



## PROGRESS ON EMERALD NECKLACE

By Doug Simpson

Imagine 28 miles of continuous trails that encircle the entire Sammamish plateau. The complete Emerald Necklace is in the works, already 80 percent complete, and it may be nearly fully realized after the King County Council acts upon it in November.

“We’re very excited about it, so pleased with how it is coming along,” said Pauline Canter of the Sammamish Park Board. A \$24,000 grant for a feasibility study is anticipated from the county.

The trail includes the existing East Lake Sammamish Trail, the Issaquah-Preston Trail, the Grand Ridge Trail to Duthie Hill and Trossachs, then after unapproved sections near Soaring Eagle Park and Evans Creak Preserve, finally back to the Eastlake Sammamish Trail, 28 miles in all.



Left to right: Sammamish Councilman Don Gerend, David Kappler, Jim Berry, Ben Hughey-Policy and GIS Specialist with Mountains to Sound Greenway, King County Natural Resource Land Program Manager Connie Blumen.

## REPS INTRODUCE BILL FOR GREENWAY STATUS

A huge milestone was reached recently when Washington senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell introduced legislation to give the Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage status. Congressman Dave Reichert has made a similar proposal in the House.

“Washington’s natural wonders improve our quality of life and drive an outdoor economy that supports 200,000 jobs. I am proud to work with Senator Murray, Representative Reichert and the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to establish this National Heritage Area and build on nearly two decades of efforts to preserve our state’s natural landscape for future generations,” Senator Cantwell said.

“This bill will promote cooperation and economic development from Ellensburg to Seattle and communities in between along the Greenway, so that all can appreciate the diverse and unique resources and quality of life we enjoy in Washington State,” Senator Murray stated.

The National Heritage Area program provides a non-regulatory approach

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# The Apparatus

## CLUB FOUNDER

Harvey Manning

## PRESIDENT

David Kappler • 392-3571 • DavidKappler@hotmail.com

## VICE PRESIDENT

Doug Simpson • 823-0747 • dsimpson6191@gmail.com

## TREASURER

George Potter • 557-6554 • george.q.potter@gmail.com

## SECRETARY

Kathleen Petty • 885-4349 • pettykathleen95@gmail.com

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kirt Lenard • 894-7790 • kdlenard@gmail.com

Rachel Hopkins • 206-715-5009 • rachellberinger-hopkins@gmail.com

Jackie Hughes • 641-3815 • jhughes62003@yahoo.com

Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839 • kenkonigsmark@yahoo.com

George Potter • 557-6554 • george.q.potter@gmail.com

Scott Prueter • scottp222@hotmail.com

Doug Simpson • 823-0747 • dsimpson6191@gmail.com

Ed Vervoort • 206-523-6461 • evervoort@comcast.net

Steve Williams • 453-8997 • SWilliams453@yahoo.com

## LEGAL ADVISOR

Jim Hilton

## HIKES COORDINATION

Jackie Hughes • 641-3815 • jhughes62003@yahoo.com

Jean Lanz • 206-322-0990 • lanzjb@earthlink.net

Joe Toynbee • 228-6118 • toynbee@blarg.net

## BOOK SALES/DISTRIBUTION

Scott Prueter • scottp222@hotmail.com

## WEBMASTER

George Potter • 557-6554 • george.q.potter@gmail.com

## CHIEF CARTOGRAPHER

Harry Morgan • 432-3249 • hcmorgan@gmail.com

## THE ALPINER

Doug Simpson • 823-0747 • dsimpson6191@gmail.com

## ADVOCATES

Cougar Mountain: Steve Williams • 453-8997 • SWilliams453@yahoo.com

Issaquah: Connie Marsh • 392-4908 • auntgrumpy@comcast.net

Tiger Mountain: Ed Vervoort • 206-523-6461 • evervoort@comcast.net

Rattlesnake Mountain/Taylor Mountain: Ralph Owen • 270-3322

Squak Mountain: Cathy Brandt • 430-9877

## VOLUNTEER TRAIL MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

Open

## MOUNTAINS TO SOUND GREENWAY

Ken Konigsmark • 222-4839 • kenkonigsmark@yahoo.com

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

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Issaquah Alps Trails Club  
PO Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027  
Website: [www.issaquahalps.org](http://www.issaquahalps.org)

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.simpson6191@gmail.com](mailto:d.simpson6191@gmail.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

Fall is in the air, but the shorter days, lower snow level and greater precipitation have one great benefit. Washington Trails Association and others doing trailwork look for projects that can be done in the winter months, and no place is closer and better suited to that time of year than our own Alps! Typically, WTA and others will be doing maintenance, some reroutes and short sections of new trail in the mostly "trailed" Issaquah Alps. But this year is different.

With King County's acquisition of 220 acres on West Squak there will be upgrades and reroutes, but the longest new wildland hiking trail in a decade or more in the traditional Alps area will be built. King County is now working on the design for the trail in close cooperation with the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and the WTA. Much of this new trail is not even on the recently acquired land, but is on previously acquired land that had little or no access, but will now be served by a great new trailhead off SR-900 (the Issaquah-Renton Road). We anticipate a beautiful wildland trail with several nice viewpoints, diverse geology and flora connecting the west face of Squak with the existing Squak system.

The county has also been working with the Washington Native Plant Society to inventory a great variety of native plants, some quite uncommon, as well as to identify non-native invasive species requiring control. This is one example of a number of groups that are working with the county on restoration projects on the newly acquired land.

Work parties scheduled by IATC, WTA and other groups that are open to the general public will be listed on our website. Last year on Park Pointe, high school groups did some great trails building, and this year there is much more to do on some very challenging ground. Individual and group representatives interested in helping with planning and building of trails on Squak or doing restoration work are welcome to contact me by phone (425-652-2753) or email

(davidkappler@hotmail.com). I should be able to help direct you to the right contact person if I can't personally help you.

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From the scholarship submissions we receive each year we know there are many very serious students attending our local high schools. Some students find that after taking a foreign language, music and many advanced classes there is no time in their schedule to obtain the required physical education credits during the regular school year.

To meet the requirement some students take an intensive two week class in the summer. During the class students do a variety of different sports and activities. Two teachers in the summer program contacted the club to see if we could guide their classes on a day long hike. I quickly volunteered and found out that even teachers at Issaquah High School had little knowledge of trails on Squak, but were quite familiar with Tiger.

We did a slightly different route each time, but in both cases we hiked over 11 miles and the students and teachers did great. From IHS the route dips down a bit at the Issaquah Creek crossing in Sycamore, but from there we took the East Ridge Trail to Central Peak, then to Fireplace, West Peak, Debbie's View and to the East Side Trail and back down the ridge to the high school.

Whenever any of those students are on the valley floor with a good view of Squak they will remember their hike and Squak will be much more than a green backdrop to Issaquah. I hope to guide classes again next year and other youth groups with hiking, trail building and restoration projects during the year.





## CHAPTER 5: DECEMBER 1981 TO SUMMER 1983

# COUGAR PARK STILL AT ISSUE

By Doug Simpson

President Harvey Manning was most pleased with the DNR proposal for a 13,500-acre Tiger Mountain State Forest, which he and IATC had been advocating for years. As a result, two proposed timber sales outside the State Forest were shelved. Friction between DNR and IATC, Manning noted, seems to be concluding.

Manning called 1981 a very good year, but “1981 was all preliminaries. The year of decisions lies ahead.” The prez proposed an “Adopt a Mile” plan to get club members to help maintain trails. In particular, “Bill Longwell needs an army of hikers to help” relocate the northern and last two miles of the Tiger Mountain Trail.” Manning called the workers “Longwell’s Army.”

After purging many inactive members of the club, IATC membership stood at 660. From January to March of 1982, 59 hikes were scheduled. New hike leaders included *Alan Blalock, Ed Bowser, Hazel Hale, Dwight Riggs, Larry Hall and Sarah Allen*. At the 1982 annual meeting, Manning and Barbara Johnson (vice-president) were re-elected along with *Connie Dow* as secretary and *Linda Joy Hendricks* as treasurer. Elected board members were *Linda Burke, Ed Barraclough and Ralph Owen*.

In the year’s second quarter, 44 hikes were included, including an April 4 joint outing with the Cascade Bicycle Club. Club membership had grown up again to 734.

In his third anniversary report, Manning lauded County Executive Randy Revelle for his advocacy of an ever larger park for Cougar, sufficient to protect the headwaters of Coal Creek and to encompass the Clay Pit and east ridge of Wilderness Peak.

Numerous events were held to support the parks proposal, including a walk from the Seattle waterfront to Lake Washington, a boat crossing to Newport Shores and then by foot on to Cougar’s Red Town.

The club also participated among 900 folks who walked the Burke-Gilman Trail to join a rally of 2000 at Gasworks Park, “the largest wilderness rally in the history of the area.”

A special tailored hike was held with Barbara Johnson leading 60 members of the Eastside Unitarian Church on a short Cougar hike, and Manning escorted 23 members of Mountaineers on a similar outing. Longwell’s Army consisted of 28 workers on May 15 to complete the final miles of the north end of the TMT.

The original Return to Newcastle outing was scheduled for October 16, 1982 to promote Pro Parks and the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. Parking was available at the Kingdome and two boat outings across Lake Washington were scheduled.

In the final quarter of 1982, some 56 hikes were scheduled, including outings to the Lake Alice area, the Squak cliffs, Kerriston, Yellow Lake and Beaver Valley. Bike outings were still scheduled, though additional leaders were being sought. Membership had grown to 1085.

## COUNTY COUNCIL SAYS ‘NO’

Harvey Manning, in his March 1983 report, said park forces outnumbered the land developers 33,000 to 8, which did not please the council, which sided with the developers. County Executive Randy Revelle came to the rescue, however, vetoing the “three villages” plan. The Newcastle Citizens Committee sought a compromise.

Manning wrote: “None of the ‘villages’ as so far proposed is anything less than a disaster for the goals of the Trails Club. We don’t plan to go away.”



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At the January annual meeting, club officers remained the same except for *Darla O'Brien* replacing Linda Hendricks as treasurer. The seven other board members: Tom Mechler, Ralph Owen, Larry Vintner, Jack Price, Bill Longwell, Dave Kappler and Susan Williams.

The club held a series of Sunday afternoon walks, including Animal Signs, Spring Birds, Park Plants, Spring Walks, Lake Critters, Food Chains, Edible Plants and two at Luther Burbank Park on Mercer Island.

A mammoth 64 hikes were scheduled for April through June. Notable was a four-hour Seattle History Hike led by Tim O'Brien, viewing countless buildings going back 100 years in time.

Tom Mechler drew a reconstruction of the Greyhound Scenicruiser, which still lies on its own "Bus Trail" on Tiger Mountain lowlands. In its day it was considered "the palace of the highways." No word, though, on how or when it came to rest where it did.

In the June Alpiner, Manning effused about the success of The Return to Newcastle event. The IATC president added: "Without minimizing the wildland aspect, many of us are now thinking along the lines of a History Park—or perhaps a National Historic District from the Skid Road (Seattle) to Issaquah." (Shades of the future Greeway?)

On June 5, County Executive Revelle signed the ordinance adopting the Newcastle Community Plan. Considered a compromise between development plans and preservation issues, it had the distinction of endorsing the park plan and keeping the developers at bay.

Negotiations over the long-term plan for Tiger Mountain continued. As Manning wrote: "Recreationally, Tiger can serve a number of needs—but not all. . . There is no room for target-shooting, off-road vehicle use, and on-road, high-speed, high-noise vehicle use." He added, "The highest role of Tiger is to serve the greatest need: quiet, near city, wildland recreation. . . There is a serious shortage of places to be quiet."

It was another busy quarter for hikes—23 in July, 22 in August and 17 in September, 62 in all.

**EMERALD NECKLACE** *continued from page 1*

The proposal has solid, enthusiastic support from the Mountains to Sound Greenway, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and other groups. And King County Parks and the Sammamish City Council have expressed strong interest in this regional trail system.

Affiliated is the Sammamish Walks program, which holds monthly walks in the area. Recent outings—usually up to two hours and less than two miles—have been to Tiger Mountain, Big Rock Park, Evans Creek Preserve and Soaring Eagle Park. Beaver Lake Preserve and Hazel Wolf Wetlands are scheduled for October. Check [Sammamishwalks.org](http://Sammamishwalks.org) for more information.

Sammamish Friends ([sammamishfriends.org](http://sammamishfriends.org)) is the major proponent for the Necklace. A non-profit organization, it provides opportunities for residents to sustain and improve the quality of life on or around the Sammamish plateau. It focuses on habitat, trails, bog preservation and the overall enrichment of the community.

King County Parks applied for the \$25,000 grant from Open Space acquisition funds for a partnership of King County, the City of Sammamish and local non-profit groups for title, appraisal work and initial landowner discussions.

Approximately a dozen properties are in the project area north and west of Soaring Eagle Park to Sammamish's Evans Creek Preserve near State Route 202 in unincorporated King County. The area is an identified wildlife network, urban growth boundary and headwaters for Patterson Creek.

The grant is expected to help in a broader funding request likely to be submitted in 2015.

According to Connie Blumen, King County's Natural Lands Project Manager, "The Emerald Necklace Trail will provide a wide variety of trail use experiences while protecting critical open space and creating a scenic, ecological and functional greenbelt. It will be a magnificent local and regional asset."The logistics

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# IATC: THE FIRST DECADE

By Ralph Owen

An earlier article on the naming of the Alps and IATC pre-history covered the events leading up to the founding of the club in early 1979 in support of Harvey Manning's "get out of the car and walk" campaign. The primary goal of the new club was to provide the opportunity for near city hiking in the forested wildlands of the newly named "Issaquah Alps."

As the IATC began to formulate its guidelines and objectives, it soon became obvious that most of the Alps' lands were privately owned, and under development pressure and that these wooded wildlands could disappear over time unless more of the property could become owned by the public. This led to the realization that in order to meet its primary goal, the IATC would have to become highly involved in the land use politics of the region.

The second main activity of the IATC was to carry out an active hiking program to introduce the public to the Issaquah Alps. This hiking program, from the beginning, was meant to be an integral part of the politics of the public acquisition of land and land use planning of the Issaquah Alps. It was believed that if we put a pair of boots on the trail, then the owner of those boots would become a voter to save that trail and the forested lands that the trail ran through. Thus a new slogan was invented—"Boots on the Trail Equals Votes for the Trail."

Increasing our membership was also important as it helped increase IATC's clout. It always made a greater impact when an IATC volunteer speaker or letter writer could state that they represented 1200 family memberships and by implication a large number of voters.

A review of the 1979 public/private ownership pattern and development pressures for the forested lands on the three mountains which formed the core of the Issaquah Alps indicated the size of the job ahead.

**TIGER MOUNTAIN:** Tiger had a checkerboard ownership pattern with alternating sections of publicly owned land managed by the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and private lands owned by Weyerhaeuser. Fairly large clearcuts were being

planned by both the DNR and Weyerhaeuser. There was a real possibility that Weyerhaeuser might then transfer some of the clearcut property to Quadrant, their real estate division, to make it available for development. In addition, Section 12 in the middle of the mountain was privately owned by a Kitsap County land company which had a long-term goal of housing development. Housing developments were already creeping up the western lower slopes of Tiger.

**SQUAK MOUNTAIN:** The only publicly owned woodland on Squak Mountain was the 590-acre Squak Mountain State Park atop the mountain. This was created in 1972 when the Bullitt family donated the property to the state with the stipulation that the land must remain in the natural state or the property would be returned to the Bullitt family. This stipulation was interpreted as allowing only hikers, with no wheeled vehicles or horses allowed in the acreage. The property was put under the management of Lake Sammamish State Park, which was able to provide only a limited amount of supervision.

As a result, 2-wheel and 4-wheel drive off-road groups were running wild in the donated land. When ditches were dug and large boulders placed to block the old access roads into the park, the 4-wheelers winched the boulders out and drove through the ditches. One 4-wheel driver stated that if he could not drive the State Park, then they should give it back to the Bullitts and put it back on the tax rolls. Meanwhile, housing development was creeping up the mountain on all four sides.

**COUGAR MOUNTAIN:** Two small ex-Nike missile sites were the only publicly owned property on Cougar Mountain. The mountain woodlands were under the heaviest development pressure of the three mountains as the housing developers were declaring that its time had come. Developments were in place on the western slopes and peaks of the Cougar massif, and they were moving east. A grand scheme to develop the top of Cougar with houses for 44,000 residents and a conference center was announced in the newspapers by the Central Newcastle Property Owners Association.

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## THE FIRST DECADE *continued from page 6*

The IATC was soon involved in large projects and battles on all three mountains. I first joined the fray by being elected to the board of directors in January 1981 and leading my first club hike later that year. I thought that Harvey and his fairly small group of dedicated volunteers had bitten off more than they could chew. They surely would have to compromise and decide which of the three mountains they would strive to save. However, Harvey and his crew had drawn their no-compromise lines and were to keep on fighting the battles on all three mountains.

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The volunteers of the IATC were to be engaged in the following major land-use activities during the next ten years.

**TIGER MOUNTAIN:** Logging and land use policies on Tiger Mountain were discussed with representatives of the State DNR and Weyerhaeuser at the first IATC planning meeting in May of 1979. The point was made that the IATC was not against tree-farming, and in fact was for maintaining much of Tiger in sustainable timber production. We were concerned about the effect of planned large clear cuts, the uncontrolled ATV traffic, shooting going on at that time on Tiger and possible widespread usage of herbicides near the communities on the lower slopes of Tiger. The club continued to communicate our concerns with the DNR.

Brian Boyle, State Land Commissioner, announced plans to create the Tiger Mountain State Forest in November 1981. When Weyerhaeuser then traded its land on Tiger to the state, the entire Tiger forestland, with the exception of Section 12, became publicly owned. The DNR formed a State Advisory Committee to develop recommended guidelines for management of Tiger Mountain. Members of IATC, representing the club as well as local communities, were chosen to serve on the committee. This turned out to be a long-term task, with the final committee recommendations not coming until 1986.

The IATC backed these recommendations which set up a “working forest in an urban environment” to be logged on a long-term sustained yield basis which would maintain wildlife habitat and wildland

recreation. In backing the working forest concept the IATC recognized the fact that new trees would grow after an area was logged, whereas once houses were built in an area the forested land was lost forever.

In 1989, the northwest portion of the Tiger Mountain State Forest was further protected as it was designated as a Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA). This designation meant that it was to be managed for the maintenance of wildlife habitat and non-mechanized recreation - and would not be logged. At the same time, the City of Issaquah formed the Tradition Plateau NRCA with similar objectives.

**SQUAK MOUNTAIN:** Washington State Parks, under pressure from the IATC and others, increased their presence and managed to stop the illegal wheeled activity in the Bullitt donation property. No new public lands were acquired on Squak during the 1980s. Later, large pieces of land between the state park and SR900 on the west slopes of Squak and to the east of park were bought with King County Open Space funds. These acquisitions were announced during the July 1990 Mountains to Sound March.

**COUGAR MOUNTAIN:** As noted in a previous Alpiner article by Doug Simpson, one of the IATC’s first actions was to protest a DNR timber sale on Cougar Mountain. IATC then prepared a proposal to form a 3000 acre- plus wooded wildland park atop Cougar. Harvey Manning and Barbara Johnson, the club’s founding president and vice-president, had many meetings with King County Council members and others during 1979 and 1980 to promote the park. King County formed a citizen-based Newcastle Community Plan Committee to recommend the updating of the land use plans for an area which included Cougar Mountain in 1979. Harvey and Barbara presented the IATC’s wildland park idea to the committee in January 1980 and accompanied this presentation with a press release signed by Barbara. The 20-member committee, which included ten local community members and ten representatives of the development community, agreed that the park was a good idea.

However, the two groups had different ideas about the park. The community residents agreed with

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## THE FIRST DECADE *continued from page 7*

IATC's definition of a large, undeveloped and forested wildland park. On the other hand, the developers thought that providing small green spaces within the 44,000 person housing development would be a good sales gimmick. As a result, the developers announced their Villages in the Park (VIP) plan to the world in August 1980.

This was followed by the IATC's March 1981 publishing of the first edition of *The Guide to the Trails of Cougar Mountain and Squak Mountain Including Prospectus for a Cougar Mountain Regional Park*. This included a scathing rebuttal attack on the "Sausage Parks" of the VIP plan.

The final report to the King County Council by the Newcastle Community Plan Committee, which was issued in June 1981, included the recommendation for the county to assemble the land for a large wildland park similar to IATC's recommendation. The developers were not ready to give up yet, and it took two more years of negotiating before the King County Council passed the Newcastle Community Ordinance with the park proposal still included. The ordinance was signed by Randy Ravelle, the King County Executive, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Return to Newcastle event on June 5, 1983. Even though there was no public land yet involved, this was to be the official start of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park.

King County's acquisition of land for the park soon began and continued throughout the remainder of the 1980s. Ravelle announced the first acquisition of land for the park at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Return to Newcastle event in June 1984. On May 21, 1985, the day that King County officially declared as Harvey Manning Day, it announced the largest single purchase of 1300 acres of privately held land on the eastern slopes of Cougar in exchange for undeveloped county park land on Grand Ridge. With this swap, which was finalized on December 11, 1989, the publicly owned wildland park had now grown to 2784 acres and was well on its way to its current 3311 acres.

I looked back as the club finished its first full decade and prepared to move into 1990 and its second full decade and saw the huge increase in publicly owned forested property on the three Issaquah Alps core

mountains surrounding Issaquah, "The Trailhead city," and realized that I was wrong when I believed earlier that Harvey's fairly small group of IATC volunteers had bitten off more than they could chew. If they had compromised and selected only one of the mountains to battle for, we would not have the results outlined above.

It was also obvious that the IATC had become a major player in local land-use politics. The club received letters from public agencies asking for our input on proposed developments. Developers also approached us and often came to our board meetings in an attempt to get our backing on their planned developments.

More forested lands (Rattlesnake, Taylor, Grand Ridge) remained in the Alps to battle for. And the work to connect all of these wooded mountains was just beginning (see the earlier *Alpiner* articles on IATC's two Grand Traverses and the Mountains to Sound Marches). Discussion of these further battles will have to wait for a future article covering the IATC's second decade.

## GREENWAY SEEKS POTTIES



With over 26,000 people visiting the Snoqualmie River every summer, a great need is evident for the area—public toilets. So the Mountains to Sound Greenway has instituted a "Pony up for Potties" campaign to improve the health of both people and the river.

Budgetary restraints necessitate a fund-raising campaign to install permanent vault toilets at two sites along the river, which is so busy in the Fall City area with family outings that include swimming and floating.

As Emily Neff of the Greenway puts it, "How much do you value a clean river to swim and float in? Name your price and "pony up for a potty!"

([www.indiegogo.com/projects/pony-up-for-a-potty](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/pony-up-for-a-potty))



# BIO-CHAR ART INSTALLATION AT COUGAR MOUNTAIN

By Steve Williams

The old gravel pit at the end of the Red-Town Trail has a new look. An acre of ground under skinny alder trees is black. Although the ground cover looks like the coal which was mined at Cougar Mt. for 100 years, this material is more like charcoal. It is called 'Bio-char', and over time it will actually improve the quality of the soils depleted here by gravel-mining. The project is funded by 4Culture's Site Specific Arts Program, and is also supported by in-kind services from King County Parks. ([www.sitespecificarts.org/](http://www.sitespecificarts.org/) [www.theblackforest.org/](http://www.theblackforest.org/))

Bio-char is organic waste (in this case limbs from a tree farm), which has been slowly baked at high heat, in a closed container without oxygen. The gasses driven off can be saved to fuel vehicles or drive electric generators. The remaining material is virtually pure carbon, similar to that used to purify water systems. Because it can absorb water and minerals and then provide them with carbon to growing plants, soil scientists are excited about expanding the use of Bio-char in agriculture.

Bio-char also has great potential as a 'carbon sink'. Instead of releasing carbon into the air (generating more green-house CO<sub>2</sub> gas), bio-char locks up carbon in the soil. Scientists have analyzed 'terra-petra' soils in ancient Amazon basin gardens, and found that it is still fertile and carbon rich thousands of years after a similar 'bio-char' was added by indigenous people.

Swiss-American artist Hans Bauman hopes that his "Black Forest" project will "acknowledge the park's history as a site of intense resource extraction, and re-imagine the forest as a site for carbon sequestration." (Coal mined and burned for 100 years -creating CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gases). Bio-char installed now to lock-up carbon and enrich a depleted soil (stable C back in).

Visitors are encouraged to walk the Red Town Trail south, about 15 minutes from the trailhead, to view the "Black Forest" site (just before the horse trough & crossing of Coal Creek). The Red-Town Meadow project is downstream alongside the creek; and a return loop to the trailhead can be made by

continuing west on W-6, and then back north on the Wildside Trail W-1. An information kiosk about the project and local coal mining history is also available at the bio-char site. It will be up-dated from time to time as scientists evaluate the effectiveness of this environmental Science as Art / Art as Science project.

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## EMERALD NECKLACE *continued from page 5*

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of having three different hikes and then having most people wanting to see and do more than they originally planned made for an organizational problem, but highlighted the draw this site will have with the public when it is formally opened up for hiking early in 2015.

In the meantime, please watch the IATC website for work party opportunities to do trail work and restoration work on the site.

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## GREENWAY STATUS *continued from page 1*

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to conservation that enables local management of the landscape. Designation encourages collaboration on a broad vision for the future of this landscape, and will share this region's heritage with the rest of the nation through tourism and education.

"Having the Greenway designated as National Heritage Area is more important than ever," according to Kurt Fraese, MTSG president. "Our region should continue to be a model for smart growth that keeps our economy strong while maintaining a long-term balance between people and nature. This designation will help ensure the Greenway remains a special place to live, work and play for generations to come."

National Heritage areas are large, lived-in iconic places that tell a unique story about our nation's heritage. They are designated by the US Congress to identify landscapes of national distinction. The 49 other national heritage areas throughout the nation today illustrate the many successes of a collaborative approach to tourism and local management.

Greenway Deputy Director Doug Schindler encourages supporters to let the Congressional representatives know that this designation is important to local citizens.

## FEW ISSUES FOR BOARD

In a somewhat abbreviated board meeting on April 24, members of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club took a breather from recent crises and dealt briefly with matters needing attention.

Kirk Lenard, a retired insurance agent, has taken on the task of choosing the best insurance option for proper club coverage of hiking and trailworking outings.

President Dave Kappler reported on the trail situation on Squak Mountain's west side from the newly acquired 226 acres. Existing trails from the property covered from 400 feet up to about 1100 feet. With IATC's help, the Washington Trails Association is standing by to build suitable trails from 1100 feet up to 1700 feet and the junction of existing Chybinski, West Peak and Bullitt Gorge trails.

Scott Prueter reported that the club netted over \$1000 with the sale of 227 copies of "Coals to Newcastle" to the Newcastle Historical Society. This further reduces the club's inventory of books as it backs away from the book business.

Plans for manning the club's Salmon Days booth October 4-5 were discussed along with those for the July 27 picnic.



## CYCLE TRACK COMPLETES LINK

Completing the regional trail link between Issaquah through High Point and on to Preston, King County has finished a key cycling link. Cyclists can now travel from the Burke-Gilman Trail in Seattle to an overlook at Snoqualmie Falls, a 50-mile journey.

The .7 cycle track is along High Point Way, running parallel to I-90. As Cynthia Welti, the Greenway's executive director, exclaimed: "Our vision is that a walker or bicyclist could travel on safe, enjoyable, off-road routes that connect Puget Sound urban areas to the Cascades and Central Washington."

"With this cycle track, we are able to complete another missing link in King County's 175-mile regional trails system, while creating a safer and more enjoyable experience for trail visitors," stated Dave White, acting assistant director of county parks.



## MAILBOX PEAK OPENS

The new Mailbox Peak Trail, after three years of trailwork, was officially opened on September 27. Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark joined REI and Greenway officials in a special ribbon-cutting ceremony at the trailhead.



## HIKERS CORNER

By Joe Toynbee



### Turn Around Time:

Once in a rare while a hike leader will find it necessary to turn a group around and return to the starting trailhead. Some reasons for this might be the illness or injury of a hiker, bad weather, poor trail conditions, etc.

If you do decide that a group should turn around, the leader should consult group members for their opinions. You will be dealing with people who have assembled their gear, packed a lunch and perhaps driven some distance. The decision rests with the leader and needs to be a firm one.

If some hikers wish to go on regardless, it may be necessary to inform those individuals that they cannot proceed by themselves and must return with the group—unless another hike leader is with the group and is willing to assume control of the remaining group. Once back, they are free to set off on their own hike out of the auspices of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club.



## 9 COMMANDMENTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

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





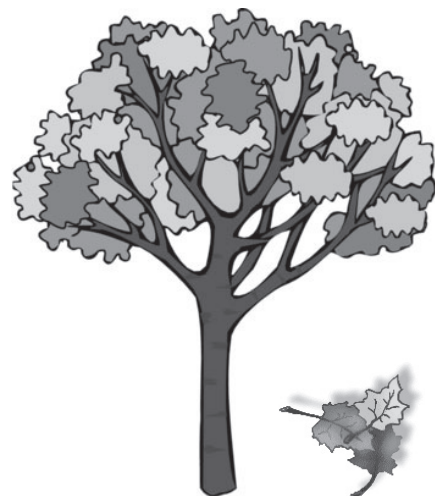
IATC Picnic: Reviving an old custom, the club held a picnic July 27 at Ken Konigsmark's property atop Grand Ridge. About 20 club members enjoyed ample food and beverages. (Photo courtesy of Rachel Hopkins).

## TRAILS CONFERENCE SET FOR OCTOBER

Innovate, adopt and transform are the three themes of the Washington State Trails Conference October 16-18 in Bellingham. The conference will have 5 tracks, 30 breakout sessions, 3 field sessions and two keynote speakers to keep attendees busy.

Major sessions are focused on "Reinventing a Northwest Classic (Methow Valley), "The Ins and Outs of Trail Parks," the "Goodwin Bridge Project" (over the Bumping River) and "Creative Ways Work with Less."

Find out more about these and more than two dozen other projects and activities, and register at <http://w-s-t-c.org>. The conference is sponsored by RCO.



### ELECTRONIC REMINDER

The cost-saving effort to switch members from print to electronic Alpiners is catching on. If you don't need or want printed issues, contact the web-master via email – [george.q.potter@gmail.com](mailto:george.q.potter@gmail.com) -- or at 425-557-6554.

# 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!





# 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: Guide to Trails of Tiger Mountain	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:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The basic hiker.....\$25       | <input type="checkbox"/> The adventurer.....\$100 and above |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The project supporter.....\$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> The visionary.....\$250 and above  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The IATC sponsor.....\$75      |   |

**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.