

The Alpiner

January 2019



Issaquah Alps
TRAILS CLUB

— EST. 1979 —



City Council Approves Preservation Plan for the Bergsma Parcel

There was much jubilation in council chambers as the Issaquah City Council approved a plan to preserve 46 acres on Cougar Mountain during its December 2018 meeting.

The land, commonly known as the Bergsma property, is located on the northeast corner of Cougar Mountain between Newport Way Northwest and Talus. A 57 home development has been proposed for the property, so this preservation plan has come none too early.

Kudos to the “Save Cougar Mountain” organization, which has led the charge on this effort.
www.savecougarmountain.org

EXCERPTS FROM CITY OF ISSAQUAH WEBSITE

Following a long-standing history of successful regional partnerships and open space acquisition in Issaquah, the City Council approved a plan to preserve 46 acres on Cougar Mountain during its Dec. 3, 2018 meeting.

Bergsma is one of the last significant pieces of privately-owned open space properties zoned for development in Issaquah.

“This is a historic moment for Issaquah,” said Issaquah Mayor Mary Lou Pauly. “It’s clear our community is supportive of connecting our parks system to the breathtaking regional public lands that surround us. This initiative does just that.”

If preserved, the land would serve as a gateway to Cougar Mountain from Issaquah’s valley floor. The land connects to a “green necklace” of other City parks, trails and open spaces; the master-planned Talus community; and a major transit center serviced by

Trailhead Direct, King County's transit-to-trails program.

"We are thrilled to collaborate with Issaquah and The Trust for Public Land in protecting these lands near Cougar Mountain from possible development," said Christie True, Director of the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. "With our last, best green spaces increasingly under development pressure, working with partners to hasten protections and increase access is what our new King County Land Conservation Initiative is all about."

The acquisition would also help to accomplish two strategic projects – hillside acquisitions and a trail from Talus to Tibbetts Valley Park – outlined in Issaquah's 2018 Parks Strategic Plan, which was shaped by significant public input.

On Dec. 3, the council authorized the City to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire the land in partnership with King County and The Trust for Public Land, pending approval by The Trust for Public Land's Board of Directors.

Starting in January 2018, the City partnered with The Trust for Public Land to explore options for the purchase of all – or a portion – of the site. After a series of negotiations, the Bergsma developer and The Trust for Public Land entered into an Option to Purchase Agreement that covers all 46 acres for \$11 million. The agreement expires Dec. 31, 2018, and offers up to 60 days to close.

Thanks to strong partnerships, the funding proposal includes:

The City of Issaquah purchasing the eastern-most 33.5 acres for \$10.645 million, which would expand Harvey Manning Park. City officials expect to acquire \$6.822 million in grant funding during the next few years, reducing Issaquah's ultimate cost to \$3.823 million. To decrease the City's upfront costs, The Trust for Public Land is also offering \$3 million on an interest-free basis until Dec. 31, 2019. City Council members will consider another agenda bill during its Jan. 7, 2019 meeting to approve a financing plan.

King County's plans for purchasing the western-most 12.5 acres, which adjoins its existing Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, for \$355,000. As part of efforts to accelerate open space investments through the Land Conservation Initiative, King County Parks will apply for 2019 Conservation Futures Tax funding to acquire the land, which would then require King County Council approval.

Contingent on approvals from all partners involved, the sale could close the last week of February 2019.

Happy Trails to Doug Simpson Retiring Alpiner Editor

As the Alpiner's editor for over a decade, Doug Simpson was instrumental in preserving IATC's efforts, and shouldered a hero's burden in serving the club, the public and our public lands!



After 28 years of teaching English at Issaquah High School, Doug Simpson retired and decided to go for a hike; in fact many, many hikes! With his newly freed schedule, and enthralled by the natural wonders and trails he had discovered in the Issaquah Alps, besides simply hiking, Doug then volunteered to accept key leadership roles in IATC during the past 15 years. Now, after those many years of dedicated service Doug is stepping down as long-time editor of our Alpiner newsletter which he has carefully and expertly stewarded since joining IATC in 2003.

Doug was the third English major to have graced IATC's leadership with their presence, joining vaunted legends Harvey Manning and Bill Longwell who, with their combined literary skills, blessed IATC with years of talented and entertaining stories expounding upon the beauty of the Issaquah Alps, its trails, its wildlife, and their many adventures experienced in the outdoors.

In 2003, Doug responded to an IATC advertisement in the local paper by attending an IATC board meeting and within short order found a niche serving as Alpiner editor, a natural follow up to years of serving as the advisor for the student newspaper at Issaquah High School. Doug quickly became a hike leader for the IATC hiking program, and on his first hike led a large group of 28 participants on Cougar Mountain. Not much later, Doug bravely volunteered to serve as IATC President from 2004-2007, literally saving the club when no one else was willing to serve as President and serious consideration was being given to disbanding. During those four years Doug led IATC wisely and well, at a time when key issues like the proposed bypass, major development agreements, and key land acquisitions were in play. Most importantly, Doug stabilized IATC while launching key, new initiatives such as the Youth Scholarship Program and, very notably, his personal efforts to create, write, and publish the first-ever history of and guidebook for the public lands and trails of Squak Mountain in 2004. To add even further to his service, Doug faithfully served as a board member from 2003-2017.

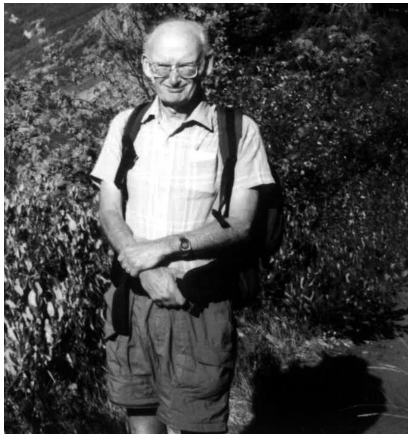
"Without Doug having stepped in when he did, as he did, IATC might well have folded," says Ken Konigsmark, a fellow IATC board member. "Doug did heroes work on many fronts in serving the club, the public, and our public lands for a decade and a half."

Dave Kappler, also a long-time board member and former City Council member agrees, “Doug was instrumental to IATC surviving at a key moment in time, while also creating several new programs that broadened IATC’s outreach and services. He has been key to IATC in so many ways.”

When asked about his favorite memories of IATC, Doug humbly responded that “I knew nothing when I came into IATC” but as he grew into his many roles he “liked to host well structured board meetings with timed agendas and guest speakers.” He stressed how he “was proud to carry on the tradition of volunteers who willingly got involved without any pay to help preserve, protect, and promote the Issaquah Alps.” Another proud accomplishment was Doug’s leadership in organizing the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, an event well-attended by the public the political leaders who created the park.

Even though Doug is retiring from the Alpiner and the board, he won’t be absent from IATC. He continues to hike and will lead efforts to document an historical summary of IATC and its many accomplishments. He will also be involved in upcoming events surrounding the 40th anniversary celebration of IATC.

Happy trails to Doug as he steps down from the Alpiner but continues to serve IATC in other ways.



Stellar Toynbee Passes

by Doug Simpson

With the passing of Joe Toynbee, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club has lost another of its most stellar, most significant members. Toynbee died December 3 at the age of 90 at a Puyallup assisted living facility. He is survived by Bev, his wife of 54 years. Toynbee had been an accountant, his final job with the University of Washington.

Already active in Mountaineers, Joe joined IATC in 1980 and led his first hike that December on a rainy day with Harvey Manning at his side. Over the years he made close to 4000 hikes, amassing about 27,000 miles, and leading over 500 hikes. He stated a few years ago, “I figured if Bill Longwell could do 50,000 miles, I could do 25,000.” Interestingly, both Toynbee and Longwell were born in Rock Island, Illinois.

Ken Konigsmark said he was “like the Energizer Bunny. He just keeps going and going. . . we should all aspire to be as dedicated and enduring as Joe has been in the IATC.”

I didn’t know Joe in the club’s earlier years, but when I became active in the early 90s, it didn’t take me long to recognize that Joe was a voice of wisdom and experience; he

helped orient me to the values and traditions of IATC.

Joe was often on the hikes I led, and it was always a pleasure for me to go on his. He was always friendly, encouraging and sincere. Joe and I served together on the IATC board from 2007 to 2010 (had had an earlier stint from 1990-1994). His participation was always respected and valued, and when the club needed someone to serve as hikes coordinator, Joe took on the task and handled it with responsibility and efficiency. And he wrote the Alpiners' Hikers' Corner column for several years. Years before he had been a regular member of Longwell's Weed Whackers, which undertook various trail projects every Wednesday.

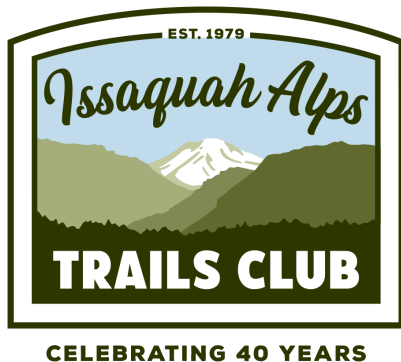
Everyone liked and respected Joe Toynbee, a true gentleman much like his icon Bill Longwell. It is sad to add his name to the list of deceased leaders who helped make IATC great—Longwell, Manning, Larry and Marty Hanson, and others before my time.



And another tribute from longtime friend and IATC member, Betty Culbert

Friends of the hiking community will miss Joe Toynbee who passed on December 3rd, 2018. He was a great hike leader and a chair of hiking committees in the Issaquah Alps and The Mountaineers. Some of the characteristics which were attributed to our late President Bush recently apply to Joe as well: he was a gentleman, honest, kind, civil, helpful, sincere, humble, and he also liked a good joke around the campfire.

Joe was happy hiking and supporting the trails of our great Northwest and the Southwest with his wife Bev. He was a good organizer and led backpacks and many of our "Hard Core" camping trips for over some 30 years. Potlucks were his favorite part of the outings and he was always first to the dessert table where Bev invariably had tasty treats for all. In "Kubota Gardens" where he was a Docent, Joe and Bev put in many miles on the paths there. It will be difficult to fill Joe's boots.



40th Anniversary Celebration

On May 19, 1979, the first formal meeting of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club was held in the Issaquah Sportsmen's Clubhouse. The name "Issaquah Alps Trails Club" was voted in by those in attendance. After a few months of semi-organization, a board was selected and Harvey Manning, the rabble-rousing-ring-leader, was elected as president.

SAVE THESE DATES:

Next year, 2019, will mark the 40th Anniversary of that event – something worth celebrating. And celebrate we will. Here is what we have in the planning pipeline:

All-Club Potluck Party, April 6, 2019, 5:00 PM, Issaquah Depot

An annual potluck was once a tradition of the club, and we're bringing it back! Bring a dish to share, and any club memorabilia and/or photos from the olden days. A slide show will play in the background, but it will be mostly an opportunity to socialize.

"History of the IATC" Program, June 8, 2019, 11:00 AM, Issaquah Depot

This program will be jointly sponsored by the Issaquah History Museums and held in the Issaquah Depot. We've lined up speakers that were involved in the early days of the club to walk us down memory lane. Speakers: Tom Mechler, David Kappler, Doug Simpson and Ken Konigsmark.

Showcase Hike Event – Tiger Mountain, High Point Trailhead, June 15, 2019

The "Showcase Hike" events will involve our booth at a popular trailhead in which we can engage with the hiking public, and a short speaking engagement with club leaders and public officials involved with the management of the associated land. The general theme will be the advocacy role of the IATC towards the protection of the land and trails in this geography. We will lead some hikes, both short and a long, and engage the public.

Showcase Hike Event – Squak Mountain, Cougar/Squak Corridor Park, July 13, 2019

Same format as the Tiger Mountain event, but celebrating the Squak Mountain State Park and the King County Cougar/Squak Corridor Park.

Showcase Hike Event – Cougar Mountain, Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, September 14, 2019

Same format as the Tiger Mountain event, but celebrating the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park.

Salmon Days Booth – October 5 and 6, 2019

Of course we always have a booth at Salmon Days, but this year we will have some special history-themed content and anniversary-branded hand-outs like window decals and patches.

The dates for showcase hike events are tentative at this point, but will be finalized and published as the date draws nearer. The dates for the potluck, history program and Salmon Days are solid.

Questions? Contact Tom Anderson, Anniversary Event Committee Chairman: 206-245-3787 or facebook@issaquahalps.org

See you at the Potluck Party!



Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park Launches "Salmon, Science & Suds"

"Salmon, Science & Suds" is a series of informal talks at the Issaquah Rogue Brewhouse, welcoming the community to better understand the restorative and rehabilitative efforts underway in the Sammamish watershed.

The first talk will be held at 7 p.m., Jan. 16 and will feature Ken King from US Fish and Wildlife. He will speak on the mortality rate of Coho due to storm water run-off.

Salmon, Science & Suds will be held quarterly and will discuss water quality, healthy fish populations, and habitat restoration. The series is offered in an effort to share interesting research and initiatives currently improving the health of the Sammamish watershed. Trout Unlimited, US Fish and Wildlife, Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park, UWRP, and Mid Sound Fisheries are coordinating efforts to present the series.

"There is so much effort to restore habitat and fish populations in the watershed," said Jennifer Adut, Executive Director of FLSSP. "We want to ensure that the public has access to learn about these important developments. It's all about the health of our Sammamish watershed and what each one of us can do to improve our local environment."

The evening will also include a raffle, great beer and good company.

Please RSVP by email director@flssp.org. Last minute drop-ins welcome.

10,000 Round Trips for Trailhead Direct in First Full Season

Route 634 to Issaquah Alps had 8,526 round trips alone!



There were more than 10,000 roundtrips during the first full season of the Trailhead Direct 2-year pilot project. This transit-to-trails service made it possible for more hikers to explore King County's mountain forests without having to drive or park, and it reduced dangerous overcrowding at popular trailheads. Route 634 to Issaquah Alps had 8,526 round trips alone. Wow!

IATC will continue to collaborate with our partners in King County Parks and Mountains to Sound Greenway to support the program and help make it a permanent. For the 2019 season we plan to provide more IATC hikes that incorporate Trailhead Direct.



History Corner

by Tom Anderson

The 1988 "Grand Traverse" became the inspiration for the even more grand "Mountains to Sound March" -- and a whole new era began.

Thirty years ago (1988) club leader Jack Hornung had the wild-and-crazy idea to organize a hike traversing Cougar Mountain, Squak Mountain and Tiger Mountain, all in a day (about 26 miles). It became known as the "Grand Traverse." A commemorative badge was given to all those who finished the hike. One of the finishers was Larry Ostrom who has shared the photo of his badge. Thanks for sharing, Larry!

The Grand Traverse was repeated the following year in 1989, and declared to be an annual event. Things took a different course, though, as the vision for the Grand Traverse expanded into what became known as the Mountains to Sound March from Snoqualmie Pass to Puget Sound. This was the impetus for the organization we now know as the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust. A humble beginning blossomed into a Big Idea!

The more things change...

IATC HISTORY: CHAPTER 22 (2001)

DREW, McCRONE PRAISE IATC SKILLS

by Doug Simpson

Revisit some of the trials, tribulations
and triumphs of the IATC



January – March: Volunteer Trailworkers

In his "President's Report," Steven Drew complimented and extolled the 20th anniversary of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. He cited trail improvements on Squak and Cougar mountains, the publication of Charles McCrone's updated "Guide to Trails of Cougar Mountain" and improved hiker access throughout the Alps.

McCrone commented on his New Volunteer Group, which he and Scott Semans were supervising to take on trailwork projects as a complement to the long-standing "old-timer" group led by Bill Longwell. He saluted two groups of workers—the Powerbrushers, (13 workers on six or more outings), the six Berry Bushers (3 to 5 outings), and the numerous Nettle Nippers (1 or 2 events). Cougar's Precipice area was slated for 2001 work.

Ken Konigsmark discussed the effects and implications of Microsoft's purchase of over two million square feet of Grand Ridge land for an office complex. He also reported on early planning for Tiger Mountain's Park Pointe future development.

April – May: Forestland Links Acquired

Charles McCrone added a fifth article about Cougar Mountain trails and access points, this time focusing on the southend trails of Wilderness Creek, Licorice Fern, Far Country and DeLeo Wall. He especially complimented the Langkow property owners who made Licorice Fern Trail accessible from their gardens.

See attached story "That Cabin on Squak" by Bill Longwell that originally appeared in this issue 17 years ago.

Konigsmark discussed a significant land transaction that interconnects parts of Tiger Mountain, Rattlesnake Mountain, the Cedar River Watershed and the Taylor Mountain State Forest. Cascade Land Conservancy was credited for negotiating a complex multiparty agreement. The huge parcel included 145 acres above and across from Snoqualmie Falls, 2900 acres from Weyerhaeuser on the east ridge of SR-18, 600 more from Weyerhaeuser of forestland straddling Preston and Snoqualmie Valley, and 7000 acres in the Raging River Basin. This was tied together with a permanent trail connection between public lands on Tiger and Rattlesnake mountains.

"The overall deal encompasses a comprehensive solution to balancing future, focused urban growth in Snoqualmie with preservation of thousands of acres of surrounding forestland," Konigsmark wrote.

Hikes Coordinator Fred Zeitler announced record hiker turnout in 2000—149 hikes and work parties with only six rainouts. The average turnout was ten hikers. On a typical hike, we had 80 percent members, he announced. The most frequented hikes were 56 2Bs, 33 2Cs and 27 3Cs (the numbers denoting length and elevation gained).

July – September: "Highly Driven and Efficacious"

Club concern over the loss of trails through the Highlands of Newcastle development by the Chaffey Corporation were clarified by the developer's follow-through, as promised trail connections outside the development were implemented, McCrone reported.

The versatile, many-sided Bill Longwell explains in "Oxalis" how he became noted as an expert of Northwest flowers, particularly ones found in the wild. In 1973 he took an evening class at the University of Washington. Professor C. Leo Hitchcock not only taught well, but invited students to his home to see his impressive garden. Dr. Hitchcock gave each student a sample of Oxalis, which Longwell had often admired, and which he later transplanted 27 times. "Thus began my nefarious career as a digger-upper and transplanter," he wrote.

In an article about his reflections on IATC involvement, McCrone called himself a "highly driven and efficacious personality" who kept expanding his club involvement. Commenting on IATC volunteers, he stated: "There have been few meek personalities on the Board. . .

a small group of energetic people whose passion for these tasks can often cause them to overwhelm themselves.”

The busy McCrone was also the creator of the club’s first computer-driven map—of Cougar Mountain to complement his guidebook.

October – December: Development Named Talus

President Drew announced that he was stepping down from the board to pursue a seat on Issaquah’s City Council. Encouraging new blood in the club, he stated: “This club draws dynamic thinkers, passionate workers, and great people with a wide variety of personal skills in the common interest of achieving this club’s goals.”

Cougar’s East Village development was officially named Talus, and construction plans would be affecting the Shangri-La Trail. And in the south end McCrone detailed the redesign of the Licorice Fern Trail from Langkows’ Garden to the Far Country Trail. IATC trail workers had spent 334 hours over four years on the trail.

This issue included a big push for volunteer work, from the trailwork crews of McCrone and Scott Semans to King County’s project of planting trees and shrubs at Mount Si’s Haystack Meadow and throughout the Alps and beyond.

New hike leaders for 2001 were *Hans Fischer, Frank Gilliland, Ron Howatson, Jackie Hughes* and *Paul Hutchinson*.

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Our mailing address is:

PO Box 351
Issaquah, WA 98027

www.issaquahalps.org

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