



## DNR PLANS RAGING RIVER EXPANSION

By Doug Simpson

Connector trails in the Raging River/East Tiger area and relating to the Park Pointe property are of great concern to the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) going into the next year.

### RAGING RIVER

Doug McClelland, Assistant Regional Manager for DNR, has announced intentions to complete a comprehensive Recreation Management Plan for the newly acquired 10,500 acre Raging River State Forest. The proposed plan includes feasibility, reconnaissance, and surveying of a trail system for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers.

Noting that the Tiger Mountain trail system includes a route to Preston, McClelland said, "The issue is getting from Preston to the Raging River State Forest and East Tiger Mountain." In January the DNR will begin its plans. "A trail connection for all forms of trail use from Preston to Snoqualmie, Raging River and East Tiger will be discussed."

McClelland pointed out the importance of initiating the planning process immediately. "Without

a plan, a threat of unauthorized trail construction in RRSF will increase due to the proximity of this landscape to the Puget Sound metropolitan population."

The scope and significance of the project has caused McClelland to seek assistance beyond what DNR can provide. "We need to involve a much broader coalition of cities, King County, land owners, user groups and citizens with an interest in the Mountains to Sound Greenway between Issaquah and North Bend," McClelland said.

The public use plan will identify a conceptual recreational trail system that includes "sustainable trail mileage that can be constructed given environmental and forest management constraints; locate conceptual trail routes and recommend designated trail use type; consider seasonal trails for different uses; and identify existing forest roads compatible for trail conversion."

The plan will also locate and prioritize potential trailheads for future construction to provide public access to RRSF and

## IATC MAKING CONNECTIONS

By Scott Semans

Does the Issaquah Alps Trails Club have a unique mission? Curiously, the club has never developed a formal mission statement. For as long as I have been involved as a board member and in the publications and trail work programs, we have told volunteers, hike participants, and visitors to our outreach booths that our purpose is threefold: hikes, trail maintenance, and advocacy.

Advocacy for open spaces was the driving force in the life of prime founder Harvey Manning. The rough trails built by Harvey, Bill Longwell, Ralph Owen, and other early stalwarts were to get hikers – and public officials – out where they could see what was there to preserve. Hence the program of guided hikes. Advocacy and trail building being the stated missions of our much larger brother organizations, Mountains to Sound Greenway and Washington Trails Association, our hiking program remains our most visible and most unique function. Of course, spreading that joy of hiking and exploration that sparks all of us is quite a worthy mission in itself.

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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.

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

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By David Kappler

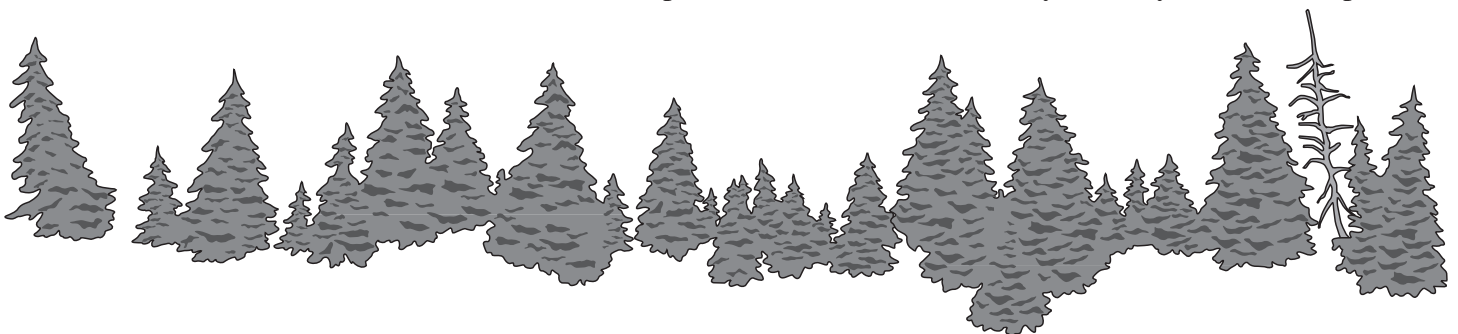
The Board of Directors of the club sets policy and the officers do their best to implement that policy. The board meets quarterly and keeps in frequent communication by phone and email. New issues arise, new ideas get shared, and thanks to the many caring and thoughtful volunteers we have few problems that ever get to the point where the board hears any more than a summary of an issue and how it was resolved.

The board is responsible for electing officers to the standard positions one expects in a club such as ours. The board and officers have specific duties to meet the bylaws under which we operate, as well as conform to certain state and federal laws. Many of our volunteers are not board members or officers and some not much interested in attending meetings! Nevertheless, they take on major tasks with expertise and enthusiasm. In our over thirty years of existence, watching new people bring new ideas into fruition has been a joy and the key to our success. The club has provided an opportunity for people to assume leadership positions or just be involved in something that they find self-fulfilling and beneficial to our community. Not just a good thing for the here and now, but as the deed for the Park Pointe property states "in perpetuity."

Now that the city has acquired the Park Pointe property, it is required by city code to develop a stewardship plan for the property. Park Pointe is over a hundred acres and includes a small abused wetland and a very large wetland that varies from nearly pristine to a tangled mess of non-native plants and years of accumulated garbage. It has some really fine mature second growth forest, with several acres of uncommon madrone forest. It has steep

dozer grades subject to erosion, and the potential for diverse educational opportunities highly concentrated on one site easily accessed by walking from much of "downtown" Issaquah. The club will be following the development of the stewardship plan, and we are pleased with the draft that came out in late fall. The plan will require far more than city staffing and funding to implement and the club will be there with volunteers and support for grants and other funding to help Park Pointe assume the optimum balance of restoration, enhancement and appropriate human uses such a treasure deserves.

The Issaquah Park Board is working on consideration of the Mountain Bike Task Force Report. The report has some good elements, but it recommends three different trail routes through a number of private properties. These three trails have generated a great deal of concern from residents that see a trail description and accompanying map for a trail across their private property. The report also makes a bunch of recommendations for trails on Park Pointe that are counter to the terms of the conservation easement included in the deed for the property. The report also proposes uses opposed by the state DNR on their own property, true folly since the anticipated greatest provider of mountain bike trails for the future has (had?) been the DNR. The park board will be making a recommendation about the report to the mayor, who will then make a recommendation to the council. With major parts of the report having strong opposition from offended property owners, the Park Pointe recommendations are way out of line, and due to the snubbing of the DNR the whole report lacks credibility and likely will get a very limited endorsement from the park board. We will continue to very actively follow this process.



# CENTRAL AREA PLAN HAS NEW TRAIL LINKS

By Ken Konigsmark

After over a year of extensive effort, 12 local citizens, supported by Issaquah City staff and consultants recently unveiled a forward-looking 30-year plan for the 900+ "Central Area" of Issaquah, essentially the flatlands of the valley floor. The plan envisions redevelopment of this area from a hodge-podge of strip malls, office buildings and parking lots (75% of the valley floor is covered in parking lots and 90% is impervious surfaces. At present, there are islands of disconnected parks and trail links and minimal housing and transit options.

The defining element of the new vision for the Central Area is based on the concept of a "green necklace" of connected parks, trails, and open spaces that would create a circular network stretching along Issaquah and Tibbetts creeks, Lake Sammamish State Park, Tibbetts Park, the new Cybil-Madelline Park, and other public lands. This "inner necklace" is intended to provide ready access to new urban residents of the Central Area so that they will have nature at their doorstep and easy opportunities to move throughout Issaquah by bike or foot on dedicated trails. The inner green necklace will be connected via additional trail links to the much larger "outer green necklace" of the Issaquah Alps that surround the city (Cougar, Squak, and Tiger Mountains) so that, again, new residents will have ready access to the wildland trails and forests.

The new plan creates a long term strategy and vision for how the Central Area should redevelop in order to foster:

- A livable, thriving, high quality of life community.
- An enhanced natural environment with easy connections to nature.
- Increased variety and affordability in housing.
- Enhanced mobility options for pedestrians, bikes, and transit.
- A greater connectedness of community, even as Issaquah grows.

Within the Central Area the vision calls for a much denser, vibrant, livable mixed use community that will

foster future job growth, housing options, improved quality of life, and an enhanced environment through innovative design and restoration.

The plan will now go through a public review process before final adoption by the City Council. If interested in more details about the plan you can learn much more on the City's website at: <http://www.ci.issaquah.wa.us/page.asp?navid=1597>.



## **Raging River** *continued from page 1*

identify potential routes to connect to adjacent landscapes and to the larger regional trail system to connect surrounding communities. For a variety of reasons, most notable being the Preston trail link, McClelland rejected the idea of a more southerly connector to the Raging River State Forest acreage.

## **PARK POINTE**

McClelland noted that the High School Trail is the approved access to the Tradition Plateau and that another trail access from the Park Pointe acreage is unnecessary.

"If the City of Issaquah decides to develop trails at Park Pointe," McClelland explained, "it will need to manage access, buffers and trail poaching. It will need specific engineering design, education and enforcement to ensure trails do not spill over into the city and DNR jointly managed Tradition Plateau and West Tiger Mountain Natural Resource Areas (NRCA)."

McClelland concluded, "In our experience creating multiple access points is difficult to manage."



## HIKER'S CORNER

By Joe Toynbee



Hikers sometimes ask IATC leaders, “Don’t you get tired of going to the same old places all the time?” Because we deal mainly with only four peaks (including Rattlesnake), this is a legitimate question.

It is true that our destinations are the same in a physical sense, but when you think about it many aspects differ. For one thing, different leaders have different perspectives on our peaks. The weather will differ. The time of the year will differ and hence the foliage. The members of the hike group will differ. What other people are in the area will differ. And, finally, the mood of the hiker will vary.

So when someone asks me, “Aren’t you tired of the same old places?” my answer is “I never go to the same place twice!”

• • •

Recently I did an analysis of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike signup sheets for the period May 1 through October 31, 2010. Here are some results:

Number of hikes: 63  
 Number of hikers: 565  
 Average per hike: 9  
 Number of men: 180, or 32 per cent.

It is impossible to tell how many hikers were on their first hike with the club, but judging from the number of unfamiliar names, the number must be significant. We feel this fits well with our goal of introducing new people to the Alps. The reason for this two to one ration of women hikers to men hikers is unknown—perhaps the men are out fishing or golfing.

• • •

On a final note, if something happens on a hike that you don’t think is proper, please email or phone a member of the Hikes Coordination Committee (page 2 of the Alpiner.) We appreciate input.

## CITY PLANS KIOSKS



*Photo by Larry Hanson*

Issaquah’s Open Space Steward, Matt Mechler, is planning to erect a series of small kiosks on city greenspace next year. One will be at the base of the High School Trail for information on the Tradition Plateau above, another near Round Lake (where hikers are often confused as to their location), and a third at the East Sunset Way Trailhead. The project is funded by the city’s open space budget.

Another of Mechler’s projects is to utilize local Boy Scouts to develop a trail in the Squak Mountain Park north that traverses the park, paralleling Issaquah Creek and leading to the sidewalk off Front Street south.



## ELLIS HONORED

Jim Ellis, founding Mountains to Sound Greenway president and long-time IATC supporter, has received the 2011 Cornelius Pugsley Award from the National Park Foundation and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

The Pugsley Award, which was initiated in 1928, is a prestigious award that recognizes outstanding contributions to the promotion and development of public parks in the United States.

## COUGAR PARK ACQUISITIONS

By Doug Simpson

The Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park is undergoing some changes to expand the park's perimeter and increase its appeal to its countless patrons.

Two acquisitions are particularly significant. A parcel on the northwest side, long known as the Precipice area, provides a link long of interest to the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Connected to the Harvey Manning Park at the Talus Development, it can be a prominent access area from the mountain's east side. Though actually on Squak Mountain, where King County owns various chunks of property, the County's acquisition of the property below Debbie's View on Squak's southwest side eliminates the possibility of development that could have marred the area's natural beauty.

Nike McBride, the Cougar park's manager, cited several projects by her staff. Troy Deady, a ten-year veteran of the park, and Rob Strait, with a year's experience, are the park's two full-time stewards. They have replaced 160 feet of the boardwalk on the Shy Bear Trail and will replace the remainder in 2012. They have also recently completed several bridge repairs.

McBride credits the Washington Trails Association for its extensive efforts in repairing the drainage and trail tread on the Licorice Fern Trail in the park's southeast corner.

The Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park has become a popular site for organized runs in recent years. The Seattle Running Club, as part of its agreement with the county, has contributed 100 hours of trail maintenance.

"The Debbie's View property will not have public access from the south," McBride stated, but may be reached from the existing Perimeter, Chybinski or West Peak trails as before. The spur trail to the

popular viewpoint (Mt. Rainier on clear days) will be improved.

County Commissioner Dow Constantine recently spent an afternoon visiting with Cougar staff and touring the AA Peak, the popular park grounds and viewpoint.



## CLC IS NOW 'FORTERRA'

*(Note: This article is reprinted from the Issaquah Press.)*

Cascade Land Conservancy, a nonprofit environmental group involved in numerous conservation projects in Issaquah and elsewhere, is now Forterra. Leaders say the shift reflects the Seattle-based organization's expanding mission.

In 2005, the then CLC established the Cascade Agenda—a long-range planning effort for the region. Issaquah is a Leadership City for the Cascade Agenda—meaning long-range planning is meant to envision the local community, environment and economy for the century ahead.

Longtime Forterra President Gene Duvernoy also offered early support for the city-led effort to preserve Park Pointe, a forested site near Issaquah High School, from development into a subdivision.

Since the then Cascade Land Conservancy started in 1989, the organization has conserved more than 173,000 acres. In the past decade, the organization expanded from a land trust rooted in the Cascades to include conservation efforts on the Olympic Peninsula and other land-use issues.

The organization receives backing from business, environmental and governmental leaders across the Puget Sound region. Forterra supporters include Issaquah Highlands developer Port Blakely Communities.

# MY FOUR FAVORITE TRAILS

By Ralph Owen

When asked to name my three favorite trails in the Issaquah Alps, I agreed and thought that it would be an easy task. As I started listing the candidates, it was soon obvious that I would be writing a new trail guide book if all my favorites were included. I was finally able to pick the following four, three from the original days of the IATC when most of our trails were really volunteer built boot paths which followed the shortest path from Point A to Point B.

**1) Rattlesnake Mountain Traverse:** This one-way hike from Rattlesnake Lake at the east end of Rattlesnake Mountain to Snoqualmie Point near the west end is my favorite long-distance hike in the Issaquah Alps. The current version along the Rattlesnake Mountain Trail (RMT) features a well-built trail with some remaining steep sections to test you, deep forest walks through segments of second growth woods and well-spaced viewpoints to allow pleasant rest and lunch breaks.

When I began hiking the Traverse and leading hikes on it in the early 1980s there was no continuous designated trail and no signs to mark the way. It was still this way when the IATC was beginning to prepare for the First Mountains-to-Sound March held in 1990. An 11.2 mile route was put together utilizing the old Rattlesnake Ledge Trail, gated roads and new trail segments built by IATC volunteers in the first half of 1990 for this March.

Over the next Ten years, a group of IATC volunteers, The Rattlesnake Rangers, under the leadership of Ted Thomsen continued to build and improve trail segments along the Traverse. However, at the time of the Second Mountains-to-Sound March there was still no designated and marked route across Rattlesnake. The marchers were directed across it by a series of cardboard arrows attached to limbs and brush by clothespins.

Over the next decade a series of trail building sessions, coordinated by the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway Trust, has rebuilt and rerouted old trail segments to

improve the grades, built new trail segments to move the route off of the roads and installed directional trail signs, resulting in the current 10.2 mile RMT.

While my first choice is a well-built, well-signed trail it does not meet the criteria for my favorite type of hike. I have always favored faint, unmaintained boot paths over well-groomed trails, steep uphill routes over flatter switchbacks and felt that a good hike includes some brush-bashing. I believe that scratched arms, with a bit of blood showing at the end of the day, is a sign of a good hike. The following three trails more closely meet these criteria. They are un-maintained, are not signed and do not appear on any maps.

**2) Jim's Trail:** The second IATC hike that I went on was led by Dave Kappler and went from the old Wilderness Creek Trailhead to the Wilderness Peak summit of Cougar Mountain. The hike began on old logging cat tracks as we climbed the original volunteer built Wilderness Cliffs Trail. As we passed the Wild View Cliff, Dave suddenly left the trail and began climbing straight up the steep hillside through the brush toward the top of Wilderness Peak. At that moment, I realized the IATC was a club that I would enjoy hiking with.

Jim's Trail, an unsigned one-third mile boot path which provides a short cut between the Wilderness Cliffs Mainline Trail and Wilderness Peak, closely follows this off-trail route Dave led us on in 1981. This steep and slippery path is almost lost in the salal as it climbs through an apparent old growth forest to the high point of Cougar Mountain.

**3) Warren's Way:** This unmarked trail, first shown to me by Warren Jones in the early 1990s, connects the Main Tiger Mountain Road to the Eastside Road. I have used it a number of times as an alternate route on club hikes to the Main East Peak of Tiger Mt. The trail is gained by climbing a brushy bank above a corner on the Main Tiger Road at the 1520' level. Warren's Way,

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## DISCOVER PASS SALES FLOWING

By Doug Simpson

No one likes paying the Discover Pass fee to access state parks and Department of Natural Resource lands, but most recreationists seem to understand the need and are willing to pay the fee.

In July and August, officials collected nearly \$3 million dollars from public lands users. The goal is to generate \$60 million in a year to compensate for deep budget cuts and thus keep the lands accessible to outdoor recreationists.

Locally, Lake Sammamish and Squak Mountain state parks generated just over \$200,000. Park officials, who use much of their time selling passes or enforcing public areas, do what has to be done, but “it’s not what any of us hired on to do,” according to Rich Benson, manager of Lake Sammamish State Park. “On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, pretty much all we’ve been doing is taking money.” That summertime patronage, of course, has tailed off with the change in season.

Enforcement is a difficult problem. “We’re not out there every minute of every day, but we go out a couple times a day and we put notices on cars,” Benson said. Cars without passes displayed on front windshields risk a \$99 penalty.

For DNR, it is even more difficult, as only eight offices police all state DNR lands. “We have been really focused on education and compliance,” according to Bryan Flint, DNR’s communications and outreach director. Flint did promise enforcement on those abusing the system.

The passes—\$30 for an annual pass or \$10 for day use—are not transferable, to the dismay of many.

Washington State Parks Director Don Hoch stated that Discover Pass revenue is crucial. “The agency must rely on user fees and donations to maintain parks after the Legislature slashed funding in recent years.”

Lake Sammamish State Park sold 3,053 annual passes and 11,011 day-use passes in the two months. Squak Mountain State Park sold 142 day-use passes; at Squak, park-goers must buy passes on a self-pay system unless they have an annual pass on their windshield.

In October, the State Department of Licensing started offering vehicle owners the option to purchase the Discover Pass as motorists renew their vehicle tabs.

### **Favorite Trails... *continued from page 7***

here a well-worn old trail, is soon reached. The route continues steeply uphill along a ridgeline heading northeasterly toward Tiger Mountain’s third highest peak. After passing a wooded minor peak shown as 2393’ on the map, the route drops a bit before heading uphill again. Here the way steepens as it continues up the narrowing ridge.

Upon reaching the 2600’ elevation, the path levels out for a short while before reaching the end of an old logging grade (railroad?). Warren’s original route followed this grade to reach the East Side Road. I scouted out an alternate upper end of this route by continuing up the ridgeline to reach the 2786’ summit of Tiger’s third / peak, which I began calling the East Defender Peak. This alternate route turns westerly after reaching this summit and soon drops to meet the East Side Road at its upper gate.

**4) Shaun Falls:** IATC’s original Taylor Mountain Advocate, George Jackman, found a waterfall on the lower northern slope of Taylor which he named for his grandson. The hike to the falls along his narrow, at times steep, trail through the woods was a popular one in the early days of the club. When I signed up to lead this hike several years ago, I went out ahead of time to check the condition of the trail. I found that a recent clear-cut logging operation had completely obliterated the trail. REST IN PEACE.



## WORK CREWS CLEAR KISSEL



IATC's Steve Williams and two volunteers accumulate trash of Kissel property. *(Photo by Larry Hanson)*

Before the Kissel property can be implemented as part of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, and before proper trails can be fully implemented, the 41-acres acquired by King County needed to be cleaned up by removing mountains of trash.

This project was undertaken by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, the Issaquah Environmental Council and other willing volunteers on November 19. Close to twenty volunteers showed up and many worked as much as four hours on the project. The workers amassed two huge piles, and IATC President Dave Kappler filled his pick-up truck with cans, bottles and other recyclables.

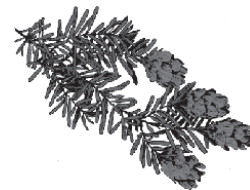
Long known as part of Precipice parcel, the Kissel acreage can provide a critical link in the Cougar Mountain trail system, creating a link from Issaquah to the upper mountain. Eventually a trailhead and parking lot are in the works, and they'll be close enough to walk from the Issaquah Transit Center along State Route 900.

"This property is really important," stated Kappler, "and we figure it's a good place to start. We'll build some more awareness of the actual potential for this property." The 41 acres were riddled with homeless encampments and their discarded tarps and other refuse. "It was important to clean it up before too

much trash gets more difficult to deal with." Some smaller campsites remain outside the Kissel property, but most area campsites have been abandoned.

The land was purchased late in 2010 at a cost of \$1.55 million from the King County Parks Expansion Levy and the Conservation Futures Open Space Program Levy. It had long been considered a high priority for acquisition by the county, the city of Issaquah, the Mountains to Sound Greenway and Cascade Land Conservancy, as well as IATC. Trail planning remains on hold while the various constituencies seek funds to acquire more land parcels to the complete the connection to the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park.

"It helps us in the long run," Barbara Shelton of the Issaquah Environment Council stated. "We need the green spaces to regenerate and replenish our own sense of self and sense of community."



## CONSERVATION MAKES SENSE

The Trust for Public Land has issued a publication called "Land and People" in which it enumerates five reasons why land conservation makes good economic sense.

- 1) Parks and open space often increase the value of nearby properties, along with property tax revenue.
- 2) Parks and open space attract businesses and trained employees in search of a high quality of life.
- 3) Parks and open space attract tourists and boost recreational spending.
- 4) Parks and open space reduce obesity and health care costs by supporting exercise and recreation.
- 5) Working lands, such as farms and forests, usually contribute more money to a community than the cost of the services they require.

## IATC - Making Connections... *cont. from page 1*

In one sense, our mission has always been a local one. Serving one of the fastest growing suburban regions in the country, our hikes often include new residents seeking connection to both the people and the land. Seeing the interdependency of all our club functions - hikes, advocacy, trail working, and the publications on regional trails and history we've produced - I wondered how our trail work program, a mere footnote next to the prodigious work of WTA and the MTSG, can be both unique and relevant.

These groups focus winter work parties on our Alps trails, as more elevated locations farther out in the Greenway are snowed in. MTSG recently completed literally a million dollar renovation of the trails on Squak Mountain, greatly diminishing the need for work in the near future. From its inception until 2005, recent club president Steve Williams ably managed the trail system in Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, forging 175 miles of quality trails out of the rough paths pioneered by IATC founders. We have been part of this, but much of the work is done by Parks staff or WTA. Tiger, Issaquah's back-door mountain, benefited greatly from the loving attentions of Bill Longwell, and his leadership of a close-knit Club group that built and maintained trails there (and elsewhere!) for decades. Ed Vervoort, a latecomer, still puts in hundreds of hours brushing out or restoring the more remote Tiger trails, as well as Longwell stalwarts Sally Davies, Ken Hopping, and Louis Collett. Now an effort is under way by DNR to create more trails there, and in the Raging River Basin, to separate mountain bikers from hikers, and we will look to this user community to do its share of trail work in the years ahead.

So where does this leave IATC? Between a few dedicated club members and a scattering of volunteers on public work parties, we manage to do about 4000 hours of work each year, down somewhat from the years of Bill's inspired leadership. As I look at our past projects and joint-projects, as distinct from ongoing maintenance, it seems we have found a niche quite appropriate to a regional hiking club. Licorice Fern, Bear Ridge, Terrace, East May Creek, and Talus Bridge trails on Cougar, and the Mountainside, and

Squak Mountain Access (lower East Ridge) trails on Squak: in every case we have been building or renovating trails that link suburban communities with the deeper woods trails that surround them.

Our work parties meet residents venturing out, often for the first time, and often with their kids, to thank us for opening new worlds to them. Unlike the deeper woods where one encounters day-hikers or serious runners, we see entire families, dog-walkers and joggers. We give directions, hand out maps, try to answer that eternal question, "Where does this trail *GO*? Sometimes advice on gear or where else to hike is in order, and always a smile for the young one and a neck-scratch for the dog, both of whom are probably enjoying the high point of their day. These are priceless opportunities for members to talk up the club, build membership, and bring in volunteers.

Moreover, as a local club, we are on top of new neighborhood development, and can advocate for corridors to the woods, then make sure the trails are built right away, and well. Developers tend to make trails that look good for a couple years then fall apart due to bad design or inappropriate materials. Once a homeowner's association (HOA) is formed, they and the city generally bow to owners adjacent to the would-be trailheads, who do not want trails. This happened in an Issaquah neighborhood earlier this year.

On a positive note, having residents with a natural sense of stewardship is a great aid to public land management, much of whose time is taken up battling inappropriate uses such as dumping, campfires, motorized incursions, hunting, and transient camps. Working with woodlands neighbors could be a way to build bonds and gain membership. We could do hikes with a neighborhood focus. Working with the HOA's where they exist, perhaps leafletting door to door where they don't, we could lead hikes out of neighborhood trailheads to help neighbor meet neighbor, and neighbor meet woods. A theme hike focusing on geology, wildflowers, outdoor photography or gps use would be perfect to draw kids as well as adults.

Within the space of a single year, Issaquah has gained two significant new parcels that will serve as major

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**IATC - Making Connections... *cont. from page 10***

entries to suburban hikers. The Park Pointe parcels on Tiger are in easy walking distance of Issaquah's most populous downtown areas. The forty-acre Gunn property along Newport Way adjacent to the Summerhill neighborhood will provide the most accessible entry to Cougar Mountain and could in time become its major trailhead. Both areas suffer from invasive species, trash, badly routed old roads or trails, and contain significant wetlands needing protection. There will be many opportunities for IATC volunteers to help. As the public process shifts from these catch-up issues to the design and creation of trails friendly to user and environment, and decisions on who can use them, IATC's advocacy role will be directed toward the public agencies involved.

The synergy among advocacy, trail work, and guided hikes that helped create the vast, protected open spaces we enjoy through a system of good trails is continuing to play out, here, and eastward within the Greenway. As a local hiking club with a wider vision, we can pat ourselves on the back for having come this far, but should never forget that the first step from driveway or sidewalk on to forest loam may be the first step that a future volunteer or advocate takes. The short trails we build, and the easiest of the hikes we offer, are the little steps that can lead to big results.



## COUGAR RANKS HIGH FOR RUNNERS

(Reprinted from the Issaquah Press)

Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park is among the 25 best places for trail running in the United States. Runner's World Magazine named the Issaquah Alps peak to the list in a recent issue.

"Every urban area should be blessed with a trail running sanctuary as sublime as the Cougar Park Regional Wildland Park," the magazine noted.

The mountain boasts a 36-mile trail system. King County Parks and the Seattle Running Club produce a popular trail-running series in the park each year. Runner's World offered effusive praise for the 3,115-acre park.

"Starting from one of the four main trailheads, a creative trail runner can link a variety of twisty-turny loops to create a run of just about any length and difficulty, though all are certain to include cascading waterfalls, lush fern undergrowth, foot bridges over bubbling creeks, massive glacial boulders and several scenic viewpoints (and perhaps also long-closed mine shafts, Cold War missile silos, bobcats and black bears)," the magazine said.

Cougar Mountain does not include missile silos per se, but the peak hosted a Nike anti-aircraft battery during the Cold War.

Seattle Running Club members donate about 150 hours each year to trail maintenance on Cougar Mountain. The annual trail-running series has raised more than \$70,000 for King County Parks to support maintenance and improvements.

Cougar Mountain is the only Washington destination on the Runner's World list.

The announcement came less than a month after Outside Magazine ranked Issaquah among 19 cities on the Best Towns 2011 list.



## IATC DEBATES MOUNTAIN BIKES

At its October 27 meeting, the board of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club discussed issues relating to mountain-biking on area trails, further elaborated on the club's policies regarding publishing books and reviewed trail maintenance projects.

President Dave Kappler reported on the recent Issaquah Park Board meeting, which was well represented by mountain bikers. A major issue is whether or not the Park Pointe property adjacent to the Lake Tradition section of lower Tiger Mountain would be available to mountain bikers. Kappler pointed out the Department of Natural Resources overseers of Tiger don't want biking trails there and hoped that the City would cooperate with DNR in setting its policies.

Since the board has indicated a desire to wean itself from book publishing in the face of ever more hiking books published in recent years, the question of what to do with its existing books was discussed once again. Tiger Mountain books exist in quantity so it will continue to be marketed, but the Cougar and Squak books are in lesser supply; rather than reprint them, they will be made available in pdf format from the website ([Issaquahalps.org](http://Issaquahalps.org)) for a nominal fee or on CD, which would not be expensive to produce. A committee of the board will determine if the recommended \$5 online version and \$15 DVD will be established, starting with the Cougar Mountain guide.

Scott Semans reported on his extensive efforts to improve and develop trails in the Precipice area of Cougar's northwest corner. He estimates that in recent years he has spent nearly 3,000 hours on the project with at least 1,000 more coming from others. Planning and maintaining the newly acquired Kissell property was discussed, with some concern expressed about transients who make camp there. Ed Vervoort gave an update on projects that he oversees on Tiger Mountain.

Joe Toynbee's report on the hiking program revealed a consistent pattern of about eight persons per hike,

despite inclement weather that affected turnout for many hikes. Dick Amidei, website manager, reported the hits were up in July and August, but down significantly in September.

Preparations will be underway for the 2012 scholarship program. Kappler reminded the board that the next meeting in January will involve election of officers except the president, who will begin the second year of his two-year term and three board seats.



## 9 COMMANDMENTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

- 1) I recognize that most users of outdoor facilities do no work to maintain them, and I am not bitter about this.
- 2) I recognize that most land management agency employees operate within a complex set of rules and regulations, and cannot always act as I might like.
- 3) I recognize that selected officials are much more concerned about issues such as education and health care than they are about funding outdoor recreation.
- 4) I recognize that I am blessed to live in such a beautiful area, and it is a privilege for me to be able to contribute to its maintenance.
- 5) I recognize that other outdoor volunteers might have motivations and perceptions different from my own.
- 6) I recognize that as an outdoor volunteer one of the most powerful things I can do is to set an example: hard work, proper use of tools, respect for the environment, etc.
- 7) I recognize that, in lieu of monetary reward, a volunteer has right to expect a well-organized, worthwhile project.
- 8) I recognize that of the three project components of people, equipment and planning, people are the most important.
- 9) I recognize that volunteering for trailwork does not necessarily make me more virtuous and noble than anyone else.



# 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, dogs only on designated dog 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 14*

## 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 unless on designated dog hikes.*

## 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 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		
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.			

\*\*One (1) IATC Cougar 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

## **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.

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 (includes map).

o ***Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain***—By Bill Longwell. 2003 revised edition. Updated trail information, two new trails and numerous photographs (includes map).

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

o ***IATC Cougar Mountain map***. 2001 revised.

o ***55 Hikes Around Snoqualmie Pass*** By Harvey Manning.