

# • THE ALPINE



April ♦ May ♦ June 2011

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

## IMPORTANT COUGAR ACQUISITION

By Scott Semans

Late last year King County Parks finalized purchase of the Kissel-Gunn property. Fronting on Newport Way between exits 13 and 15 of I-90 just south of the Summerhill neighborhood, this 41-acre parcel reaches deep into Cougar Mountain's wooded interior.

Long-time club members recall houses on the site and Harvey Manning leading hikes up from Newport Way. The 1981 edition of Harvey's "Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain" speaks of numerous game tracks and actual virgin forest with huge maples, alders and Douglas firs up to five feet in diameter. Sadly, around 1996, much of the lower half of the property was logged, but in 1998, IATC volunteers reestablished this "Big Tree Ridge" Trail, affording hikers a rare opportunity to see a regenerating clear-cut close up.

Although King County will likely augment the scrawny alder that now dominate this section, the openness provides winter views that are among the best on Cougar, particularly from the crest of the ridge with its 180-degree panorama of the Cascades through Lake Sammamish to the western peaks of Tiger.

The property is divided by AA Creek, a steep, young watercourse that lately overflows messily onto Newport Way in winter. No one has yet found a bridgeable crossing practical for hikers to replace the infamous "Harvey's Mudslide."

The new purchase does not connect to the Regional Wildland Park proper, though purchase of landlocked

*continued on page 6*

## KAPPLER ELECTED AT IATC MEETING

David Kappler assumed the presidency of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club at the January 28 meeting of the club. He succeeds Steve Williams, who stepped down after three years of leading the club.

Reelected for another year as officers were vice-presidents Ken Konigsmark and Doug Simpson, treasurer Cornelia Remy and secretary Kathleen Petty. Richard Mann and Karen Tom were reelected for new three-year terms; Williams was elected to succeed Joe Toynbee, who stepped down; Toynbee will continue to serve the club with the hiking program.

*continued on page 4*

## MISSING LINK FILLED IN

The Mountains to Sound Greenway, stretching from Seattle to the Thorp area in Central Washington, is now essentially complete with the acquisition of "missing link" between High Point and Preston.

A pedestrian bridge was constructed and improvements were made on a railroad trestle across the East Fork of Issaquah Creek to prevent trail users from disturbing the creek and nearby wetlands. As a result, hikers are much safer, not having to use the shoulder along the westbound route of I-90.

According to Mike Murphy of the State Department of Transportation, the connector should help to reduce the potential for accidents between motorists and trail users. Funding for the \$4.7 million project was approved in 2007, with \$3.6 million transferred from a state parks account.

"This major accomplishment helps fill a critical missing trail link between High Point and Preston," according to Cynthia Wolti, Executive Director of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. "Not

*continued on page 4*

# The Apparatus

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

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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: [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 David Kappler

In the spring of 1991, I was president of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, but I resigned my position to run for a seat on the Issaquah City Council. With so many land use, park and open space issues being faced by the City Council, my running was well-received, but I was frequently reminded over my 18 years on the council that I had not completed my term as club president and they expected that when I ended my council career I would complete my term as president. With Steve Williams finishing his three years as club president, I am now resuming my term after a nearly 20 year gap! I am honored to resume this most important position with a club that continues to lead in enhancing, protecting and enjoying the environment in and around our Alps.

Our hiking program continues to offer a great variety of hikes on a year-round basis. Our productive and positive working relationships with the city, county and state officials and agencies has never been better, though funding issues are greatly impacting all levels of government. Our working relationship with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Save Lake Sammamish, Issaquah Environmental Council and regional groups such as the Washington Trails Association continues to provide mutual benefits. Our Alpiner not only lists our hikes, but provides a great deal of information, as does our comprehensive website.

One of our challenges is how we can better incorporate technology into getting our work done and getting our message better delivered. Presently we produce several trail guides, several maps and some other publications. Because of our many successes we now have many of our trails described in other publications,

and others are producing excellent maps of our Alps. Our guides have been more than how to get from point A to point B. They incorporate human and natural history and often how certain parks, open space, forest or trails actually were acquired. This information is not always of general interest, but it really motivates people to get involved, as they see how a dedicated group can accomplish major environmental legacies. This motivation goes well beyond our Alps, as it has encouraged other groups to improve their commutes.

I want to thank all those people that have placed their confidence in me, and I welcome emails (DavidKappler@hotmail.com) and phone calls (425-392-3571) to know your thoughts about what we can do better.

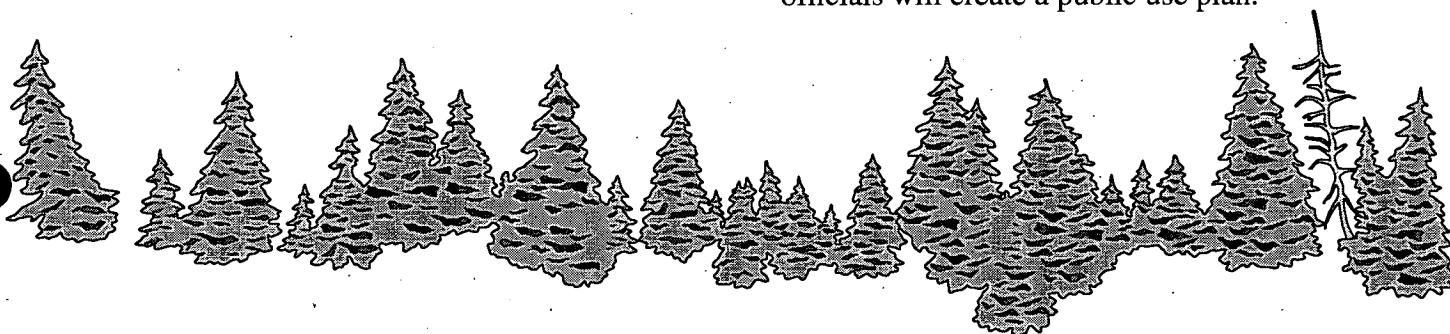
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## PARK POINTE PLANS

Now that the Park Pointe property on Tiger Mountain is out of the hands of developers and into those of the City of Issaquah, future use of the 101 acres is in the planning stages.

Matt Mechler and Margaret MacLeod are in the process of developing stewardship plans for the property. Of concern are invasive growth of holly and blackberry bushes, a homeless encampment, some illegal dumping of car bodies and other trash, as well as inroads by mountain bikers.

On the plus side, an impressive strand of madrone trees can be a positive feature. "We hope to add the property to Tiger's natural resource area," said MacLeod, Interagency Coordinator. Eventually, city officials will create a public use plan.



## Kappler Elected *continued from page 1*

The other board members are Richard Amidei (who also supervises the club's website), Sally Davies, Larry Hanson, Jackie Hughes, Scott Semans and Ed Vervoort.

Amidei reported that the website ([www.issaquahalps.org](http://www.issaquahalps.org)) received 88,326 hits in 2010, down 2.88% from the year before. The busiest month was March with 8,785 contacts up over 25% from the year before. The lowest was December with just 6,245 hits, down over 10% from the previous year.

Kappler previously served as president from 1989 to 1991 before stepping down to serve on the Issaquah City Council. The club has had just eight presidents in its 32-year history.

## HIKES PROGRAM HOLDS STEADY

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club continued its longtime ongoing hikes program (extending back to 1979) with 120 hikes in 2010, averaging about 9.5 hikers per outing. "We're holding steady," said Joe Toynbee, club hiking coordinator. It should be noted that the number of hikers varies, with inclement weather sometimes reducing the intrepid hikers to three or four per outing. Sunny summer hikes, of course, draw much higher numbers.

Scott Semans, the club's Volunteer Trail Maintenance Coordinator, reported that volunteers put in approximately 2200 hours last year. Semans himself put in about 1000 hours, and Ed Vervoort worked another 850 hours, mostly on Tiger Mountain, which he oversees for the club.

Volunteer groups or individuals are encouraged to contact Semans for scheduling work projects.

## DOG HIKES

At the January 28 IATC board meeting, the ongoing issue of dog hikes was discussed at length. It was agreed that the dog hikes should continue, but be limited to weekdays to avoid congestion on trails during the busier weekends.

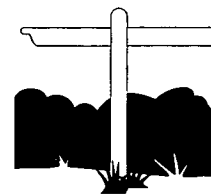


## DOG CONTROL SOUGHT ON TIGER

City officials are concerned about dogs running loose on the Lake Tradition Plateau of Tiger Mountain. "We want dogs to be on leash at all times in our natural resources preservation area," stated the city's Matt Mechler. "It's a matter of public safety, and there have been dog fights on occasion in the area."

The city has received complaints about dogs rushing toward walkers in the area, and officials also feel the need to protect wildlife and the wilderness habitat. As a result, dog control signs have been posted, notifying dog owners that their dogs must be on leash at all times.

In an outreach effort, Mechler and Margaret MacLeod will be at the High Point trailhead Saturday, April 9 to educate dog owners about the need for leashing their animals.



## Missing Link *continued from page 1*

only will this trail provide a safer travel option for recreationists and commuters, but it helps connect the regional trail system in the Greenway," she stated.

The project also required retaining walls along steeper sections to reduce the overall footprint of the trail and environmental impact. Eventually, the project will include shoulder upgrades along Southeast High Point Way to the Preston-Snoqualmie trailhead in Preston, but that will have to await future funding.

## HIKER'S CORNER

By Joe Toynbee



Among the many joys of hiking in the Issaquah Alps is that of botanizing along the trail. When wildflowers are mentioned many people tend to think of the gorgeous flower meadows in places like Paradise at Mount Rainier, but these meadows are only the last chapter of a book. Here in the Alps the book begins with early bloomers such as Indian Plum and Cotsfoot and reaches its height in April and May with many other woodland flowers.

The late Bill Longwell led many botany hikes for our club, and I was privileged to note down the species we found on many trips. To give you an idea of the possibilities here in the Alps, I have several signup sheets with nearly a hundred species of trees, flowers and shrubs on them. At first remembering flower names may seem difficult, but after seeing a species a few times, it sticks in the memory. Owning a good flower book helps.

If you go on one of our botany hikes, you will get in a fair amount of hiking. Typically, we start out slowly and then tend to speed up as the day progresses. Come on some of our botany walks. You will see why I call flowers nature's jewelry.

## BEAR RIDGE KIOSK

The Bear Ridge Trail off SR-900 has only a small parking area (3-4 cars), but it is a major route up the eastside of Cougar Mountain and a link to many other trails, including the new connector to Talus.

This city of Issaquah-owned property now has a new kiosk with a map of the trail encased in plexiglass. The city worked with Eagle scouts on the project, which is similar to that on the Mountainside trailhead on Squak Mountain.

## SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDES LINK

Preparations are underway for the second annual college scholarship to be awarded by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Miles Burns, last year's \$1000 recipient from Skyline High School, is now a freshman at Davidson College in North Carolina.

The Bill Longwell Memorial Scholarship will be awarded next spring to a graduating senior from Issaquah, Skyline, Liberty or Tiger Mountain High School or Hazen High, where Longwell taught, in the Renton School District.

IATC is asking its membership to make tax deductible contributions to the scholarship fund, to help make it a sustaining program to provide aid for at least one worthy senior who demonstrates an interest in the Issaquah Alps. If you'd like to help, send a check to the IATC Scholarship Program at PO Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027.

In addition to Burns, three other students were given \$100 grants as runners up for their essays on "The Significance of the Issaquah Alps." They were Jenna Lambdin of Issaquah High and Rachel Grasso and Jeron Kent-Tobias from Skyline.

"The scholarship program has provided a wonderful connection between the hiking club and young people in our community," stated Steve Williams, outgoing IATC president. "By doing research, the kids gain a deeper understanding of what it takes to create our parks and trails; and, in turn, the teens by their writings have shown us just how much they enjoy and value our Issaquah Alps trails system."

Besides Williams, the IATC Scholarship Committee consists of Jackie Hughes, Karen Tom and Doug Simpson. The topic for this year's contest is *"How are the Issaquah Alps significant to your life and to that of the larger community? Preservation didn't just happen. How did individuals such as Harvey Manning and Bill Longwell, as well as some enlightened public officials, make the preservation happen?"*

## AMERICORPS SERVES SQUAK

The Issaquah Alps have benefited recently from the splendid efforts of AmeriCorps, a national service program. The crew of 21, supplemented by members of the Washington Conservation Corps, works to help local land managers restore natural areas, maintain parks and trails, and improve access to recreation, among other projects.

Local efforts focused on Squak and Tiger mountains and other areas in the Mountains to Sound Greenway. Efforts on Squak involved adding drainage ditches and constructing raised trailbeds, primarily on the Mountainside, Eastside and Valley Connector trails.

AmeriCorps volunteers, ages 18-24, come from across the nation. This crew is based in Sacramento for a ten-month stint. The mission of the program is to strengthen communities and develop leaders through direct team-based service.

The program is similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps of the Depression era. Members receive training in CPR, first aid, public safety and other skills. While working in the area, the group was housed at Valley Camp in North Bend. Members receive a modest allowance and assistance in paying off student debt and loans. Other projects might involve home-building and working in inner-city schools.

The feel-good program not only benefits places such as the Issaquah Alps that lack the resources to finance needs such as trail work, but also provides young people an opportunity to give their time and efforts to projects that bring personal satisfaction.

Pittsburgh native Laura Purves enjoyed the beauty and serenity of Squak Mountain. "I just don't want to forget how beautiful this place is," she said.

Jenna Lamoreaux, from Texas, chose AmeriCorps community service over a start in law school before settling down. "I couldn't work for a better program," she stated.

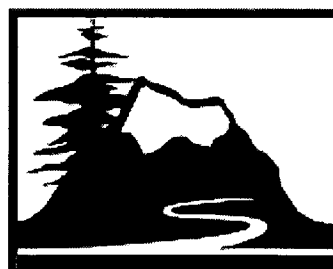
Working in AmeriCorps sweatshirts and hard hats, the young volunteers were frequently greeted with appreciation by area hikers. AmeriCorps has served in over 100 communities nationwide and claims more than 500,000 alumni since its inception in 1993.

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### Cougar Acquisition *continued from page 1*

parcels could provide a continuous public corridor. There is no reasonable trail up from Newport Way either, but the interior of the property and the view-ridge above can be hiked out of the Harvey Manning Park at Talus. Another access is down from AA Peak on Shangri-la or Surprise Creek trails and heading north on the Red Cedars Trail.

Full access to this land and to the body of the park beyond is likely a few years away. With acres of level frontage for parking, and under a half mile walk to the huge transit center at Tibbetts Park via lighted sidewalk, it will be the closest park entry for Issaquah, Bellevue and Seattle residents, and could someday host a trailhead of regional importance.



## DISCOVER PASS SET FOR \$30

Cash-strapped agencies of State Parks, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (WDFW) have modified earlier proposals and agreed upon a single \$30 vehicle pass for access to their properties. The pass plans will presumably go into effect July 1.



### APRIL 2011

Saturday, April 2 – 9:30AM  
Squak Mt – Loop hike from Mountainside trailhead  
7-trail hike, including Central Peak  
3C, 5-6 miles, 2000' gain SLOW PACE  
Doug Simpson – 425-823-0747

Sunday, April 3 – 9:30AM  
Cedar River Trail. Scenic trail along river.  
2A, 8 miles, no gain  
Mary Nolan – 425-837-1535

Friday, April 8 – 10:00AM  
Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water  
Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps  
2B, 4-6 miles, 600'-1000' gain  
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

Saturday, April 9 – 1:00PM  
Tiger Mt - Tradition Plateau -  
Learn to identify 10 trees and 10 shrubs  
2B, 5 miles, 600' gain  
Dave Kappler – 425-392-3571

Sunday, April 10 – 9:30AM  
Cougar Mt. "Central Loop" Fred's RR,  
Shy Bear, Wildside, Military Rd Trails  
2B, 6 miles, 700' gain  
Steve Williams 425-453-8997

Saturday, April 16 – 9:00AM  
Squak Mt - Loop hike over Central and West Peaks  
Rainier view for lunch  
3C, 6 miles, 1700 ft. gain  
Scott Prueter – 425-269-3079

Sunday, April 17 – 9:30AM  
South Tiger Flower Walk - Spot early spring  
Flowers at the south end of the Tiger Mountain Trail.  
1A, 3 miles, 300' gain  
Joe Toynbee – 425-228-6118

Sunday, April 17 – 10:00AM  
Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water  
Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps  
2B, 4-6 miles, 600'-1000' gain  
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

Thursday, April 21 – 10AM  
Echo Mt – Midweek hike  
2B, 4-5 miles, 500' gain  
Betty Culbert 425-432-7387

Saturday, April 23 – 9:30AM  
Tiger Mt - Loop from Trails Center to Talus Rocks  
2C, 6 miles, 1500' gain  
Richard Mann – 425-281-8465

Sunday, April 24 – 9:30AM  
EASTER SUNDAY  
Poo Poo Point via Chiraco Trail  
3C, 4 miles, 1900" gain  
Mary Nolan – 425-837-1535

Thursday, April 28 – 7:00 PM  
IATC BOARD MEETING  
Trails Center - 1<sup>st</sup> + Bush

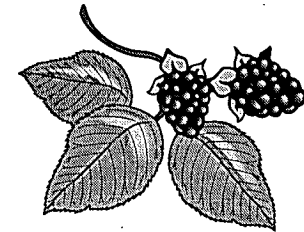
Friday, April 29 – 10:00AM  
Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water  
Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps  
2B, 3-4 miles, 500'-800' gain  
Jean Lanz – 206-322-0990

Saturday, April 30 – 9:00AM  
Squak Mt. Eastside Loop: Begin at the Trails Center,  
Hike a cherry-stem loop to Squak's Central Peak  
and back.  
3C, 8 miles, 2400' Gain  
Ralph Owen - 425-746-1070

### MAY 2011

Sunday, May 1 – 1:00PM  
Tiger Mt - 20 May Day Blooms on the Tradition  
Plateau  
2B, 5 miles, 600' gain  
Dave Kappler – 425-392-3571

Saturday, May 7 – 9:00AM – 2:00PM  
ISSAQUAH HOBBY AND VOLUNTEER FAIR  
Pickering Barn – 1730 10<sup>th</sup> Ave NW



Saturday, May 7 – 9AM  
Cougar Mt - Double Loop around Wilderness  
Peak and on to Longview Peak  
3C, 7 miles, 1700 ft. gain  
Scott Prueter - 425-269-3079

Sunday, May 8 – 9:30AM  
Tiger Mt – "South Lolly Pop"  
2B, 3.5 miles, 800' gain  
Steve Williams 425-453-8997

Friday, May 13 – 10:00AM  
Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water  
Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps  
2B, 4-6 miles, 600'-1000' gain  
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

Saturday, May 14 – 8:30AM  
West Tiger 1, 2, 3 Loop. Begin at the Trails Center,  
we'll hike to  
Tiger Mt's 2nd highest peak via the Poo Poo Point  
Trail & others.  
Then circle back past West Tiger 2 and 1 before  
returning down the Section Line.  
4D, 12 miles, 3300' gain  
Ralph Owen - 425-746-1070.

Sunday, May 15 – 9:00AM  
South Squak Mt Flower Walk.  
Spot early spring flowers at the south end of  
Squak Mountain.  
2A, 4 miles, 400' gain  
Joe Toynbee - 425-228-6118

Friday, May 20 – 10:00AM  
Echo Mt Midweek Hike  
2B, 4-5 miles, 500' gain  
Betty Culbert 425-432-7387

Saturday, May 21 – 9:30AM  
Cougar Mt - Loop from Talus to AA peak  
2B, 7 miles, 1000' gain  
Richard Mann – 425-281-8465



## MAY 2011 cont.

**Sunday, May 22 – 9:30AM**

**Tiger Mt - Scotch Broom removal on Tradition Plateau**  
Team up with Issaquah Environmental Council to eliminate this non-native invasive  
Loppers and gloves provided  
2A, 3 miles, 200 ft. gain  
Dave Kappler – 425-392-3571

**Thursday, May 26 – 7:00PM**  
Hike Leaders Meeting  
Trails Center – 1<sup>st</sup> & Bush

**Friday, May 27 – 10:00AM**  
Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water  
Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps  
2B, 3-4 miles, 500'-800' gain  
Jean Lanz – 206-322-0990

**Saturday, May 28 – 9:00AM**  
North Bend's Little Si and Mossy Vistas  
2C, 5 miles, 1300' gain  
Mary Nolan – 425-837-1535

**Sunday, May 29 – 10:00AM**  
Cougar Mt - Licorice Fern trail on Cougar's south side  
2B, 4 miles, 750' gain  
Doug Simpson – 425-823-0747

**Monday, May 30 – 10:00AM**  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water  
Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps  
2B, 4-6 miles, 600'-1000' gain  
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

## JUNE 2011

**Saturday, June 4 – 9:00AM**  
Tiger Mt - Loop hike to West Tiger 1 via High Point Trail, Dwight's Way, Tiger #1 Trail.  
Return via Tiger #1, Rail Road Grade, TMT and High Point Trail.  
3C, 8 miles, 2600 ft. gain  
Scott Prueter - 425-269-3079

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**IATC ENCOURAGES CARPOOLING +  
RECOMMENDS \$1 MINIMUM OR  
15¢/MILE GAS CONTRIB TO DRIVER**

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**Sunday, June 5 – 1:30PM**  
Cougar Mt - "Return to Newcastle" Coal Mining History Walk  
Explore Coal Creek and Cougar Mt Parks with Eastside Heritage Center & Newcastle Historical Society

2A, 2 miles, 150' gain, EASY AND SLOW  
Steve Williams 425-453-8997

**Friday, June 10 – 10:00AM**  
Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water  
Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps  
2B, 4-6 miles, 600'-1000' gain  
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

**Saturday, June 11 – 9:30AM**  
Rattlesnake Mountain's 3 ledges  
2B, 4 miles, 1400' gain SLOW PACE  
Bob Gross – 425-427-8449

**Sunday, June 12 – 1:00PM**  
Tiger Mt's Tradition Plateau - learn 5 ferns and 10 flowers  
2B, 5 miles, 600 ft. gain  
Dave Kappler – 425-392-3571

**Friday, June 17 thru Sunday, June 19**  
**GREENWAY SUMMER FESTIVAL HIKES**  
Check mtsgreenway.org for full activities  
Hikes Meet at IATC Trails Center

**Friday, June 17 – 6:00PM**  
Explore parks and open spaces in and adjoining Issaquah.  
The "Trailhead City" lives up to its name.  
2B, 4 miles, 500 ft. gain  
Dave Kappler – 425-392-3571

**Saturday, June 18 – 9:00AM**  
Ollalie Lake - Hike outside Issaquah Alps region to a Beautiful Alpine Lake – NW Forest Pass required  
3B, 5- 6 miles, 1200' gain  
Mary Nolan – 425-837-1535

**Saturday, June 18 – 10:00AM**  
Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water  
Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps  
2B, 4-6 miles, 600'-1000' gain  
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

**Sunday, June 19 – 9:00AM**  
North Bend's Weeks Falls and Twin Falls  
Stop at Weeks Falls, then hike to Twin Falls from the top – SLOW PACE  
2B, 4.5 miles, 700' gain  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435



**Sunday, June 19 – 9:30AM**  
Greenway Interpretive Hike – Tiger Mt's Tradition Lake from Trails Center - info on local birds, plants and animals.  
(Have you ever met a Porcupine face to face?)  
Class 2B, 4.5 miles, 650' gain SLOW PACE  
Steve Williams 425-453-8997

**Friday, June 24 – 10:00AM**  
Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water  
Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps  
2B, 3-4 miles, 500'-800' gain  
Jean Lanz – 206-322-0990

**Saturday, June 25 – 9:30AM**  
Squak Mt - from south end, if open, via Mad Mountain Beaver  
Return over Central Peak  
3C, 7 miles, 2000' gain  
Richard Mann – 425-281-8465

**Sunday, June 26 – 9:30AM**  
Tiger Mt - We'll take new and seldom used trails Up to and around Tiger Mountain's Tradition Lake Plateau.  
2B, 5 miles, 600' gain. SLOW PACE  
Fred Zeitler 425-882-3435

★ ★ ★

**GEAR CHECKLIST = WATER, FOOD,  
DAYPACK, RAINGEAR, WARM CLOTHES,  
HIKING SHOES/BOOTS**

★ ★ ★

**PLEASE CHECK  
NUMBER / LETTER CLASSIFICATION  
FOR HIKE DIFFICULTY**

★ ★ ★

**ALL HIKES MEET AT THE TRAILS  
CENTER – 1ST AND BUSH IN ISSAQUAH.  
HIKES LEAVE AT THE TIME STATED  
SO PLAN TO ARRIVE A BIT EARLIER**

★ ★ ★



## SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGY ON TIGER

(Ed. Note: After the first paragraph, this article is reprinted in part from the Issaquah Press.)

The Issaquah Alps provide area residents and visitors with an attractive landscape, and those active in the Issaquah Alps Trails Club are well aware of the abundance of great hiking trails they provide. We know that geologically the Alps have been around for a while, but now recent studies have shown them to have true geologic significance.

Some of Tiger Mountain's most unique treasures are the ones that lie beneath the ground. The Issaquah Alps themselves are unique.

"In general it is an east-west trending chain of mountains that are riding the back of an east-west fault that is active," Tim Walsh, a geologist with the state Department of Natural Resources, said during a recent trip to the mountain.

New technology is enabling geologists to take a much closer look at the mountains than ever before. Peeling back vegetation, lakes and other human developments with radar technology, geologists are able to accurately map the area and confirm what they've long suspected is part of the region's active faults.

The new maps will enable geologists and state officials to better understand how the active faults are shaping our region, said Joe Dragovich, a geologist the DNR. The information will help to understand what areas are prone to earthquakes and what repercussions a large quake may have for surrounding communities, he said.

By taking a six-mile hike to the 15-Mile Creek Trail gorge, you can see what an active fault is doing to the mountain's geology. One there, you'll see how the exposed gorge walls take on color striations similar to a sunset. Millions of years of soil deposits from glacial formations and changing climates are inscribed in them, layer upon layer.

Where a belt of specifically colored soil dips drastically and continues in a straight line again, you

are more than likely looking at the work of an active fault, Walsh said, pointing to two instances on the gorge walls above the swift creek.

A few hundred feet away, before you get to the 15-Mile Creek gorge outlook, there is a fork in the trail. At the end of the upper fork, be ready to use your eyes and exercise patience. To find small globules of amber of Tiger, you'll need both.

Amber was discovered on Tiger during its mining days in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Walsh said. Amber is popular as a semi-precious stone in jewelry. The 15-Mile Creek Trail is roughly one mile, well maintained and fairly flat. At the fork in the trail take the higher trail to the coal seam and amber outcrop. The amber is in the coal and rocks up a steep incline and below a grouping of trees. Use tools to dig into the seam and break apart the rocks. The globules of amber are orange, red and brown, and are typically the size of a fingernail.

Roughly 45 million years ago, during the middle Eocene period, marine life thrived in sea waters where Tiger Mountain stands. You can still see them in the mud and sandstone rocks and hardened sediments making up parts of the mountain. The easiest trail to access a fossil site from is a state logging road, located off Highway 18 near the summit.

"We talk about time traveling all the time. What we don't talk about so much is the idea of time traveling in the area we live in, wherever it is," said George Mustoe of Western Washington University's Geology Department. "Amber and fossils are the closest things we have to a time machine.

"When you look at a rock or see a dried up tree globule, you get a glimpse of the world we live in and how it looked 45 million years ago. How cool is that?"



# WHEN BACKPACKERS FIRST CAME TO THE TMT

By Bill Longwell

(Ed. Note: This article was reprinted from a winter 2002 issue of this publication.)

From 1974, when we first began routing the TMT across Tiger, until early 1981, I never saw any group hiking the trail, except for the people who walked and worked with me. I really began to think that hiking the TMT would never catch on. Hiking Tiger Mountain, and especially the TMT, was a lonely act, at least for me. I rarely saw anyone on Tiger trails. Tiger Mountain was basically MY private hiking reserve, and I was surprised to find anyone else there.

The TMT opened for hikers along its entire ten-mile route (Note: the trail was later rerouted to its present 16-mile length.) on October 13, 1979, when the IATC sponsored a grand-opening hike. Numerous church groups, some city officials, local newspaper reporters, and IATC members helped christen the TMT. But, after all the initial hoopla, for a year and a half, The TMT saw few visitors. Every time I worked the trail alone or went with a group to rework part of the trail, we saw no one—that is, until May, 1981.

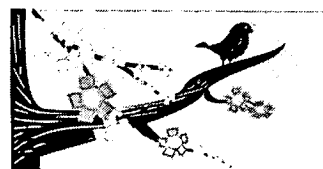
During April, 1981, I had cut up an old cedar telephone pole into 30-inch lengths and split each section into puncheon slabs (rough, hand-split planks, usually cedar). I planned to use the puncheon for a bridge decking, a bridge across the first swampy section of the new TMT. My brother had loaned me his chainsaw to cut stringer logs for this bridge; this was the first time I had ever used a chainsaw. Ironically, just two days later, someone broke into my house and stole the chainsaw.

My younger daughter Gretchen, just freshly home from her first year in college, helped me carry the puncheon boards from the TMT trailhead—then situated on the West Side Road—to the bridge site, about a quarter of a mile carry. We made several trips to carry all the boards and spikes to the site. Then on May 2, 1981, I was working alone, nailing the boards to the stringers when I heard a commotion. I looked up to see a group of backpackers, the first other

hikers I had ever seen on the TMT. They were in the first minutes of a two-day trip across Tiger. Included in the group were Larry Penberthy, famed Seattle Mountaineer and founder of MSR, maker of stoves and climbing equipment.

How had they heard of the TMT? Why, they had read about the fledgling trail in Harvey Manning's first Footsore book. In fact, they were carrying that book in hand; they showed me the page describing the TMT. I stood there incredulously, watching them disappear up the trail, then went back to work nailing boards on that first TMT bridge.

The Tiger Mountain hiking revolution had begun. The days of my private hiking preserve were over for good. Ever since, Tiger has never been the same quiet mountain.



## ARE YOU UP TO DATE?

IATC is an all volunteer-based organization. There is no paid staff, so all hikes that are led, trails that are built and maintained, and political activities that are engaged in to support and protect the Issaquah Alps are all volunteer efforts. All of these activities cost money, however – to advertise our hiking program to both new and existing hikers, to purchase gear and tools for trail work, and to keep the membership and public informed about local land use issues and take action on those issues when necessary. So, if you haven't made a donation to the club in a while (see the date by your name on this issue - this is your last contribution date), please consider updating your membership now. Simply mail your check to Issaquah Alps Trails Club, PO Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027. Thank you for supporting our mutual goals.

# 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.



*continued on page 10*

## Hike Information *continued from page 9*

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 351, 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		
Book: 55 Hikes Around Snoqualmie Pass	10.00		
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	(List 9.50) 8.00		
Green Trails Map: Cougar & Squak Mountains, Map 203S	(List 9.50) 8.00		
Green Trails Map: Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley Map 205S	(List 9.50) 8.00		
Green Trails Map: Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor, Map 206S	(List 9.50) 8.00		
*All prices include shipping and handling.			

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

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

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

## 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.

Suggested donation levels:

☐ The basic hiker.....\$15

☐ The project supporter.....\$25

☐ The IATC sponsor.....\$50

☐ The visionary.....\$100 and above

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

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

Address Service Requested

Non Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Issaquah, WA  
Permit #70



Last Contribution / 8/8/2010

Charles & Malena McCrone  
PO Box 593  
Issaquah WA 98027-0022

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Issaquah Alps Trails Club

## 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. (List \$9.50) \$8.

o *Green Trails Cougar & Squak Mountains*. Map 203S. (List \$9.50) \$8.

o *Green Trails Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley*. Map 205S. (List \$9.50) \$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 Cougar Mountain map*. 2001 revised.

o *55 Hikes Around Snoqualmie Pass* By Harvey Manning. \$10.