



July ♦ August ♦ September 2013

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

## MIDDLE FORK GETTING FACELIFT



(Mark Boyar tackles invasives at the Middle Fork.)

By Doug Simpson

The Snoqualmie River's Middle Fork—once a giant illicit trough of garbage and lawlessness—is on its way from misery to respectability to future grandeur. By 2016, it will be among the most desirable recreation sites in the Northwest.

One of the architects of this remarkable resurgence is Mark Boyar, a Greenway board member, who has made it his mission by working in the Middle Fork for almost 25 years. "It's a big team effort," Boyar says. I've been persistent, but it's the land managers who do the heavy lifting every day. And without the Greenway's leadership and stewardship program, go back and add twenty more years to get where we are today."

Two culminating achievements will make the long-time project the

ultimate success. One is paving the rough potholed roadway nearly ten miles from Mailbox Peak Trailhead, where pavement currently ends, to the Middle Fork Campground 12 miles east of Interstate 90.

Some \$20 million from the Federal Highway Administration's Forest Highway Program will be put to work in the spring of 2014. The roadway will be closed during the 5-6 month construction season, and ultimately finished in 2016.

"This project is a big deal for the Middle Fork, both for recreation access and for habitat along the road corridor," Boyar stated. "The road washes out regularly and by spring it's more of a pothole slalom course than a road. It's bad for visitors and terrible for the health of the river."

*continued on page 7*

## LEVY SUPPORT NEEDED

If the Squak situation works out as IATC hopes, the land will be acquired by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and bought from them over time by King County. King County will use a combination of Conservation Futures funds and money from the renewal of a King County Parks Levy that will be on the August 6 primary ballot. The levy would be a renewal of the present six-year levy that expires this year.

*continued on page 10*

## SCHINDLER LOOKS AHEAD

Doug Schindler, Deputy Director for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, is an energetic guy, not one to rest on his (or the Greenway's) laurels. After the Greenway's first twenty years, "We still have a lot of work to do," he stated.

The first goal, of course, is achieving official status as a National Heritage Area. The request for the recognition was presented to the US House of Representatives by Congressman

*continued on page 8*

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IATC subsists on member donations only. Please send your tax-deductible contributions to the address above to help sustain our efforts to preserve, protect, and promote the Issaquah Alps and local environment.

Articles are welcome, preferably via e-mail to: [d.simpson@msn.com](mailto:d.simpson@msn.com)  
Send diskette or hard copy to post office box number above.

Issue deadlines: November 21 for January; February 21 for April; May 21 for July; August 21 for October.

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

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By David Kappler

The effort to keep most of 216 acres on Squak Mountain from being clearcut and having the land acquired by King County continues. The Trust for Public Land and King County signed an agreement with Erickson Logging to purchase the land if a price can be agreed upon. Just about when this edition of the Alpiner goes to press, appraisals should be complete and negotiations between the parties will hopefully be concluded.

The latest news on Squak will be posted on our website, IssaquhAlps.org, and even more information will be posted on SaveSquak.com and on Facebook: Save Squak.

The original clearcut permit was rejected by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources for several reasons. Erickson then applied for a permit on 95 acres of the property that did not include the North Fork of May Creek and did not have trees old enough to be potential nesting habitat for the threatened marbled murrelet. There, are, however, issues with the permit which we have raised concerns about.

Our greatest concern has been with his newest permit application for a clearcut of 95 acres adjoining the headwaters of May Creek and substantial older forest including potential nesting trees for the murrelet. Erickson's new application attempts to use a legal sleight-of-hand to avoid regulatory oversight by transferring ownership of the forest parcels to a newly formed limited liability corporation (LLC) that he claims is not an industrial logging operation.

This is a clear end run around the protections in the law and forest management regulations since Erickson is the sole owner of the new LLC and there is no real difference between it and his existing industrial logging operation. He now claims to be a "small forest landowner" under the guise of this new company and thus exempt from regulatory protections of the endangered marbled murrelet habitat and fewer salmon protection requirements.

Supporting real "small forest landowners" has long been a goal of the club. If these owners cannot afford to practice forestry, they end up chopping up their property, encouraging sprawl and chopping up wildlife habitat. The last thing we need is the big forest landowners chopping up their lands into LLCs to get around the laws that apply to industrial forest owners.

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## OPINION

### WHITAKER HONORED

Jim Whitaker was the first American to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 1963. Now to commemorate the event 50 years later, King County is renaming trails in the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park in his honor and that of his Sherpa Nawang Gombu (the first person to reach the summit twice).

The Wilderness Creek Trail and the Wilderness Peak Trail will become the Whitaker Wilderness Peak Trail (1.9 miles). The alternate route to the summit will be dubbed the Gombu Wilderness Cliffs Trail (1.3 miles). Both are no doubt deserving of the recognition, but Cougar Mountain still does not have appropriate naming in honor of Harvey Manning, who lived there, developed much of the trail system there, hiked there repeatedly, and saved the land from drooling developers.

King County Executive Dow Constantine stated on May 1, "Jim Whitaker's achievement 50 years ago today remains a triumph of perseverance and teamwork. It is an honor to recognize both Mr. Whitaker and Mr. Gombu on their historic accomplishment."

Born in Seattle and a long-time area resident, Whitaker now lives in Port Townsend. Perhaps he could be persuaded to lead a few hikes in the Cougar park to show his appreciation and to acknowledge the trails bearing his name.

Meanwhile, what about Harvey?

--Doug Simpson

## REAGAN JOINS FUTURES GROUP

(Note: This article is reprinted from an Issaquah/Sammamish Reporter article by Linda Ball.)

The King County Conservation Futures Citizen's Committee had a close up look at Squak Mountain Saturday, April 27. "They went into some of the forest, and got a good sampling of the area," said Dave Kappler, Issaquah Alps Trails Club president. As an extra bonus, Kappler said, they had a great view that day, all the way to the Olympic Mountains.

The committee, led by Terry Lavender, serves as an advisory board, making recommendations on land purchases to the King County Council. Also on the tour were County Council member Reagan Dunn, along with Ingrid Lundin and Dave Tiemann, project managers with King County.

The tour gave Dunn, Lundin and Tiemann the opportunity to see that Squak Mountain is the missing link between Tiger and Cougar Mountains, Kappler said. Dunn is supportive of the efforts to "Save Squak" and the trails club to stop the potential clear-cut of 95 acres on the mountain.

"It's not real common to see council members on these tours," Tiemann said.

The competition for the money is fierce. Lavender said there are 42 properties spread throughout King County and 37 cities looking for funding. They range from a piece of waterfront in Seattle to riverfront on the Snoqualmie River to Squak Mountain.

"How this will fit, we don't know," Lavender said. "We have \$16.8 million in requests for conservation futures funds and we have \$8.8 million available for 2014." Money for the funds is collected from property taxes levied throughout King County for the purchase and permanent protection of open space lands.

Lavender said the committee will start the process of what properties to recommend to the county this week. Its recommendations will go to County Executive Dow

Constantine by the end of May. He has the authority to modify the recommendations before they are presented to the entire council, which also can make modifications. But Lavender said there is a great deal of respect for the committee, and its recommendations are pretty solid and rarely challenged.

If Squak Mountain is chosen to receive conservation futures funds, it would be for \$500,000. The balance of \$1.5 million to buy the property from Erickson Logging would have to come from parks levy funding, which is already gone for 2013.

Lavender said a new parks levy will be on the August ballot, which will have open space acquisition money included. The committee also makes recommendations on how that money is spent. "Requests for parks levy are \$7.5 million with 21 projects asking for money," she said. "It's too early to be saying where this is going to end up."



## WEISSMAN WITHDRAWS

With her snowshoe hiking program given a thumbs down by the IATC board April 25, gung-ho outdoor enthusiast Hazel Weissman is discontinuing participation in IATC's hiking schedule. She will lead hikes through the end of June, and then transfer her outings, presumably, to the Snoqualmie Valley Club. Below is her official statement.

*Thank you all for helping to launch the Weekly Wednesday Adventures, which has, so far, conducted over 40 hikes/350 hikers in attendance. At this point, we plan to continue our schedule of outdoor activities and to continue IATC's mission of introducing people to the outdoors., Unfortunately, because of our need for liability insurance, our continuance will be outside the IATC schedule as of June 30, 2013. Thank you again for your support. Looking forward to seeing you on the trails. --Hazel*



## HIKERS CORNER

By Joe Toynbee



A hiker new to the Issaquah Alps faces what must seem a daunting task. The Alps contain some 20,000 acres of mostly forested land and hundreds of miles of trails. Some planning is needed to tackle the problem of hiking them.

First of all, we recommend that the hiker go out with the Issaquah Alps Trails Club or some other club that uses the area. An excellent way to get a feel for the Alps is to acquire a guide book. Cougar, Squak and Tiger all have excellent guides. Then there are maps and compasses for someone trained in their use. In recent years the GPS has proven a very useful tool, as has the cell phone. Finally, public agencies have lately been doing an excellent job of putting up signs at trail junctions.

While we do not recommend hiking alone, it is important that you carry survival gear with you if you do. At a minimum you should have warm waterproof clothing and be wearing boots. All members of a group should carry such gear, but at least make sure you do.

The Mountaineers, a prominent regional outdoor club, has a textbook for their climbing course entitled "Freedom of the Hills." Following the suggestions above should at least give you freedom of the Issaquah alps.



## TRAILS CLUB ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club has announced the winners of its annual Bill Longwell Memorial Scholarship. First place for \$1000 has been awarded to Joseph Domek of Issaquah High School. Joe has a GPA of 3.91, is active in Issaquah-Sammamish Young Life, Relay for Life, and Running Start classes. He plays football, wrestles, runs track, and is college bound to PLU.

Second place for \$500 has been awarded to Jennifer Duff, also of Issaquah High School. Jennifer has a 3.93 GPA, is treasurer of the Internet Service Club, is active in the Multicultural Club, Honor Society, and runs track. She plans to attend Pepperdine next year.

Third place for \$250 goes to Andrew Smith of Skyline High School. Andrew has a 3.98 GPA, is senior class treasurer, swim team captain, and in Debate Club, Honor Society and Eagle Scouts. He plans to attend Middlebury College in Vermont.

Bill Longwell was a longtime member of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and taught English at Hazen High School. He built and maintained many of the local trails, often with the help of his students. During the 1970s, Bill surveyed and led the effort to build the 16-mile long Tiger Mountain trail system. He also helped build and maintain numerous other trails on Squak Mountain and in the Issaquah Alps. The scholarship was created in his honor shortly after his death in 2007. It is open to seniors at Issaquah, Liberty, Skyline and Hazen High Schools.

Most of this year's entrants chose the following essay topic:

Interest in the environment and long term sustainability of our planet has never been greater. What should the Issaquah Alps Trails Club do to help our youth be better informed about issues and become more active locally? In other words support the often repeated phrase: "Think globally and act locally".

# SCHOLARSHIP WINNER IHS' DOMEK THINKS GLOBALLY

By Joseph Domek

The often repeated phrase "think globally and act locally" has been a goal for America for many years, and we are finally seeing a passion for change within children, teens and adults. The individuals of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club dedicate their time to protect the wild lands. They have helped inform many around the area to understand more about wildlife and the environment, as well as going on hikes to enjoy the beautiful scenery while getting some exercise. However, there is more that can be done to enlighten young and old individuals on how they can become more active within the environment.



Issaquah is known as a very tight-knit community. When one finds out about how they can aid the environment and the community, the word spreads through the many families that keep contact with each other. Posting flyers around town would utilize this network of communication between these close families. This helps notify the locals about how they can be more involved with this club. This would be a very effective tactic to get many people together because the flyers would attract the adults that are looking for more ways that their families could spend more time together. Also, posting flyers around elementary schools, high schools, and community centers will attract the many students and athletically involved individuals, which would be a great population to attain for the club.

Along with posting flyers around schools, a great way to get more students to become more involved is by contacting the staff in the schools that can tell the students how they can get more community service hours while helping out the environment. Notifying high school counselors about these community service opportunities would benefit both the students and the environment. Students want to stand out when applying to colleges and, at the same time, want to be involved in more opportunities that benefit their community. However, getting individuals to be more engaged in this club does not stop here.

Today the youth spend a significant amount of their time on social media such as Facebook, Twitter and

Instagram. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club can benefit from Facebook by posting and inviting some teens and adults to join certain events. These events could be anything from taking family hikes with friends through the trails to being involved in local projects that benefit the environment. During these hikes, the club's Twitter account could tweet random facts about wildlife, or about what they are seeing on their hikes. The club could also use Instagram to post beautiful pictures of the scenery to grasp the attention of teens and adults. Social media has the potential to help connect families that want to be involved in making Issaquah a better place one step at a time while having some fun.

Many individuals want to be more involved in their communities. Sometimes, they cannot do so because they are not aware of the clubs and activities that occur locally. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club is a great way to help the environment while getting some exercise, having some family time, having an opportunity to understand more about wildlife, and getting some community service. Posting flyers, notifying the staff and clubs at local schools, and using social media to help plan events are all great ways that grasp the attention of anyone who is looking for a way to become more active in their community. Thinking globally and acting locally is just the beginning of creating a better and safer environment for everyone today as well as the generations to come.

(See excerpts from other essays beginning Page 9.)

**MIDDLE FORK** *continued from page 1*

Winter storms flush tons of gravel and sediment from the road and into adjacent streams and wetlands, and for decades undersized culverts have blocked coastal cutthroat migration routes into tributary creeks. In the summer dust clouds coat vegetation and campers. To improve access and greatly reduce these impacts, FHWA will rebuild the road base, replace undersized culverts to improve drainage and reopen fish passage, and pave the surface.

The second, and parallel achievement, will be to implement the proper facilities to create better river access, signage, parking and bathrooms. Groups such as the Issaquah Alps Trails Club are being counted on to provide cash to enable federal matching funds to upgrade or establish these facilities, including cash or volunteer time to provide the match required by most grant programs.

The need for all this is unquestioned. Back in the 80's, when Boyar first took on the Middle Fork as a project, parts of the 12-mile roadway between Mailbox and the Taylor River (such as it was) was littered with piles of garbage and dozens of wrecked (some stolen, no doubt) cars. The cars were part of a lawless chop shop operation that was complemented by extensive meth labs. It was a great outdoor recreation destination, but only for those willing to ignore the endless echo of gunfire, road ends decorated with bullet-riddled appliances, and able to sidestep the occasional chop shop operation or meth lab.

Eventually King County police and federal officials shut down the illegal operations in the 90's, closing the old logging spur roads where much of the activity took place to bring to a close most of the lawlessness. Wade Holden and the non-profit Friends of the Trail pulled out hundreds of tons of garbage and ruined vehicles over the last two decades, another key step towards "taking the valley back."

At times it was like a shooting gallery in there, as gun-happy, sometimes drunken "outdoorsmen" utilized the area to shoot up whatever and whenever. "While we were working on the wooden arched bridge (next to the present-day Middle Fork Trailhead), more than once we had to run for cover when bullets hit the water and trees near us while we worked," Boyar exclaimed.

Besides the mess and lawlessness, the Middle Fork has had another problem: invasive plants. Much of Boyar's efforts in the past ten years have been to remove the invasives, an ongoing project.

An ever-growing number of recreationists seeking new and different sites and the Middle Fork's increasing publicity in recent years have led to a vast increase in public use. "I am amazed by the skyrocketing participation in the last three years," Boyar said. "What's happened to date—new trails, river access points, and a new campground, isn't enough. The valley isn't ready. . . With so many visitors arriving and without nearly enough day-use sites, the valley is showing wear and tear. And we need more bathrooms!"

Thus the two big projects.

Jurisdiction of the Middle Fork is a bit of a patchwork: of the 110,000 acres, about 80 percent is Forest Service, 17 percent with Washington DNR, with King County and the rest private. As a community partnership, says Boyar, these and Greenway Trust are doing an "admirable job."

"We've done a huge amount on a shoestring," Boyar says. "We've seen steady restoration of damaged areas, have held our own or better with invasive weeds, and slowly added new trails and other facilities. The next few years will be interesting. We'll all need to pull together to keep moving ahead."

So what will make the Middle Fork worth all this and ultimately so special? Reached from Exit 34 off the interstate, recreationists will turn right in less than a mile on SE Middle Fork Road, followed by 12 miles to the Middle Fork and other hiking destinations. Along the way, besides river scenery, entrance to the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area provides terrific views of Stagosaurus (like a dinosaur in shape), Garfield Mountain (5519 feet) and Bessemer and Preacher mountains as well as access from the Dingford Creek Trailhead to Myrtle and Hester lakes and the private Goldmeyer Hot Springs. Green Trails maps 174 (Mount Si) and 207 (Snoqualmie Pass) include the area.

For Boyar and countless others, 2016 can't come soon enough.



## NEW TRAIL FOR MAILBOX PEAK

By Doug Simpson

The old Mailbox Peak Trail required exceptional effort to scale over 4000 feet in about three miles, a good workout of up to eight hours for a six-mile roundtrip. But the steepness and hard work provided 360-degree views of the western Cascades and Mt. Rainier, as well as gorgeous wildflowers in season.

The Mountains to Sound Greenway is coming to the rescue to provide a new, less demanding trail, though it won't be completed until summer of 2014.

The peak's curious name comes from an actual mailbox that appeared there many years ago. The mailbox inspired placement of assorted other curiosities over the years, including a fire hydrant (go figure!) and an aluminum stepladder.

The trail is reached from Exit 34 off Interstate 90. The road takes one past the Truck Town area to the SE Middle Fork Road. The trailhead is less than three miles off the interstate. Use the Green Trails Bandera map for a closer look.

The usually popular trail will no doubt achieve high demand use after the trail's reroute is completed. The new trail route will be take approximately five miles from the trailhead (10 miles round trip).

The old trail will remain open until sometime in summer of 2014 when the final quarter mile is closed for blasting in rocky terrain.

## SQUAK LOT CLOSED

The day use parking area on the May Valley Road for the Squak Mountain State Park is closed until late summer or early fall as forest health issues are being dealt with. Native tree pathogens, primarily laminated root rot, are attacking Douglas-fir trees in developed areas.

The disease, which affects the roots and lower stems of certain conifer tree species, has the potential to cause healthy-looking trees to fall without warning. The closure has nothing to do with the ongoing controversy over possible nearby clear cutting.



### SCHINDLER LOOKS AHEAD *continued from page 1*

Dave Reichert. (See separate story on p. 4) "We have a lot of strong bipartisan support," Schindler noted. "There is no real opposition, but with Congress and politics you just never know."

Among other concerns, Schindler cited the importance of protecting the 50,000 acres of the Teanaway Basin near Cle Elum. He also spoke of the importance of protecting farms and agriculture in the Snoqualmie Valley.

The construction of the new Mailbox Peak Trail is a major project due to be completed by the summer of 2014. Schindler noted that the late Ira Spring once predicted that a proper Mailbox Trail could "outstrip Mount Si" in popularity. The trail is reached via Exit 34, east of North Bend off Interstate 90. (See separate story on this page.)

In the long range, Schindler is concerned about critical leadership in future years. "As people are retiring and getting older, it's critical that new leadership emerges."



## WORDS FROM SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTANTS

### JENNIFER DUFF, ISSAQUAH HIGH SCHOOL (2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE WINNER):

It is important to get students invested in nature by cultivating their interest in it. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club already has a great start in educating the public about the environment by providing free guided hikes several days a week. To target youths more specifically, the club could provide special hikes created specifically for youths. For example, the IATC could lead a hike just for teenagers once a month. Advertise the hikes at local schools. . . and take them to interesting spots they could come back to on their own. . . If youths are passionate about the environment, they will have a personal stake in conserving it and thus be more motivated to take part in its protection. . . Once students are interested and educated about nature and the challenges it is facing, provide them with opportunities to take action. A great way to do this is to start a Junior Issaquah Alps Trails Club in local middle and high schools. The club would organize enthusiastic students and assist them in participating in environmental solutions. . . A member of the IATC could supervise the club and guide the students in this process. . . IATC could host a “clean up the trails” event in which youths come to pick up litter on trails in the Issaquah area.

### ANDREW SMITH, SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL (3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE WINNER):

It’s human nature to want to make a difference in the world and to want to care. . . Right now there is a greater awareness for environmental and sustainability issues than ever before in human history, but that doesn’t mean we should be satisfied. . . There seems to be a vast chasm between the amount of information that people know about the issues, and the amount that people know about saving them. . . The solution is a two-pronged approach: continue the education of global environmental issues and create a movement among youth towards sustainable living.

My plan starts with the selection of a youth intern for the Issaquah alps Trails Club. The job of this intern would be to coordinate trails club events over

social media and to connect with youth volunteer organizations. . . The intern would liaison with these groups to make sure that environmental work opportunities were accessible to more high schoolers. It would also be very important to work closely with local boy and Girl Scout troops. . . Another important benefit of working with local scout troops to create Eagle Project opportunities would be to attract the attention of local media and expand the education campaign. . . It is important to have a very strong presence on prominent social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr and to be featured in student publications. . . The way to build a broad base of support in the community is to have the youth intimately involved in the organization all the way through.

### HALEY MINCIN, SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL:

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club is looking to better inform the youth about becoming more educated about sustainability and becoming more active locally. . . Use social media, a place where youth spend much of their time. One popular website is Meetup, an online site with the goal of connecting people locally who share the same interests. Anyone can start a group, ranging from dog-walking to hiking. IATC could create a group on the Meetup site targeting youth in the community. The main goal would be to get kids outside enjoying the trails, while also having someone from the club spread some knowledge about the environment.

Marya Mannes once said, “The earth we abuse and the living things we kill will, in the end, take their revenge; for in exploiting their presence we are diminishing our future.”



“Your feet-bones are connected to your head-bones which are connected to your letter-writing finger-bones. What your feet know, and what they feel, must be transmitted to government officials.” --H. Manning

## WORDS FROM SCHOLARSHIP CONTESTANTS cont.

### BRANDON NICHOLS, HAZEN HIGH SCHOOL:

The thing I like about the Issaquah Alps is how high up you can get when you are hiking them. It makes you appreciate how great the world is. . . Making it to the top motivates me. It makes me want to do it again and again. . . With the dedication of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, the trails have been preserved for people like me to enjoy. People like Bill Longwell have helped build and maintain these trail systems, and they lasted till today and hopefully long into the future. . .

With my love of hiking comes a need to help preserve the natural beauty that is inherent in the Issaquah Alps. When I settle down back here (after college), I hope to be able to contribute myself to the preservation of the trails. . . . I plan to help with the trail system in any way that I can. I want to keep them just as vibrant and beautiful as they were forty years ago. . . I won't let the trails fall into shabby conditions; the Issaquah Alps trails system will stand strong through time.

### ANNA TEODOSIADIS, SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL:

Hikes are a way where we can talk and visit each other on the way up, then enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Northwest at the top. It is the most perfect way to spend a Saturday morning or weekday afternoon. . . My favorite hike is Rattlesnake Ridge. Its natural, rock plateau at the top make the experience special. The view reminds me how lucky we are to live in such an incredibly green environment, and it's breathtaking every time. . .

The Issaquah Alps are the closest hiking area for a metropolitan area of over two million people. We are so lucky to live so close to the Issaquah Alps, because hiking is easily accessible. . . I am grateful that the Issaquah Alps Trails Club manages the land, forms the trail system, and protects our natural environment from becoming part of the urban environment. . . There are many volunteer opportunities that we can take advantage of to help keep the trails clean. Most of my family has participated in various Mountains to Sound projects.

### AMRIT PURI, SKYLINE HIGH SCHOOL:

The first step in helping youth become informed about issues is to get the information to them. . . . The Issaquah Alps Club could start by explaining to students not only why sustainability is important, but why it is important to the them. This information could be provided through an assembly or perhaps a presentation during classes. . .

Another way to influence youth to live sustainably is to make a positive change in their everyday lives that shows them the importance and ease of wasting less. The best example of a recent change that students have noticed is the city of Issaquah's new ban on plastic bags. . . An estimated 2 billion disposable plastic bags are used annually in Washington State, and less than 5 percent are recovered for recycling.

### LEVY SUPPORT NEEDED *continued from page 1*

Without the renewal of this levy, much more than the Squak purchase would be threatened. The levy is critical for future acquisitions in the Alps and for the ongoing management and protection of the King County park system.

Please help if you can. You can go to the campaign's website and donate with your credit card. You may want to include a note about how you understand that the county anticipates using some of the levy money for the Squak property and how much IATC appreciates the many acquisitions that the soon expiring levy has helped to make. The people that were on the citizen committee that recommended the Squak purchase are in many cases the same people running the campaign for the levy.

By mail, you do have to provide your full name and address for public disclosure purposes. If you donate more than \$100, you need to provide your employer's name and city, or, if none or retired matches your situation, put that down.

For online donations: [www.yesforourparks.com](http://www.yesforourparks.com)  
For mailing in a donation: Parks and Recreation Coalition, PO Box 2667, Seattle, WA 98111. Make checks out to Parks and Recreation Coalition.

## HERITAGE STATUS CLOSER FOR GREENWAY



(Gretchen Thomsen, Mary Ann Wiley and friend enjoy a peaceful moment by the plaque honoring Greenway icon Ted Thomsen. The inset reveals the plaque's words.)

The Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is leading a bipartisan campaign to ask the US. Congress to designate the 1.5 million-acre Mountains to Sound Greenway as a National Heritage Area. Congressman Dave Reichert introduced H.R. 1785 in the House, and the Greenway hopes to see a similar bill in the Senate in the near future.

Passage of this legislation would put the Greenway officially on the map, as well as enabling cooperative action and efficiencies among public land managers, without affecting land ownership or private property rights. Proposed designation would give the framework and tools needed to take care of the Greenway—now and into the future.

“The natural wealth and beauty of Greenway represents a truly unique national gem, and I’m proud to represent such an integral part of our nation’s heritage, nestled in the heart of Washington State,” says Reichert.

Representative Reichert was joined in support at the introduction by former senator Slade Gorton, former governor Mike Lowry, Greenway founder Jim Ellis, King County Council member Reagan Dunn, and other Greenway leaders to announce this new legislation.

The Greenway concept was a vision of IATC founder Harvey Manning, and was led to implementation by club leaders Jack Hornung and Ted Thomsen. (see Schindler article on p. 1).



On old coyotes and Tiger Mountain: “For the ones who got here just a century ago and hardly know where they are, if only they’ll heed his twilight song he’ll help them become one with the land.” --H. Manning



# MY FAVORITE TRAILS

By George Potter

There are an enormous number and a very wide variety of really great hikes in the Issaquah Alps area. Some have fabulous views, some are great for exercise, some have a marvelous mix of verdant vegetation that makes you want to dig out a reference book, some are easy, and all of them are good for the soul. Four of my favorites are Kendall Cat Walk, Elk Ridge Trail, Big View, and Grand Ridge.

**KENDALL CAT WALK** - is 5.5 miles north along the Pacific Crest Trail and 2600 feet up from Snoqualmie Pass. On a clear day there are great views along the trail. Amongst others, these views include Guye Peak, the Cascades south of Snoqualmie Pass, and Mount Rainier. The environment is a wonderful mix of alpine forests and granite terrain. There are grey jays that will come land on an outstretched hand. This is so very different from the low lands closer to Seattle.

**ELK RIDGE TRAIL** - is in a public part of the Cedar River Watershed. From the trailhead on SE 208th St. the trail leads 1.23 miles and 600 feet up to the Taylor Mountain Forest where you can follow many other great trails. The Elk Ridge Trail has a particularly lush green environment with trees, ferns, shrubs, and ground cover. It is very beautiful but different on both sunny and rainy days. Unfortunately, the trail is closed from October 15th through April 15th due to extremely muddy conditions.

**BIG VIEW** - is the West shoulder of Taylor Mountain. It takes two miles and 1200 feet of gain to get there, but the view is well worth it. A rough trail starts at the east end of the parking area on northeast bound SR18 just before the Tiger Summit Trailhead. Big View is slightly lower than Taylor Peak, but the clear cut around it gives you a 320 degree view including forests in the Cedar River Watershed, Rainier, Tacoma, south Puget Sound, the Olympics, Tiger Mountain, Mount Baker, Snoqualmie Ridge, the Cascades, the Raging River Basin, Rattle Snake Mountain, and the Haystack on top of Mt. Si.

**GRAND RIDGE** - The Grand Ridge trail runs 5 miles from Issaquah Fall City Road just east of Duthie Hill Road to Central Park in the Issaquah Highlands. The gain is about 1000 feet going north to South and 750 feet south to north. This trail passes through a lush environment of wetlands and rain forests that is beautiful both in the rain and on a sunny day. Be on the lookout for frequent bike traffic on this trail.



## 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 elected 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 the 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.



## 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, please contact George Potter at 425-557-6554.

## HIKING 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.