## Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

# ALPINER



October ♦ November ♦ December 2012

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

## STATE PARKS NOT SELF-SUSTAINING

By Doug Simpson

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has notified state agencies that it cannot be self-sustaining. Therefore, the commission is requesting \$18 million to sustain operations during the 2013-2015 biennium. According to Sandy Mealing, a communications consultant for State Parks, in the last three bienniums, general fund support for parks has plummeted from \$94.3 million, to \$41.2 million and to \$17.2 million in the current biennium.

It was hoped that funds from the Discover Pass would generate sufficient revenue to make the parks system close to self-sustaining, but instead of the anticipated \$32 million in revenue, it will have brought in barely half that, \$15.7 million. It's ironic that monitoring pass use is in itself an expense that didn't previously exist.

"We are no longer getting a free check from the government," said Don Hock, director of State Parks. "We are now in competition for dollars. We have to provide people a service users want to come for in order to pay our bills." As Mealing pointed out, "Everything we do costs money, but not everything we do makes money." State parks maintains over 700 historical properties that cost money to maintain, and in addition countless stewardship responsibilities must be dealt with that cost money while not generating any.

Many park patrons are unhappy because with the Discover Pass they are being asked now to pay for was once "free." "But it was never free," Mealing said, "because costs were covered by tax dollars. Thus the user fee, as tax dollars have diminished.

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## CLUB STATES POSITION ON PARK POINTE TRAILS

To: City of Issaquah Parks and Recreation staff, Parks Board Members, City Council members, the Mayor, and City Administrator)

Dear City of Issaquah officials,

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) wishes to publicly document our adamant opposition to the recently released DRAFT Park Pointe Trails Plan. We fail to understand why the City appears to be so single-mindedly focused on the wrongful and damaging expansion of "shared use" (meaning "mountain bike") trails in Issaquah. We hope that wiser heads on the Parks Board and Council will agree and rework the draft plan into the type of logical proposal that Issaquah's citizens want.

## STEPS UNDERWAY TO MONITOR BIKERS

Increased illegal biking on Department of Natural Resources land is resulting in steps to control the problem. Both citations and a stewardship program are in the works for West Tiger NRCA land.

Police have commissioned DNR specialist Ian Adler to write citations in the West Tiger and Upper Preston areas. Adler will work with regional police officer Chris Rankin.

## 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

There are no public parks on Tiger Mountain. This is a true statement which few regular Tiger hikers believe. How could it be true when there are two trailheads on Tiger, countless miles of trails officially recognized, signed and maintained? In fact, all public lands on Tiger are designated as a "state forest" or a city or state "natural resource conservation area (NRCA)." Under both designations recreation is allowed, but restricted. For forest lands the long-term production of forest products is the primary purpose and for the NRCA permanent protection of the natural resource is the primary purpose. If we mess up, we could lose all recreational opportunities on Tiger Mountain!

Our relationships with the different Tiger Mountain land managers are long-standing and quite positive. Right now we are working with several of those land managers to plan a hiking trail network in the new 10,000 acre Raging River State Forest. There are tremendous opportunities for miles of great trails in the Raging, but it is a state "forest" and our recreation comes second to their need to sustainably produce forest products. We are confident recreational opportunities for hikers, equestrians and bikers can be appropriately accommodated in the Raging lands, but it won't be easy.

Management of trespassing bikes on West Tiger NRCA trails has been a frustration for the club and the state DNR. We are jointly working on resolving this issue and in the process learning better how to manage Tiger and apply those lessons to the planning for the Raging River State Forest. Management of the City of Issaquah property at the base of Tiger Mountain, still known by its former proposed development name of Park Pointe, has been challenging. Lessons learned on Tiger by land managers and advocates of hiking and biking are being applied to this situation and the

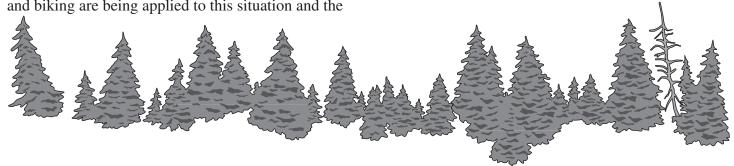
outlook for protection of this resource with appropriate recreational opportunities are looking much more positive. Stay tuned.

The West Tiger NRCA encompasses nearly all the Tiger slopes visible from the valley floor in Issaquah, but my favorite view is from the viewpoint above the north shore of Tradition Lake. To watch the snow level come down Tiger in the fall or in the spring see the purple first buds of the alder forest and the yellow tipped buds of the taller cottonwoods in the various drainage areas are some favorite views. But enjoying this viewpoint comes with sadness and reflection.

Previous to Maureen McCarry being diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), Connie Marsh got Maureen and several others to this area to take on the invasive Scotch broom. Maureen got totally immersed in the project, fighting through the native brush to get to the invaders. I'm sure she had plenty of scratches and sore arms from using the loppers to cut some really mature stocks of broom. Maureen was a strong advocate for Issaquah both as a citizen activist and for the time she was on the council. She fought hard for the good and just as hard to avoid the bad. She will be missed by many and certainly not forgotten by me, especially when I view Tiger from Tradition Lake.

## **BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED**

Come January, the IATC will have several openings on its board, including treasurer. Call President David Kappler (425-392-3571) if you have questions.



## WHAT'S NEXT FOR IATC?

## An Editorial by Doug Simpson

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club is a widely acknowledged and respected organization that has served area hikers and green space advocates for nearly 35 years. The club has been the base of giant advocates for outdoor recreation and scenic glory such as Harvey Manning, Bill Longwell and Jack Hornung.

BUT THEY ARE ALL GONE NOW, though their visions and accomplishments have inspired others to carry on their works and maintain their achievements. IATC President David Kappler was the club's second president after Manning's ten-year tenure, but he stepped down to provide illustrious service to the Issaquah City Council. The club was fortunate enough to get him back as president in 2011, and his leadership remains strong and significant.

After Kappler's initial presidency, Gus Nelson provided vigorous but controversial leadership, which led to a void filled by the ever-vigilant Ken Konigsmark, who has served as president for six years and vice-president for twelve, remaining a pillar of IATC's strength. Other presidents have been Manning-protégé Barbara Johnson, the club's only woman president to date, Stephen Drew, myself, and Steve Williams, all of whom have stepped up and aided the club for twelve years with our various strengths and contributions to keep the club functioning.

Thus it is apparent that the all-volunteer club has survived over the years due to the leadership efforts of just eight presidents and the long-term contributions of stellar board members such as Ralph Owen, Ted Thomsen, Joe Toynbee, Fred Zeitler, Scott Semans and dozens of others.

**BUT WHAT'S NEXT?** Over the years just finding someone willing to be president has been a task. The position of president-elect, instituted to create a smooth transition of leadership, has been impossible to fill. Since 1979, someone has always been there to carry the club's flag, to wield its gavel. On a few occasions the club has been close to dying until some of the above stepped forth. The club has never been a

bastion of youth. I don't believe anyone on the current IATC board is under 50. Bill Longwell once told me that on one occasion when he confronted illegal bikers on Tiger Mountain he was told they would take over when old guys like him were gone.

#### ARE WE REACHING THAT POINT NOW?

How long can Kappler, Konigsmark (who once had a similar experience on Squak Mountain), Larry Hanson and Ed Vervoort stand up to the onslaught of bikers and others intent on taking over Tiger Mountain and elsewhere for their selfish, destructive pleasures.\* The Issaquah Alps Trails Club and its marvelous career of stewardship is in jeopardy. IATC needs new leaders and commitments from younger people who share our values and goals.

WHO WILL STEP UP TO SAVE THE CLUB IN FUTURE YEARS? Even next January when the club elects new officers and board members, it would be great to see some new, younger faces.

(\*Note: DNR, King County, State Parks and the City of Issaquah are all engaged in their own ways in protecting green space in parklands. I was not implying that IATC is alone in this.)

## Steps Underway continued from page 1

It is expected that this fall a mountain bike steward program will be implemented. DNR's Sam Jarrett, Jordan Reeves and Adler are developing the program. "We need a stronger user-group self-policing presence," Jarrett stated.

The program will incorporate education, volunteer opportunities, first aid assistance and medical assistance. It will make clear that poor biking behavior will likely jeopardize development of biking trails on East Tiger.

IATC President David Kappler has indicated that Ed Vervoort and Sally Davies are willing to assist DNR in the program.

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## Parks Not Self-Sustaining continued from page 1

Commission Chairman Joe Teller stated its position: "The Commission does not believe that State Parks can meet its mission or operate at an acceptable level without the general fund. We can't sustain services on what we have now."

"State parks are a great benefit to the state," Mealing explained. "They provide a \$1.1 billion stimulus to the economy and generate \$34 million in taxes." Local businesses near parks gain tremendous business from proximity to parks.

Rich Benson, manager of the Snoqualmie unit that covers Lake Sammamish, Squak Mountain, Ollalie and Bridle Trails parks, explained that they have lost staff and just can't get as much done as before. "We're paying the bills OK and responding to problems as well as we can." In the IATC area, Squak and Ollalie are basically without ongoing maintenance, unless problems arise.

Mealing said that donations would help a lot. And she cited a new program, AdventureAwaits.com, which is geared to provide information and assistance to interested citizens. It involves storytelling, advice and recommendations to website patrons, and even comes up with a weekly prize for participants.

Washington State Parks will observe its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013. Hopefully, it will last beyond that milestone.

## LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN

Spring quarter we put a short note in the Alpiner about renewing your membership. Normally, next to your name on the mailing label, is the date of your last contribution, and we referred you to that date. Unfortunately, that date did not appear on the label in the last issue. So please take a moment to check your last contribution date on this current label, and if we have not heard from you in more than a year, send us a contribution of any amount. In August we will begin removing names from our mailing list of those folks we have not heard from in a while.

## HIKER'S CORNER Who Owns This Land?



By Joe Toynbee

Hikers in the Alps must sometimes wonder who actually owns the land they are hiking on. Some folks probably feel that it is some sort of "park" land. The fact is that the largest area of land in the Alps is on Tiger Mountain, and it is definitely not park land. Of the 12,250 acres on Tiger, about

8000 are owned or managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, or DNR, and it is what is called a "working forest," meaning logging. The other 4500 acres, the northwest corner of Tiger, is managed by the DNR in what is called a NATURAL Resources Conservation Area. This means no logging. Most of the area on Tiger visible from Issaquah is in the NRCA.

Cougar and Squak mountains do have substantial areas of park land. Cougar Mountain has the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park of some 3000 plus acres. Squak Mountain has Squak Mountain State Park of some 2000 acres and a chunk of county park as well.

So while a large area of the Alps is park land, an even larger area is not. If you hike on South Tiger, you will see recent logging activity, which is a planned use of the area. It certainly does improve the view.



## MAP FOR TRADITION

A map for the Tradition Plateau and High Point will be out soon. Jordan Reeves of the Department of Natural Resources is in charge of the project, assisted by DNR's Kelly Heintz and Sam Jarrett.

## STUDENT ESSAYIST CITES VALUES

By Matthew Blake Knuth

(Ed. Note: Blake Knuth was runner-up in the club's scholarship competition - good for a \$500 grant. His splendid essay is printed here in its entirety.)

The Issaquah Alps trail system is a vital aspect of our local community and the Pacific Northwest as a whole. The trails hold a special place in my heart. They allow me to walk away from the stresses and commotion of my daily life and step into an entirely new world. This gateway to nature and serenity calms and rejuvenates me like nothing else can. While exploring the trails, I also explore myself and embrace introspection. Yet what I value most of all about the Issaquah Alps and their trails is the way they allow me to immerse myself in the environment and perceive the interconnectedness of nature. Bill Longwell put it best when he said that perception is the ability "to see the separateness of all things and yet to see how everything fits together."

The vast system of trails in the Issaquah Alps has a very interesting history, and a lot of hard work has gone into their creation. The Bullitt Preservation Gift of 1972 granted 590 acres of breathtaking land on Squak Mountain to Washington State, on the condition that no human development (except for hiking trails) or motorized vehicles would be allowed on the mountain. This gift and the later acquisition of Section 9, laid the foundation for the Squak Mountain State Park and the Squak hiking trail system. Later in 1980, State Land Commissioner Brian Boyle created the Tiger Mountain State Forest, calling it a "working forest in an urban environment." This enabled associations like the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (with its Adopt-A-Trial plan) and enthusiastic hikers to start creating trails on the mountain. The IATC and hikers are responsible for a majority of the trails. As the director of the IATC, Bill Longwell oversaw the creation of countless trails throughout the Issaquah Alps, including the 16 mile Tiger Mountain Trail. Overall, the IATC's advocacy and hard work was instrumental in securing and safeguarding land for state parks and public use. The IATC has and will continue to keep the Issaquah Alps a natural sanctuary, establish Issaquah as a trailhead city, and create and maintain trails.

Living in the Northwest and near the Issaquah Alps, I have limitless opportunities to experience the magnificence of nature that many people living in other parts of the world don't have. Between our snow-capped mountains, breathtaking views, pristine lakes and creeks, and towering evergreen trees we have access to some of the most magnificent aspects of nature on the planet. The system of trails that snakes its way through the Issaquah Alps provides everyone with the opportunity to explore transcendent beauty of nature. My service work with the Washington Trails Association has taught me just how blessed we are to live in such a beautiful place, and just how important it is to preserve it and give everybody the opportunity to experience it. As a passionate hiker, I felt compelled to help maintain trails when I heard about the Washington Trails Association's work parties. While working with the Washington Trails Association, I helped maintain and build hiking trails on Tiger Mountain during a snowy December. As a group of about ten people, we used large and small stones to lay a foundation for a trail. Dirt was then used to fill up the gaps in the rocks and create a smooth path for walking. The goal of the project was to ensure proper drainage, control erosion, and create a better overall hiking experience.

Through this work, I began to see just how important the trails in Issaquah Alps are in making the Northwest the great place that it is. Because the trails are so vital to our community, it is essential that they are maintained and expanded so future generations have the opportunity to experience them. Organizations like the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and the Washington Trails Association will ensure the growth and survival of the trail system. Furthermore, spreading the word about the trail system will help the trails and the IATC to grow. Many people don't realize the seemingly endless system of hiking trails right in their backyard. This will help more people truly experience the Issaquah Alps and bring in more funding for trail creation and maintenance. Exposure to the Issaquah Alps trail system will help countless

## **More Quotes from Student Essays**

(Ed. Note: These four students were not among the finalists, but their excerpts show some fine writing and worthy observations.)

#### AMY BEARMAN:

A few weeks ago, on a rare sunny Spring day, a friend and I hiked up Rattlesnake Ridge. At the summit, we sat on a boulder and unpacked our lunches. Nothing improves a peanut butter and jelly sandwich like a view of the Issaquah Alps and Rattlesnake Lake!...

I've often passed the bronze statue of Harvey Manning in Issaquah, but researching this essay caused me to dig a little deeper into the histories of Manning and of Bill Longwell. . . I'm in awe of the work they accomplished to preserve Tiger Mountain, Cougar Mountain and the Mountains to Sound Greenway as resources for my community and for future generations. Their example has encouraged me to be not just a hiker, but a conservationist of "the deeps," as Harvey would say. As Harvey also said, "Wilderness is here"—in Washington State. And I believe it must stay wild. So I hope to continue the legacy of Longwell and Manning by working to conserve the natural beauty and vitality of Washington's wilderness areas—whether as a diplomat like Bill, or an agitator like Harvey....

Even as I stroll on the concrete sidewalks of Issaquah, I'll pause to watch how the misty clouds tangle on the steep green forest of the Issaquah Aps. And I'll stop to put a flower in Harvey's pocket.

#### JENNIFER DIEP:

Depending on your mood, condition of health, time, or weather, there is always a perfect trail waiting for you....

A trail run on Cougar Mountain made me fall in love with running, and I am sure that the trails of the Issaquah Alps make others feel the same way. There is no way to encompass exactly how much that one run has affected me, but what I can say is that without that run I would not be the person I am today, a cross country captain.

#### NICK FUERSTENBERG:

Nature is facing tough enough challenges with climate change, and any program dedicated to helping preserve and protect the environment is one of which I am surely in support. Animals need safe habitats to live in, and people need to feel connected things other than TV's and iPhones. The outdoors offers an experience unattainable in one's home or on one's computer screen....

Family hikes through nature trails are a great way for families to bond ,and it is important for people to have such trails available to them so that they can experienced nature with their loved ones....

Nature trails are quite important for the well-being of humans, and it is now, more than ever before, that they must be viewed as important, because they offer so many enrichments which are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain in a largely technology-based world.

#### **ELIZABETH RYKER:**

Hiking speaks to my soul in a way that is hard to describe. It has a calming and soothing effect to be walking on trails where the sounds of modern conveniences fade away and he songs of the forest come into play. Walking among the fir trees that are over a hundred feet high, with the aroma of the firs and cedars filling my senses, the beauty of the forest always rejuvenates my spirit and helps peel away the stress....

The mountains and trail systems of the Issaquah Alps are a big part of the reason why I love Washington and where I live. In how many other large cities in American do people have such a benefit?...

Maintaining current trails is a must. Looking for new trail opportunities to enhance the user experience is also valuable. Promoting the trails to the public as a source of recreational opportunity and beauty will continue to create environmental awareness and help generate public resources for trail maintenance and development.

## HE 'CHASED THE SNOW'

By Doug Simpson

Are you up for a 93-mile hike and about 17,000 feet of elevation gain? Impossible, you say. Well, OK, you can spread it over eight Sundays in four months. That's what George Potter did in his "Chasing the Snow" hiking program form April 29 to August 5.

Unable to participate in the Greenway march of 2010, Potter decided to do it himself on his terms. He and six others departed from Newcastle Beach on Lake Washington late in April and slogged 14.9 miles to the Issaquah Trail Center. Two weeks later, ten hikers (high for the series) marched across Tiger Mountain 1, 2 and 3 ten miles and 3,900 feet of gain to the Highway 18 trailhead. And so it went.

"I set high expectations for the hikers," Potter said, "and I got only appropriate hikers. We didn't have any injuries or incidents."

The demanding nature of the hikes, averaging almost 12 miles on the eight outings, coupled with some bad weather in the latter segments, limited the hikes to about five participants on average.

Though no one joined Potter on all the segments, frequent participants were club members Didi Chinlund of Seattle and Norma Ruiz of Tacoma. Ralph and Peggy Owen, Dave Warner and Bob Gross, active IATC hike leaders, participated at least once.

The third segment, covering nine miles, went from Highway 18 to Snoqualmie Point. Then, two weeks later, it was ten miles across Rattlesnake Mountain to the lake. Then, following the John Wayne Trail, just three hikers covered 11 miles to the McClellan Butte trailhead.

Next was another 11-mile jaunt through the old railroad tunnel which brought three hikers to Hyak near the summit, followed by eight miles to Snoqualmie Pass. For the last session, only Rinku Jain joined Potter for the final 15 miles to Ridge Lake beyond the Kendall Catwalk.

"That was too bad," Potter said, "because it was fabulous, the most beautiful scenery of the program. The view of Mt. Rainier was really special." On a break, Potter was surprised that twice gray "camp robber" jays landed on his hand, apparently looking for treats.

That eighth segment not only concluded "Chasing the Snow," but it was also the beginning of the reverse octet of hikes dubbed "Following the Sun." After Rattlesnake, Potter promises some different trails enroute to the Newcastle conclusion on November 11. Preceding the final segment, on September 30, the hikes goes from Rattlesnake Lake via the Raging River State Forest to the bridge on Highway 18. On October 14 the route is from the bridge over the north face of Tiger Mountain to the Issaquah Trail Center. Then, on October 28, before the finale, comes a shorter hike from Issaquah to the Bear Ridge Trailhead on Cougar Mountain.

"I had a helluva good time," Potter said. "I think the other hikers really enjoyed themselves too."

So it's too late to rack up 93 miles, but not too late to cover half that "Following the Sun" in the next two months.

## **GAS LINE COMING**

The end result is years away, but the Sammamish plateau, Issaquah and Department of Natural Resources land will be affected by a massive state project to expand the natural gas pipeline from 30 to 36 inches to meet increasing needs for natural gas. King County will receive 18.2 miles of upgrades, 11.1 in the Issaquah area.

The Williams company project covers 140 miles of pipeline in ten segments between Sumas and Woodland, Washington. It will install 96,000

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## A NEW KIND OF TRIP

By Marty Hanson

You may have read in the last Alpiner about a joint venture with the Washington Butterfly Association (WBA) and wondered what it was all about. The idea began with WBA, but both WBA and the IATC have wanted to expand parameters and ideas for field trips. WBA invited the IATC to join them on a trip to one of their favorite locations, Reecer Creek Canyon, north of Ellensburg on July 14. I was asked to be the leader for IATC, since I am a member of both clubs.

Carpools were arranged and we proceeded with six IATC members and over 20 butterfliers. We were in luck with sunny and not too hot or windy weather. The butterflies were flying and even friendly. We continued up the paved road with many stops at known good spots. There we spread out in the surrounding natural areas looking, swinging our nets, and hopefully capturing an amazing bug, then identifying and photographing it before setting it free again. WBA does not kill and collect butterflies! Sometimes netting and putting a butterfly in a bug jar is the only way to identify it and also to appreciate its beauty.

The road tops out on Table Mountain at over 6000 ft. in beautiful meadows with expansive mountain and valley views. We had a very successful day with 41 species seen. IATC members were catching and even identifying some. There has been discussion for future joint trips such as this, probably next summer. I would venture to say that many of you would really enjoy such a trip and may even get "hooked" as I did!

## TRAILS CLUB COMPLETES SURVEY

In July the Issaquah Alps Trails Club conducted its first survey of members and the public. The survey was discussed by the Club's Officers and Board of Directors in January at their annual retreat and planning meeting.

The objective of the survey was to help understand how the Club might better serve members and prospective members, particularly in the areas of hikes offered, other activities the Club might undertake, and suggestions for improvement of the website and the quarterly print newsletter – *The Alpiner*. The survey was sent to all members in the last issue of *The Alpiner* and was available electronically on the Club website for members and the general public.

The number of responses to the survey was very good and the results are currently being tabulated. Preliminary results show general satisfaction with the club's activities and direction but also include suggestions for expanding member activities beyond hiking and improvements to the website. Once tabulated, the survey statistics will be reviewed by the Officers and Board of Directors Club and reported in the next issue of *The Alpiner*.

## Gas Line Coming continued from page 8

horsepower of compression to deliver about 1.25 billion cubic feet of gas per day.

Williams held five public open houses for input and questions in August. This will lead to a formal application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission by March of 2013. Construction might not begin for another three years.

Besides the increase in customer availability, the project will be a tax boon (\$1.3 million in King County alone) and will reap significant business to restaurants, hotel/motels, RV parks and retailers in the area.

Those seeking further information can go to www.washingtonepansion.com or send questions to WashingtonExpansion@Williams.com.

## **DNR CAN OFFER TRAIL EXPERIENCES**

By Steve Williams

(Ed. Note: In communication with DNR, IATC's Steve Williams put together this vision of what DNR trails might have to offer.)

A hike in the woods should give us PEACE, QUIET and UNSPOILED NATURE. The woods should have a variety of habitats and places to see wildlife—or at least know that they are there, leading successful sustainable lives.

The woods should provide SOLITUDE, or at least contact with a limited number of people with as few man-made structures as possible in order to enjoy the gifts that nature (God's world?) provides.

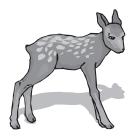
It seems like it is always easier to talk about what we don't like than what we do. Here are some things that I do like in my forest experiences. . .

- deer foraging undisturbed. . .
- a winter wren happily singing its spring song. . .
- lunch near a quiet pond or tiny waterfall. . .
- spring wildflowers like bleeding heart lining the trail. . .
- distant view of mist rising or eagles soaring. . .
- impossibly BIG trees, hundreds of years old. . .



- gems like Camas, Fawn Lily, Trillium or Oregon Iris
- a chance to work up a good sweat at my own pace. . .
- tired muscles, and knowing that I've earned a good sleep. . .
- weather—storms and snow that remind us that we don't control nature. . .
- awareness that life goes on, and that the world is much bigger than we are. . .

- sunshine, and gentle breezes that bless us after cold, wet winters. . .
- the scent of evergreens, vanilla leaf or wildflower clusters . . .
- the multitude of green colors in new leaves unfolding. . .
- watching a coyote family play in a sunny meadow. . .
- saying hello to the Douglas squirrel scolding us from his branch above.



With a little reflection, I think all of us could assemble a page of special memories or moments like these. It's why we want to be out in the woods, and a few such trails don't require much DNR investment. A single log-bridge, or some drainage, annual storm clearing or brushing where needed.

But we certainly don't want four-abreast gravel roads, or competitive track meets, bike jumps or regional prize races. Nor do we want to fear being shot at by hunters, or run over by runners, snowmobiles or motorcycles. Patrolled parking areas and an occasional sani-can would be nice. But be careful about opening the door—when you invite the "city" in, sometimes what you get is "the city" moving in—and we came here to get away from all of that!

## Student Essay continued from page 6

people foster a passion for hiking and experiencing the outdoors.

In conclusion, the Issaquah Alps and their trails are an integral part of not only our community, but of each individual who experiences them as well. With the help of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, they will continue to delight and inspire for years to come.

## Club States Position continued from page 1

The vast majority of Issaquah's citizens do NOT ride mountain bikes nor desire them on trails, but rather seek quiet, safe, enjoyable recreation on local trails by HIKING or WALKING. The City's own Parks Bond survey clearly confirms this; the desire for mountain bike trails ranked third from the bottom! (see below) So why does the City seem so fixated on pushing mountain biking on an unwilling citizenry and in opposition to what citizens are asking for?

The large majority of citizens who hike and walk are displaced, put at risk, and offended by speeding bicycles running them off the trail. Further, the damaging impacts of bikes to trails makes any trail they use in this area un-walkable to hikers due to the mud and extensive rutting that is created, in addition to the safety hazards of conflicting uses.

The City must remove the proposed multi-use circular trail from this proposed trails plan. If you fail to do so you will be creating a significant future problem that will generate conflict, liability risk, and ongoing maintenance costs for the City.

For a multitude of reasons, recent local history has clearly proven that shared use trails, specifically trying to force bikes onto hiker trails, are an abject failure. Unless intending to create a well constructed, railroad grade size trail, such as the E. Lake Sammamish trail, it is absurd to suggest shared use on a normal, hiking style trail, particularly on Park Pointe because:

- **1. Speeding bikes** create a dangerous safety hazard for hikers and a huge liability risk for the City.
- **2. Bike use on wet,** erodable, and steep trails causes major resource and trail damage that requires annual repair at significant expense and blocks other users from being able to enjoyably use the same trails.
- **3. Bike users, as a whole,** have proven incapable of obeying trail use restrictions and rules. Flagrant violations, with resulting user conflict and trail damage, are common.
- **4.** The proposed trail would provide, at most, 10 minutes of use for a bike rider unless used as a circular racetrack. So what's the point of even opening it to bikes at all? Given its limited scope it would instead create an almost certain incentive for bike riders to

construct illegal connecting trails that will dissect the Park Pointe parcel and enable trespass into the West Tiger NRCA.

- 5. The Plan's documented notion of "self-policing" is absurd As DNR can illustrate by the bikers who ripped out the barrier railings at the NRCA boundary; or, as your staff can describe how bikers were already building a half-mile trail in the middle of Park Pointe. In both cases it wasn't ignorance of the law—it was willful violation—they knew exactly what they were doing! There is NO self-policing; as a result you are creating guaranteed conflict and future problems.
- **6.** The over-the-top usage of bike graphics in the document is quite disturbing it says very powerfully that this is the audience the draft plan is catering to and it is pre-determined that this will be a bike park. However, it visually also makes another key point a three foot wide trail would be completely dominated by bikes, forcing all hikers/walkers to jump aside while constantly in fear of being run over.
- 7. To best serve your city residents, which are by far dominated by hikers/walkers, Park Pointe should instead serve as an easily accessible, quiet, nearby escape for solitary contemplation, senior walking groups, and local toddler and school nature walks. What do you expect will happen when racing bikers run into a group of elderly bird watchers or a long line of school children?
- **8. Park Pointe trails** have been used by high school teams for group conditioning and training runs in the past. With any new trail development there will be a huge temptation to have daily workouts and even competitive races or meets with other teams. This must not be allowed. It will wall off public use and access to Tiger, and turn the park into an extension or 'possession' of the high school. The potential creation of high school and junior high mountain bike teams who might use this as a training area would change the nature of the park completely, turning it into a worn out obstacle course unusable by others. Add region-wide competitions with bike store publicity and sponsorship, and you may well end up with little natural resource left, and the ruin of the park and trails, the adjoining West Tiger NRCA, the terrorism of wildlife, and the exclusion of everybody else.
- **9. If Issaquah truly wants** a mountain-bike "challenge park" it needs to be highly visible and contained—not

## Club States Position continued from page 11

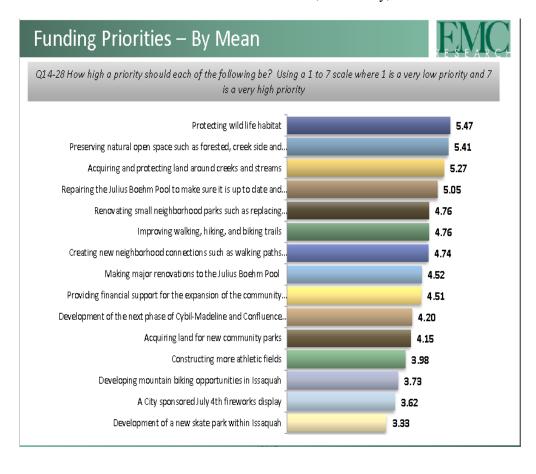
hidden in the woods with illegal connections to all of Tiger Mt. A contained 'urban' park can have all the jumps and obstacles desired without destroying the valued habitat and wildlife corridor that is Park Pointe. Bike use should be downtown where riders can be observed by the public and monitored by the police. (Have we not learned from the problems of the present skate-board park?)

10. Because of it's proximity to the high school, Park Point already is used for drug deals, 'smoker's corners,' 'lover's nests,' and 'paint-ball forts.' The new stadium and fields will likely result in even more illegal activity. However, the golden opportunity here would be for the park to be adopted by the school as a preserve for service projects, research, and nature study. That would support park goals, teach respect for nature and be compatible with the acquisition mandates and environmental constraints. Any bike use of the park, and any competitive, aggressive events are not.

11. The adjoining land owner/manager, WADNR, strongly requested that no bike use be allowed on Park Pointe for all the reasons shown above. Why would you promote a plan that is in direct conflict with the much wiser desires of a close partner like WADNR who has experienced and well knows the extensive problems caused by mountain bikes on trails?

After many years of a close and supportive relationship with the City of Issaquah, IATC is appalled by the recent direction the City has taken, at the wrongful urging of a couple of misguided councilmembers, to seek to encourage more mountain bike use locally. YOUR CITIZENS, REPRESENTED BY IATC AND THEMSELVES, DO NOT WANT THIS AGENDA FOISTED ON THEM AND STRONGLY OPPOSE IT. We hope that common sense and responsibility by the majority of the Parks Board and Council will prevail and put an end to the current Park Point Trails Plan and to the broader, absurd efforts to shove more mountain bike use onto local public lands.

Yours truly, Ken Konigsmark VP, Advocacy, IATC



## **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.



## **Degree of Difficulty**

*Very Easy:* up to 4 miles and 600 feet of elevation gain – for beginners.

*Easy:* up to 6 miles and 1200 feet gain – not difficult for occasional hikers.

*Moderate:* up to 10 miles with 1200 to 2500 feet gain – usually not difficult for regular hikers.

**Strenuous:** up to 12 miles and 3500 feet gain – for experienced hikers in good condition.

*Very Strenuous:* over 12 miles and/or over 3500 feet gain – only for experienced hikers in very good physical and aerobic condition.

## **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

## **WEBSITE HELP NEEDED**

IATC wants to update its website and could use help. If you are knowledgeable and can help, plase contact George Potter at 425-557-6554.

## 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



- 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 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		
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 Man included		·	•

Total	l:

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. <b>Note:</b> 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			
<b>IMPORTANT:</b> This form and your donation and/or membership request form should be mailed to: IATC Foundation, P.O. Box <u>351</u> , 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

10/19/2010

Chris Allen 1519 18th Ave E Seattle, WA 98112-2811

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## **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.