

# THE ALPINE



April ♦ May ♦ June 2003

Cougar ♦ Squak ♦ Tiger ♦ Grand Ridge ♦ Taylor ♦ Rattlesnake

## Alps Trails Built and Maintained by Dedicated Volunteers

Does an outdoor organization exist that provides outdoor recreation for its members AND consistently maintains the trails and byways that its members ply? You'd be hard-pressed to come up with such an organization.

Bicycles clubs do not; sometimes they provide a few members who sometimes work on trails. The Mountaineers support trail work, but they work mainly on one trail, the Iron Goat Trail near Steven's Pass. Washington Trails Association exists mainly to maintain trails.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club and its sister organization, the Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club, not only consistently maintain the trails they walk, but they supply TWO permanent trail crews.

The IATC trail crew has really been in existence for over 30 years. Members of our club basically built the Issaquah Alps trail system before the club existed. Some of these original members still maintain trails. Trails on Squak were built beginning in 1971. Trail building on Tiger began in 1974. The Alp trail system was in place before the club organized in 1979. No Alps trail system would still exist if it weren't for the yearly work of the dedicated workers.

While about twenty IATC people often work Alp trails, most of the work comes from seven hardworking trail lovers. In the last five years,

these seven have worked trails for a total of over 1,300 days.

Scott Semans, leader of one trail crew, labors mostly on Cougar. He and his crews made 80 trips this past year to Cougar, working mostly the Lewis Creek and Licorice Fern trails. Walk these trails and you'll see first-hand Scott's expert handiwork.

Tiger was the Alp focal point for the crew loosely-managed by Bill Longwell. This crew worked 14 trails, clearing, draining, and cutting out fallen

*continued on page 3*

### In this issue. . .

A Taylor Mountain	
Hiking Diary, Part One.....	3
20 Year Cougar Celebration.....	5
Hiking Corner.....	5
Annual IATC Meeting	
Summary.....	6
Cougar 20th Anniversary:	
Celebration of a	
Priceless Treasure.....	7
Hiking Schedule.....	8-9
Hiking Information.....	13
Publications Order Form.....	15
Membership Request Form.....	15

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Whenever possible, please use e-mail to contact any member listed below.

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Website: [www.issaquahalps.org](http://www.issaquahalps.org)

IATC subsists on member donations only. Please send your tax-deductible contributions to the address above to help sustain our efforts to preserve, protect, and promote the Issaquah Alps and local environment.

Articles are welcome, preferably via e-mail to:  
[nancy@cuttothechasemarketing.com](mailto:nancy@cuttothechasemarketing.com)  
Send diskette or hard copy to post office box number above.

Issue deadlines: November 21 for January; February 21 for April; May 21 for July; August 21 for October.

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

*continued from page 1*

logs. This past year crewmembers, mostly Ken Hopping, cut out 482 logs (it took a total of 793 cuts to remove these logs), and countless hours walking and working.

Other loyal crewmembers worked to clear trails. Debbie Anschell, Ron Howatson, Rick Stiles and Fred Zeitler were out on the trails every month of the year. This crew works summer months for the US Forest Service maintaining at least a dozen popular trails near Snoqualmie Pass.

It is interesting to note that of last year's 349 work parties, 276 were solo, individuals going out by themselves to maintain trails.

The two dedicated crews worked 488 days and donated 3,368 hours of work. AT \$11.00 per hour (what the state would pay), those hours work out to a donation of \$37,048. Some crewmembers drove over 3000 miles to work trails.

Over the past 30 plus years of trail working, volunteers for the Alps have given an estimated \$1.5 million of volunteer labor.

When you walk the Issaquah Alps trails, remember the volunteer work that has provided you unimpeded and pleasurable walking!

### **Updated Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain Now Available**

Two long-time Tiger Mountain experts, author Bill Longwell and photographer Larry Hanson, along with Marty Hanson, The Tiger Guide editor for 17 years, have combined their Tiger perspectives to update this guidebook. They've added two new area trails. Versions of this guide have been in print for 23 years! Order your copy on page 16.

## **A Taylor Mountain Hiking Diary, Part One**

by Charles McCrone

Despite being listed as an IATC advocacy region in the Alpiner, Taylor Mountain was an area of the Alps that I neglected for a long time. Perhaps it was the lack of a Taylor Mt. Guidebook or IATC map (even Squak Mt., by contrast, could be found in older copies of IATC guidebooks at the library). I spent most of my earlier exploring years on Cougar, but by the time I'd revised the Cougar book – and the map twice! – I was ready to find some new places.

I moved a stone throw's from Hobart in 1998, and I think the public acquisition of Taylor Mt. Forest finally spurred my imagination to turn that way, starting last fall. Having done just a handful of hikes on my new mountain, I'm writing about Taylor, not as I did with Cougar out of long experience, but as a rookie sharing the discovery as it unfolds. Hopefully, I'll hand you a few keys to start unlocking the doors for yourself; unlike many of the Alps trail systems, Taylor doesn't have any highly advertised starting points.

Having had the experience on Cougar Mt. of long and disorganized discovery slowly gelling into a knowledge mosaic worthy of a new guidebook, I decided to tackle Taylor Mt. with a bit more planning. Armed with the Green Trails map of Tiger/Taylor and a GPS unit, I set out last summer with my 4 year old to do "car reconnaissance" – i.e. find every possible road and trail intersection before I even broke out the boots. Two good starting points immediately emerged, both more or less on the map:

1) east side of Issaquah Hobart Road (which is becoming 276<sup>th</sup>), just south of highway 18, there is a clear woods road, gate and parking area

*continued on page 4*

*continued from page 3*

2) take 276<sup>th</sup> Avenue, then take a left on 208<sup>th</sup> Street, then a left onto 298<sup>th</sup> Avenue. At the north end of 298<sup>th</sup> (mistakenly marked as 295<sup>th</sup> on the Green Trails map) is a gated woods road which is the great meeting point for most of the lower elevation Taylor trails

3) I found out about this one not from the map but from King County folks: If you stay on 208<sup>th</sup> (as in #2 previous) past 298<sup>th</sup>, the road will wind downwards and enter the Cedar River Watershed. The city of Seattle is allowing hiking access to the left/north side of the road there; park at the obvious gate area. I haven't explored this area yet, but look for another article later this year when I have!

I began my hiking on Taylor in the fall, and really appreciated the show of fall colors this past year: there are an amazing number of cottonwoods, especially younger trees. Like with my discovery of Cougar, which began in the heart of winter, I suspect I may be surprised when spring and summer hit the trails on Taylor.

The primary east-west trail route is the walk along scenic Carey Creek (*Carey Creek Trail*), which can be started from point 2) mentioned previous (which is the trail's west end) or begun in the middle from the woods road mentioned in 3). Starting from 3) and heading east along the creek led us through a wide corridor framed with tall salmonberry and an amazing carpet of fallen leaves. This particular hike ended in a magical way at the border of the Cedar River Watershed. The sudden contrast of younger and more deciduous forest with the taller evergreens of the Watershed is very striking as one reaches the end of the Carey Creek Trail; a great chance to point out to the kids how the arbitrary man-made north-south boundary between Watershed and Taylor so precisely and dramatically alters the look of the land to either side.

On our trip here, a very strange croaking started to come out of the deep and silent forest on the Watershed side. It turned out eventually to be a large raven, which alighted nearby and followed and talked to us with a great variety of vocalizations for a few minutes before disappearing off. He gave off a strong appearance of curiosity about the hikers he had heard from afar, coming to visit his forest. My four year old was extremely impressed with this incident and had tears in his eyes when he talked about it later on. (That is why one goes hiking!)

My complete inventory of Taylor trails-hiked-so-far includes the woods road mentioned in 1) previously (*Road A*), up to about the 900 elevation, where an old sign on the right marks a junction with "the Hobart trail" heading downhill. Of the two trails the Green Trails map shows heading left from this road, I could only find the second, and it was pretty brushy even in fall. Off of trailhead 3) I have walked the trail that takes off left just north of the gate, which joins the Carey Creek trail route eventually, after a system of fruitless short connectors peel off left to junctions with a farm property (to avoid those, just stay right until you hit the big junction with the Carey Creek trail). On the woods road beyond Carey Creek are two obvious trail junctions on the left, as marked on the map.

The only other trail I've walked yet (as we're on 4-year old speed) is one which begins as an old road off the main road at about 770 feet and gradually dwindles to trail. This trail also reaches the watershed and reveals the same dramatic ecological contrast between the two properties. There is a four way junction at the Watershed boundary with several other trails, one of which climbs due north along the boundary itself.

We're very lucky to have Taylor Mt. Forest.  
While lack of County funds has complicated the

process of planning and trail development for the new Forest, fortunately there is already a vital informal trail system in place; doubtless thanks to years of volunteer maintenance by hikers and in particular the horse riders you're likely to see out there. I hope that if more of us check out and come to love Taylor, we can be better involved in the trail and open space planning process for the mountain.



## 20 YEAR COUGAR CELEBRATION

This June will be the twentieth anniversary for the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. The park and the Issaquah Alps Trails Club are jointly inviting interested persons to a gathering at the Nike Peak atop Cougar on Saturday, June 7, to celebrate the occasion. Free food will be provided throughout the day.

IATC hiking founders and current leaders, county park officials and past and present political leaders will be on hand to share memories and give thanks that this wonderful urban park, the largest of its type in the nation, is accessible to area citizens in the public trust.

In addition to the public tributes, historical exhibits will be available for viewing, food and refreshments will be available throughout the day, and several hikes will be initiated from the AA park site. Hikes will vary in length and difficulty, and one will focus upon sites of historical interest.

It was on June 5, 1983 that King County Executive Randy Revelle and the King County Council passed the Newcastle Ordinance, officially establishing the park and keeping it from impending development.

## Hiking Corner

For those of you who attended our annual IATC meeting, you know that we had a good turnout. At the meeting I presented some hiking statistics which I can summarize as follows:

2002 Total Hikes led:  
140 (152 scheduled)

2002 Total No. of hikers:  
1225 (56% members)

Since 1999 the total number of hikers has stayed close to 1200 per year, but the number of new hikers has increased from 300 in 1999 to 539 last year. It looks like we're introducing a lot of new people to the Issaquah Alps.

In the last Alpiner, Ken Konigsmark outlined the changes to IATC. There is an additional change imposed on us by the State Parks system, where a parking fee of \$5.00 will be charged starting January 1, 2003. So when you ride to a State Park trailhead like Twin Falls or Squak South, you will either pay \$5.00 for your own vehicle or be asked to share this cost with the driver.

This coming quarter, we hope to see some new hike leaders. If anyone wants to start leading, please let me know.

See you on the trails.

*Fred Z*



## **Annual Meeting Summary: IATC's Contributions Shine in 2002**

At January's IATC Annual Meeting attendees heard reports from all aspects of club activities on their accomplishments for 2002. Without question, the volunteers of IATC again contributed much to the community, our public lands, and the environment with the efforts they expended in 2002. A summary of each activity follows:

**Guided Hike Program:** Led by Fred Zeitler and an able crew of volunteer hike leaders, IATC led 158 different hikes that served 1191 participants, 66% of whom were IATC members. Average hikers per event was 7.5.

**Trail Maintenance Program:** Led by Chief Ranger Bill Longwell, Scott Semans, and volunteer crew leaders, the combined efforts of IATC and Snoqualmie Valley Trails Club (SVTC) crews contributed a record 3368 hours of trail work in 2002. A total of 349 different trips were completed by maintenance volunteers on trails on Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Weyerhaeuser lands, and DNR and USFS trails in the South and Middle Fork Snoqualmie River basins. Due to this proven track record, IATC/SVTC was awarded a \$5000 state grant for trail maintenance equipment and materials in 2002.

**Publications:** Led by Scott Semans, IATC's publications efforts provided both retail and wholesale sales of maps, guidebooks, and informational publications in 2002. Green Trails Maps also provided a discount rate and a donation to IATC on 4 maps covering the Issaquah Alps area, Rattlesnake Mountain, Mt. Si, and the Upper Snoqualmie Valley. See the "Publications" page if interested in ordering any maps or publications.

**Website Operations:** Led by David Langrock, IATC's website continues to flourish and improve offering guided hike information, advocacy information, and soon...Alpiner articles.

**Advocacy:** IATC's important role in advocating for trails, open space, wildlife, and the environment continued throughout 2002 on issues including: Park Pointe development proposal, rezone requests, private facilities being located on public lands, trail planning efforts, NOVA program reform, the proposed SE bypass, and collaborative efforts with Newcastle Trails Club, WTA, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, and a homeowners group on Cougar Mountain.

Attendees at the Annual Meeting also got a full report on changes approved in late 2002 for IATC club operations, as reported in the last Alpiner. With no dues now being charged to IATC members, we urge you to consider a voluntary contribution (or several of them throughout the year) to help sustain IATC operations. Please forward any donations (fully tax deductible) to IATC, PO Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027.

Lastly, the board approved a 2003 operating budget of over \$27,000, including general funds as well as "dedicated" funds targeted to specific issues such as trail maintenance tools or publications. This budget presumes that several thousand dollars will be contributed to IATC via voluntary member donations. Again, to help sustain the club and all the important work that gets accomplished each year as described above, please consider making donations to support IATC now and in the future.

## Cougar 20th Anniversary: Celebration of a Priceless Treasure

by Doug Simpson

"To have the magic of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park available to us in such close proximity to our busy Puget Sound lives is an immeasurable boon...a priceless treasure." So wrote Charles McCrone in the Cougar Mountain guidebook. This "priceless treasure" became an official entity on June 5, 1983 when Randy Revelle and the King County Council voted the Newcastle Ordinance into law.

Since this "immeasurable boon" will be twenty years old in June, it is time for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club to celebrate and reminisce the special times, places and people that have made the Cougar Mountain park such a treasure.

"Every club member should consider the great chain of events Harvey Manning set into motion and nudged along, beginning with his vision for this park," says Steven Drew, President, IATC. "Harvey brought this vision to our elected representatives. As is often the case when an elected official votes for open space, the social value of the land saved from development is not widely recognized until long after the official's retirement. This celebration will provide us an opportunity to re-express our gratitude to Harvey and the many elected officials who created this regional asset for future generations,"

Harvey Manning tells of the "Day of Three Thunderstorms" at which he and others formed the IATC atop Cougar's Long View Peak in May of 1979 and in subsequent gatherings at the Rolling Log Tavern in Issaquah. Four years later, these hiking and environmental pioneers, against great odds, shepherded the park into existence. This park, the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, remains the largest urban wildland park in the United States, a fact to be enormously proud of.

Interviewed for this article were four of those pioneers—Manning, Barbara Johnson, Dave Kappler and Ralph Owen as well as Charles McCrone, one of its current stewards, and Steve Williams, King Country Parks manager.

### *What about the park gives you the most personal satisfaction?*

Its location close to the city and bus lines with its wildness and solitude was cited by several. "I like the idea of just taking off," Barbara Johnson said. "Just grabbing my pack and going, without needing to plan way ahead."

"It's sheer size makes it a unit with long-time opportunities for wildlife and wildland to prevail," Dave Kappler pointed out.

"My four-year old has grown up hiking on Cougar," Charles McCrone boasts. "He's been on all the trails."

For Steve Williams, "I get real satisfaction seeing the vision come alive and seeing it working. . . seeing growth come back. . . seeing people using it and enjoying it."

### *What is your favorite memory in the park?*

That is like asking which is your favorite child!" Harvey Manning exclaimed. "I've spent thousands of days in the park. Nothing in particular stands out."

"I first kissed my wife there on Thanksgiving Day of 1995," laughed McCrone, "but I also remember

*continued on page 10*

**April****Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m.  
3 Lakes and views**

Hike to 3 Lakes just north of Mt. Si with lunch at "Fred's Biergarten."  
2B, 7 miles, 1000 ft. gain  
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

**Sunday, April 6, 9 a.m.  
Trail Maintenance Work Party**  
All volunteers welcome.  
For more information, contact:  
Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

**Tuesday, April 8, 9 a.m.  
Grouse Ridge 2 and 3**  
Hike on roads and trails at the eastern edge of the Issaquah Alps. Good views up the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley  
2C, 6 miles, 1460 ft. gain  
Peggy Owen, 425-746-1070

**Saturday, April 12, 9 a.m.  
Tradition Lake Plateau**  
Loop hike with spring plant ID and light trail maintenance. Bring clippers.  
2B, 4-6 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

**Saturday, April 12, 9:30 a.m.  
Squak Mountain Summits**  
Loop hike from Mountainside Drive to Central Peak, Bullitt Fireplace, West Peak and on to Rainier views.  
2C, 5-6 miles, 1700 ft. gain  
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

**Sunday, April 13, 9 a.m.  
Cougar Mountain**  
Easy hike down Coal Creek trail to Coal Creek park. Small loop on uphill return.  
3B, 8 miles, 900 ft. gain  
Jamie McKenzie, 425-746-6683

**Wednesday, April 16, 9 a.m.  
S. Tiger**  
Identify trees, shrubs and flowers  
3 miles, 500 ft. gain. Slow pace  
Bill Longwell, 425-222-6775

**Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m.  
Cedar Butte**  
New trail leads to great views.  
2C, 5 miles, 1200 ft. gain  
Jackie Hughes, 425-641-3815

**Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.  
Cougar Mountain**  
AA peak loop to Clay Pit and Nike launch site.  
2A, 4 miles, 300 ft. gain  
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

**Sunday, April 20, 8:30 a.m.  
East Tiger Loop**  
We'll climb from highway via a combination of seasonal and lesser used routes to views from the top of Tiger's highest peak.  
3C, 10 miles, 2200+ ft. gain  
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

**Wednesday, April 23, 9 a.m.  
Cougar Mountain**  
Wilderness Peak Loop  
2C, 4 miles, 1300 ft. gain  
Melinda Livingstone, 425-392-7455

**Friday, April 25, 9:30 a.m.  
Echo Mountain**  
We'll hike through old and new trails to nice views and flowers.  
2B, 4-5 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Betty Culbert, 425-432-7387

**Saturday, April 26, 9 a.m.  
S. Tiger Loop**  
Hike South TMT to Otter Lake. Return via S. Tiger Traverse.  
2C, 7 miles, 1600 ft. gain  
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

**Sunday, April 27, 9 a.m.  
Poo Poo Point 1 Way**  
Up from Hang glider landing area, return via Poo Poo Point trail. Views of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Baker. Car shuttle.  
2C, 7 miles, 1900 ft. gain  
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

**Monday, April 28, 7 p.m.  
Board Meeting**  
Trail Center, 1<sup>st</sup> and Bush Streets

**May**

**Friday, May 2, 6:30 p.m.  
Annual Flower Walk**  
Preston Trail – identify trees, shrubs, and flowers on a paved trail.  
1A, 3 miles, 100 ft. gain, SLOW PACE  
Bill Longwell, 425-222-6775

**Saturday, May 3, 9:30 a.m.  
Taylor Mountain**  
Loop hike to 2 different wetland ponds.  
2C, 6 miles, 1500 ft. gain  
Harry Morgan, 425-432-3249

**Sunday, May 4, 9 a.m.  
Trail Maintenance Work Party**  
All volunteers welcome.  
For more information, contact:  
Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

**Sunday, May 4, 9:30 a.m.  
Middle Tiger**  
Short route with possible loop  
3C, 8 miles, 1300 ft. gain  
Bob Gross, 425-427-8449

**Wednesday, May 7, 9 a.m.  
Poo Poo Point**  
Up and back from hang glider landing area. Great views of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Baker.  
2C, 5 miles, 1700 ft. gain  
Melinda Livingstone, 425-392-7455

**Hikers must be equipped for each hike. Please review the Hiking Checklist on page 14.**

**Saturday, May 10, 9 a.m.  
Tradition Lake Plateau**  
Loop hike with flower identification and light trail maintenance.  
2B, 4-6 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

**Sunday, May 11, 8 a.m.  
Tiger Mountain Trail**  
Time again for the annual TMT trek. This year, we'll go North to South.  
4D, 16 miles, 2000+ ft. gain  
Ron Howatson, 425-392-8344

**Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.  
Tiger Mountain**  
Talus caves, Lakes, Big Tree and Swamp  
2B, 4 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

**Sunday, May 18, 8:30 a.m.  
West Tiger 3, 2, 1, 2, 3**  
Up and back the quick way.  
3D, 7 miles, 2800 ft. gain  
Lynn Lively, 206-632-2604

**Sunday, May 18, 9:00 a.m.  
Mt. Washington**  
Hike to Owl site and nice views.  
2C, 6 miles, 2000 ft. gain  
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

**Saturday, May 24, 9 a.m.  
Cedar Butte**  
From Rattlesnake Lake we'll hike up new trail to Cedar Butte and nice views.  
2C, 5-6 miles, 1200 ft. gain  
Jackie Hughes, 425-641-3815

**Sunday, May 25, 9 a.m.  
Poo Poo Point**  
Chirico Trail to the top and great views. Return via Poo Poo Point trail. Car shuttle.  
2C, 7 miles, 1900 feet gain  
Tom Palm, 206-783-6005

**Monday, May 26, 9:30 a.m. (Memorial Day)  
Squak Mountain Traverse**  
1 way hike across east side of mountain back to trail center.  
2B, 6.5 miles, 1100 ft. gain, 1700 ft. loss  
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

**Wednesday, May 28, 7 p.m.  
Hike Leaders' Meeting**  
Trail Center, 1<sup>st</sup> and Bush Streets

**Saturday, May 31, 9 a.m.  
Squak Mountain**  
Central Peak loop. Return view Sycamore access trail and streets.  
3C, 8 miles, 2400 ft. gain  
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

**Saturday, May 31, 9:15 a.m.  
Women Walk Hikes (1)**  
Return of Women Walk Hikes.  
Kitty Gross, 425-641-4393

**June**

**Sunday, June 1, 9 a.m.  
Trail Maintenance Work Party**  
All volunteers welcome.  
For more information, contact:  
Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

**Sunday, June 1, 9:30 a.m.  
Cougar Mountain**  
Hike down Coal Creek trail to parkway. Small loop on return.  
2B, 6 miles, 700 ft. gain  
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

**Wednesday, June 4, 9 a.m.  
Squak Mountain Loop**  
Easy hike to great views of Mt. Rainier. Return via Chybinski and Coal Mine trails.  
2C, 5 miles, 1300 ft. gain  
Melinda Livingstone, 425-392-7455

**Saturday, June 7, 3 hikes (see below)  
Cougar Mountain.**  
We'll be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. All activities will be at AA Peak trailhead.  
10:00 a.m. – Start of celebration and speeches  
11:00 a.m. – 2C, 7 miles, 1500 +/- ft. gain  
11:30 a.m. – 2B, 5-6 miles, 800 +/- ft. gain  
12:00 p.m. – 2A, 3-4 miles, 500 +/- ft. gain, History walk  
12:00 – 3:00 p.m. – Food and refreshments – **FREE!**  
For more information, contact:  
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660  
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435  
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

**Sunday, June 8, 8:30 a.m.  
Cougar – Squak Traverse**  
Annual traverse of both mountains. Check out new Cougar-Squak connector.  
3D, 10 miles, 2500 ft. gain  
Joe Toynbee, 206-723-6716

**Saturday, June 14, 9 a.m.  
Tradition Lake Plateau**  
Loop hike with emphasis on trees and geology.  
2B, 4-6 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

**Sunday, June 15, 10 a.m.  
Cougar, Coal Creek Falls**  
Popular loop via Ball Park and steam vents.  
2B, 3-4 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Bert Orvi, 425-746-0709

**Monday, June 16, 8:30 a.m.  
Mt. Washington**  
We'll hike to Climber's Viewpoint on Mt. Washington.  
2C, 6 miles, 2000 ft. gain  
Peggy Owen, 425-746-1070

**Friday, June 20, 9:30 a.m.  
Cougar Mountain**  
DeLeo Wall via Licorice Fern trail  
Verdant Canyon leads to popular view site.  
2B, 6 miles, 800 ft. gain  
Warren Jones, 425-391-7409

**Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m.  
Rattlesnake Ledges (3)**  
New trail to popular spot and great views.  
2C, 4-5 miles, 1400 ft. gain  
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

**Sunday, June 22, 9 a.m.  
Middle & East Tiger**  
One way hike from South TMT to Hwy 18.  
4D, 12-13 miles, 2500 ft. gain  
Tom Palm, 206-783-6005

**Saturday, June 28, 9 a.m.  
Little Si**  
Popular hike with nice views.  
2B, 5 miles, 1200 ft. gain  
Bob Gross, 425-427-8449

**Saturday, June 28, 9:15 a.m.  
Women Walk Hikes (2)**  
Kitty Gross, 425-641-4393

**Sunday, June 29, 1 p.m.  
Cougar Mountain**  
Fantastic Erratic Loop  
2B, 5 miles, 1000 ft. gain  
Scott Semans, 425-369-1725



*continued from page 7*

seeing a coyote close up on the Tibbett's Marsh Trail."

Other family associations cited. "Taking a friend's eight-week old grandchild on her first hike," was recalled by Johnson, and "staying overnight with my kids during Return to Newcastle Days," was fondly remembered by Kappler.

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"I started hiking in 1980 and met this fellow Manning. He drew lines on maps of several of the Alps and said, 'These are going to be parks.' He had such great force of personality and such great contacts," Owen recalls.

"He was the glue, the catalyst. He got everything started," asserts Johnson.

Williams pointed out Manning's "unique way of saying things. And there is a lot to be said for having a just cause."

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In addition to Manning, Williams credits a number of county officials—also Owen and Kappler, who were also mentioned by Johnson.

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## Cougar 20th Anniversary: Celebration of a Priceless Treasure

by Doug Simpson

"To have the magic of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park available to us in such close proximity to our busy Puget Sound lives is an immeasurable boon...a priceless treasure." So wrote Charles McCrone in the Cougar Mountain guidebook. This "priceless treasure" became an official entity on June 5, 1983 when Randy Revelle and the King County Council voted the Newcastle Ordinance into law.

Since this "immeasurable boon" will be twenty years old in June, it is time for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club to celebrate and reminisce the special times, places and people that have made the Cougar Mountain park such a treasure.

"Every club member should consider the great chain of events Harvey Manning set into motion and nudged along, beginning with his vision for this park," says Steven Drew, President, IATC. "Harvey brought this vision to our elected representatives. As is often the case when an elected official votes for open space, the social value of the land saved from development is not widely recognized until long after the official's retirement. This celebration will provide us an opportunity to re-express our gratitude to Harvey and the many elected officials who created this regional asset for future generations,"

Harvey Manning tells of the "Day of Three Thunderstorms" at which he and others formed the IATC atop Cougar's Long View Peak in May of 1979 and in subsequent gatherings at the Rolling Log Tavern in Issaquah. Four years later, these hiking and environmental pioneers, against great odds, shepherded the park into existence. This park, the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, remains the largest urban wildland park in the United States, a fact to be enormously proud of.

Interviewed for this article were four of those pioneers—Manning, Barbara Johnson, Dave Kappler and Ralph Owen as well as Charles McCrone, one of its current stewards, and Steve Williams, King Country Parks manager.

***What about the park gives you the most personal satisfaction?***

Its location close to the city and bus lines with its wildness and solitude was cited by several. "I like the idea of just taking off," Barbara Johnson said. "Just grabbing my pack and going, without needing to plan way ahead."

"It's sheer size makes it a unit with long-time opportunities for wildlife and wildland to prevail," Dave Kappler pointed out.

"My four-year old has grown up hiking on Cougar," Charles McCrone boasts. "He's been on all the trails."

For Steve Williams, "I get real satisfaction seeing the vision come alive and seeing it working. . . seeing growth come back. . . seeing people using it and enjoying it."

***What is your favorite memory in the park?***

That is like asking which is your favorite child!" Harvey Manning exclaimed. "I've spent thousands of days in the park. Nothing in particular stands out."

"I first kissed my wife there on Thanksgiving Day of 1995," laughed McCrone, "but I also remember

*continued on page 10*

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it!" McCrone named the Tibbett's Marsh area as the first hike he did on Cougar. Kappler's preference for West Tibbetts and Bear Ridge is based on his involvement in initially figuring the boundaries, as well as his fondness for the local habitat.

Owen cited the Malignant Deceiver Ridge, Cabbage Creek area, for having the nicest trees in the park. Williams likes the Marshall Hill Trail, though he is bothered by trails lost on the periphery to a housing development and golf course.

### *What is your favorite place on Cougar?*

McCrone: "The Fantastic Erratic. It rests right in the middle of everything, and I just like to sit there and marvel."

Williams: "The Steam Hoist Mill Pond dam—it's a warm, friendly place with all that historic feeling."

Manning: "There are so many places; it's the variety that is special for me. . . the whole spirit of the park imbues you."

Kappler: "The top of the DeLeo Wall. It has such views, and it's a very interesting area. You can see it from South Center—it's the headland of the Issaquah Alps."

Both Owen and Johnson picked the AA Peak. "The Million Dollar View," said Owen. "It's such a nice open area," added Johnson. "I just like sitting there."

### *What is the park's greatest need today?*

"ETERNAL VIGILANCE!" exclaims Manning, whose words speak once again for the group.

Owen: "We need friends to make sure it doesn't get eroded or sold off. I'm afraid of politicians cutting the things we cherish the most."

## **Ralph Owen's Six Heroes**

1. HARVEY MANNING – for his leadership style and his ability to talk everyone into volunteering and backing projects.
2. BARBARA JOHNSON – she went with Manning to an incredible number of meetings, as his left and right hands. "The two of them beat on more ears."
3. RANDY REVELLE – the former King County Executive pushed hard for the park and the Newcastle Plan.
4. BRUCE LAING – a planner, a moderate Republic councilman who bought into the park concept early and helped put it over.
5. FRED ROUNDS – "the mayor of Cougar Mountain," its unofficial watchman who was always there "to make sure people didn't do stupid things."
6. STEVE WILLIAMS – the park manager who got so much done without much money. "He squeezed out so much with so little."

(Note: one could easily add a seventh hero to this list — Ralph Owen! —D.S.)

"I agree with Ralph," said McCrone. "We need people to volunteer and get involved, especially in maintenance and advocacy. Not enough people are giving."

*continued on page 12*

*continued from page 11*

"I'm scared when I see budget cuts happening everywhere," added Johnson. "We need protection. I hope the county government always has enough vision."

Williams pointed out the importance of having a coalition of friends to keep government honest, to retain the vision and the master plan. "This is a tremendous heritage and treasure. We need a new generation to pick up the torch and keep the vision."

On a different tack, Kappler urged that "strategic acquisitions need to be made in the east (of the park) to secure the logical boundaries and keep the wildlife connections."

Manning added: "The park needs the tender loving care that Steve Williams and his crew, and Charles McCrone and the IATC are making their ongoing work."

### ***How do you envision the park in 10 or 25 years?***

Johnson, Kappler and Manning all foresee an increasingly mature forest, with, as Johnson puts it, "trees growing even more and nature taking over—with lots of habitat for animals."

It has already changed tremendously from the 70's, Manning and Kappler point out. As Manning says, "Large areas are coming back, creating a different type of forest. A natural forest succession is taking place."

McCrone wants as much of Manning's original vision as possible fulfilled. "And we need to make sure we have connections to freeways, neighborhoods and between the other mountains."

"I'm confident that will happen," adds Williams. "The Mountain to Sound Greenways provides a unified approach."

Williams also cites the City of Issaquah Trail Plan which, if adopted, provides for a trail coordinator to be paid by four agencies—the City of Issaquah, King County, State Parks, and the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Williams also hopes for more interpretive signs and programs to explain the park's resources and history, and he hopes that eventually a real visitor center can be built, a place for historical artifacts.

Nearly five years ago Harvey Manning issued the position of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. "The Trails Club supports the principle that in this day and age, no public lands ever should be yielded to private ownership, that all public lands should be retained and any private lands needed by the public should be flat-out purchased."

As Charles McCrone wrote in his afterword to the Cougar Mountain guidebook:

*"...to compromise places like Cougar Mountain we risk our own souls. . .Such a place is unique—for lost and destroyed, we have, for all our skills and power, no tools to create it."*

### **Looking for hiking guides and maps to the Issaquah Alps ?**

Check out our back cover for a complete list of detailed hiking guides, trail maps and hikes for the entire family covering the Issaquah Alps.

# Hiking 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 unless severe conditions pose a safety hazard. 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 40 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.

## *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

*continued on page 14*

### *Hike Information, continued*

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.

### *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 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.

## **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!*

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 Publications Order Form

Return this completed form along with your check to:

Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications, P.O. Box 466, Issaquah, WA 98027

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

ITEM	PRICE*	QTY.	TOTAL
Book: The Flowering of the Issaquah Alps--Revised!	\$ 9.00		
Book: The Authoritative Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain Wildland Park and Surrounds	15.00**		
Book: Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain	15.00***		
Book: The Coals of Newcastle: A Hundred Years of Hidden History	15.00		
Book: Eastside Family Hikes	3.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Tiger Mountain, 1998 revision	2.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Cougar Mountain, 2001 revision	2.00		
Green Trails Map: Tiger & Taylor Mountains, Map 204S	7.00		
Green Trails Map: Cougar & Squak Mountains, Map 203S	7.00		
Green Trails Map: Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley Map 205S	7.00		
Green Trails Map: Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor, Map 206S	7.00		

\*All prices include shipping and handling.

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*One (1) IATC Cougar Mountain Map included.

\*\*\*One (1) IATC Tiger Mountain Map included.

## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Foundation and Membership Request Form

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

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

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



All donations are tax deductible. Your donations fund The Alpiner publication costs and the club's minimal operating costs first, with 100% of remaining funds being directed where they can best address the trail design, construction, maintenance and advocacy needs throughout the Issaquah Alps. **Note:** Membership does not require a donation; however, donations help us preserve and enhance your Issaquah Alps.

Annual donation levels:

- ☐ The basic hiker.....\$15      ☐ The project supporter.....\$25  
☐ The IATC sponsor.....\$50      ☐ The visionary.....\$100 and above

**IMPORTANT:** This form and your donation and/or membership request form should be mailed to: IATC Foundation, P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027

## Issaquah Alps Trails Club Publications

See page 15 for the publications order form.

Note: All of the following prices include shipping & handling.

- ☐ *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 many of the plants can be found. \$9.
- ☐ *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).
- ☐ *Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain*—By Bill Longwell. 2003 revised edition. Updated trail information, two new trails and numerous photographs. \$15 (includes map listed in next column).

- ☐ *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. 100+ photographs, 4 maps, and Tim O Brian s account of the incredible Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad. \$15.
- ☐ *Eastside Family Hikes*—By Peggy Barchi. 2001 revised and updated edition. Descriptions of family hikes (annotated for stroller use and picnicking) on the Eastside. \$3.
- ☐ *Green Trails Tiger & Taylor Mountain*. Map 204S. \$7 .
- ☐ *Green Trails Cougar & Squak Mountains*. Map 203S. \$7.
- ☐ *Green Trails Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley*, Map 205S. \$7.
- ☐ *Green Trails Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor*, Map 206S. \$7.
- ☐ *IATC Tiger Mountain map*. 1998 revised. \$2.
- ☐ *IATC Cougar Mountain map*. 2001 revised. \$2.

**Issaquah Alps Trail Club**  
**P.O. Box 351**  
**Issaquah, WA 98027**

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