



July ♦ August ♦ September 2016

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



## TOYNBEE STEPS DOWN FROM IATC

By Doug Simpson

Joe Toynbee, after 35 years of devoted service to the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, is passing the torch to others after stepping down as a hikes coordinator. Though he is 88 with Parkinson's disease, he may still go on a few short hikes now and then.

"It's been great!" Toynbee stated. "IATC has been a strong part of my life." His first club-led hike was on Cougar Mountain in December of 1980 in pouring rain, accompanied by Harvey Manning in his usual garb unfazed by the weather.

Over the years, including an active affiliation with the Mountaineers, Toynbee has been on an estimated 7,000 hikes, leading between 500-600 of them, for about 27,000 total hiking miles.

"I tried to fit in where I could be useful," Toynbee said. He led hikes, served on the IATC board from 1991 to 1995, helped coordinate the hiking program in recent years, and wrote the "Hikers Corner" column for the *Alpiner* for many years. He was also active on the legendary trail crew, the Weed Whackers, which met every Wednesday to work on assorted chosen projects.

"Joe is one of the original, long-time IATC stalwarts, one of those who helped make possible all of the trails and open spaces we enjoy today," said IATC's Ken Konigsmark. "Joe is like the Energizer Bunny that just keeps going and going, hiking, maintaining trails, and most recently leading our hiking program. We should all aspire to be as dedicated and enduring as Joe has been in IATC."

Toynbee credited two men as inspirational forces for him: Dwight Riggs, "a force of nature," who founded and organized the Weed Whackers, and Bill Longwell whom he cited as his guru. "Bill's passing was a great loss; he was a remarkable man." Interestingly, Joe and Bill were born in the same town, Rock Island, Illinois.

"I was not a sitting person," Toynbee reminisced. "I had to be active—and IATC was just the ticket for me."

## HAZEN PAIR WINS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Bill Longwell Memorial Scholarship, named for IATC's Chief Ranger and long-time club icon, in its first five years was dominated by students from Skyline and Issaquah high schools. Another eligible school was Hazen High, where Longwell taught English and was a popular school leader.

Now for the first time, students from Hazen have taken the top honors. First prize, a \$1000 scholarship, goes to Hazen's DAVID VAISAR. And second place and \$500 goes to CASSANDRA SLAUGH, also from the Renton school.

Vaisar will take his 3.78 GPA to the University of Washington to major in molecular biology. His father Tomas, a native of the Czech Republic, is a chemist and research scientist at the UW. The Vaisars came to the U.S. in 1993, and David was born in Bellevue in 1998.

In school, David was active in the Orienteering Club and the Philosophy Club, both small but active groups. He is an active hiker and particularly enjoys trails in Eastern Washington and on the

*continued on page 4*

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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.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 Kirt Lenard

It seems like an understatement to say the Issaquah Alps Trails Club has a lot going on right now. Summer is always a busy time, but for our club this year it seems especially so. I'll highlight just a few of the activities recently completed, underway, or planned for the near future.

We will be repeating last year's very successful "Picture the Alps" photo contest again this year, but with a few improvements. We have already shared the good news about the return of the contest on social media and our website. A few highlights include: multiple winners, cool prizes for winners, more advance notice for entries and top winners selected by the vote of the public during Salmon Days in early October. Where and when to submit your entries as well as the necessary contest fine print will be out shortly, but no reason to wait, you can start working on your masterpieces right now!

Please join me in welcoming Issaquah native Gail Folkins to the IATC board. Gail is the second new board member in the current year, replacing me on the board following my election as president. It is exciting to see progress toward the goal of getting new people involved in setting the future direction of the club. More about Gail elsewhere in the *Alpiner*.

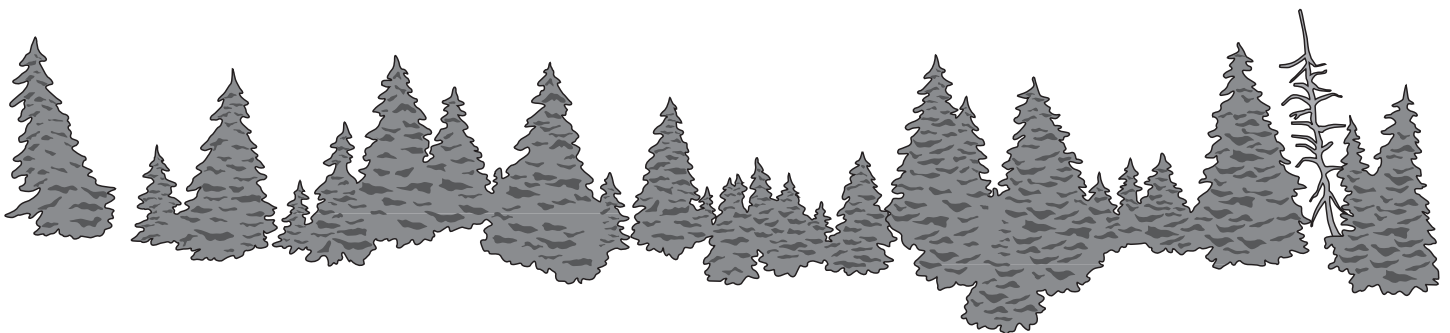
We are sorry to see Joe Toynbee and Jean Lanz stepping away from administrating and leading the hiking program after their dedicated service. This program continues to be a key avenue to reach the public and share an appreciation of the beautiful landscape we call the Alps. Thanks Joe and Jean for keeping the program going. Fortunately, George Potter has agreed to take over administrative oversight so we won't miss a beat.

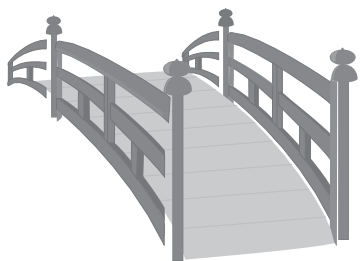
IATC has for years had great working relationships with a number of conservation groups. Building on that success, the club is reaching out to additional groups in the Alps area, and already we are starting to see some success with outreach to nearby organizations that also have a vested interest in preserving and expanding wild lands in the Alps. These include the Sammamish YMCA (grand opening event and family hike), the Department of Natural Resources (TMT project) and other opportunities still in the development stage. Stay tuned.

The IATC "help wanted sign" is still out and we are looking for trail workers, meeting attenders, website helpers, membership communicators, and other volunteers of all kinds. Call or email me or the appropriate coordinator (see the apparatus section for a complete list) to get involved. This is really important to the long-term effectiveness of the club.

And last, but by no means least, our VP of Advocacy seems to be everywhere, keeping us engaged on projects and concerns large and small. Thank you David Kappler for your tireless work helping to keep the Alps green.

Those are some of the highlights. I hope you agree that we are making good progress. See you on the trail. . . Kirt.





## WTA'S DAUBERT STEPPING DOWN

Karen Daubert, Executive Director of the Washington Trails Association, is stepping down July 30 to end her successful five-year tenure.

Under Daubert's leadership, WTA has launched a new youth program, extended trail maintenance programs north and east, and strengthened communications and advocacy programs. On solid financial footing, WTA has doubled its membership and it now has ten times the website visitors in the last five years.

"To know Karen is to feel the depth of her belief that access to wild places is essential to individual and community well-being. That conviction, combined with her unabashed love of our region's natural wonders, has driven her passion for and commitment to the cause of outdoor recreation," stated Stephen Tan, president of WTA's Board of Directors.

Until a new executive director is hired, Trail Program Director Rebecca Lavigne is the interim replacement.

### **SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS** *continued from page 1*

Pacific Coast. He also has a strong attachment to trailwork projects.

Cassandra Slaugh, an active Highlander student, participated in band (playing the flute), cross country, gymnastics, and National Honor Society. With her 3.98 GPA, she will be off to Brigham Young University in the fall to explore STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics). She especially enjoys math classes.

## THREE NEW THINGS AT COUGAR PARK

By Steve Williams

**CLAYPIT NOW GREEN:** For over 50 years the Mutual Materials Company dug clay here, hauled it through the park, and fired it into brick at their Newcastle plant. The bricks were used all over the Northwest, even Red Square at the University of Washington! Last summer the company finished operations, and graded and grass-seeded the three-fourth mile pit. Recently, King County restoration crews planted trees and shrubs around the edges, and over time will do more. The goal is to maintain the eastern Cascade mountain views, and establish an open valley meadow with wetland ponds.

**SEVEN NEW INTERPRETIVE SIGNS:** The upper end of the Coal Creek Trail now has permanent signs to explain the coal mining history of the area. Bellevue Parks worked with the Eastside Heritage Center to obtain a 4-Culture grant and utilize 100-year old photos and diagrams to show what was at each spot along the trail. The signs will be on duty 24/7 to continue the legacy of people like Harvey Manning, Ralph and Peggy Owen and Milt Swanson, who for 15 years held "Return to Newcastle" events here. Those events and hikes along the trails led to preservation of both Coal Creek and Cougar Mountain as public parks.

**HARVEY MANNING TRAIL:** King County Parks will honor Manning this year by re-naming the Anti-Aircraft Ridge Trail the Harvey Manning Trail. A dedication event will take place June 29, 11 am-noon, at the Anti-Aircraft Peak Trailhead in front of Picnic Shelter #1. New trail signs should appear shortly; park maps will show the change as of the next bulk printing. This beautiful ridge-line trail was one of Harvey's favorites, and has large old trees, valley and western views, as well as a great diversity of plants. Look for native Douglas squirrels and 14-foot diameter tree stumps. (For those new to the area, there is a photo kiosk at the Lake Sammamish viewpoint just north of the AA Peak parking lot which explains Harvey's critical role as "Father of the Cougar Mountain Park.")



# IATC DISCUSSES NUMEROUS ISSUES

By Doug Simpson

In his first full meeting as president of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, Kirt Lenard smoothly guided the club's board through a full agenda. Main topics included acreage in the Issaquah Highlands, changes in the hiking program and communication with the Evergreen Bicycle Alliance.

The board was reconfigured when Lenard's board seat was vacated, then filled by Gail Folkins, former Issaquah resident who returned to the area last summer. Joe Toynbee and Jean Lanz resigned from their positions with the Hikes Committee. George Potter has agreed to take Toynbee's place and work with Jackie Hughes on hikes planning.

Advocacy Vice-President Dave Kappler reported that 43 acres in the Issaquah Highlands are up for grabs since Bellevue College opted not to build a satellite campus there. Kappler is consulting with local officials and the Issaquah School District about possible use.

Changing times and personnel have led to a decline in trail work in recent years. Ed Vervoort has been the only consistent trail worker recently, and his focus is on Tiger Mountain. Potter proposes reviving the club's role, and he and Vervoort are organizing trail work parties. (Contact either if you interested in helping.)

The Evergreen Bicycle Alliance, behind its new president, is interested in meeting with members of IATC to find possible areas of collaboration. David Dunphy suggested that most bikers today are not like their forerunners who often created issues over trail use. Nothing was decided on the issue.

With treasurer Jackie Hughes conflicted with another commitment and shouldering more of a load in planning hikes, President Lenard suggested that it might be time to split the treasurer's work into financial and membership sections.

Regional DNR chief Doug McClelland has expressed concern about overcrowded trailheads for one thing and also about viewpoints that disappear due to tree growth, such as at the Middle Tiger summit. He apparently wanted input from IATC.

Steve Williams reported that the Clay Pit on Cougar Mountain has been closed for good, opening possibilities for reuse of the land. The park will have new information signs about coal mining history, and that the Anti-Aircraft Trail is being renamed the Harvey Manning Trail for IATC's founder and Cougar Mountain savior who has never had a Cougar park site named for him.

Dunphy, a YMCA employee, has spearheaded a club presentation at the new Sammamish facility and is working on a project to bring area youth into club activities.

Also discussed were possibilities to increase the club's financial base, currently limited to membership contributions; signing onto a letter to restrict Chelan County and Leavenworth City's plans to draw water from the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area, which was approved; and plans for the *Alpiner* and a possible summer social activity.

## HELP WANTED

### Trail Work

George Potter and Ed Vervoort are looking for help in some trail work projects, attempting to revive the club's former active trail work. Call either (see p. 2 for phone numbers) to volunteer.

### Membership Records

In an attempt to ease the work load of the Treasurer, the club would like to move the process of membership record-keeping to a second person. Call Hughes or President Kirt Lenard if interested.

### Hiking Columnist

The "Hikers Corner" column is available after the retirement of Joe Toynbee. The columnist must be a very active hiker within the club. Contact *Alpiner* editor Doug Simpson if interested.

## Editorial:

# CHANGES COMING TO SAMMAMISH PARK

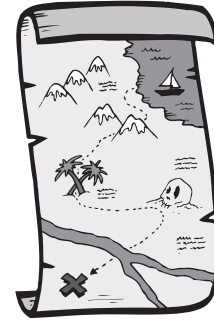
By Doug Simpson

Lake Sammamish State Park, once a jewel of the state park system, has fallen on hard times and is badly in need of revitalization. According to an article in the May 14 *Seattle Times*, the uplifting process may be underway, perhaps leading to a new kind of park that will make it a desirable destination for people of diverse interests.

Described as “neglected” and “underused,” the park is badly in need of a facelift. And it is under way, with a new bathhouse and restrooms, improved habitat for salmon-bearing streams, and a new protected swimming area and boat docks slated for next year. But much more is in the works, especially a proposed partnership with REI that could include an outdoor activities center and an outdoor stage and pavilion, making possible many new activities.

Park planners are moving cautiously, however, not wanting to convert the park so much that it “would overshadow the main purpose of the park, which is to engage urban populations in the natural world,” according to Peter Herzog, State Parks assistant director. One concern is preserving the long-time, dedicated service of George and Barb Croseth, who operate the kayak and paddle board rentals in the park. The City of Issaquah Cares, having annexed the park acreage, and groups like Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park are striving to protect and preserve the park as it undergoes necessary changes.

Though the revitalization process may seem slow for the next few years, and its ultimate solutions may be uncertain at this time, it is a sure and steady process that must proceed to make the once proud park a busy vital place for swimmers, boaters and hikers, family and group gatherings, and people wanting to enjoy nature in countless other ways. It’s the right thing to do.



## TMT PROJECT NEEDS HELPERS

By Kirt Lenard

If you have hiked anywhere on Tiger Mountain, you have most likely, at one time or another, hiked on or crossed the Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT). It meanders north to south over the Tiger Mountain NCRA and the Tiger Mountain State Forest. It covers about 16 miles through varied terrain and some of the most remote and little visited corners of the mountain.

Most people don’t know that the TMT, or for that matter Tiger Mountain itself, would not exist without the hard work (physical and otherwise) of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. The TMT in particular was the work of early IATC members and Chief Ranger Bill Longwell and his intrepid band of volunteer trail workers, the Weed Whackers, who did most of the original routing and construction of the trail.

Decades later, some sections of the trail are suffering the effects of time and the elements and are in need of some significant repairs. Happily, the IATC has begun a project with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), land manager of Tiger Mountain, to undertake some needed repairs and reroute sections of the trail that may be beyond fixing.

This is a labor of love for the IATC given the history of the TMT. We encourage you to come and join club members helping to preserve part of a great hiking trail and a piece of history. No experience is necessary and all tools will be provided. Contact George Potter (415-557-6554) or Ed Vervoort (206-523-6461) to join a trail work party.

# HIKING HOME ON SQUAK MOUNTAIN

By Gail Folkins

*Editor's Note: Gail Folkins is an Issaquah native and freelance writer, having lived much of her life on the south side of Squak, which is often described in the book. This essay is excerpted from her new book Light in the Trees, published by Texas Tech University Press.)*

On a path weaving between Douglas firs, John (husband) and I hiked Squak Mountain from an access point a few miles away from Dad's house. On New Year's Day, the parking lot at the state park entrance was close to full from other like-minded hikers deciding to start their year outdoors. Wintry sunshine lit up the soft dirt of the trail with switchbacks so gentle we barely noticed the climb. I brushed my hand over a clump of moss, separating its individual tendrils.

Another couple passing us on a narrow turn wished us a Happy New Year. I breathed in cedar and listened to a creek rumbling down a ravine on its way to the valley and Issaquah Creek. We stepped off the path on a steep turn flanked by a stand of alder to let a horse and rider pass by, the horse's warm scent lingering. In single file on the narrowing trail, John and I kept a steady pace. I wasn't sure how far we'd hike today, if the summit was within reach, or if we'd find a new route on this first day of the year.

Wearing hiking shoes and thick socks, our footsteps thumped across wooden bridges constructed for the park and turned silent again on a trail worn smooth from a mix of boots, sneakers, and hoof prints. Crumbling leaves from a big leaf maple, fall remembrances from the year before, blended into the dirt and ferns on the sides of the path.

On this last sunny day before rainy weather returned, the air felt sharp enough for the hat and gloves I wore, the hemlock trees along the trail wearing moss on their outstretched branches like long sleeves. In the middle of our second Midwest winter, this walk in thirty degree weather felt more temperate than it might have. Despite the chill of the last few

days here, spring would return in a few months, and with it a move back to the Northwest.

Part way up Squak, light angled through the tops of the trees. The mountain was deceptive that way, telling us we were almost there when we still had plenty of ground to cover. Familiar as the region was, we'd need to bring our own perspective from other places. The hometown I'd return to was no longer small, making Seattle seem even closer, its Space Needle view from the top of Squak Mountain coming into sharper relief.

Thanks to protection of the mountain summit and surrounding lands, this particular park felt the same as it had years ago, the visible differences well-kept trails skirting its sides and trees maturing toward old growth. New additions to public lands, such as King County's 2015 purchase of more than two hundred acres on Squak from a logging company, helped preserve habitat for the area's salmon and wildlife, along with offering recreational opportunities for the public. Despite the continuity of this and other landscapes, water quality, wildlife habitat, and wildfire management would require ongoing vigilance as the area grew, balancing living in a place with preserving its essential qualities and one of the most important challenges of all.

We reached the mountain's midway point marked by a wooden sign and options. A path to the right led through the trees toward the gravel road twisting up the mountain; a path in the other direction crossed several more creeks and a ravine before ending up at Dad's. "We could walk right to his house from here," I said. John nodded, although both of us knew we wouldn't head to his house from the trail, not this particular walk.

The gravel switchbacks up to the top would also wait for another time. For now, we turned around, retracing our steps toward the Trooper on the valley floor. With the air shadowed and growing cooler, we didn't pass as many people on the way down. Sunlight dusted the trail gold, and the turns came faster now. Heading home in a roundabout way made a good start to the year, a familiar place viewed in a different light.

## OBITUARY: REMEMBERING THE LEBERS

By Steve Williams

I knew Ted and Ann Leber during my stint as manager of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. In fact, for several years, Ted “worked” for me by checking on Radar Park and locking the gate at sunset. He and Ann often told me they really enjoyed that evening ritual with their dogs, the friendly neighbors they met, and the usually quiet park at the top of Cougar. It was certainly a comfort to me to know that the park was in good hands and not to have to drive back up there to lock up each and every night.

I suspect that Ted and Ann also played a very significant role in the trail club’s lobbying to create the park. King County had “inherited” the two Nike missile bases, but the total acreage was very small, and discussions at that time were about one or two baseball or soccer fields. The Lebers had met Harvey Manning as he wandered the old roads and trails of the mountain, and they all shared a love of the outdoors and an awareness that beauty and peace could be lost to dense housing tracts.

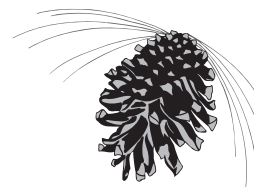
In short order (in 1979), Harvey founded the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and began scheduling public hikes every week. Ann led a number of those, and both she and Ted assisted with phone calls and letters to urge the creation of Cougar Mountain and Coal Creek parks.

I am sure that their sincerity, warm personalities and community standing helped balance Harvey’s “wild man” challenge to the politicians. I was really sad to see the Lebers move east of the Cascades, but the school that occupies their farm now benefits hundreds of kids each year.

I also do educational programs each year using tools that Ted gave me to explain the coal mining and logging history of the mountain at the Lewis Creek Nature Center on Lakemont Boulevard. What changes took place from those early days in the ‘80s! There is quite a bit of interest now in documenting

those changes and capturing the personal stories of how life at Cougar used to be.

We were all blessed to have Ted and Ann Leber contribute so much to Cougar Mountain.



## OWEN ON MECHLER

By Ralph Owen

*(Note: Ralph Owen, a pioneer member of IATC himself, offered a couple of stories about his experiences with the Mechlers in the club’s early years to followup on last issue’s story.)*

The first Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike that Peggy and I went on was led by Tom Mechler. We were not members yet, but somehow learned about the hike and decided to try it out. He was leading the Tiger Mountain Trail one way from the south end to the north end. The TMT was only 11 miles long in those days.

Since the hike was so “short,” we did not realize that there would be a lunch break and so we showed up for the hike with no lunches and only a little water. It turned out Tom was leading a bunch of Boy Scouts and the two of us. The Scouts were really into eating, as most young boys are, and they had several snack breaks as well as the lunch break enroute. They were well prepared with thermoses full of spaghetti and other substantial lunches. It was enough to make us jealous, and teach us a lesson for future hikes.

Another of Tom’s hikes was a one-way crossing of Squak Mountain from south to north with a car shuttle. A resident at the south end of the hike had a dog that would follow Tom across (and everywhere else?), and then Tom had to take the dog back to its home at the end of the hike.

Tom was one of our favorite leaders.



## CHAPTER 12: 1991

# PROGRESS CONTINUES ON GREENWAY

By Doug Simpson

Feeling good about the passing of land issues in the November election, President Dave Kappler cautioned against easing up. He cited the need to protect areas at Grand Ridge, Rattlesnake and Taylor and the increasingly un-green valleys. Also, "All is not perfect with Cougar, Squak and Tiger," where land acquisitions were needed.

Continuing to draw attention to area in the I-90 Greenway, Jack Hornung and Stan Unger were slated for lengthy, exploratory hikes through March. Jim Cadigan was leading weekly "Wednesday Walks" on Cougar Mountain.

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club scheduled its annual potluck dinner at the Highlands Camping Club (now part of publicly acquired lands on Squak's west side) on March 23. It was hailed as the club's main social event of the year. Gary Locke, State Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, attended the event.

Bill Longwell, Chief Ranger and Tiger Mountain Trail architect, described progress on the trail, at one time spending five days on a quarter mile to map out the route. Near the old High Point Trail in June of 1990 he found two old artifacts, a pick and a metal bar, raising questions-- "Who used them? Why did somebody leave them here?" In November, while constructing a bridge above Lake Tradition, he admired the work of a salamander, brooded for days about its winter home, and helped it relocate its chosen location so he could utilize the hole he had laid for a bridge pier without disturbing the salamander.

At the January board meeting, Maryanne Tagney Jones replaced Dennis Burk on the IATC Board of Directors.

King County Parks on June 2 would again sponsor "Return to Newcastle," a celebration of history, parks and open space on Cougar Mountain. Former miners were slated to discuss the "glory days" of

coal mining on Cougar. And Park Manager Steve Williams described park progress recovering from winter floods.

The Fourth Annual Grand Issaquah Alps Traverse was scheduled for June 22. The planned route was a three-day outing from Preston to Newcastle Beach Park on Lake Washington, "traversing the summit of West Tiger Mountain 3 plus the high points of Squak and Cougar mountains." It was to cover 28 miles and gain about 5,500 feet of elevation. Hikers were to be arranged by their hiking pace. Later, July 26-27, during a full moon, the club led a nocturnal reverse enactment of the middle day of the event.

Longwell penned a tribute to Howard Millen, a Weyerhaeuser employee, who made possible the construction of the Tiger Mountain Trail in 1976. After he and friend Phil Hall met with the manager of the Weyerhaeuser Snoqualmie Mill, they were told that the company would not allow the trail to be built. But in late 1976 after Ruth Ittner's appeal, Millen, the company's recreation manager, gave a green light to the project. Millen, a trained forester, even helped in trail construction. And Millen, it turns out, was a college classmate and hiking buddy of Harvey Manning, which no doubt helped in the process.

Ted Thomsen, IATC board member and Greenway Chief, discussed in the *Alpiner* the development of the Greenway concept. He described the Greenway as "a mosaic of green places, with connecting links east and west, north and south, existing within a framework of controlled urbanization and enlightened forestry." Next on the list for Greenway was the acquisition of Rattlesnake Mountain.

The Greenway's first organizational meeting was held on April 25. Representing IATC among the crowd of 50 were chairman Tom Wood, Manning, Jack Hornung, Stan Unger, Ralph Owen and Thomsen. Big names at the meeting included Gary Locke, Brian Boyle and Jim Ellis.

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## LONGWELL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

# HAZEN SENIOR LOVES OUTDOORS

By David Vaisar

When I was in the third grade, my older sister began to call me “Beaver.” I liked the nickname until my dentist decided that I needed braces. With a smile considerably improved, I lost my nickname, but kept a liking for anything outdoorsy. From early hikes and camping with parents to 50-mile backpacks and canoe trips with the Boy Scouts, I have come to appreciate the beauty and tranquility of nature.

I realized that nature is a place where I can separate myself from the rest of the world and think in a relaxed and undisturbed state of mind. On many hikes with my Scout troop, I noticed how many people enjoy the outdoors, and I also saw how quickly heavy use together with spring melts turns the trails into ditches and mudholes. When I went as a member of the Order of the Arrow (a Scout’s honor society) on a weeklong volunteer work-party in Mt. Rainier National Park maintaining the Wonderland Trail, I realized that working trails was something that I really enjoy.

The experience with ArrowCorps led me to seek more opportunities to do trail work, first with Newcastle Trails and eventually the Washington Trails Association. The first experience with WTA for me was when my dad and I used the WTA website to look for interesting new hikes and information about trail conditions from hike reports. But I did not realize that WTA is much more than that. I discovered that with WTA I can go to the backcountry to camp and work on trails with like-minded people. On my first trip last summer we camped along the Lake Anne Trail in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and every day hiked up the trail to do repairs.

I love anything that involves building or maintaining drainage, retaining walls, culverts or puncheons. Therefore, on the first day when my crew leader asked who would want to fix a fairly muddy stretch of the trail, a job which most people do not like since it is very messy, I immediately volunteered and



remained the culvert master for the rest of the trip. Between the hard work on the trail, card games and fun around the camp in the evening, and discussions with our crew leaders about hiking and mountains, this was a very rewarding experience, combining things I love—hiking in the mountains and making it possible for others to enjoy the same. I’m looking forward to my trip to Marmot Lake this summer.

This past spring I also discovered the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. Unlike Newcastle Trails (with which our troop worked a lot), which focuses on building trails around Newcastle to give people a chance to enjoy outdoors in the urban setting, I found out that the IATC actually organizes guided hikes for its members as well as interested people from outside the club. On a hike to Teneriffe Falls guided by George Potter, I learned much more about IATC. When we came to the packed Mount Si parking lot, I thought “Oh well, one of those crowded hikes.” I like to be alone in nature. After just a mile, however, Potter took a turn onto a barely visible footpath and just like that we were alone.

*continued on page 11*

**LONGWELL WINNER** *continued from page 11*

Through a maze of little trails, we made our way in complete solitude to the Teneriffe Trail and eventually to the magnificent falls themselves to meet the crowds. And on the way back Potter came up with yet another set of small trails crossing ravines and pristine woods where we escaped the crowds and which brought us back to the main trail. None of these trails were on any map (I checked when we got home), and as Potter put it: “There are many of them and the only map is in the heads of people who know them.”

These trails often follow the old logging roads from the time of settling the Issaquah and North Bend area and now are mostly overgrown or disappeared. It was a very unique experience to find solitude and history in the area which is so heavily hiked, and it was only possible thanks to the guidance of George Potter and the Issaquah Alps Trails Club.

Hiking is not only good for you to help make you physically fit; it is also good for your mind, as scientists found in a recent study, and more and more people seem to agree, judging by full parking lots at trailheads. While many people go hiking on their own, organizations like WTA and IATC make it possible even for people who never been on their own before to enjoy it, each in his own unique and different way.

WTA with its statewide reach and thousands of members makes a huge impact by providing information about trails around the state as well as about their status through reports posted by many hikers on the WTA website. You can find out what shape a trail is in, whether flowers are blooming and, not the least important, whether mosquitoes are out. WTA is also a hub for volunteers who go out to maintain existing trails or build new ones. And WTA also advocates for trails, protecting sensitive and popular areas from clearcutting and harvesting of the forests.

In contrast to WTA with professional staff and offices, the IATC is spearheaded by a group of dedicated enthusiasts who give their own time to provide others with the opportunity to go on hikes.

Thanks to their experience and knowledge of the area, members of the club, but also others, can explore places that are not mapped. IATC also organizes trail maintenance work parties and networks with other local hiking enthusiasts. I was surprised that George Potter knows Peggy Price from Newcastle Trails, with whom I have worked on a number of projects in Newcastle.

While the IATC with just a few hundred members is very small compared to WTA, it has a unique impact on hiking opportunities that WTA cannot provide. Thus WTA and IATC combine to give the people in our area a wide range of resources and opportunities to explore the unique gifts of the nature near us that we are privileged to have.

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## EXCERPTS FROM 2ND PLACE ESSAY

By Cassandra Slaugh

Sylvia Plath, an American poet, once wrote, “I felt my lungs inflate with the onrush of scenery—air, mountains, trees, people. I thought, This is what it is to be happy.” When placed in the sheer beauty that embodies all nature, it becomes incredibly difficult to remember why anyone would prefer the structure and utilitarian nature that characterizes modern society. Recently, I gained a new appreciation for both breathing the fresh air and the effort behind the fresh cut trail. . .

(On her trailwork experience) . . . I have hiked many trails, but had yet to face trail preparation. The sheer number of tasks was overwhelming, although luckily the various tasks were conveniently straining to different areas of the body, but I definitely felt it the next morning. While I enjoyed uprooting ferns and sawing through logs, what I most enjoyed was taking an axe to a fallen tree. . .

Throughout the work party, I perceived a sense of daring among the workers. No job was too difficult for any individual or that could not be shared by the group.



## IATC BOARD GAINS NEW MEMBER

"I grew up hiking and horseback riding in the Issaquah Alps, and look forward to contributing to the education and advocacy mission of the IATC."

Gail Folkins is a local girl who spent many years in Texas and Wisconsin before returning to her roots last summer. She once lived on the south side of Squak Mountain, where she rambled through the woods and trails on foot or horseback.

After graduating from Issaquah High School, she studied journalism at Washington State University, where she graduated in 1985. She then worked for a few area newspapers, before deciding to head to Texas with a friend and pursue higher ed and a writing career.

Folkins got an M.A. in English from Texas State University and then a PhD in English and Creative Non-fiction from Texas Tech University in 2006. She taught writing classes at St. Edwards University at Austin, and with her music-oriented husband John embarked on a project touring Texas dance halls.

The result was her first book in 2007, *Texas Dance Halls: A Two-Step Circuit*, a big project with 18 stories and 130 photographs. It was well-received and nominated for an award. She then took a full-time teaching job at the University of Wisconsin Stevens-Point, teaching writing and editing classes.

Her second book, published this spring, is *Light in the Trees*, featuring family experiences and outdoor adventures, mostly around Squak Mountain. She has done recent book signings at a bookstore on Orcas Island, at the library during Issaquah's Wine Walk in early May, and at Barnes & Noble in Issaquah June 15.

Currently, Folkins is teaching writing part-time at Hugo House in Seattle and keeping busy with freelance writing projects. She hopes to be an active member of IATC; in April she was elected to the board to fill an opening vacated by new president Kirt Lenard.



Gail Folkins on the trail (photo by John Koehler)

## GREENWAY TRAIL PROJECTS

**GRANITE CREEK TRAIL** (DNR & Greenway Trust): New trail to link the future Granite Creek Trailhead to the existing Granite Creek Trail. This will shorten the hiking distance to Granite Lakes and provide a great hiker experience with majestic up and downstream views in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley. Estimated Completion: Summer 2017.

**CHAMPION BEACH & MINE CREEK** (DNR): Construction of day-use and river access areas at two scenic locations along the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. These will provide safe, fun experiences for families to enjoy the river as well as accessible, close-to-home whitewater adventures for kayakers. Estimated Completion: Summer 2017.

**MAILBOX PEAK** (DNR & Greenway Trust): Renovation of the upper section of the Mailbox Peak Trail. The first three-quarters of the new trail was built between 2012 and 2013. Now we will reroute,

*continued on page 13*



## PHOTO CONTEST RETURNS FOR '16

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club is pleased to announce that the 2nd annual "Picture the Alps" photo contest will soon be launched. We have simplified the format and streamlined the process so that this year it will be even easier to enter.

Just as in the 2015 contest, there will be multiple prize winners, entries will be displayed on our website, finalists named by our panel of judges, and final winning entries will be selected by a vote of the public in early October at the IATC Salmon Days booth. We are hoping that by giving earlier notice of the contest this year, we can encourage more people to enter. The contest is open to all photographers regardless of experience.

We are still finalizing the entry details and contest rule changes, but in the meantime there are some great pictures of the Alps just waiting to be taken, so why not get started now? We will begin accepting entries later in the summer, but any photo you have taken in the Issaquah Alps during 2016 right up to the submission deadline will be eligible.

Watch the IATC website and Facebook page for further updates and details.

### GREENWAY TRAIL *continued from page 12*

repair, and upgrade the final stretch of the trail from the junction of the new and old trails to the summit itself. Estimated Completion: Fall 2016.

**MIDDLE FORK TRAIL** (USFS & Greenway Trust & WTA): Reroute the portion of trail that has collapsed into the river and repair structures and tread along the six miles of trail between the Middle Fork and Dingford Creek trailheads. This effort will restore access to equestrians, allow mountain bikers to ride the route uninterrupted, and improve safety for hikers. Estimated Completion: Fall 2016.

**DIRTY HARRY'S PEAK** (DNR & GREENWAY TRUST & WTA): New, sustainable trail to this popular viewpoint in the I-90 corridor, including

cleaning up stream damage caused by the old trail. The Greenway Trust will also help to decommission and convert several miles of unsustainable and eroding former logging road to trail. Estimated Completion: Summer 2017.

*(This is reprinted from the Mountains to Sound Greenway "Connections" newsletter.)*

### CHAPTER 12 *continued from page 9*

Although the Cedar River Watershed is closed to the public, special permission was given for a hike through the "forbidden gates" from Landsburg to Cedar Falls. Longwell called it "a hike I've been dreaming of for 30 years." Hornung reported later that 55 persons participated in the "unique and wonderful experience."

Manning wrote a tribute obituary on the May 14 passing of Fred Rounds at 84. In his life, Rounds was a logger on both Cougar and Tiger mountains and was chosen for the Newcastle Mine Rescue Squad for disasters throughout the West. Rounds was part of the authorization team that mapped and initiated trail-building on Cougar Mountain. The unofficial "Mayor of Newcastle" was active in the Return to Newcastle events. Fred's Railroad Grade Trail on Cougar is named for him. He had been considered in pre-park days the "de facto park ranger and chief of police."

After David Kappler was elected to the Issaquah City Council in November, Gus Nelson was chosen to succeed him as IATC president.

Thomsen reported the Greenway Trust now had a 34-member committee and \$60,000 in pledges for its operations--\$25,000 each from Weyerhaeuser and Boeing and \$10,000 from REI.

In a lengthy article, Manning encouraged participation in the maintenance and trailwork of the young Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. He took a strong stance on the formation of the park's master plan.

New hike leaders in 1991 were *Alexandra Dye, Diane Guthrie, Warren Jones, Mike Leake, Pat Love, Peggie Olwell, June Stevens, Roy Thompson, Ted Thomsen, and Karen Van Pelt.*

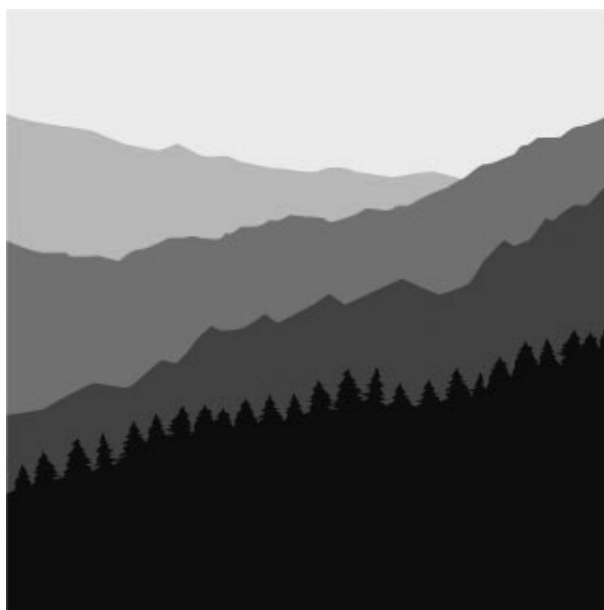
# Hiking Information

## 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.

### 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 14*

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

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**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.

Suggested donation levels:

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