

# THE ALPINE



July ♦ August ♦ September 2007

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

## **SNO. PT. PARK TO OPEN SOON**

Snoqualmie Point Park will be open to the public sometime this summer. The 8.5 acre park, called a “hidden jewel” by officials, is nearly finished with its \$1.6 million construction/renovation.

IATC has for years led hikes from the site, formerly property of a winery before it burned down in 1999, but soon it will serve a broader function as park as well as trailhead. A covered viewing perch—with panoramic views across the Snoqualmie Valley to Mount Si and the Cascades—will serve as a lookout point, encircled by a basalt wall.

Parking spots, a picnic site and restrooms will be featured as well, along with the old 500-seat amphitheater, which will eventually be refurbished.

“It’s a beautiful park, and we wanted it to be a really timeless and enduring place,” said Nancy Keith, executive director of Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, which has worked with the city of Snoqualmie on the project.

In addition, the Trust has built a new trailhead to Rattlesnake Mountain



## **MANNING STATUE**

Harvey Manning founded the Issaquah Alps Trails Club back in 1979. He served as its president for ten critical years, overseeing countless critical battles over greenspace and parkland in the Issaquah Alps (which he named) and far beyond. Area hikers now have a chance to show their gratitude for all Mr. Manning did for them by helping the IATC fund a statue in his honor.

The IATC is currently soliciting funds from organizations and individuals who would like to support the project of constructing a statue of Mr. Manning in the downtown Issaquah area. The cost would be far beyond IATC’s ability to pay for it. Donors of \$1000 or more will have their names placed on a plaque attached to the statue.

Anyone interested in supporting this project can send checks of \$25 or greater to the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, PO Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027. Please mark Manning Fund on your check to earmark the funds.

## **SIMS PROPOSES COUNTY LEVIES**

Trails and open space in King County are potentially in line for a major boost, as County Executive Ron Sims has proposed \$210 million in tax levies. The proposed package, which consists of two six-year property tax levies, is a renewal of the existing maintenance and operations levy.

Among the benefits of the levies would be an extended East Lake Sammamish Trail, expanded work on other county trails, support of Seattle’s Woodland Park Zoo, and open space acquisitions.

Besides completing the 11-mile East Lake Sammamish Trail, the levy monies would develop connections to neighboring pathways, such as Redmond’s Bear Creek Trail, and a link to the Sammamish River Trail.

Surveys showed great demand for walking and hiking trails. A citizen’s task force emphasized the need for more regional recreation facilities.

“Opportunities to preserve open space and trail corridors for our fast-growing region are increasingly scarce,” the task force report states.

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# The Apparatus

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

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Issaquah Alps Trails Club  
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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: [d.simpson@msn.com](mailto:d.simpson@msn.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.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Doug Simpson

In my years with the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, I have become familiar, directly and indirectly, with an assortment of truly outstanding and dedicated people, men and women who have given the club its rich history and legacy. Most of them are strong-willed, independent and determined individuals. Sometimes, as one might expect, their personalities have clashed, occasionally leading to rifts within the ranks. These are people who have stood up to politicians and demanded action; they have explored forests and opened them with countless trails throughout the Issaquah Alps; they have led thousands of hikes to share their domain; and they have taken on numerous challenges to quickly repair the ravages of nature's periodic destruction. And none of them have ever been paid a nickel for their efforts.

Life is evolution, though. Times change. Some of these great leaders have died, others have retired, and all others are aging and more limited in what they can give. Similarly, evolution has forced these folks to make adjustments to their contributions.

No longer can a handful of these heroes decide to go out and build a new trail to open up new areas of the woods, new vistas. No longer can these individuals decide on their own to construct a new bridge here or erect a shelter there.

Evolution has changed that. Today no projects can be undertaken without consultation—and perhaps written application—with officials from King County, Washington State Parks, the City of Issaquah, or the State Department of Natural Resources. All these constituencies are aware of IATC's vast contributions over the years, but today they must insist on planned development and coordinated activity. This

is the modern way. It is, alas, a necessary part of evolution.

But these agencies and you, readers, should never forget the marvelous efforts of IATC's dedicated, pioneer individualists, the people who built the club's reputation.

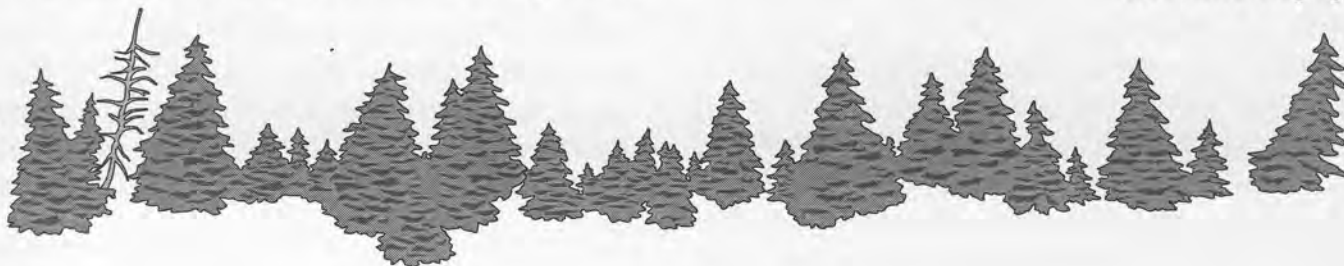
### UNSUNG HERO #7

In earlier installments of my "Unsung Hero" feature, I have focused on people who have not been widely recognized for their contributions to IATC and its members. In my last few columns (my four years as president end next January), I'm going to feature individuals who have made enormous contributions over the years, people who have received recognition, but who may not be widely known by today's more recent hikers/members. In any pantheon of IATC's heroes, BILL LONGWELL has to rank in the handful of its greatest members.

You are familiar with Longwell if you read the articles in this publication. Bill is a storehouse of information with a wealth of classic stories to share. As editor of this publication, if I need a feature or two all I have to do is ask Bill—and shortly I will have new articles ready for publication, and I know they will be of high literary quality, as Bill is a retired English teacher.

If you hike Tiger Mountain, Bill is the author of the definitive work, *GUIDE TO TRAILS OF TIGER MOUNTAIN*, now in its tenth edition. Longwell, of course, was the architect and builder of the 16-mile Tiger Mountain Trail, the longest and most demanding hike in the Issaquah Alps.

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# REFLECTIONS ON COUGAR

## Part Two

By Harvey Manning

(Ed. Note: In the previous Alpinist, we presented Mr. Manning's notes on the months of March and April. The series continues with May and June this time.)

### MAY

Rain pelting, drenching. The birds are affrighted by a blackness. Flash-bang! A clean miss, but bend the neck to show respect. Gusts sway the forest canopy. Trunks pressed against the sweet-flowing breast loosen grip on the teat. Which way to jump when they go down? A Giant Hand draws back the curtain, the sun explodes.

How green is my mountain! The very air feels green. The extravaganza is shoveled on many feet thick dot-dot-dotted by Pointillist whites and yellows and reds and blues, tra la la.

Pink acres of bleeding heart. An incandescence of candyflower in shadows beneath solidly massed leaves of alder and maple and loveliest of trees, the cherry, now is hung with snow along the bough.

Vanilla leaf, sweet-after-death, Mayflower reminds me to pluck a handful for the pocket where the cigarettes used to be.

Bigleaf avens, newly distinguished from the buttercup. Plumes of solomon's seal, the most overpowering perfume of the forest, evoking houris of the sultan's seraglio. The star-flowered solomon's seal, chaste companion of the veronica, wearing the sweet visage of the saint. Ginger blossoms shyly hiding beneath the leaf. Starflower and foamflower, the names say all that needs to be said.

Blossoms, now of wild blackberry, looking toward July's pies, and wild strawberry, tiny sweets not for gathering but popping in the mouth parched by the sun. Thimbleberry blossoms at last, months behind its companion, the salmonberry, that now offers big yellow mouthsful to walkers, two legs or four. The

Indian plum ripens, mostly seed, so the bear strips the branches and eats plum and seed and leaves and bugs and all. The tall mahonia is yellow-blooming and its low sibling, the Oregon grape, is setting fruit to be boiled up for syrup that gives zip to jelly.

Call the police. The party is getting out of hand. Honeysuckle, vetch, blackcap, baldhip rose (good tea, they say), Nootka rose, fairy bells, twisted stalk, mountain ash. New friends looked up in the book—miterwort, fringe cup. Ah, thee I know well indeed, forget-me-not, and I pluck a nosegay for my button-hole to show my allegiance to Henry VII.

A barn swallow swoops and loops. A hummingbird checks the colors of my shirt for nectar. Hawks screech me on. A grouse trails her broken wing (fake!) to lure me from the hidey-place of her chicks. The aria of the song sparrow. The "Hee! Hoo!" of the flicker. Why, owl, are you "Hoo Hooing" at the sun? A pileated woodpecker urges me to get the hell out. Stellar jays scold me for having no peanuts to hand out as I do at the 200-meter hut. A treeful of bandtail pigeons takes loud flight—large birds, for takeoff a hundred big wings must stir up a whole forestful of air. "Caw! Caw!" of a swaggering band of corbies.

Caterpillars tenting up the alders. A snake wiggles past my boot. Flies chew me in the sun. Mosquitoes bleed me in the shade. Ah, the bumblebees!

### JUNE

Sun sucks puddles to mud. Clouds refill. A thousand solar shafts pierce the masses of leaves to forest floor. Swaying alders stew up with billows way high, mingling flavors of green and white. A squall sheets gray lines to earth. Scud brushes through the tree. Cirrus is stagnant. No snow today.

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## SEVEN HERALDS OF SPRING

### My Favorite Birds of the Alps

By Bill Longwell

I awoke with a start. It was 9:45 p.m. I lay in my tent, but could not quickly establish any continuity with previous days.

Outside, a shadowy silence occupied my campsite. The shadows in my mind began to clear as I sorted out the facts of my immediate existence. My campsite, a grassy pocket along the Pacific Crest Trail ("PCT") sat on a shelf above the Columbia River. I was at the end of the second day of a four-day PCT hike. This morning I had departed from the green views of Trout Creek in the Wind River drainage. Tomorrow I would cross the Columbia on the Bridge of the Gods and climb toward Mt. Hood.

What had awakened me was a Swainson's thrush calling from the darkening forests outside my tent. "Quirt, quirt," I answered from my tent with a practiced imitation. Then came a flutter of wings as the bird flew into the brush near my tent.

Again we exchanged calls, both rather interested in each other's conversation. The Swainson's thrush seemed quite anxious to know what type of fellow bird called from the dark interior of the tent. Finally I tired and fell asleep.

I next awoke at dawn, 3:45 a.m. As I lay planning my ambitious third day's walk, wings again fluttered toward me. A Swainson's thrush perched above the tent and continued the conversation of the previous evening. Was this the same bird? Had it waited for me to make some noise? Again I kept up my end of the dialogue before I fell back to sleep.

The memory of that thrust stands out as the highlight of that early summer backpack. Ever since 1970, when I began serious birding, I have worked to hold birds for me by whistling or trying to mimic their calls. As I learned their various names and habits, I began to look for certain species.

For twenty years I have tracked the spring arrival of fifteen migrating birds, all of which spend winters in Central and South America and migrate all the way to the Pacific Northwest in mid-spring to nest. With much keen anticipation, I look forward to the arrival of each of these birds, greeting them like long-lost friends. With amazing regularity, these birds arrive back during the same week each year, sometimes the same day, it seems.

Seven migrating birds became my favorites and began to stand out on the lists I kept, lists of dates and places of sightings. When I have tracked down all seven, then I figure that spring has arrived for me.

### SWAINSON'S THRUSH

This is the bird I love more than any other.

For the past several years, I have observed the arrival of this thrush on exactly the same date, May 12. (Yes, I have accounted for leap year.) For two consecutive years, my first sighting of the Swainson's thrush occurred at the same location, the broad horseshoe curve of the King County Preston-Snoqualmie Trail, a quarter-mile west of the Lake Alice Road.

This thrush has an easily-imitated, distinctive call and a gorgeous song. Others have described the call as a "liquid-sounding QUIRT," the same sound a drop of water makes when it falls into a pan of water.

No other bird can match the song, often heard at dusk—a soaring, melodious, flutelike, upward spiraling trill. This is a bird that calls and sings in the darkness. It even sings as it migrates in the night skies.

Since each bird's territory is small, many Swainson's thrushes seem packed into a limited area. Observe that this thrush is a little sleeker than a robin, has a light brown back and dark speckles on its buff breast.

I once came upon a Swainson's thrush nest along the Tiger Mountain Trail, just before the descent into Fifteen-mile Creek. The bird had carefully built its nest in an old spring-board hole. The female sat there on its nest and eyed me as I eyed it. Finally, fishing for my

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## Seven Heralds of Spring *cont. from page 5*

camera in my pack, I startled the bird and it flew away. I took pictures and continued my walk.

The Swainson's thrush always responds to my imitation of its call. With patience I can entice this bird from its perch to fly to a nearby branch. I'm sure it thinks it is responding to another thrush. Sometimes when it sees me instead, it apparently feels cheated and divebombs at me to let me know that I am NO Swainson's thrush. I duck and move on.

Listen to it at dusk on a remote ocean beach and let it sing you to sleep.

### BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER

This warbler generally arrives in the Issaquah Alps in early April after wintering in Mexico, and remains through August or September. It seems common in our forests. I've observed this bird far more in the past three years than in previous years. Are its numbers increasing?

It is a bird of mixed forests and high treetops. Its sleek shape gives it the appearance of a torpedo as it drops from the higher branches to a lower perch. Its black-and-white face and black-streaked breast give it the appropriate uniform for speed.

When it first returns to our area it is curious. If I'm patient, by mimicking its call I can coax it to descend to branches just above my head. But once the black-throated gray warbler begins to nest, it's almost impossible to attract. Its wheezy, musical song is full of the sound of "Z" or "PSS" and it rises in a series of four notes. As with other species, this warbler has its own rhythm in calling: "Pss-PSSSS-pss-pss."

I've often found this warbler along the service road between the High Point trailhead and the power line near Lake Tradition. Another place to observe it is along the railroad grade on the north side of I-90.

### OLIVE-SIDED FLY CATCHER

Our family has always used a password or a hand sign to communicate to each other. Any form of "three," whether three whistles, three fingers, or the word "three"

means to us "I love you." Hearing the "pip-pip-" of the olive-sided flycatcher instantly reminds me of my family and our commitment to each other. Perhaps this is the reason this bird has worked its way onto my "favorite" list.

The song is even more memorable. Some thirsty ornithologists have characterized it as "Quick! Three beers!" This bird chooses high perches. With its three-part call, the olive-sided flycatcher warns all nearby visitors that they walk or fly in its territory.

Because of its large, stocky head, this bird is larger than, say, the willow fly catcher. It may be the most prolific of fly catchers. However, for some reason, probably the loss of habitat, these singers are disappearing. For example, I used to catalog thirty-five species in a mile walk through Snoqualmie Ridge, but major development there--2000 houses--has pretty much reduced finding birds to zero.

If you see a fly catcher on a snag, you most likely are viewing an olive-sided. It builds its nest in conifers. Manning's Reach on the Tiger Mountain Trail may be an easy place to search because most conifers there are human-sized.

### WILSON'S WARBLER

The first Wilson's warbler I observed was in July, 1970 at the block house on Squak Mountain's Chybinski Trail. I stood in a grove of salmonberry and watched this bright yellow-green warbler flit from branch to branch. It peered at me with its jet-black eyes and tilted its black cap toward me.

While it's the tiniest of warblers and certainly the most energetic, the Wilson's warbler is the easiest to observe. It is always curious and almost always willing to work toward me when I return its call. Often a pair flies to me at the same time. This bird is a fly-catching warbler. It feeds near water and stays put only a short time.

I remember how pleased I was with myself when I called this warbler to me on a PCT hike near Red Mountain in the Mount Shasta region. My hiking

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## KONIGSMARK HONORED

Ken Konigsmark, vice-president of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, is the 2007 recipient of the Ruth Kees award, given by the City of Issaquah in recognition of environmental stewardship. Konigsmark has served 15 years on the IATC Board of Directors, six years as president.

Konigsmark was given the award at the April 16 meeting of the Issaquah City Council. Mayor Ava Frisinger praised Konigsmark for his many years of environmental advocacy and for his collaborative approach to problem solving. He was lauded for his contributions to the protection of more than 20,000 acres of wildlands in the Issaquah Alps, and ten times that amount in the Mountains to Sound Greenway along Interstate 90.

He also served a critical role in the city's Economic Vitality Task Force, where he consistently pointed out that environmental protection is critically important economic health.

Ruth Kees herself said, "I couldn't approve more thoroughly of a candidate than Ken Konigsmark."

Saying that he was honored to be so recognized, Konigsmark noted how environmental advocacy has changed over the years from a confrontational battle to a more collaborative, inclusive and effective manner, which he is proud to have been a part of.

### Sims Levies *continued from page 1*

"It is important that the county is able to take advantage of critical acquisition opportunities when they arise."

The existing levy accounts for half the annual \$25 million budget of King County Parks. The county owns and operates more than 180 parks, 25,000 acres of parks and open space, and 175 trails.

For more information about the proposal, visit [www.metrokc.gov/exec/news](http://www.metrokc.gov/exec/news).

### Reflections on Cougar *continued from page 4*

A single walk in early month, 23 species, including sheep sorrel, dandelion, youth-on-age, baneberry. Trillium gone for this year, and Johnny-jump-up.

A walk in mid-month, lily of the valley, smooth alum-root, montia perfoliata, foxglove, oxeye daisy, two plantains.

A walk at month's end, 40 species in blossom, including pearly everlasting, burdock, twayblade, tiger lily, willow herb, sour dock, thistle, linnea, hawkweed, self-heal, streambaults spring beauty, Cooley's hedge nettle, goatsbeard (spectacular), fireweek (gaudy).

## TWICE CURSED BOARDS

By Bill Longwell

The third time is the charm, so they say.

As the IATC trail crews have built bridges on Tiger Mountain, the bridge-materials list has evolved. We used to build from trail-side cedar logs, but over the years we decided to use treated wood instead. Treated wood lasts longer and looks neater. We have back-packed the treated wood sometimes several miles to the bridge sites.

When we began our bridge building in the mid 1970's, treated wood was not really available and Tiger had a veritable fortune of large cedar logs. For some reason the 1920's loggers cut down untold numbers of cedar trees, but left them lying in the forest. These trees still lie in great numbers on the ground with mostly sound wood.

If you are a serious Tiger Mountain walker, you'll find our bridges spread throughout the mountain. We were forced to move one set of sixteen bridge boards three times before we found a permanent home for them; we had no choice in the matter.

One popular local trail system passed over a series of un-bridged wet spots and creeks, some of which were

*continued on page 12*



## JULY 2007

Sunday, July 1 – 10am  
DOGS WELCOME Hike-bring  
Leash and clean-up supplies

Squak Mt. loop  
2B, 6 miles, 1200' gain  
Karen Tom, 425-391-7585

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Wednesday, July 4 - 6:30 pm  
Tiger Mt-FIREWORKS viewing  
From Poopoo Pt-evening hike  
Bring hot drink, snacks, warm clothes,  
headlamps/flashlights +  
Extra batteries. Ascend via HS trail,  
descend via Chirico trail in dark – car shuttle  
moderate/slow pace: 3C, 7 miles, 1900' gain  
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

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Thursday, July 5 - 9 am  
Cougar Mt – Longview loop from south  
Indian trailhead

2C – 6 miles, 1500' gain

SLOW PACE

Warren Jones, 425-391-7409

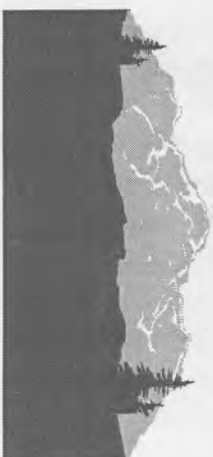
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Saturday, July 7 – 8 am  
Peak and a Half  
Walk from Cougar Mt's Anti-Aircraft Peak,  
over Squak Mt., back to our cars at the  
Trail Center in Issaquah-car shuttle  
3C – 10 miles, 2500' gain  
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

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Sunday, July 8 – 9:30 am  
Cedar Butte, via Xmas Lake  
2B – 5 miles, 1000' gain  
R Gross, 425-427-8449

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Sunday, July 29 – 9am

"Fred's Biergarten"

Hike past Fuller Mt. and 3 lakes to

2B – 6 miles, 600' gain

Fred Zeidler, 425-882-3435

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## AUGUST 2007

Saturday, August 4 – 9am  
Tiger Mt – Grand Canyon of 15 Mile Creek:  
mine entrance, waterfall  
1A - 2.5 miles, 400' gain  
Scott Semans, 425-369-1725

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Sunday, August 5 – 8am  
East Tiger Mt. Loop  
A loop hike from Tiger Summit on Highway 18,  
covering a combination of well-traveled and  
little-traveled trails and gated roads  
4C- 11 miles, 2900' gain  
Ralph Owen, 425-746-1070

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Saturday, August 11 – 9am  
Squak Mt.  
Loop hike over Central Peak and West Peak  
with Rainier view for lunch  
3C- 7 miles, 2000' gain  
Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

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Sunday, August 12  
Kendall Katwalk  
4D-11 miles, 2700' gain, 7 hours  
group size limited to 12

Forest Service pass/Golden Age Pass required  
for driver.

Call Richard Mann, 425-391-0410



## SEPTEMBER 2007

Saturday, September 1 – 9am  
Cougar Mt. ramble  
2B-4.5 miles, 1200' gain  
Steve Williams, 425-453-8997

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Sunday, September 2 – 9am  
Rattlesnake Mt-Stan's Overlook  
2C – 5 miles, 1400' gain  
Mary Nolan, 425-837-1535

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Saturday, September 8  
9:30 am to 12:00 pm  
Tiger Mt-Talus Caves + Nook Trails  
FAMILY NATURE HIKE  
2A – 2-3 miles, 100' gain  
Karl Brummett, 516-426-4358

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Sunday, September 9 - 8:30 am  
Rattlesnake Lodge  
Walk to North Bend on RR grade  
3B – 10 miles, 1200' gain  
Joe Toynebee, 425-228-6118

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Saturday, September 15, 9 am  
Cougar Mt – double loop around Wilderness Peak  
and on to Longview Peak  
3C – 7 miles, 1900' gain  
Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016

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Saturday, September 15, 10:00am  
Cougar Mt-Far Country Lookout and loop back  
by Coal Creek Falls  
2B – 4 miles, 610' gain  
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709

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Saturday, July 14 – 9am  
Tiger Mt-loop hike over West Tiger 2  
via TMT and K3  
Return via West Tiger 3 trail  
3C – 8 miles, 2500' gain  
Scott Prueter, 425-369-6016  
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Saturday, July 14 – 10am  
Lakemont Gorge-descend through ferns,  
moss and maples. Return via Urban Trail.  
Walking sticks are helpful for stream  
crossings – 2A-4 miles, 430' gain  
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709  
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Sunday, July 15 – 10am  
Hike from Trail Center to Tradition Plateau  
2B, 6 miles, 600' gain  
Dave Kappler, 425-392-3571  
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Saturday, July 21  
Bandera Mt  
3D, 7 miles, 2850' gain  
group size limited to 12  
Forest Service Pass/Golden Age Pass required  
Call Richard Mann  
425-391-0410  
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Sunday, July 22 – 9:30 am  
Twin Falls-lunch along river after hike  
2B – 5 miles, 700' gain  
Mary Nolan, 425-837-1535  
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Thursday, July 26 – 7pm  
IATC Board Meeting  
Trails Center-1st & Bush St.  
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Saturday, July 28 – 9am  
Change Creek Loop  
New Hike! Climb the Change Creek Trail  
to views, a quiet alpine valley, and small lake.  
Descend on the standard Mt. Washington Trail.  
Be prepared for a stretch of steep, rough trail, and  
perhaps some light brush on the old logging road.  
3D – 9 miles, 2700' gain  
Jay Wilson, 206-729-0415  
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Saturday, August 18  
Melakwa Lake  
3D-9 miles, 2600' gain, 6 hours  
group size limited to 12  
Forest Service pass/Golden Age Pass required for  
driver. Call  
Richard Mann, 425-391-0410  
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Sunday, August 19-10:30 am  
Tiger Mt. caves, lakes & big tree  
2B-4 miles, 650' gain  
Bert Drui, 425-746-0709  
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Wednesday, August 22 – 7pm  
Hike Leaders' Meeting  
Trails Center – 1st and Bush  
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Saturday, August 25 – 9am  
Squak Mt. north to south  
2B-5 miles, 1200' gain  
Steve Williams, 425-453-8997  
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Sunday, August 26-9am  
S. Tiger Mt. loop  
Hike on TMT to Otter Lake, then up to Carol's  
lunch spot. Return via the S. Tiger traverse  
2C-7 miles, 1500' gain  
Fred Zeitler, 425-882-3435  
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Sunday, September 16, 10am  
Hike from Trail Center to Tradition Plateau  
2B – 6 miles, 600' gain  
David Kappler, 425-392-3571  
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Saturday, September 22 – Mason/Mt. Defiance  
4D, 11 miles, 3700' gain, 8 hours  
group size limited to 12  
Forest Service Pass/Golden Age Pass required  
for driver. Call Richard Mann, 425-391-0410  
-----

Sunday, September 23, 9 am  
High Point to Issaquah via West Tiger RR Grade.  
Hike West Tiger 3 Trail to West Tiger RR Grade  
and then to Issaquah via  
Poo Poo Point Trail (car shuttle)  
3C – 8.5 miles, 2000' gain  
Tom Palm, 206-783-6005  
-----

Saturday, September 29 – 9am  
Cougar Mt-one way from Newcastle to  
Licorice Fern via Deleo Wall-car shuttle  
2A-3.5 miles, 500' gain, 4 hours  
Scott Semans, 425-369-1725  
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Sunday, September 30, 8:30 am  
Rattlesnake Traverse  
4D – 11 miles, 3000' gain  
hike east to west-car shuttle  
Richard Mann, 425-391-0410  
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IATC ENCOURAGES CARPOOLING +  
RECOMMENDS \$0.10/MILE GAS  
CONTRIBUTION TO DRIVER



## Seven Heralds of Spring *cont. from page 5*

partner thought was some sort of magician. But there it perched, right before us, just as it does in the Issaquah Alps.

This is a bird that chatters. Imitate the “chichichichi” and wait patiently for results. Watch for it almost anywhere in the Issaquah Alps. For an almost certain sighting, try the wetlands along the King County Trail between Preston and the Raging River crossing.

Since the Wilson’s warbler winters from Mexico to Panama, let’s hope its political status is certain. While it stays in the Northwest from April to September, observers can best find it in May and June.

### BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

Surprised to find another grosbeak in the Issaquah Alps? The evening grosbeak stays year-round. The large size and brilliant color of this cousin to the Baltimore oriole make this a prized sighting.

One warm spring afternoon (it rained half an hour later), I was hanging over the Preston-Snoqualmie Trail Mile Four Bridge near the Lake Alice Road, trying to penetrate the thick alder brush in order to sight this fiery orange, black and white bird.

Somewhere in the thicket perched a black-headed grosbeak. It was answering my call, but was too smart to show itself and reward me with a close up glimpse. I finally gave up.

When I first began sighting this bird, I confused it with a Bullock’s oriole. The flute-like whistles of the black-headed grosbeak are difficult to mimic. Perhaps this is the reason I see the male just three or four times a season.

A little larger than a robin, this bird seems misplaced. It belongs in the tropics. It does winter there, from Mexico to Costa Rica. Adult males have a black crown, chin, nape and back. Other than white wing bars, the rest is orange.

An expectant observer almost never sees this grosbeak in open areas. Look for it in the alders near Lake Alice

or along the Puget Power Road on Snoqualmie Ridge. It prefers mature deciduous trees, a reason why so difficult to find. Good luck! I sometimes see it at my backyard feeder; more females feed there than males.

### WILLOW FLYCATCHER (TRAILS)

It’s early morning and the piercing “fitz-hugh” of the willow fly catcher rings through the broken forest of Manning’s Reach on the Tiger Mountain Trail, snapping me to attention. I work along the Tiger Mountain Trail, searching above and below the trail to find the snag this bird sings from. Finally rewarded, I see a small, olive-brown flycatcher sitting at the end of a branch, searching the space before it for one more meal before darkness.

This is not a bird of the deep forests. Hear it at the high and open vistas of Tiger Mountain or in high alpine meadows, like the PCT near Chinook Pass or on power line wires.

Some people still call this a trail flycatcher. This mite of a bird stands on the highest perch of a long snag, darts from branch to branch to catch an insect and flies right back to the same perch.

The Latin name for flycatchers is Tyrannidae or “tyrant.” Perhaps the most fierce predator of insects among flycatchers, the willow flycatcher takes flies, wasps, ants and termites—all insects most humans do not appreciate.

This is a jaunty bird. Its call cheers the hearts of those who hear it. Look for it in the Issaquah Alps from May to August. After that it’s speeding back to spend winters in Central American and northwestern South America.

### WESTERN TANAGER

Bird lovers are hard put to find another species more brilliantly colored than the western tanager. Look for red head, yellow under parts and black back and wings. Only a mountain bluebird comes close to matching the

*continued on page 11*

**Seven Heralds of Spring** *cont. from page 10*

color. A painting of a western tanager hangs on the wall above my desk.

Several years ago I walked along the PCT on a trip from the Klamath River to Ashland. I had just reached the California-Oregon border and was sitting below a sign noting the fact. As I leaned against a ponderosa pine, a western tanager landed on a branch above me, surely welcoming me to Oregon.

I often find the western tanager along the King County Trail between Preston and Lake Alice, one of my favorite birding areas. I hear the "pittik, pittik" call far more often than I see this bird.

Generally the western tanager perches so far up in the leafy canopy that the observer must be satisfied with just the call or its slow, robin-like song. It is about the same size and shape as a robin. It calls for an extended time from just one perch and then moves on. Any sighting is a treat.

Once, on a Snoqualmie Valley Trail walk from Rattlesnake Lake to North Bend, a group of us were mesmerized by sighting six baby, all yellow western tanagers, sitting on a limb not far above our heads.

One mid-May I was preparing a church choir for an early summer concert. One piece we sang, which since has become my favorite, was "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree," by Elizabeth Posten. On this afternoon the words of this anthem were coursing through my mind when I heard the call of the western tanager. I immediately began to whistle the music to it. As soon as I started whistling, I saw the tanager move toward me. Before I had whistled the music through twice, this beautiful bird was perching on a branch just above my head, seemingly absorbed in my music, as I was in it.

**Sno Point Park** *continued from page 1*

that recently opened, replacing the old trailhead.

Funding for the project came primarily from the Gates Foundation and the US Forest Service.

**Unsung Hero** *continued from page 3*

And before he became the expert on Tiger Mountain, Longwell was a pioneer on Squak Mountain, rebuilding old trails and making new ones. Squak was his first love, his haven away from home, for years his means of exercising, relaxing his mind, enjoying the bounty of nature—and making a difference. He was an enormous help to me in my efforts to write and publish the club's book on Squak.

In addition, Longwell has led the merry band of talented and dedicated trail maintenance workers, the Weedwhackers. This is volunteer work at its noblest—the selfless, demanding, skilled efforts to maintain trails and, critically important, clear them after wind or ice storms, which have every so many years wreaked vast damage to our trails.

Bill has been on the IATC Board of Directors for 25 years, far longer than anyone else in the club's 28-year history. His insight and experience are invaluable to the club. Incidentally, sometime this summer, Bill (a famed keeper of records) will achieve a significant milestone: he will reach 50,000 miles in his hiking career. Just calculate how far that is! It is easy to hold Bill in awe, but he is more than selfless; he is kind, thoughtful, considerate, generous and supportive. He doesn't lead many hikes any more, but if you get a chance to go on one of his flower or bird hikes, don't miss it. Unsung or not, **BILL LONGWELL** is truly one of the heroes of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club.

**MEMBERSHIP QUESTION?**

If you have any questions about your membership in the IATC, or have had any problems with the delivery of your ALPINER, please contact Jackie Hughes at: [jhughes62003@yahoo.com](mailto:jhughes62003@yahoo.com).



## Twice Cursed Boards *continued from page 7*

difficult to cross during the rainy season. More runners than hikers used this system, but slippery rocks across one creek bothered them. One runner I saw frequently asked me to build a bridge across this troublesome spot.

The project took me five days. I hauled in stringers from the nearby trail and lugged sixteen tread boards to begin building. My grandson helped me finish the ten-foot bridge, and we celebrated by eating a picnic lunch at the site.

This bridge lasted one month. I came by one day, following a regular hiking route, to find the whole bridge gone, obviously lifted up by heavy machinery and moved intact a hundred yards uphill to an access road. Someone did not like amateur bridges.

Of course, I retrieved the boards. They could serve elsewhere. I lugged them all back to my car.

For over thirty years, one favorite work-site for our trail crews was the long-existing trail from Spur 10, in old Weyerhaeuser country, that ran along three lowland and almost wilderness lakes—Klaus, Bridges and Boyle lakes. This is a trail that some of us have long maintained.

At first in the 1960's, the only crossing of Ten Creek was via a beaver dam, but it eventually washed out in a flood. For awhile the trail fell into disuse. Then in the 1990's Weyerhaeuser contracted with someone to build a sturdy log bridge; this served travelers for many years.

However, in 2004, someone decided to destroy this bridge, and the crossing of fast-moving Ten Creek became treacherous and undependable. We decided to build a new permanent bridge to replace the old one.

In early 2005, six of us worked on this project. Some were builders and some were materials carriers. Ron Howatson and Pete Girard carried in chain saws to cut sill logs and thirty-foot stringers. Fred Zeitler, Sally Davies, Joe Toynbee and I carried materials, including the sixteen boards rejected in the previous year's bridge. Joe suggested the title for this article.

We spent one long day cutting the stringers and winching them across the creek. Some people spent two hours standing in this fast-moving stream. We thought we could finish the bridge in one more session. We were wrong; we never got the chance.

As some of us were carrying boards from Spur 10 to the bridge site on the second day of work, an official from the new land owners stopped to ask us what we were doing. We explained our thirty-year involvement on this trail and our desire to rebuild the bridge. The official, after a telephone call to his boss, denied permission because the company did not want to accept the liability. He told us we would have to destroy our work and carry the boards back out.

Denied a second time. We hauled the boards back out to our cars. Later on, we did find a large, suitable and solid log-crossing upstream to replace this bridge.

Two months later, the land-owning company hired tree cutters to thin the scrub trees along this three-mile trail and some of our group felt the company was attempting to shut down the whole trail. However, the process was just normal forest-thinning.

Finally these sixteen boards and their companions have found a permanent home (so far as we know). They now form the decking for five bridges along the Tiger Mountain Trail around mile-post eight. No one has complained about them or removed them. These bridges will last at least 20 years.



## FAMILY NATURE HIKE

IATC would like to initiate some family nature hikes. The first is scheduled for Saturday, September 18 from 9:30 to noon on Tiger Mountain. We will explore the forests, caves, waterfalls and other unique habitats and search for animal signs, birds, identify edible plants and maybe even spot a salamander. The purpose is to get out, have fun and discover nature at a leisurely pace.

## 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 good time hiking where others seldom tread.

## Hike Information *continued from page 17*

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.

Trail work parties last at least four hours. Trail maintenance is vital to the Club's work and is

## ✓ Checklist:

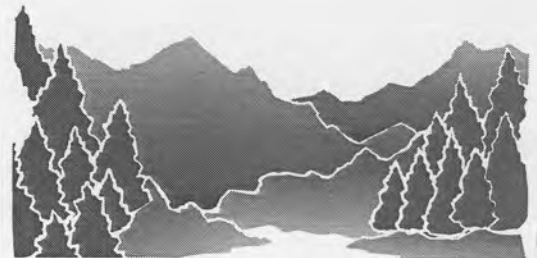
- Food
- Water
- Daypack
- Raingear
- Warm clothes
- Hiking Shoes

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

*Don't leave the trailhead without them!*

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		
Book: Squak Mountain: An Island in the Sky	15.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Tiger Mountain, 1998 revision	2.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Cougar Mountain, 2001 revision	2.00		
Map: Issaquah Alps Squak Mountain (2005)	6.00		
Green Trails Map: Tiger & Taylor Mountains, Map 204S	8.00		
Green Trails Map: Cougar & Squak Mountains, Map 203S	8.00		
Green Trails Map: Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley Map 205S	8.00		
Green Trails Map: Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor, Map 206S	8.00		

\*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:

p The basic hiker.....\$15    p The project supporter.....\$25  
p The IATC sponsor.....\$50    p 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.

o *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.

o *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).

o *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).

o *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.

o *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.

o *Squak Mountain: An Island in the Sky* By Doug Simpson with trail descriptions by David Langrock. Provides a history of Squak Mountain and its gestation as a park. Includes 4 loop hikes covering most of the mountain trails. Includes many earlier writings by Bill Longwell and vignettes by others. \$15.

o *Green Trails Tiger & Taylor Mountain*. Map 204S. \$8.

o *Green Trails Cougar & Squak Mountains*. Map 203S. \$8.

o *Green Trails Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley*. Map 205S. \$8.

o *Green Trails Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor*. Map 206S. \$8.

o *Green Trails Quality Squak Mountain Map*. By IATC member Harry Morgan. \$6.

o *IATC Tiger Mountain map*. 1998 revised. \$2.

o *IATC Cougar Mountain map*. 2001 revised. \$2.