Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club



October ♦ November ♦ December 2011

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

FROM PLAINS TO MOUNTAINS TO SOUND. THE GREENWAY 20TH ANNIVERSARY TREK

By Ken Konigsmark

Seeking to renew and relive the enthusiasm, inspiration and magic of the original Mountains to Sound March that was led by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club in 1990, a hardy group of approximately 75 trekkers gathered in Ellensburg on July 2 to launch a 20th Anniversary Trek. Nine days later on July 10 that group, joined by hundreds of others along the way, triumphantly marched onto Pier 58 on Seattle's waterfront for a celebratory ending to another historic and, yes, magical Greenway event.

IATC gave birth to the Greenway vision and IATC's leadership by hosting the original Mountains to Sound March in 1990 gave further birth to the Mountains to sound Greenway Trust organization that has carried IATC's vision into a more-than-dreamed-of reality over the past 20 years. The conservation of vast swaths of forestlands, then connections between previously isolated public lands, the building of new trails and trail linkages, the creation and results crucial restoration and volunteer programs-all have accomplished more than anyone dreamed of in 1990!

Thus it was fitting at the 20th Anniversary milestone, to once again re-inspire a new generation of Greenway dreamers and supporters with another monumental Trek. This time, with The Greenway's vision having extended all the way to Ellensburg, the 130-mile journey to Seattle's waterfront began in that sunny, but brutally windy, Sunday morning of July 3.

Trekkers from age 8 to 78 began a three-day bike ride on the John Wayne Trail from Ellensburg to Rattlesnake Lake, including a grand re-opening of the 2.3 mile tunnel under Snoqualmie Pass, followed by the five days of hiking from Rattlesnake Lake to Seattle's waterfront.

Riding directly into the face of up to 40 mph winds on the first day, the group completed a very challenging 26-mile bike ride into the historic south Cle Elum Train Depot. Along the way the group enjoyed a muchneeded lunch break at the old Thorp Grist Mill. Despite the brutal wind, trekkers persevered along the route, enjoying the prairie and farmland scenery and the notable transition into Ponderosa pine forestlands as

we neared Cle Elum. Despite the tiring day, and with a good catered dinner under their belts, the group enjoyed an evening of energetic dancing to local bands before retiring to their tents.

The second day brought gratefully slower winds as well as a gentle, 21mile bike ride on the John Wayne Trail from South Cle Elum to the Crystal Springs Sno Park where the group rendezvoused for the night, treated by the Backcountry

continued on page 6

LAND STEWARDS **WANTED FOR CLC**

By Kristen Kosidowski

Cascade Land Conservancy (CLC) is excited to partner with so many Issaquah area neighbors, business owners, and partners in conserving the beautiful lands of this region while creating vibrant communities. Consider becoming a volunteer of Land Steward today. This is a unique opportunity to care for the special wild places in our region and "adopt" a property. Volunteer Land

continued on page 8

The Apparatus

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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 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

Since the last issue of the Alpiner, the 20th Anniversary Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust March has occurred and more people know about the Greenway and how it came about. In this issue, Ken Konigsmark and others who participated even more than I did will bring you up to date about this successful event. The Greenway Trust led an extremely well-organized march and made all of us proud of the work we have done over the decades to make the Greenway a reality. Looking over Larry Hanson's "Birth of the Greenway" photo album documenting the first march in 1990 made one realize how far we have come and how the efforts by many of you have created a legacy that will enhance our lives for generations.

. . . .

A few days ago I got a call from a newspaper reporter asking about the club's position on some mountain-biking related issues. Whenever a series of prying questions is being asked by a neighbor, a job interviewer or a reporter, one usually reflects later about what one forgot to say, could have said better, or should not have said at all! I do not think I wish to take back my words, but I could have said more.

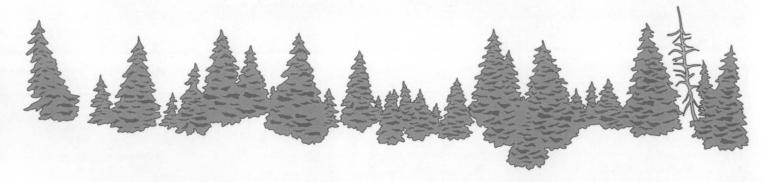
We are well known as a hiking club, and we do lead over a hundred hikes a year spread over every weekend of the year, but it really is not the recreational aspects of our efforts that have sustained the energy and involvement of our leaders and supporters. I would suggest that we are a conservation/environmental organization first and foremost. We enjoy getting out and seeing what we have protected

and leading our hikes to show others what has been done and to interest them in our vision. In talking with the newspaper reporter, I was not clear enough that the issues surrounding mountain biking are not just about one recreational group disagreeing with another recreational group.

This became a lot clearer to me recently when my daughter and I got dropped off at Highway 18 and hiked the road to East Tiger and then hiked on trails to High Point. It was discouraging to see how the trails leading from East Tiger, signed hiker-only trails, have been torn up as the bikers have turned trails into bombing runs or mud runs. In no way is this type of use in appreciation of the natural systems of the mountain, nor does it respect the safety of other trail users. It is any wonder that club members question why I, as club president, have supported DNR grant applications for more bike trails on East Tiger and planning efforts in the Raging River Forest for additional trails including those for bikes?

I have seen some hopeful signs from some in the biking community to look at nature as more than something to conquer, and to show some effort to take on their renegade element. Hopefully, I'm a realistic optimist and not a naïve fool. What comes out of the Issaquah Mountain Task Force and a future citizen group making recommendations for recreation uses in the Raging River Forest will be very telling about how bike recreation advocates can support the natural environment and ensure the safety of all user groups.

This issue would benefit from further discussion among our members. Your thoughts on the matter are welcome.





YOUTH ENJOY MTSG MARCH

In lieu of a scholarship this year, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club subsidized three high school students for the recent Mountains to Sound Greenway 20-year Anniversary March. Evan Kamber, a June graduate of Skyline High School, senior-to-be Grace Hung (also from Skyline) and Bellevue High's Joyce Ren benefited from IATC's support.

The youth biked three days 75 miles from Ellensburg to Rattlesnake Lake, then hiked the remaining 55 miles to the Seattle waterfront. Following are some of their reactions and impressions over the nine-day, 130 mile march.

ELLENSBURG TO SOUTH CLE ELUM (7/3): Joyce Ren generalized her daily beginnings: "From waking up with the first inklings of dawn at 6:30 a.m., to seeing the stars with new eyes at the witching hour, our hours and minutes were filled with joy, laughter, awe, and general 'amazingness." "The views were breathtaking," Kamber wrote. "I don't think I'll ever forget the image of all the windblown

tall grass field next to a winding road as I watched the bikers power their way up the incline." That night the youth enjoyed a dance party. "It was so much fun," Kamber said, "watching the older folk throw down their dance moves."

SOUTH CLE ELUM TO CRYSTAL SPRINGS (7/4): Happy Fourth of July from the middle of nowhere," Grace Hung exclaimed. "Much of my day was really scenic, with the trees creating a nice backdrop for the trails we were on." Kamber added, "The weather was beautiful again, a perfect temperature with no clouds, and the views were amazing. . . it was so interesting to see the terrain and environmental transition from Eastern Washington to Western Washington within a span of ten miles." Ren commented, "Sometimes it felt like I was going uphill for two miles against a 20 mph wind, with this false hope that the end was just around the corner, whilst also nursing my broken ego as a man more than three times my age passed me on his bike." That night the youth were impressed

continued on page 9

HIKER'S CORNER

By Joe Toynbee

(MEMORIES OF HARVEY MANNING)

I first became aware of Harvey Manning back in the mid 1970's when the "Footsore" and "100 Hikes" series of guide books started coming out. I really enjoyed the prefaces to these books in which Harvey pulled no punches about how he felt



about motorbikes, bicycles and weak-kneed land managers. He had a real feel for phrases such as "all power to the feet." Harvey apparently felt that one did not compromise with the devil.

I first met Harvey in the fall of 1978. Bill Longwell had opened a section of the Tiger Mountain Trail, and had invited Harvey, myself and some others to look it over. Harvey showed up in real Mountain Man garb, with an ancient hat, ragged wool shirt and patched pants. He seemed to talk just about the way he wrote, with carefully thought out and balanced sentences. I remember him opening an umbrella, and when someone commented on this, he said it didn't make him any less a hiker. All in all, my impression was of an eccentric but fascinating man.

My first hike with Harvey as leader occurred in December of 1979 on an IATC hike to Cougar Mountain. Harvey showed up on a cold, snowy day at the Issaquah Park and Ride (where hikes started in those days) with his usual ragged outfit. He led some fifty of us up onto Cougar Mountain, keeping up a running commentary about efforts to save Cougar from the developers. We came across a "No Trespassing" sign, which Harvey felt had been put up for his benefit, since he had been exploring in the area.

During the 1980's I went on as many of Harvey's hikes as I could, because I loved to hear him talk. For some years he led a Teddy Bear hike, on which

each hiker had a Teddy peeking out from his pack. I remember one New Year's Day hiking from High Point down into Issaquah and right into the Rolling Log Tavern, where the beer flowed.

On one occasion, a woman told me she had found a great mushroom patch up on Cougar, and was picking when all of a sudden this loud voice behind her said, "What are you doing in my mushroom patch?" It scared the wits out of her until she realized it was Harvey. I heard another anecdote, which may or may not be true, about a reporter coming to Issaquah to interview Harvey, and after the interview offering to buy Harvey lunch because he felt this ragged old man needed a decent meal.

ALPS GET HELP

The Issaquah Alps benefited from a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program from the State legislature's special session in late May. Of the WWRP funds, \$1.5 million goes to local projects on Cougar and Tiger Mountains.

Land acquisition of Cougar for the Precipice Trail received a half million dollars, and nearly that amount is for bridgework on the Tiger Mountain Trail. The balance is for the East Lake Sammamish Trail project and for the Duthie Hill Park on the Sammamish plateau.

Legislators selected more than fifty competitive projects statewide to receive funding through the program.

MARATHON MAN BENEFITS IATC

Marathon runner Douglas Pariseau undertook a 185-mile run in late July for seven days to benefit the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and the Mt. Rainier Lutheran School's cross country team (where his children attend). Pariseau left the Issaquah REI store, where he works, on July 27, heading for the REI store in Portland.

From Plains To Mountains ... continued from page 1-

Horsemen to some homemade Dutch oven apple cobbler. Songs around a roaring campfire that night mesmerized the trekkers and bonded us into, if not a talented singing group, at least into a bonded group of trekkers!

The third day, July 5, offered a 28-mile bike ride up to Snoqualmie Pass, through the tunnel, and down the westside portion of the trail to Rattlesnake Lake. State Parks hosted a grand re-opening celebration for the Snoqualmie Pass Tunnel, following two years of renovation and safety improvements to dangers that had forced a tunnel closure. Hundreds of people joined the trekkers at the Pass for the celebration and the thrilling ride through the newly opened tunnel. Once at the Rattlesnake, trekkers enjoyed a quick dip in the icy waters to wash off at least some of the trail dust.

The next morning, the bikes were gone and the hiking boots put on for the first day of the hiking portion of the Trek, 11 miles up and over Rattlesnake Mountain to the Snoqualmie Point Park. Over 100 hiking Greenway supporters joined the trekkers for this day's portion of the Trek, creating perhaps the largest single group to have ever hiked across the mountain in a single day. At Snoqualmie Point Park a delicious barbecue dinner awaited the hungry hikers, along with three musical groups who performed on the stage. Unlike the original March, in which horrible blisters dominated the journey, we were fortunate this time to have virtually no blister problems among the trekkers.

On Day 6, July 7, the Trek took a route from Preston back onto Tiger Mountain at the WSDOT maintenance building, and across the northwest face of Tiger into Issaquah, where we camped on the Issaquah Middle School football field. Trekkers were especially grateful for the first opportunity to grab a hot shower at the Community Center. It was a special evening for Issaquah, IATC, and Greenway Trust and trekkers as a joint celebratory dinner was held in the Community Center to recognize the combined efforts of all parties in the numerous successes that have occurred in and around Issaquah since the Greenway effort began.

Day 8, the toughest day of the Trek, required a long, 18-mile hike up and over Squak Mountain,

then-Gougar Mountain, then-down-Coal-Creek Park and into a campsite at Newcastle Beach Park on the shores of Lake Washington. Despite the long, tiring journey, without complaint or any problems, all trekkers made it to the park, entertained along the way by IATC's Steve Williams with his stories of the history of Cougar Mountain Wildland Park.

With a mix of both joy and sadness to see it all ending, trekkers woke up early on the final day, July 10, for the final stretch into Seattle. By now, we were no longer individuals on a hike, we were friends, family even, who had endured and enjoyed a long, magical journey together. We were joined by dozens more supporters at Enatai Beach Park as we began to cross Lake Washington, stopped for a short lunch at the Mt. Baker Tunnel Lid Park, and then marched our way down Yesler Way to the waterfront in Seattle, where, with whoops, whistles and cheers, the large group paraded onto Pier 58 for a joyous ending celebration.

It truly was another historic, inspiring, and yet again, magical March. IATC should take great pride in having spawned the Greenway vision and in now continuing to support and partner with the Greenway Trust as that vision continues to grow beyond expectations. It is a legacy that future generations will value more than we can ever know.



TASKER PICKED FOR DNR POST

Tiger Mountain State Forest and the South Puget Sound Region has a new manager in Art Tasker, appointed recently by State Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark. Tasker has 37 years of experience with DNR. Tasker is managing 73 permanent employees and 24 seasonal staff members overseeing six counties, including King, and more than 250,000 acres of state trust lands managing forestry, habitat and clean water.

HIKING OVER BRIDGES TO SEATTLE

By Doug Simpson

For various reasons, I was unable to undertake the entire eight-day marathon Mountains to Sound trek from Ellensburg to Seattle to celebrate the Greenway's 20th anniversary. I did wish to participate, however, and was excited to do the last day's outing July 10 from Bellevue to Seattle.

I got up early that Sunday morning to drive to the waterfront area, where maybe 75 of us were shuttled by bus to Enatai Park under the I-90 freeway near the terminus of Bellevue Way. We were soon joined by a hoard of hoary hikers who were making their way from their Newcastle campsite.

The outing was ten miles, a good share of it across the two bridges with traffic whizzing by enroute to Seattle at a much faster pace than our nearly 3 mph. Many riders, nevertheless, looked at us with interest and encouragement. We were always safe in the pedestrian/bike lanes provided along the freeway. In fact, we were in more danger from passing bikers, though there didn't seem to be any problems making room for both.

Across the East Channel Bridge and onto Mercer Island we arrived at Freeway Park, where we spread out on the grass and snacked, oblivious to cars speeding past somewhere beneath us. Needless to say, bathrooms were welcome there and at our other two stops.

Walking across the Mercer Island Bridge into Seattle was an other-worldly experience, not just because of the traffic beside us, but because seeing something we have driven hundreds of times up close and personal and right above the water was unique and memorable.

After the two mile-crossing, we zigzagged up the hillside and then through the original tunnel, another unique experience, bringing us to Mt. Baker Tunnel Lid Park, another sizable patch of greenspace above the highway below. It is remarkable that—other than the open bridge trekking—you can walk on so much

greenspace/parkland on the Mountains to Sound Greenway route in the urban area from Bellevue to Seattle.

The hardest part of the ten-mile trek (for me at least) was the long downhill slog from 21st and Yesler Way on the sidewalk for blocks and blocks down to the waterfront. That was difficult for me because the sidewalk-pounding descent was taking a toll on my knees. Then as the trekkers walked the last several blocks under the viaduct to Waterfront Park at Pier 58, I could almost hear in my subconscious the theme from "Rocky" permeating our final surge. We were greeted by cheering from Greenway staff and others who had prepared food and festivities for us. Due to our rapid hiking pace, we arrived about an hour earlier than had been expected.

It was exciting to participate in the symbolic adventure that Issaquah Alps Trails Club visionaries Jack Hornung and Harvey Manning dreamed of over twenty years ago and that men such as Jim Ellis and Ted Thomsen (also active in IATC) worked long and hard to bring the Greenway into reality.



RESTORATION EFFORTS GET MORE FUNDING

Efforts to continue habitat restoration at Lake Sammamish State Park received a \$25,000 grant from FedEx and the National Fish and Wildlife Stewardship recently. The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust received the funds to work on the project.

The grant was added to those received earlier from the National Fish and Wildlife Salmon Fund and the King Conservation District.

Land Stewards Wanted continued from page 1

Stewards play a central role in the stewardship and monitoring of CLC's conserved lands. Trained by CLC stewardship staff, volunteer stewards monitor properties, document threats, and assist with on-the-ground restoration.

CLC is currently recruiting interested volunteer Land Stewards for conserved properties around Snoqualmie Pass. Land Stewards at the I-90 properties, including Gold Creek, Noble Creek, Keechelus Ridge, Swamp Lake and Resort Creek, assist in the seasonal monitoring of the properties as wells as community engagement via restorations events. Volunteer Land Stewards monitor sites 3-4 times annually and report on road conditions, forest and ecological health, human use, and wildlife sightings.

Land Stewards work closely with CLC's Lands Coordinator to select a site that matches the volunteer's interests and abilities. Volunteers are also invited to CLC's annual Land Steward training and have access to training materials, including an introductory training specifically created for Snoqualmie Pass Land Stewards.

CLC efforts along the I-90 corridor are helping to prevent further human development in these areas, protect habitat for endangered species, and ensure connectivity of wildlife habitat in concert with the new wildlife crossing structures along I-90. The northern spotted owl, grizzly bear, gray wolf and Canada lynx, among other species, will benefit.

Please submit an email with interest and applicable experience to landsteward@cascadeland.org with "Snoqualmie Pass Land Steward Interest in the subject line. A tentative Snoqualmie Pass Volunteer Land Steward tour is scheduled for September 2011.



IATC RULES BOOKS OUT

Book publishing was the major agenda item at the July 28 board meeting of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. The board officially determined that the club will not print more editions of its existing trail guides. The inventory of the Cougar, Squak and Tiger mountain trail guides will continue to be sold through the Alpiner, the website (issaquahalps.org) and at booth fairs. In the future, the books will be sold for \$5 for an electronic version via the website and a \$10 CD version.

"When the club first started publishing books and maps of the Issaquah Alps, our trails were hardly mentioned in the guide books of the time," IATC President David Kappler pointed out. "Due to our successes in promoting the Alps, several guide-books and maps are being published by others and many of our hikes are also described online. Often when our hikes are described by others, they mostly describe getting from point A to point B and what may be seen along the way. The history of the area and how the trail came to be is ignored. Keeping our guides available online will provide that history and mode for others a successful means of acquiring and protecting lands and trails," he concluded.

The purpose of the books is for education and outreach, it was determined. A committee of Scott Semans, Doug Simpson, Ed Vervoort and Marty Hanson was named to update and edit the publications in their new formats.

Dick Amidei noted that internet hits are up in recent months, and Joe Toynbee reported that hikes participation is holding steady (8.4 hikers per outing) despite the disappointing weather.

MCCARRY HONORED FOR SQUAK PARCEL

The 40-acre Issaquah 69 parcel on Squak Mountain has been named McCarry Woods in honor of former Issaquah City Council member Maureen McCarry.

Youth Enjoy MTSG March continued from page 4

with stargazing on telescopes supplied by the Boeing Astronomy Club.

CRYSTAL SPRINGS TO RATTLESNAKE LAKE (7/5): On this trip, Ren remarked, "We stepped out of our little box, no matter how comfortable and cozy it was, and saw nature and the world around us, and met the people and animals that inhabit it." "The youth teams were the first to go through the reopened Snoqualmie Tunnel!" Hung exclaimed. "Charging into the pitch black tunnel was a bit scary, considering that if you slowed down the person behind you could crash into you." "When we entered the tunnel," Kamber stated, "I felt like I was in space. . . it was literally pitch black around me-and wow was it cold. . . The only thing visible was the little pinhole at the end of the tunnel." Kamber added, "The views today were far and away my favorite. I think I stopped on about every bridge (about ten?) just to soak in the beauty of the forest in the Cascades." After the downhill surge to the lake, Hung exclaimed, "It felt amazing to jump into Rattlesnake Lake."

RATTLESNAKE LAKE TO SNOQUALMIE POINT (7/6): Grace Hung was impressed that "a ton of other people joined us on our hike today. . . Although the hike was tiring, the views were definitely worth it." Kamber added, "The ledges there are so cool we... ate on a lookout with a perfect view of Mt. Rainier." "We went for a swim in Echo Lake," Hung commented, "and it was the first time that I had ever used a rope swing!"

SNOQUALMIE POINT TO PRESTON (7/7): Kamber noted, "Today we woke up to a normal Northwest day where it was overcast and a little rainy." "The most exciting part of the day," Hung stated, "was square dancing at the Preston Community Center. . . and it was the first time that I'd ever slept under the stars. . . I seem to be having a lot of firsts on this hike."

PRESTON TO ISSAQUAH (7/8): "Today," Hung said, "we woke up to the beautiful sound of Anna's singing voice about how we all looked like colorful worms in our sleeping bags." Arriving in Issaquah, Kamber noted, "I didn't think I'd ever had a shower that felt so great. . . Not only did we get showers, but salmon too!" Dinner was followed by "a good band that everyone danced to," Hung stated, "and other trekkers dragged me in too, and I have to admit it was pretty fun."

ISSAQUAH TO NEWCASTLE BEACH (7/9): "Today was the most physically straining day of the hike, over Squak and Cougar mountains and then hiking through to Bellevue. It turned into a 19-mile hike," Kamber noted. "How did we get all the way here and not notice the vast suburb we were immersed within?" he wondered. "It made me think how special a place the Greenway is because it provides this oasis of nature, virtually untouched by people, right in our own backyard." Hung added, "Celebrating our last night together as trekkers was kind of sad. . . I came to realize how close we all had gotten."

NEWCASTLE BEACH TO SEATTLE (7/10): "The last day was definitely a bittersweet one," Kamber stated. Hung added: "Time had flown by so fast... Today's hike was really cool because I was finally able to recognize the areas we were hiking by... A ton of people joined us for the big event, and we sure made quite a scene on the I-90 floating bridge." Kamber concluded, "We passed a sea of tourists with our group of over 200 along the waterfront, past the ferry docks, and we made it to Pier 58. There were reporters, fans, and FOOD."

As Joyce Ren recalled, "Our days, instead of being filled with the usual daily monotony, were filled with the stuff that we wish every day was filled with, the stuff that comes to mind when we ponder that miraculous word of 'life.' And that's what happened the past nine days. We lived! . . . I have met so many cool people, who have touched my heart, and have changed the way I choose to think about life."

Grace Hung reminisced, "This was truly the experience of a lifetime that I will never forget, and when the 30th anniversary trek rolls around in ten years, I will be there, marching along."



IATC'S MORGAN IS GPS EXPERT

Harry Morgan, official cartographer of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, was featured recently in the Issaquah Press. Morgan, a former IATC board member, mapped and designed the club's map of Squak Mountain a few years ago.

After taking courses in geographic information systems (GIS), Morgan mapped Squak Mountain in eight trips, using a Garmin 60CSx GPS. The GPS (global positioning system) told Morgan where he was, how to get where he was going and where he had been.

"It's just like Hansel and Gretel going into the forest," Morgan said. "You're leaving bread crumbs where you've been."

Morgan has also used his GPS to create trail maps in Newcastle, Enumclaw, Maple Valley and Lareto, Mexico (on the Gulf of California), where resides part-time. A member of the Cascade Land Conservancy, for whom he has done extensive work, he also teaches courses on GIS systems.

Morgan hopes to do future maps of Cougar and Tiger mountains for IATC. President Dave Kappler has praised Morgan's work as very valuable to the club. IATC is also utilizing GPS readings to keep track of invasive plants that need to be removed.

(Ed. Note: Several stories is this issue are rewrites from issues of the Issaquah Press. We thank them for their efforts.)

Youth Enjoy MTSG March continued from page 9

Evan Kamber concluded his insightful diary with this statement: "I feel so privileged. . . Participating in the Trek helped me learn about the Greenway, experience what the Greenway offers, and most importantly meet amazing like-minded individuals who believe in conserving this beautiful stretch of land in the Pacific Northwest."



COUGARS ON COUGAR?

- Study Reveals Data

Hiking on Cougar Mountain, one is sometimes asked in jest if he's seen any cougars. Few people ever do because the animals are so secretive, but some are no doubt roaming the local peaks of the Issaquah Alps. Brian Kertson, wildlife biologist with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, spent six years studying cougars in over a thousand square miles between I-405 and the Cascades and from Sammamish to Renton. Kertson concludes that this area has between 30 and 40 resident and transient cougars, the latter passing through looking for habitat.

Using dogs, Kertson tracked and caged 34 cougars during his study, fitting them with small GPS collars or radio collars. The combined Cougar/Squak/Tiger complex "just isn't big enough to support more than two or three resident cougars." Adult males need as much as 200 square miles to roam, females about 60 miles.

"Cougars are highly adaptable," according to Kertson. "They make a living off not being seen." In five years there were only 17 verified cougar sightings in his study area. Only three sightings have been reported in the Issaquah-Sammamish area through July of this year. And they were but sightings, not caused by problems.

The cougars pose little or no threat to humans, and attacks on domestic animals are largely avoidable. "These animals are there," Kertson said, "but they just aren't a brooding danger."



Friday, November 25 – 10am

Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water
Leader's Choice in the surrounding area
2B, 4-6 miles, 800-1200' gain
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

Saturday, November 26 – 9am
May Creek Trail in Newcastle
Visit one of the largest creeks in the Issaquah Alps
1A, 2-3 miles, no gain SLOW PACE
Scott Semans – 425-369-1725

Sunday, November 27 – 9:30am Rattlesnake Mt – Stan's Overlook 2C, 5 miles, 1400' gain Mary Nolan – 425-837-1535

DECEMBER 2011

Thursday, December 1 – 7pm Hike Leaders' Meeting Trails Center, 1st + Bush

Saturday, December 3 – 9:30am

Cougar Loop – Sky Country to Longview Pk

Then return via falls

2B, 6 miles, 850' gain

Steve Williams – 425-453-8997

Saturday, December 3 – 10am

Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water

Leader's Choice in the surrounding area

3C, 6-10 miles, 800-2000' gain

Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

Sunday, December 4 – 9am
West Squak Loop – Hike some trails on the
West and south sides of Squak Mt
3C, 8.5 miles, 1800' gain
Ralph Owen – 425-746-1070

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



Saturday, December 10 – 10am
Squak Mt loop from Mountainside Dr to
Central Peak
2C, 7 miles, 2000' gain
Doug Simpson – 425-823-0747

Sunday, December 11 – Noon Tiger Mt's Tradition Loop Learn about local plants + trees 2B, 5 miles, 600' gain Dave Kappler – 425-392-3571

Friday, December 16 – 10am

Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water

Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps

2B, 3-4 miles, 500'-900' gain

Dori Ost – 206-909-1080

Saturday, December 17 - 9am

Squak Mt - Loop to Rainier view and

Over Central Peak

3C, 8-10 miles, 2300' gain

Richard Mann - 425-281-8465

Sunday, December 18 – 9:30am
Preston-Snoqualmie Trail
Hike to view of falls and uphill to lunch
2B, 5 miles, 500' gain
Mary Nolan – 425-837-1535

Saturday, December 24 – 10am Licorice Fern Trail to Wilderness Peak Then to Wilderness Creek TH – Car shuttle 2B, 6 miles, 1100' gain Bob Gross – 425-427-8449

> Sunday, December 25 – 10am CHRISTMAS DAY HIKE to Cougar Mt's AA Peak 2B, 5 miles, 1200' gain Bob Gross – 425-427-8449

PLEASE NOTE:
A DISCOVER PASS WILL BE REQUIRED
FOR VEHICLE PARKING FOR ANY HIKE
ON STATE LANDS.
GO TO discoverpass.wa.gov FOR DETAILS



Friday, December 30 – 10am

Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water
Leader's Choice in the Issaquah Alps
2B, 4-6 miles, 800-1200' gain
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

Saturday, December 31 – 9:30am NEW YEAR'S EVE day hike Twin Falls – Great winter hike to Popular waterfalls 2B, 3-4 miles, 6-800' gain Bob Gross – 425-427-8449

JANUARY 2011

Sunday, January 1 – 10am
NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE
Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water
Leader's Choice in the surrounding area
3C, 6-10 miles, 800-2000' gain
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341



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







OCTOBER 2011

Saturday + Sunday - October 1+2 SALMON DAYS IN ISSAQUAH No hikes scheduled - Visit us at our Booth by the Salmon Hatchery

Friday, October 7 - 10AM

Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water
Leader's Choice in the surrounding area
2B, 4-6 miles, 800-1200' gain
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

Saturday, October 8 – 8:30am
Taylor Mt – explore trails and roads
2B, 5 miles, 600' gain
Joe Toynbee – 425-228-6118

Sunday, October 9 – 9am
Two for One Hike. Visit 2 popular destinationsFranklin Falls + Asahel Curtis Nature Trail with
Lunch at picnic area. SLOW PACE
NW Forest Pass required for parking
2B, 4 miles, 500' gain
Fred Zeitler – 425-882-3435

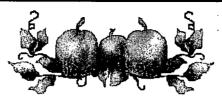
Saturday, October 15 – 10am

Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water
Leader's Choice in the surrounding area

3C, 6-10 miles, 800-2000' gain
Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341

Saturday, October 15- Noon Tiger Mt's Tradition Loop Learn about local plants + trees 2B, 5 miles, 600' gain Dave Kappler - 425-392-3571

Sunday, October 16 - 9:30am North Bend's Cedar Butte Where history and geology meet 2B, 5 miles, 900' gain Mary Nolan - 425-837-1535



Saturday, October 22 – 9am Ollalie Lake + Pratt Ridge 3C, 7.5 miles, 1500' gain Richard Mann – 425-281-8465

Sunday, October 23 – 8:30am South Squak Mt half day special 1A, 3 miles, 400' gain Joe Toynbee – 425-228-6118

Thursday, October 27 – 7pm IATC Board Meeting Trails Center, 1st + Bush

Friday, October 28 – 10AM

Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water

Leader's Choice in the Issaquah Alps

2B, 3-4 miles, 500'-900' gain

Dori Ost – 206-909-1080

Saturday, October 29 – 9am
Explore the trails of Grand Ridge
2B, 5 miles, 1200' gain
David Warner – 206-232-7730

Sunday, October 30 – 9am
Cougar Mt half day hike. Easy
Morning hike around AA Peak
1A, 3 miles, 400' gain SLOW PACE
Fred Zeitler – 425-882-3435

NOVEMBER 2011

Saturday, November 5 – 9:30am North Bend's Cedar Butte Where history and geology meet 2B, 5 miles, 900' gain Steve Williams – 425-453-8997

Saturday, November 5 – 10am

Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water

Leader's Choice in the surrounding area

3C, 6-10 miles, 800-2000' gain

Tom Pohle – 425-481-2341



Sunday, November 6 – 9:30am North Bend's Little Si 2C, 5 miles, 1400' gain Mary Nolan – 425-837-1535

Saturday, November 12 -9am
Cougar Mt – Loop to Far Country via
Cave Hole + Fred's RR Grade trails
2B, 5 miles, 1050' gain
David Warner – 206-232-7730

Sunday, November 13 – 8:30am
West Tiger Loop – A hike beginning and
Ending at the Trail Center using PooPoo Point,
West Tiger RR Grade, West Tiger 3 Trail and others.
3C, 10 miles, 2200' gain
Ralph Owen – 425-746-1070

Friday, November 18 – 10AM

Dogs Welcome Hike – bring leash/baggies/water

Leader's Choice in Issaquah Alps

2B, 3-4 miles, 500'-900' gain

Dori Ost – 206-909-1080

Saturday, November 19 – 9am Cougar Mt from Sky Country TH 3C, 7.5 miles, 1550' gain Richard Mann – 425-281-8465

Sunday, November 20 - Noon Tiger Mt's Tradition Loop Learn about local plants + trees 2B, 5 miles, 600' gain Dave Kappler - 425-392-3571

Thursday, November 24 – 9am THANKSGIVING DAY half day hike Lake Alice TH to Snoqualmie Falls Overlook 1A, 6 miles, 50' gain SLOW PACE Fred Zeitler – 425-882-3435

MY FAVORITE HIKES

By Fred Zeitler

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of articles in which veteran IATC hikers will discuss their favorite hikes in the Issaquah Alps.)

I am often asked to describe my favorite hikes in the Issaquah Alps and elsewhere. When I answer, I have to categorize these hikes by mountain, since each mountain carries fond memories of times past as well as current enjoyment. Here are some of my favorite hikes.

SQUAK MOUNTAIN

Debbie's View: The hike to this great view can be done from the south via the May Valley Loop Trail or from the north from the Mountainside trailhead. I like the shorter, northern loop, going up the Bullitt Fireplace Trail to the Perimeter Loop Trail and out to the view. The views from here are of Mt. Rainier and are the best of anyplace in the Issaquah Alps. This loop trail reminds me of work parties with Bill Longwell and Joe Toynbee, especially on the Chybinsky Trail. This trail heads gently downward through nice forests and a peaceful setting. At the view point sport one can occasionally see signs of "view logging" to preserve the look out to Rainer. This loop is 5 miles with 1300 feet of elevation gain. The rewards are great views and relative quiet on this northwest side of the mountain.

COUGAR MOUNTAIN

Bear Ridge Trail: This trail leads through a quiet stretch of forest, past the "Fantastic Erratic" (a big rock from the Ice Age) and up to AA Peak via the Shangri La Trail. I love the peace and quiet on this trail as it runs parallel to Tibbett's Creek in a steady climb up to the top where we have nice views looking north to Mt. Baker. For a nice sidetrip you can take a short trip across the creek to the Talus housing development. To make a partial loop, come back via the Tibbett's Creek Trail. This loop is also 5 miles with 1300 feet of elevation gain.

Waterfalls Loop: In the spring, this is a great hike to three waterfalls on Cougar Mountain. Starting at

Redtown, you hike along the Wildside Trail to the Far Country Trail, where you have a new trail to the bottom of the falls. (They are more like cascades.) You continue on Shy Bear and Deceiver trails to Doughty Falls, which is running after a good rain. From here proceed to Coal Creek Falls, the biggest falls on Cougar Mountain. I like to do this hike when I know we have had lots of rain so I can appreciate each of the falls. This loop is 7 miles and 1500 feet of elevation gain.

TIGER MOUNTAIN

With 100 miles of trails and roads, Tiger Mountain offers almost endless opportunities for hikes and loop hikes. I always remember trail maintenance work parties, especially on the Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT) and side trails connecting to it. The last few years I have enjoyed short hikes on the Tradition Plateau also.

In prior years I found a loop hike to SOUTH TIGER as a favorite. It starts with the beginning of the TMT and goes to Otter Lake. Then you can loop up to a view spot and return via the S. Tiger Traverse. On the return you can do a short side trip on the Powerline Trail to fantastic views of Mt. Rainier. Even though parts of this trail can be shared with horse riders, the trip is usually peaceful with some views as a bonus. This loop is 7 miles with 1500 feet of elevation gain. A shorter loop to Hobart Gap and Powerline Trail with views to Mt. Rainer is 4.5 miles and 1100 feet of gain.

TWIN FALLS

At the eastern edge of the Issaquah Alps we find a great gem, Twin Falls. I enjoy this hike at all times of the year. The hike starts alongside the South Fork of the Snoqualmie River and reminds me of an old rain forest. The first views of the falls appear from a bench on a hall about a half mile from the start. As you continue, you enjoy some big Douglas firs and an old spruce before getting to the bridge above the falls. I usually venture another quarter mile to the

Continued on page 12

WHAT'S NEXT FOR GREENWAY

By Doug Simpson

In the celebratory aftermath of the 20th anniversary Mountains to Sound march, the Greenway Trust is now looking ahead to its future, not content to rest on its laurels.

The Greenway corridor, after tremendous growth in its twenty year history, now stretches 100 miles from Ellensburg to Seattle, connecting 1.4 million acres and including more than 800,000 acres in public ownership.

As the acreage under the Greenway continues to grow in the future, the next step for the Greenway Trust is a push to receive designation as a National Heritage Area—special recognition from the federal government to promote historic preservation.

Max Ashburn, communications director for Scenic America, a national non-profit organization dedicated to conservation, said a National Heritage Area receives special attention. "It's all the more important that you protect places like greenways and scenic byways from advertising and development, because people really need and want to have those places where they can go to, then be peaceful, be with nature and relax," he said.

Issues related to Greenway may shift to the Cle Elum/ Ellensburg area in Kittitas County. But it all started in Issaquah, spurred by leaders of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club.

As Ken Konigsmark, IATC vice-president and Greenway board member, stated: "We, in this region, had the sensibility to know better than to destroy the very quality of life that attracts people here in the first place."

Issaquah Mayor Ava Frisinger has been a strong supporter of IATC and Mountains to Sound Greenway. With pride, she said, "Issaquah leaders and residents came to embrace the city as a gateway to 'wild places' for recreation."

The Greenway concept is not just for recreation. "It's not about trees instead of people," according

to-Doug-Schindler, the-Greenway's deputy-director. "It's about a balance between the two." Organizers planned for farms and forests to form a patchwork inside the corridor, which now includes 75,000 forested acres under private ownership with small farms dotting the landscape.

My Favorite Hikes continued from page 11

upper falls. For spectacular waterfalls, this hike cannot be surpassed. The hike is 3 miles with an elevation gain of 650 feet (500 in, 150 out).

MELAKWA LAKE

A little further east on I-90 at exit 45 we find a cluster of mountains on both sides of the freeway. My favorite hike here is to Denny Creek and Melakwa Lake. The trail climbs slowly along Denny Creek in the forest for about a mile. Here I enjoy watching children and adults play on the water rocks of Denny Creek. In another half mile we pass Keekwulee Falls and later Snoeshoe Falls before reaching Melakwa Lake. I enjoy this hike in the fall, when I stop along the way picking blueberries and taking a breather. I also enjoy the great fall colors along this trail. The lake sits in a bowl surrounded by mighty cliffs and sometimes snow. The hike is 9 miles with 2300 feet of elevation gain.

McCarry Honored continued from page 8

McCarry's recognition by the council is a tribute to her stellar efforts in leading the city's acquisition of the property and her long-time role as an environmental leader of the council.

The property, acquired in 2007, protected the Bullitt Fireplace Trail from developmental encroachment and disruption of Squak wildlife habitat.

Councilman Fred Butler called McCarry "a champion" for her "providing the impetus and the perseverance to continue to pursue the acquisition at a time when it really didn't appear that we had a willing seller and the financial wherewithal to acquire the land."

In March, McCarry was honored as the 2011 recipient of Ruth Kees Environmental Award.

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-perhour 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 13

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:

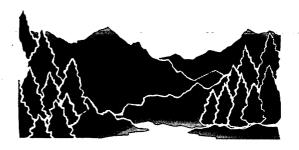
- Food
- Water
- Daypack
- · Raingear
- · Warm clothes
- Hiking Shoes

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

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 AlpsRevised!	\$ 9.00		
Book: The Authoritative Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain Wildland Park and Surrounds with Map	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, 2010 revision	3.00		
Book: Squak Mountain: An Island in the Sky	15.00	i	
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 12.00) 11.00		
Green Trails Map: Cougar & Squak Mountains, Map 203S	(List 12.00) 11.00		
Green Trails Map: Rattlesnake Mountain & Upper Snoqualmie Valley Map 205S	(List 12.00) 11.00		
Green Trails Map: Mount Si NRCA & Snoqualmie Corridor, Map 206S	(List 12.00) 11.00		
*All prices include shipping and handling.			

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		Club Found Request For			**
Name:	·				
Address:		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
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Telephone:	E-	-mail:	 .	. ·	
All donations are tax deduced operating costs first, with design, construction, main does not require a donation	100% of remain tenance and adv	ning funds being ocacy needs thro	directed wher ughout the Issa	e they can be aquah Alps. N	st address the trail Note: Membership
Suggested donation levels		□ The		#2 <i>5</i>	
☐ The basic hiker ☐ The IATC sponsor		☐ The project☐ The visiona			:
IMPORTANT: This for IATC Foundation, P.O. B	•		pership reques	t form should	be mailed to:

^{**}One (1) IATC Cougar Mountain Map included.

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

Address Service Requested

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

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4/9/2011

George Potter 26020 SE Old Black Nugget Rd Issaquah WA 98029-7324

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16

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.