

THE

ALPINE



July ♦ August ♦ September 2003

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

Wild Sky Wilderness Festival SAVE THE DATE!!!

Proponents for a new Wild Sky Wilderness along the north side of Highway 2 are hosting a festival on June 28th at Doolittle Park in the town of Index that they wish to invite IATC members to join. IATC supports the creation of the new Wild Sky Wilderness area.

The event will feature opportunities for guided hiking, horseback riding, birdwatching, fishing, kayaking, nature photography, rafting and climbing in the proposed wilderness area. Learn about this unique and diverse area of biologically rich low elevation forests, alpine meadows and peaks, and wild salmon streams.

Congressman Rick Larsen will speak at the event and a number of items donated by recreational and outdoor businesses will be raffled off. Food & fun for all!

The Wild Sky Wilderness Act passed the Senate and nearly passed the House last year. The bill has been reintroduced and could become the first National Forest Wilderness to be designated in Washington State in nearly 20 years. Come see why on June 28!

For more information, contact Susan Melrose at the Wild Washington Campaign, 206-633-1992, extension 108 or visit www.wildwashington.org.

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Cougar Mountain Trailwork by Doug Simpson

"Doing trailwork is an extension of what I get out of hiking," said Scott Semans. "It gives me the additional satisfaction of getting some work done."

Semans, who leads volunteer trailwork at two Cougar Mountain sites, has been working on trails since 1997 when he joined Volunteer Trail Maintenance Coordinator Charles McCrone. These days McCrone handles the scheduling and Semans is the technical on-site leader.

Last year Semans led 80 work parties, totaling over 1100 work hours. Unlike IATC's other trail crew, led by Chief Ranger Bill Longwell, Semans works solely with volunteers, most of whom are new each time. As a result, Semans is as much job foreman as he is worker.

"We have three goals," according to Semans. "First is to maintain safety. Second is to get people outdoors, both to appreciate it and to show what goes into making trails. And the third, of course, is to get some work done."

Assuming he has a minimum of four people, Semans works a full day on the first Sunday of each month, usually at the Licorice Fern Trail on Cougar's south end. Depending on the group, the IATC leader might shift to the Bear Ridge Trail on Cougar's east side. Semans attempted to maintain regular work parties there, but after four outings he had to drop them because the third

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The Apparatus

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

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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
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.

*...Festival**continued from page 1*

Additional Information:

On February 13th, 2003, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA 02) introduced the Wild Sky Wilderness Act of 2003 to designate 106,000 acres of National Forest land as the newest piece of our National Wilderness Preservation System - the first such congressional Wilderness designation in Washington State since 1984.

Senator Maria Cantwell was an original cosponsor, as were Representatives Norm Dicks, Jay Inslee, Brian Baird, Jim McDermott, Adam Smith and Jennifer Dunn. Representative Dunn's original co-sponsorship shows important bi-partisan support for the legislation.

Located just a few hours from over half of Washington's population, the Wild Sky is one of the most rugged and truly wild landscapes in the western Cascades. It lies in the heart of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and is a special mosaic of imposing mountain peaks, pristine alpine lakes, vast flower meadows, lush old-growth, and biologically rich low-elevation forests.

The North Fork Skykomish River and its tributaries provide one of the best remaining salmon and steelhead strongholds in the Puget Sound Basin.

A full range of recreation activities are enjoyed in this special wild country such as hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, rock climbing, alpine mountaineering, kayaking, whitewater rafting, as well as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.

*...Trailwork**continued from page 1*

Saturday gatherings weren't getting enough workers. Nevertheless, he often works this project alone.

Volunteers find Semans several ways. McCrone's monthly email to previous volunteers produces some workers. Stories in the "Alpiner" bring in other volunteers. Many of the workers make contact through the website "Volunteer Match" (www.volunteermatch.com). About one person in three who contacts him this way shows up, many apparently deterred by weather. Other sources include the "Volunteer Call" section of the Issaquah Press, people assigned community service work, and scout groups, most recently Troop 751.

The Licorice Fern Trail has been worked on since April 1998. In the past 18 months, Semans has been trying to upgrade it from a secondary trail to one up to park standards. "It's a tough trail. Creek trails are difficult to work on. Now we are down to technical aspects, making it more skill intensive, more structured."

At a time when volunteers seem harder to come by, Semans is looking for any group seeking a community service project, but he also wants some experienced help. "I teach people how to use tools and how to put a good trail in place and have fun doing it." He notes that besides performing a useful service, workers are getting good upper body exercise, especially to the lower back.

"I enjoy it," Semans says. "I enjoy seeing the results. For me, it's a personal thing. I can look at the day's work and see tangible results and feel good about it. Anyone who works on trails can feel pride in what they've done."

Semans also cited IATC members like Steve Drew and Beth Moursund, who work alone on pet projects. Like Semans, they are the "unsung heroes" who have found satisfaction in making area trails safer and more enjoyable for all hikers.

A Taylor Mountain Hiking Diary, Part One

(corrected from prior edition of *Alpiner*)

by Charles McCrone

Just before publication of the original article, King county staff suggested a few changes in its content, which changed the list of starting points mentioned (and their accompanying numbers). I failed to carefully integrate the changes and so several of the trail descriptions ended up nonsensical. Since the main point of the article was to give hikers concrete details on how to get started hiking on Taylor it was critical to reprint the article and get those details right!

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 there becoming 276th), just south of highway 18, there is a clear woods road, gate and parking area
- 2) take 276th Avenue then take a left on 208th Street, then a left onto 298th Avenue. At the north end of 298th (mistakenly marked as 295th on the Green Trails map) is a gated woods road which is the great meeting point for most of the lower elevation Taylor trails. And also:
- 3) I found out about this one not from the map but from King County folks: If you stay on 208th (as in #2 previous) past 298th, the road will wind around 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 begun in the middle from the woods road mentioned in 2). Starting from 2) 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 2) 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 peels 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 ecologi-

cal contrast between the two properties. There is 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 if 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.

Italian-Austrian Hike n' Bike Trip

HIKERS WANTED for Italian Dolomites hiking and Tyrol, Austria biking adventure, Sept. 3-19, 2003. Guide for the Italian Dolomites is Francesco Greco, native of Milan, Italy and author of local hiking guides. The Austria Tyrol section is guided by Franz Lahr of Alpbach, Austria. Escorted from Seattle by Jack & Donna Melill (Issaquah Alps Trail Club).

Hike and bike the spectacular Alps at a relaxed paced with a small group. Romantic and appealing local hotels, Ten-speed bikes included and many delicious meals. Round trip air over the North Pole using Scandinavian Airlines, with Venice, Milan, Verona and Innsbruck sightseeing. By train over Brenner Pass.

All participants will become members of the Italian Alpine Club. For more info, contact Jack Melill at 425-313-4632, jack.melill@Juno.com or at 25406 SE 138th, Issaquah, WA 98027.

In Memory of Bill Kristy

by Roger Johnson

About one year ago, I was leading my usual quarterly hike on Cougar. This one was to Far Country Lookout with a side trip to Coal Creek Falls. One of the folks on the hike was a personal friend, Bill Kristy. Bill has hiked much of Cougar and Coal Creek Parks. He knew the trail better than I did!

While leading the hike, I did my regular spiel about how the park came to be: that it did not just appear magically, that it took hours of lobbying the King County Council during the Newcastle Community Plan hearings, that it took lots of folks leading hikes so folks could "vote with their feet" (as Harvey Manning so eloquently said many a time), that it took lots of folks volunteering to build and maintain trails, create trail signs, participate in Newcastle History Days, write letters, write guidebooks, make phone calls...you get the idea. Bill was impressed.

In fact, Bill was so impressed that when he died after a three year battle with lung cancer (and he never had a cigarette in his life), his family requested that in lieu of flowers, folks send donations to the Trails Club for a memorial to him on Cougar. Bill had lots of friends. They donated to the tune of \$7,000 plus. The King County Parks staff (Steve Williams and crew) will replace a bridge near the North Falls of Coal Creek and refurbish the interpretive kiosk at Red Town. By the time you read this, all this work should be finished or well under way.

I am leading a hike to the Falls for Bill's family and friends as a Memorial Walk in June. We will pause and have a quiet moment in remembrance of Bill's life.

One never knows the good we do until much later....

Greenwater Lakes

by Jack Melill

Norse Wilderness-Greenwater Lakes. Nice early season hike through magnificent old growth forest to two charming lakes, about 2-2.5 miles little elevation gain and some great bridges over the river.

Drive Forest Road 70 about 9.5 miles, turn right into trailhead parking lot for the start (Forest Pass required). The turnoff onto FSR#70 is 3 miles past the hamlet of **Greenwater** on the **Crystal Mountain** highway 15 miles from **Enumclaw**.

Hike the wide well maintained trail (no snow-little mud) crossing the **Greenwater** on nice new (grand) bridges. Reach the first lake in about 45 mins. to an hour, continue another _ mile to the second larger lake and a good lunch spot or turn around. The trail continues on to **Lost Lake** 7 more miles or **Echo Lake**. Snow level starts at 4,000 feet.

See **Harvey Manning's** trail guide for better directions.

Mt. Si-Rattlesnake Ledge Report May 17, 2003

Hiked the old trail up from **Rattlesnake Lake** with peekaboo views of new trail being readied to open June or July. New trail being constructed by **Washington Trails Association** will be a vast improvement. Bits of mud, lots of roots to first popular ledge overlook. Enjoyed a bevy of Ground Squirrels at lunch - they do very well here. Noticed nice pile of gravel for new lower trail on way down and improved switchbacks. About 2-2.5 miles one way and over a 1,000 foot elevation gain. Old signs don't agree on mileage. Parking at **Rattlesnake Lake** - no trail pass required.

The Holly Tree

by Bill Longwell

It's always been a great pleasure for me while walking some Issaquah Alps trail to come upon a wild English Holly tree, often buried deep within some forest. I knew the location of many holly trees, and often at Christmas-time would carry branches home for Christmas decorations.

On rare occasions, I'd find a tree that bore red berries. I think I know of only three such berried holly trees in the whole Issaquah Alps. These locations I treasure, and I was careful to tell few others of my finds.

By the way, those three trees still stand, alone, in the forest, hidden away.

English Holly is not native to Washington forests. It no doubt has been propagated by birds. Numerous holly farms surround the Issaquah Alps and surrounding forests, so it's not hard to see why individual holly trees exist.

Mary Cadigan, long-time Issaquah Alps member and plant expert, is also a member of the Washington Native Plant Society. She relates that the Native Plant Society is unhappy about all the non-native holly trees that grow in our forests.

I'm not sure what the Society plans to do about the proliferation of holly trees. It would be impossible to eradicate these trees, but perhaps the Society has a plan. We'll see.

Anyway, it was always my secret goal to dig up some wild holly tree and transplant it to my yard. I kept my eyes open for a suitable specimen.

In fall, 1992, I found my perfect holly tree on Snoqualmie Ridge, then a wild area of Weyerhaeuser's Snoqualmie Tree Farm. It grew alongside a 25 year-old logging road. This was five years before the Snoqualmie Ridge

Development began and the Ridge was then my private hiking reserve.

So, one old November day I hiked three miles from my home, shovel in hand, some rope and my backpack frame, and walked to my prized holly tree, then about four feet tall.

Right away, I learned that Holly trees often grow from runners from a nearby tree. I also learned that besides a million roots, holly trees have a DEEP-growing tap root and that it would be impossible to get at the whole root. I dug it up anyway.

I carried it home on my back three miles, planted it in an already prepared space and hoped for the best.

My neighbor, watching my project, predicted the worst. And, she was right; partially.

The tree began to brown and seemed to die. I cut it right back to within a foot from the ground, thinking my long thought-about project was a failure.

However, in the spring, new growth appeared on the cutback tree. I felt somewhat vindicated.

And, in the past ten years, the tree has been reborn and now stands six feet tall. It is still my perfect holly tree.

I have always felt somewhat guilty for digging up that tree, until I saw what happened on the Ridge. The Ridge is now all sidewalks and 1000 houses, soon to be 2500 houses. And more in the offing.

The old location of my holly tree is the exact location of the Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Course Clubhouse.

Friday, July 4, 9 a.m.
Cougar Mountain

Half day look hike to Wilderness Peak
2C. 4 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Friday, July 4, 7:30 p.m.
Poo Poo Point

Night hike to watch fireworks. Bring flashlights and warm clothes
2C. 4.5 miles, 1700 ft. gain
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

Saturday, July 5, 9 a.m.
W. Tiger 2

Hike up from high pint to great views
3D. 8.9 miles, 2700 ft. gain
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

Saturday, July 5, 10 a.m.
Twin Falls Family Hike (slow pace)

Easy hike for young and old. Beautiful walk along river past ancient trees to several vistas of beautiful falls. #5 State parking fee to be shared.
2B. 3 miles, 600 ft. gain
David Langrock, 425-313-1971

Sunday, July 6, 9 a.m.
Cedar Butte

New trail to nice views.
2B. 5 miles, 1000 ft. gain
Jackie Hughes, 425-461-3815

Sunday, July 6, 9 a.m.

Trail maintenance work party. All volunteers welcome.
Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

Thursday, July 10, 6 a.m.
W. Tiger 3

Sunrise workout hike. Fast pace
1C. 5 miles, 2,000 ft. gain
David Langrock, 425-313-1971
(Please call to confirm with leader)

Friday, July 11, 6 p.m.
Squak Mountain

"Beat the dark" hike from Mountainside to Central Peak and views of Seattle.
2C. 4 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Aaron Shaw, 425-391-1600

Saturday, July 12, 9 a.m.
Tradition Lake Plateau

Loop hike from Trail Center. Some discussion of plants and history.
2B. 5 miles, 600 ft. gain
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

Saturday, July 12, 9:30 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
Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

Sunday, July 13, 9:30 a.m.
Poo Poo Point

Popular hike to nice views.
2C. 7 miles, 1900 ft. gain
Bob Gross, 425-427-8449

Thursday July 17, 9:30 a.m.
N.W. Cougar

Full circle from Redtown to AA Peak.
2B. 6 miles, 900 ft. gain
Warren Jones, 425-391-7409

Saturday, July 19, 8:30 a.m.
Rattlesnake Ledges (3)

Come celebrate WTA Trail Fest, hike new trail to great views
2C. 5 miles, 1400 ft. gain
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

Saturday, July 19, 9 a.m.
Cedar Butte

New trail to nice viewpoint. Part of Trailfest hikes.
2B. 5 miles, 1100 ft. gain
Tom Palm, 206-783-6005

Saturday, July 19, 10 a.m.
Tiger Mountain

Nook loop to Talus caves. Slow pace.
2B. 5 miles, 700 ft. gain
Trudy Ecob, 206-232-2933

Sunday, July 20, 8:30 a.m.
Cougar Mountain Traverse

We'll climb to Radar Peak via the Orchards trail and Peggy's Trail, then continue across to Wilderness Peak; then descend to W. Peak Trailhead.
Car shuttle.
3C. 8-9 miles, 1800 ft. gain
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

Thursday, July 24, 6 a.m.
Poo Poo Point

Another workout hike. Fast Pace.
1C. 5 miles, 1700 ft. gain
David Langrock, 425-313-1971
(Please confirm with leader)

Saturday, July 26, 9 a.m.
Cougar Mountain

Loop hike around AA Peak with stop at clay pit rim for lunch.
2B. 5 miles, 700 +/- ft. gain
Jamie McKenzie, 425-746-6683

Saturday, July 26, 9:15 a.m.
Woman Walk Hikes (1)

Kitty Gross, 425-641-4393

Sunday, July 27, 9 a.m.
Cougar Mountain

Loop hike to Wilderness Peak and Longview Peak with via Shy Bear Trail.
2C. 6.5 miles, 1900 ft. gain
Aaron Shaw, 425-391-1600

Monday, July 28, 7 p.m.
Board Meeting

Trail Center, 1st and Bush, Issaquah

Tuesday, July 29, 9 a.m.
Cougar Mountain

Nice hike up Coal Creek trail to Redtown. Small loop on return.
2B. 6 miles, 700 ft. gain
Peggy Owen, 425-746-1070

Thursday, July 31, 6 a.m.
Rattlesnake Ledges (3)
Another workout hike. Fast pace.
1C. 5 miles, 1400 ft. gain
David Langrock, 425-313-1971
(Please confirm with leader)

Saturday, August 2, 9 a.m.
South Tiger Loop

Hike South TMT to Otter Lake. Return via S. Tiger Traverse. New lunch site with 360 degree views.
2C. 7 miles, 1600 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Sunday, August 3, 9 a.m.
Cedar Butte

New trails to nice views
2B. 5 miles, 1000 ft. gain
Jackie Hughes, 425-641-3815

Sunday, August 3, 9 a.m.
Trail maintenance work party. All volunteers welcome.
Scott Seman, 425-369-1725

Saturday, August 9, 9 a.m.

Tradition Lake and Talus Caves.

Loop hike from trail center to Tradition Lake, around lakes, up on Talus Caves trail, down section line and more.
2B. 6-7 miles, 1200 ft. gain
Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

Saturday, August 9, 10 a.m.
Tradition Lake Plateau

Loop hike from Trail Center. Some discussion of plants and history.
2B. 5 miles, 600 ft. gain
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

Saturday, August 9, 1 p.m.
May Creek Trail

Joint hike with Newcastle Trails Club. New trail on old railroad from mines on Cougar. Opening ceremony with goodies for hikers. Family hike.
2A. 4 miles, 50 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435
Jody Yoder, 425-271-4025

Sunday, August 10, 8 a.m.
W. Rattlesnake Loop

Climb to views of the Snoqualmie Valleys via some of Rattlesnake Mountain's lesser used trails. Possible exploration of the elusive North Ridge route.
4D. 10 miles, 3000 ft. gain
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

Thursday, August 14, 9 a.m.
Cougar Mountain

Family hike. Easy loop around AA peak. Slow pace.
2A. 4 miles, 500 ft. gain
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

Saturday, August 16, 10 a.m.
Tiger Mountain

Nook loop to Talus caves. Slow pace.
2B. 5 miles, 700 ft. gain
Trudy Ecob, 206-232-2933

Sunday, August 17, 9 a.m.
Tiger Mountain

Traverse of lower West Tiger. Up Poo Poo Point trail from Trail Center, then West Tiger RR grade to TMT. Car shuttle.
3C. 10-11 miles, 2000 ft. gain
Tom Palm, 206-783-6005

Sunday, August 17, 10:30 p.m.
Cougar Mountain

Up Bear Ridge trail past "Fantastic Erratic," down middle Tibbetts Creek.
2B. 3 miles, 800 ft. gain
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

Wednesday, August 20, 1 p.m.
Cougar Mountain

Family hike. Easy loop around AA peak. Slow pace.
2A. 4 miles, 500 ft. gain
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6600

Saturday, August 23, 9 a.m.
Squak Mountain Summits

Loop hike from North to Central Peak, Bullitt Fireplace, West Peak and onto great views of Mt. Rainier.
2C. 5-6 miles, 1700 ft. gain
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

Sunday, August 24, 9 a.m.
Poo Poo Point

One way hike, up Chirico trail to great views. Car shuttle.
2C. 7 miles, 1900 ft. gain
Frank Gilliland, 425-603-0454

Tuesday, August 26, 7 p.m.
Hike Leader's Meeting

Saturday, August 30, 9 a.m.
East Tiger Mountain

Hike up seldom used trails to Main Tiger peak and nice views. Return via Main Tiger Mountain road.
2C. 7 miles, 1700 ft. gain
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435

Monday, September 1, 9 a.m. (Labor Day)
Squak Mountain Traverse

One-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

Saturday, September 6, 9 a.m.
Cougar Mountain

Wilderness Peak loop with side trip to Longview Peak.
2C. 5 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Karen Van Pelt, 425-747-9381

Sunday, September 7, 9 a.m.
Trail maintenance work party. All volunteers welcome.
Scott Seman, 425-369-1725

Sunday, September 7, 9:30 a.m.
Tiger Mountain

Hike north TMT past Ruth's cove to third bridge.
2C. 6-7 miles, 1600 ft. gain
Jamie McKenzie, 425-746-6683

Saturday, September 13, 9:00 a.m.

W. Tiger 3 Loop.

Hike to popular destination via the quiet route.
2C. 8 miles, 2400 ft. gain
Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

Saturday, September 13, 1:00 p.m.
Tradition Lake Plateau

Loop hike from Trail Center. Some discussion of plants and history.
2B. 5 miles, 600 ft. gain
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

Sunday, September 14, 9 a.m.
East Rattlesnake Tower

Hike up to and past the ledges to highest peak on Rattlesnake Mountain.
3D. 8-9 miles, 2700 ft. gain
Doug Simpson, 425-392-6660

Sunday, September 14, 10:30 a.m.
Cougar Mountain

Discover 100 years of hidden history at old Newcastle.
2A. 3 miles, 200 ft. gain
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

Tuesday, September 16, 9 a.m.
Mt. Si - Moss Vistas

Hike to seldom visited mossy vistas (3-5) on Mt. Si
2C. 6 miles, 1700 ft. gain
Peggy Owen, 425-746-1070

Saturday, September 20, 9 a.m.
Little Si

Popular hike with nice views
2C. 5 miles, 1300 ft. gain
Aaron Shaw, 425-391-1600

Sunday, September 21, 8 a.m.
Squak Mountain

Long rambling hike to all the best places on Squak. Moderate pace.
4D. 10-12 miles, 2500 ft. gain
David Langrock, 425-313-1971

Saturday, September 27, 9:15 a.m.
Women Walk Hikes (1)
Kitty Gross, 425-641-4393

Sunday, September 28, 9 a.m.
Trail maintenance work party. All volunteers welcome.
Scott Seman, 425-369-1725

Sunday, September 28, 9 a.m.
Issaquah

Historic stroll through parks and open spaces along Issaquah Creek in downtown Issaquah to Pickering Barn.
2A. 5 miles, no gain
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571

Tiger Mountain Guide

Bill Longwell's GUIDE TO THE TRAILS OF TIGER MOUNTAIN has recently been reissued—for the ninth time since its May 1980 debut. The basics of Tiger Mountain's definitive guide, written by the IATC's chief ranger, are essentially the same, but the book does have changes, some significant enough to focus upon.

First off, the book is nicer looking, white with a color photograph on the front. It makes the previous cover look like something from another century, which it was. In fact, the major change throughout the book is the numerous photos by Larry Hanson that grace its pages. The previous drawings were nice, but they weren't photos. It's too bad, though, that more of the drawings couldn't be retained without ballooning the pages of the book, which is actually one page smaller, 87 versus 88 in the 1998 printing.

Two new hikes have been added to the book: the Chirico Trail from the Hobart Road directly up to Poo Poo Point, and the Snoqualmie Ridge Loop. Also added were explanations of three TMT sites—Fred's Corner, Larry's Crossing and Ron's Corner. The end of the book now includes the list of other IATC publications on the last page. That page and the title page have the added feature of listing the IATC website.

Besides most of the drawings, missing from the new edition are the DNR map of the Tiger Mountain State Forest (of limited usefulness anyway) and the final four pages of the previous edition, called "Plants Close to the Ground," which would have been nice to retain for those who are botanically challenged.

The book, selling for \$15, can be ordered from the form in this publication. With its more appealing look and amazing details of Tiger Mountain hikes, it should be a strong seller for years to come.

Plan to Attend Trailsfest On July 19th

A free, large, hands-on event for all ages, Trailsfest, is planned for July 19th, 9:30-5:30 at Rattlesnake Lake near North Bend (I-90 exit 32, then south 4 miles to the lake).

Sponsored by Washington Trails Association, Trailsfest offers families or individuals of all ages numerous opportunities to explore and experience outdoor adventures in a safe and learning environment.

Attendees can participate in a guided IATC or other organization's hikes, or try kayaking, plant identification, trail maintenance, aquatic biology, enjoy wagon rides, join a Cedar River watershed tour, learn to pack with llamas or plan your hiking trip, or about nature photography.

Dozens of local companies and non-profits will also be on hand to share their expertise and products. Learn about new outdoor gear or talk with local rangers about where to hike or camp. Trailsfest is the one-stop-shop for learning all you need to know to enjoy Washington's great outdoors.

Last year over 1500 enthusiasts enjoyed Trailsfest and a bigger and better event is planned this year. For more information visit www.wta.org or call 206-625-1367.

The Holly Tree

by Bill Longwell

It's always been a great pleasure for me while walking some Issaquah Alps trail to come upon a wild English Holly tree, often buried deep within some forest. I knew the location of many holly trees, and often at Christmas-time would carry branches home for Christmas decorations.

On rare occasions, I'd find a tree that bore red berries. I think I know of only three such berried holly trees in the whole Issaquah Alps. These locations I treasure, and I was careful to tell few others of my finds.

By the way, those three trees still stand, alone, in the forest, hidden away.

English Holly is not native to Washington forests. It no doubt has been propagated by birds. Numerous holly farms surround the Issaquah Alps and surrounding forests, so it's not hard to see why individual holly trees exist.

Mary Cadigan, long-time Issaquah Alps member and plant expert, is also a member of the Washington Native Plant Society. She relates that the Native Plant Society is unhappy about all the non-native holly trees that grow in our forests.

I'm not sure what the Society plans to do about the proliferation of holly trees. It would be impossible to eradicate these trees, but perhaps the Society has a plan. We'll see. Anyway, it was always my secret goal to dig up some wild holly tree and transplant it to my yard. I kept my eyes open for a suitable specimen.

In fall, 1992, I found my perfect holly tree on Snoqualmie Ridge, then a wild area of Weyerhaeuser's Snoqualmie Tree Farm. It grew alongside a 25 year-old logging road. This was five years before the Snoqualmie Ridge

Development began and the Ridge was then my private hiking reserve.

So, one old November day I hiked three miles from my home, shovel in hand, some rope and my backpack frame, and walked to my prized holly tree, then about four feet tall.

Right away, I learned that Holly trees often grow from runners from a nearby tree. I also learned that besides a million roots, holly trees have a DEEP-growing tap root and that it would be impossible to get at the whole root. I dug it up anyway.

I carried it home on my back three miles, planted it in an already prepared space and hoped for the best.

My neighbor, watching my project, predicted the worst. And, she was right, partially. The tree began to brown and seemed to die. I cut it right back to within a foot from the ground thinking my long thought-about project was a failure.

However, in the spring, new growth appeared on the cutback tree. I felt somewhat vindicated. And, in the past ten years, the tree has been reborn and now stands six feet tall. It is still my perfect holly tree.

I have always felt somewhat guilty for digging up that tree, until I saw what happened on the Ridge. The Ridge is now all sidewalks and 1000 houses, soon to be 2500 houses. And more in the offing.

The old location of my holly tree is the exact location of the Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Course Clubhouse.

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Many Trail Projects Underway in the I-90 Greenway Corridor

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust recently hosted a "Trails Forum" for all interested persons desiring a complete overview of ongoing and future trail-related activities along the Greenway corridor. The Mountains to Sound Greenway is a 100-mile long connected landscape of forestland, trails, farms, forests, and recreational sites paralleling the I-90 corridor from Seattle to Thorp. (see www.mtsgreenway.org for more information).

The forum was attended by representatives from all public land management agencies (USFS, State Parks, State DNR, King County Parks), trail-related organizations (WTA, VOW, IATC, SVTC, BCHW, BBTC, Mountaineers), and many other environmental, governmental, or business interests. The goal of the forum was to share information on specific projects, foster collaborative efforts amongst attendees, and to ensure that everyone was aware of the many activities underway. It was suggested that Northwest Trail magazine readers would welcome a report on the broad range of trail activities that were discussed since it's difficult to find a single source for so much trail-related information. Thus, a brief summary of several topics of interest follows:

- **Ollalie Area Mountain Bike Study:** A major study has been completed of potential new mountain bike and hiker routes stretching from Mt. Washington to Humpback Mountain along the south side of I-90. State Parks may seek grant funds for an initial trail construction effort on Mt. Washington. State Parks also reported completion of four new campsites on the John Wayne Trail (JWT) at Alice, Carter, Cold, and Roaring creeks, complete with tent pads, restroom, and nearby water source. A large, new western terminus trailhead is now open for the JWT at Rattlesnake Lake, four miles south of I-90 at Exit 32.

- **Rattlesnake Mountain Trails:** A new Rattlesnake Ledges Trail will open on June 7th for the 50,000 users/year who enjoy the spectacular views. 20,000 volunteer hours, much from WTA, were combined with \$45,000 in funding from City of Seattle for this major effort. The new trail is 2 miles vs. 1.3 previously, and offers a less steep grade and much improved trail tread. Reconstruction of major portions of the 11-mile cross-Rattlesnake Trail are underway and will continue over the summer with a plan to relocate the trail off existing roads and private land. A 2-year planning process is underway for a new 50-vehicle trailhead to be located near the old winery site at Exit 27, and a new viewpoint park is planned for the winery site.

- **Bandera Mountain Trail:** VOW reported that a new trail is now 80% complete and is expected to be fully complete this summer. The new route switchbacks nicely up the hillside, offering dramatic views and a new connection to Mason Lake.

- **CCC Road/Trail:** A 2.5 mile missing link connector of this Middle Fork Snoqualmie trail is expected to be complete by summer's end and will tie in with a planned USFS campground and the large Middle Fork trailhead located nearby.

- **Middle Fork Trail:** Another season of maintenance work will start in August, involving Earthcorps, Greenway, WTA, and BCHW. Efforts are to harden soft areas and install structures where needed. Analysis work is underway by the USFS for bridges across Thunder and Burntboot Creeks.

- **Pratt River Trail:** In a USFS analysis process now with a decision expected by end of summer on whether to improve and formalize this trail.

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- High Lakes Trail (Snow to Gem Lake): USFS received a NOVA grant for reconstruction of this segment. Further reconstruction efforts are planned for the Snoqualmie Lake and McClellan Butte Trails but not till 2005. USFS also received a NOVA grant to field a 5-person trail maintenance crew to focus on trails in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and Middle Fork Snoqualmie areas.

- Mt Si trails: Enhancements are partially complete. A loop route on the Little Si trail is now open with other new routes in the Mt. Si area planned.

- Mailbox Peak Trail: Reroute and trail design work will occur this summer with expectations of applying for grant funding to construct the trail beginning in 2004. Design work is funded by the Spring Family Trail Fund. The goal is a more user-friendly day use hike to the top of Mailbox Peak.

- Greenway Trails Assessment Project: Funded by a NOVA grant, a broad assessment of maintenance needs will begin this summer for all trails from Squak Mountain to Snoqualmie Pass. The intent is to create a thorough log of prioritized trail work that's needed to serve as the basis for future volunteer projects and grant applications, as well as the most efficient application of limited trail maintenance resources.

- Taylor Mountain Forest Public Use Plan: A public use plan for Taylor Mountain Forest and areas of the Raging River is underway with the intent to create a master plan for trails and public use in this area.

In addition to these specific projects, a huge amount of trail maintenance work continues to be done by dedicated volunteers from WTA, VOW, IATC, SVTC, and others, as well as by agency staff. As you can see, there's lots of good trail

improvements underway or planned that will continue to enhance hiking opportunities in the most easily accessible area east of Puget Sound.

Cougar Mountain Park 20th Anniversary Celebrated in Style

On June 7th, a large crowd of park supporters, IATC members, and past and present King County officials gathered on top of Anti-Aircraft Peak in Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park in order to commemorate the 20th anniversary of county efforts to acquire and protect this now 3,000+ acre wildland park. Speakers included King County Executive Ron Sims, Parks Director Bob Burns, Councilmen Larry Phillips and Robb McKenna, former county executive Randy Revelle, and former councilmen Bill Reams and Gary Grant. IATC members led three guided hikes after the speeches, and provided a barbeque lunch for many hungry participants.

Mr. Revelle's direct, personal commitment to creating Cougar Mountain Park was acknowledged as was the persistence and drive of IATC founder Harvey Manning over the years. The park today is even larger than envisioned at initial planning, providing a lasting legacy and illustrating the sustained commitment of successive administrations in King County government.

The 20th anniversary event was conceived and organized by IATC board member Doug Simpson, who deserves congratulations for planning such a special event. Doug was assisted by Steve Drew, Kitty Gross, Scott Semans, David Langrock, Fred Zeitler, Ralph Owen, Barbara Johnson, other IATC members, and King County Parks staff in preparing for the event. Thanks to all those who contributed!

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 18 should be accompanied by an adult. Please, no dogs 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 40 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 dogs. Please leave your dogs 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 at the same place as hikes (see above). 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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The basic hiker.....\$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> The project supporter.....\$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The IATC sponsor.....\$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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
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