 miles). Bikers can opt

to camp at the lake and have dinner (\$12) or be shuttled back to Hyak to their vehicles. (\$5 shuttle fee).

c. Wagon Train: Wagon rides will be available at \$25/seat for those interested in riding in a horse-drawn wagon train from Hyak to Rattlesnake Lake, with a shuttle back to Hyak or the option to camp overnight at the lake (add \$12 more for dinner).

Entertainment: Flute/harp duo or flute/cello trio

Sunday, July 21st: Hikers climb up and across Rattlesnake Mountain to Snoqualmie Point; shuttle back to Hyak (11.3 miles)

With it's successful sponsorship of the 1990 Mountains to Sound Greenway March, IATC was the founding organization of what became the broader Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. IATC members are welcomed on this latest version of a Greenway march to share in the success of what IATC initiated. It's hoped that a weekend event will enable lots of people to participate, make it easy for them to do so, and still capture the "magic" of previous Greenway Marches. If you want to reserve a spot on the March, are interested in participating, or want additional information, contact Ken Konigsmark at 425-957-5094 or [kenneth.d.konigsmark@boeing.com](mailto:kenneth.d.konigsmark@boeing.com).

## Hikers' Corner



Last year was another busy year for hikers in the Issaquah Alps. We scheduled 170 hikes and work parties. 12 of the hikes were rainouts; on the remaining 158 events we had 1191 hikers. That works out to 7.5 hikers per hike. Of the almost 1200 hikers 400 were non-members and for many of them our hikes were their first exposure to the Issaquah Alps. Our most popular hikes were in the 3 to 5 hour time window, covering typically 6 to 10 miles with different elevation gains. I want to pay special thanks to our dedicated group of hike leaders. Hike leaders who led at least one hike last year are the following: Bert Drui, Trudy Ecob, Hans Fischer, Frank Gilliland, Bob Gross, Kitty Gross, Larry & Marty Hanson, Denis Harney, Ron Howatson, Jackie Hughes, Lauren & Paul Hutchinson, Barbara Johnson, Warren Jones, David Langrock, Lynn Lively, Melinda Livingstone, Bill Longwell, Charles McCrone, Jamie McKenzie, Martha Neville, Ralph & Peggy Owen, Tom Palm, Sara Pommer, Scott Semans, Irene Stanford, Aurela Sequoia, June Stevens, Joe Toynbee, Karen VanPelt, Fred Weinman and Fred Zeitler.

Fred Zeitler

## 2001 Trailwork

Kenneth Konigsmark

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## King County Parks Interpretive Programs Spring Schedule 2002

**A Gift of Nutrients:** Ever wonder where all those leaves go that fall each year? Come discover where they have gone and the gift of nutrients that they have left us. This gift is what allows new spring growth to happen. Meet, up close and personal, the creatures that recycle our nutrients and learn each one's role in the food chain of decomposition. Ages 8 - adult. Call (206) 296-4171 to register and for directions. Fee: \$5/adult \$3 child. Preston Community Center Preston-Fall City Road at 310 SE Street Preston Wednesday, March 20 7 - 8 p.m.

**Coal Creek Falls Hike:** Dust off your boots and join us for a hike as we venture to the gorgeous Coal Creek Falls on Cougar Mountain. Experience the unique history, and the natural features that will surround you. The hike will be less than three miles with some steep terrain. Bring a snack and water and be sure to dress for the weather. Best for ages 8 and older. Call (206) 296-4171 to register. Free. Meet at Redtown Trailhead, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park Coal Creek-Newcastle Road and Lakemont Blvd Bellevue/Newcastle Saturday, April 6 10 a.m.- 12 noon

**Spring Plant Adventures:** What is that beautiful flower? How can I tell the difference between all those new green plants? Take a spring plant walk amidst the new life on Cougar Mountain. Learn more about identifying plants, when to expect what plant to emerge and enjoy the botanical life at King County's largest park. Call (206) 296-4171 to register. Free. Meet at

Redtown Trailhead Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park Coal Creek-Newcastle Road and Lakemont Blvd Bellevue/Newcastle Saturdays, April 20 and May 18 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Bike Ride to the Falls:** Join a King County Parks Naturalist for a bike ride on the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail. Learn some local history, and enjoy the sights and sounds along this paved trail that ends with a stunning long-distance view of Snoqualmie Falls. We will stop there for a snack before returning to the trailhead. This moderately paced ride will be approximately 12 miles round trip. Bring plenty of water, and a snack. Don't forget your bike and helmet! Call (206) 296-4171 for directions and to register. Ages 8 and up. Fee: \$5/adult \$3/child. Meet at the Preston-Snoqualmie Trailhead Preston-Snoqualmie Regional Trail Preston Sunday, May 19 1 - 3:30 p.m.

**A Walk through Time:** Did you know that King County's largest park was once a bustling coal town? Walk with a King County Parks Volunteer on Cougar Mountain's Wildside and Redtown trails. You will view an old mine shaft, examine a coal seam and look for other evidence of Cougar's rich history. Along the way learn about the forest that has reclaimed the area. Dress for the weather. Ages 12-adult. Call (206) 296-4171 to register. Free. Meet at Redtown Trailhead Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park Coal Creek-Newcastle Road and Lakemont Blvd Bellevue/

## 2001 Advocacy Accomplishments

2001 turned out to be another significant year of accomplishments regarding advocacy issues for IATC. A short list of advocacy results, by IATC and others impacting the Issaquah Alps area, includes the following:

- Led successful efforts to complete donation by Lankow family of a trail easement for Cougar Mountain Park

- Impacted development and trails planning for Issaquah Highlands and Microsoft campus

- Supported DNR/Plum Creek exchange that added 260-ac to public land on Mitchell Hill

- Supported the "Snoqualmie Preservation Initiative" that preserves 2800 acres in the Raging River basin

- Actively participated in development planning for TALUS and Park Pointe

- Supported efforts to reform the State NOVA program to allocate more funding to hiking trails; received \$5000 grant in support of these efforts

- Participated in planning for the Grand Ridge Park Master Plan

- Public acquisition of key lands at Echo Lake, Snoqualmie Point, and Rattlesnake Mountain

- Participated in harvest planning on Tiger Mountain

- Funded a trails assessment and improvement effort that helped lead to an \$85,000 NOVA grant to DNR for additional assessment/improvement efforts

- Final 423-acres of Taylor Mountain Forest acquired by King County in 2001

- Two parcels purchased by City of Issaquah along eastern Squak Mountain

# Hike Information

## 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 hike leaders, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), 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 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 3: 6 hours  
Class 2: 4 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 hikes 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 going 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

## 24-hour hikes hotline: 206-328-0480

or hiking shoes.

### Trail Maintenance

Volunteers periodically organize and schedule trail maintenance parties as listed in the hikes schedule. Work parties meet (see *Meeting Place* on previous page) 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 the 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 of maintaining it. ▲



## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Membership Application



Post Office Box 351, Issaquah, Washington 98027

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

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

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### I would like to volunteer with the Club in the area(s) of:

- ☐ Hike leadership
- ☐ Trail maintenance
- ☐ Hotline
- ☐ WomenWalk Hikes
- ☐ Trails Center staffing
- ☐ Administrative support
- ☐ Event coordination

▲ All memberships cover the entire family. (within the same household)

▲ 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.

## 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, season when flowering, and where they can be found. \$20 (includes shipping and handling).

### ▲ *Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park and Surrounds*

By Charles McCrone. 2000 edition. Completely updated version gives historical background and descriptions for every park trail, plus 30 other trails in the surrounding area including Bellevue, Newcastle, Renton, and the Precipice. \$15 (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 100 photographs, four maps, and Tim O'Brian's account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$15 (includes shipping).

### ▲ *Eastside Family Hikes*

By Peggy Barchi. **2001 revised** and updated. Descriptions of family hikes (annotated for strenuous and picnicking) on the Eastside. \$3 (includes tax and shipping).

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

▲ *Cougar Mountain map*. 2001 revised. \$2 (includes tax and shipping).

▲ T-Shirt: "Issaquah Alps Trails Club." Limited to remaining sizes in stock: White XL & XXL short sleeve, Blue XL short sleeve. Only \$12 tax & shipping included while supplies last!

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

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