



HUGE CROWD FOR ANNUAL MEETING

By Doug Simpson

An overflow crowd, an estimated 60 people, crammed into the Issaquah Train Depot for the January 26 annual meeting of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club.

The crowd came primarily for a panel of four constituency leaders who discussed “The Future of Trails in the Greater Issaquah Alps.” IATC Vice-President David Kappler moderated the panel foursome of Kelly Heintz, King County Parks; Nicki Fields, Washington State Parks; Jeff Watling, Issaquah Parks; and Laura Benson, State Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

After the 90-minute session, the crowd evaporated to a handful that stayed for IATC’s membership meeting. The limited election involved the re-election of VP Kappler and Secretary Kathleen Petty (two-thirds of the current Executive Board along with President Kirt Lenard in the second year of his term). Board members George Potter, Doug Simpson and Steve Williams were re-elected to new three-year terms. Unfilled positions for the club are a vice-president for operations, a treasurer, and the hypothetical president-elect.

KELLY HEINTZ commented on the good working relationship

of the various entities. She said the county is trying to purchase acreage for better access to the Rattlesnake Lake area south of North Bend. Concerned about crowded trailheads, the county is trying to coordinate with Metro buses to access trailheads. A grants project is in the works to provide an information kiosk for the Issaquah Alps/Greenway corridor.

NICKI FIELDS said state parks projects include washout repairs at Squak and Ollalie parks, with work also progressing on Mt. Washington and the Iron Horse Trail. The latter, she pointed out, is stretching from Cedar Falls (near North Bend) all the way to the Idaho border, with patchwork projects underway as funded. Fields spoke to the addition of a full-time trails coordinator for State Parks. She also commented on the extensive improvements to Lake Sammamish State Park.

JEFF WATLING discussed the many components of the city’s park system and said that much is being done in connectivity to other public lands. Watling pointed out the importance of access and praised the legacy of trails and open space in the Issaquah area. The city will soon have a comprehensive trails map as a family resource for

continued on page 9



Suzanne Kagan

IATC HIRES SUZANNE KAGAN AS EXEC. DIRECTOR

In an effort to better organize itself and to make more efficient its future plans, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club has hired Suzanne Kagan to be its first ever executive director.

Kagan comes to IATC after extensive leadership experience with Bridle Trails State Park (she is an avid equestrian), the Lake Washington Saddle Club and the Friends of Lake Sammamish. She has also been operations manager for Leadership Eastside, which brings her in contact with many outdoor organizations and their leaders.

Kagan is contracted to work an average of 25 hours per month for IATC, in addition to her work for the Lake Sammamish group. She sees herself helping to organize and

continued on page 11

The Apparatus

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

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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
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 has been a busy first quarter for Issaquah Alps Trails club! For the past several years we have been thinking and talking about what IATC needs to do to continue to support into the future its mission of preserving wild lands in and around the Issaquah Alps.

While we have lots of good ideas for programs and activities, we have often not been able to recruit volunteers to take advantage of many of the great ideas suggested by the membership or potential partners. At this point in time, very often specialized skills and experience are needed, but very hard to find. Additionally, competition for our members' time and attention is intense. What to do?

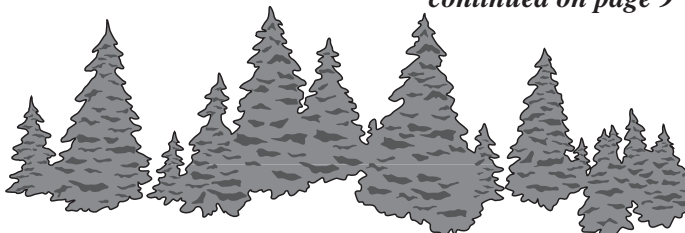
We realized that most successful non-profit organizations were supported by skilled staff able to help us bring important ideas from concept to reality. If we wanted to continue our success and build a strong organization into the future, we needed to do the same.

With that in mind, I am pleased to introduce Suzanne Kagen, who joined IATC in February as our part time Executive Director. Suzanne brings to IATC a wealth of practical experience working with other very successful local non-profit organizations.

Suzanne will provide important support for our organization by working with the board and officers in developing and implementing strategies and programs. That is, helping us make some of those good ideas of ours into reality. Initially, much emphasis will be placed on building a more efficient infrastructure, but the fun stuff will come along too!

In addition, as previously reported, IATC has contracted with a CPA to do bookkeeping and necessary financial reporting. As presented at the Annual membership meeting in January, IATC is

continued on page 9



ADVOCACY REPORT

By David Kappler, Vice-President for Advocacy

Way back in history when the East Lake Sammamish Trail was first proposed, another trail was also proposed. This was the Lake Sammamish to Cedar River Trail. The route for the other trail was not as easily determined since there was not a continuous railroad right of way from the lake to the river. Progress on making the connection has been slow, and the concept has been modified given issues with routing and costs.

Any kind of paved route is dependent on a major widening project on SR900. Such a project is not planned any time soon, and getting a multi-use trail along with vehicle capacity and safety improvements would be difficult and very expensive. What is more realistic and having some success is improving access to the Issaquah Alps from Lake Sammamish State Park for hikers, and a start on the link from Squak to Cedar River for horses and hikers.

Access from western Lake Sammamish State Park to Cougar will improve with a multi-use bridge across Tibbetts Creek, and we may soon get closer to making a better connection to western Squak as well. From the state park near Costco to northeast Squak, we are seeing trail enhancements and city acquisitions, making this a more scenic and enjoyable walk.

A high priority is getting the trail link from the state park trailhead on the May Valley Road toward the Cedar River across Winterbrook Farm. There is strong support for this trail link, and it is a club priority.

Other trail issues involve working with King County Parks and State DNR on trail routes on newly acquired property to potentially connect Grand Ridge Park with Preston. A priority for the club will be seeing a reversal of county policy that now mixes hikers, bicyclists and equestrians on the same trail regardless of trail alignment, width or steepness.

We have our fingers crossed about future additions to the Raging River State Forest and improvements to SR18 that could open up some great hiking opportunities.



Housing Development Proposed Between Coal Creek and Cougar Mountain Parks

by Steve Williams

The City of Bellevue is considering a Developer's proposal west of Lakemont Blvd. and adjacent to Coal Creek and Cougar Mt. Parks. The existing horse pasture, barns and homes would be replaced by 41 new houses and three roads. Unfortunately, the project will block a heavily used wildlife corridor between the two parks. Also lost would be the last coal miner dwelling at Coal Creek and the rural character of area. (Hikers will recognize this as Milt Swanson's place across the street from the Red Town Trailhead).

Local residents are very concerned about the wisdom of placing all this development above coal tunnels that were started over 150 years ago and abandoned by 1900. They are also concerned about additional traffic, especially with the recent addition of 700 units near the YMCA at the old brickplant site. An abbreviated version of my comments is listed below.

You can e-mail your comments, to hbedwell@bellevuewa.gov or mail them to City of Bellevue, Development Services Department, attn: Heidi Bedwell, Planner; P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue, WA 98009-9012. Refer to 'Park Pointe PUD' files number 16-143970-LK and 16-145946-LO. (cc your council person, or talk to them directly about it).

The following comments come from Steve Williams' letter to the City of Bellevue Development Services Department.

The highest and best use of this land would be to continue its 80-year history as rural pasture/open space/wildlife corridor. Deer, bear, bobcat and coyotes are the large animals frequently seen crossing Lakemont Boulevard here. Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park is on one side of the road and Bellevue's Coal Creek Natural Area is on the other.

The roadway in either direction is otherwise bordered by steep slopes and/or guardrails which often trap young animals in the path of oncoming cars. The posted speed limit is 40 mph, with trees and a tight

curve to the south limiting visibility and drive reaction time. The animals use this property because it is open, has good sight-lines and is a safer crossing for them and their young.

If the land is developed, there will be significant impacts from stormwater into two fragile and historic stream canyons. There are 100-year old flume timbers and sandstone black walls in Coal Creek which may be eroded and displaced. The existing trail and airshaft interpretive station could be washed out and will definitely require larger culverts to accommodate the larger flows into stream #3. The Number 4 mine closure and steamplant foundations might also be compromised by the maximum volume flows into Coal Creek.

Pumping raw sewage 2,800 feet uphill will be a challenge; but it could be disastrous if the pumps fail, if electricity is lost to storm damage, or if a major earthquake ruptures the pipes.

The development plan shows a pedestrian trail along the southern border connecting the existing City of Bellevue trail. Unfortunately, this route takes it very near the collapsing roof of the Number 4 airshaft and close to a wildlife corridor and sensitive streambank. Southern housing units 21-25 should be deleted so that the trail can stay well above the bank and provide enough adjacent open space to facilitate wildlife passage and habitat restoration.

This development plan eliminates one of the last visible barns and pastures on Cougar Mountain, as well as the last coal miner dwelling of the 1900's Coal Creek townsite. In an ideal world these buildings would be preserved to house mining artifacts, and a park program would be created to tell the story of the people and major industry that existed right here between 1863 and 1933. What steps will be taken to honor all of the history that happened here? What steps will be taken to educate new residents about the wildlife value and ecological protections that are part of their now "living in a park"?



EDITORIAL**STEP UP FOR IATC**

Readers, your club needs some of you to step up. Over the years on occasion, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club has been in danger of not surviving. Another of those times is upon us.

IATC has a good, but short-handed Board of Directors. All nine board seats are filled and in good hands. What is missing is supporting leadership. President Kirt Lenard is a conscientious, hard-working president with some great ideas. David Kappler, with his vast experience and invaluable contacts, is a superb Vice-President for Advocacy. And Kathleen Petty is a reliable and outstanding secretary.

We have gone over a year now without a treasurer, which has put a heavy burden on Lenard to handle the club finances himself. For personal reasons, I have now stepped down as operations vice-president, leaving another gap in the Executive Board. In a dozen years we have had just one person, Dave Kappler, be recognized as president-elect, a position intended to groom leadership. When Lenard completes his two-year term as president next January, no one seems to be considering succeeding Lenard if he decides not to run again.

Our small club—influential still and unquestionably historically important as it is—is at another crossroads. To keep the club afloat, some of you out there need to offer yourselves and make a commitment to further the work of the club. Four of the current 12 board members are past presidents, all older now and folks who have done their part.

Will anyone out there, readers, step up and help, coming to the rescue of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club?

--Doug Simpson

TRAIL WIDTH HOLDS UP PROJECT

By Doug Simpson

It may be inevitable that the East Lake Sammamish Trail will be completed, but some of the Lake Sammamish homeowners and the City of Sammamish are fighting against its completion as designed by King County.

The trail in question is an 11-mile path along the lake on the old Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad line. The section at issue is between Southeast 33rd Street and Inglewood Hill Road. Under construction now is the segment between SE 43rd Way and SE 33rd Street.

The width of the trail is the major stumbling block. County standards require a 12-foot-wide paved trail with 2-foot-wide travel shoulders and a 1-foot-wide clear zone for a total width of 18 feet. Kevin Brown, the county's Director of Parks and Recreation, maintains that a U.S. District

continued on page 10

**MT. ISSAQUAH?
... WHY NOT?**

What is now West Tiger 3 (one of the five peaks on Tiger Mountain) used to be known as Mount Issaquah. Somehow, perhaps when the Washington Department of Natural Resources took over, it was absorbed into Tiger Mountain—all five peaks.

Scott Stoddard, editor of the Issaquah "Press," recently suggested in his "Front and Sunset" column, that the original name be restored. "Tiger Mountain," he wrote, "already has a summit named Tiger Mountain. Why does it need to hog the nomenclature for all five peaks?"

I like the idea. The Issaquah community takes a lot of pride in its trails and Alps peaks. Why not have a mountain named Mount Issaquah bring an even greater sense of local pride?

I brought the idea to Doug McClelland, recently retired area DNR manager. His response: "I like the idea of a real name for a peak versus a boring WT3." He suggests contacting the board of geologic names chaired by the commissioner of public lands.

As Stoddard wrote: "We believe Tiger Mountain and a reborn Mount Issaquah can co-exist peacefully."

Let's pursue it. Just imagine. . .

MOUNT ISSAQUAH.

---Doug Simpson





SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEMBERS

High school seniors whose parents are members of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club are eligible for scholarships from \$250 to \$1000. The Bill Longwell Memorial Scholarship is also available to students from Issaquah, Skyline, Liberty and Hazen high schools.

Entrants must participate in either one hike sponsored by IATC or one trail work party through the Washington Trails Association or Mountains to Sound Greenway (see their websites for details).

An essay of 500-750 words is required about the experience and conversation with the hike or work leader and other participants. The essay is due on or before May 1 submitted electronically in Word format to scholarship@issaquahalps.org.

Winning funds will be applied to college tuition or related expenses.

BENSON ASSUMES DNR LEADERSHIP

With the retirement of longtime Department of Natural Resources leader Doug McClelland, Laurie Benson took his place on January 17. Her official title is South Puget Sound Assistant Regional Manager for Conservation, Recreation and Land Transactions.



Laurie Benson

“I’m really glad to be working in the field,” Benson said. “I enjoy working with the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and other partners.” She is now based at DNR’s North Bend office.

Previously, Benson served as Strategic Advisor for the Deputy Supervisor for State Uplands, where she ran the Community Forest Trust Program, which oversees statewide trust land use issues, and as the DNR liaison for the Bonneville Power Administration.

“McClelland was just great. I overlapped with him for three months,” she said. “He provided a good background for the work that’s been going on and prepared me so well, teaching me the local history and what he saw as priorities for the future.”

Laurie joins a great team in the North Bend office. That DNR team has been busy on a range of projects on Tiger Mountain, Ollalie State Park and in the Mount Si and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Natural Resources Conservation areas. Benson found herself busy

continued on page 10

ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR EARTH/ARBOR DAY

Activities for Earth Day/Arbor Day will take place on Saturday, April 14, Matt Mechler, Issaquah’s Open Space Steward, reports.

One project involves working on a short new trail that goes off the Pickering Trail, through some forest and connects to the Sammamish State Park trail system. It only covers about a thousand feet.

Another outing will be restoration by removing invasive plants.

These projects are sponsored by the City of Issaquah partnering with the Mountains to Sound Greenway, Lake Sammamish State Park and the Friends of Lake Sammamish.

Volunteers are needed and may register through the Mountains to Sound Greenway website. In addition, Sammamish State Park staff will hold some interpretive talks that day.

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Mechler announced several projects of city staff. A bridge on the Squak Mountain Access Trail is due for repairs, and another bridge will be built connecting Margaret’s Meadow to Confluence Park in the downtown area—“a very nice feature connecting the two areas,” Mechler said.

Also, signage on Park Pointe trails and other areas is in the works.



CHAPTER 15: 1994

COMPROMISE FOR GRAND RIDGE

By Doug Simpson

January to March:

The master plan for Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park was in the final stages of the process for acceptance, Ralph Owen reported. Owen noted that “The plan recommends that virtually the entire park be preserved for wildlife habitat, open space, low impact recreation, and interpretation of history and ecosystems.” Over the years those priorities seem to have been maintained.

Club President Ken Konigsmark reviewed the twelve primary goals set for 1993, pointing out that all had been addressed and acted upon and only goal #11, working with the Bullitt Foundation to acquire additional land on Squak Mountain, was on hold by year end. “It became clear that the IATC had a very successful year,” he wrote. Teri Morris-Hanson replaced Bill McFerrin as vice-president of operations and Kathy Shertz replaced Sarah Young on the board.

Approximately 50 people attended a November meeting of SCAT (the Squak, Cougar and Tiger Interagency Committee) led by Issaquah Trails Coordinator Margaret Macleod. Problems, progress and plans were discussed with representatives of the various constituencies.

George Jackman reported on Taylor Mountain, the seldom accessed peak of the Issaquah Alps. The mountain’s trail system was begun in 1982. Jackman drew special attention to the location of Shaun Creek Falls, a 50-foot waterfall.

It was announced that President Konigsmark had been loaned by his employer, the Boeing Company, to an executive assignment to the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to work “towards making the concept and vision of the Greenway a reality for our region.”

Hikes Coordinator Ann Weinmann reported that some of the hiking pacesetters for 1993 were Ralph Owen (most exploration of new routes), Peggy Barchi (most hikers on a single hike—28), Bob

Gross (most adult hikers--26), Harvey Christopher (hiker from farthest away—England), Joe Toynbee (most persistent leader for trail maintenance), and Joann Howe (best food hikes for “birds and two-legged beasts”).

April to June:

In his “state of union” article President Konigsmark cited numerous positive accomplishments, but also noted some negatives, including pending Grand Ridge development and building Lakemont Boulevard through Cougar Mountain’s Lewis Canyon. He also announced the club’s goals for 1994.

King County’s Office of Open Space acquired 442 acres, part of Radar Peak, on Cougar Mountain. This included Tibbett’s Marsh wetland, the upper part of Bear Ridge, including the Fantastic Erratic, and Shangri La and Tibbett’s Creek trails.

Teri Morris-Hansen wrote a feature story about DNR investigator Jim Russell. Russell described his experience with gunfire in the woods, stolen items including a car, and a mentally unstable 31-year old woman he helped take to safety from her rough campsite.

Issaquah Parks & Recreation announced the beginning of “Women Walk,” called “an opportunity for women of all ages to explore nature and wilderness.” Margaret Macleod, Marilyn Moon and Nancy Finelli of IATC spearheaded the program.

“Return to Newcastle” was in the planning stages with the event set for June 5 near Red Town Trailhead on Cougar Mountain. The program would include historical artifacts, discussions with former miners, food and entertainment, as well as history walks and hikes.

Fred Weinmann essayed about the nocturnal mountain beavers, called Bormers, and their 60-million years of private survival. They were recognized for their burrows with mounded entrances that honeycomb the Alps hillsides.

continued next page

“Grand Ridge Compromise”, continued from page 7

July to September:

Development of Grand Ridge went forward after a 4-3 Issaquah City Council vote. “This is a critically important issue,” George Comstock wrote. “If changes to this line (urban-rural growth), then it portends as an unwillingness by the county to hold the line on growth.” Later a compromise was reached, leaving 1408 acres of county-owned parkland and development of 352 acres on Grand Ridge. It was deemed “a major victory for IATC.”

Sixty people attended the club’s annual potluck, held on the property of member Jill Mays. Larry Phillips of the King County Council was guest speaker. The program included a Mountain to Sound Greenway slideshow.

Jim and Mary Cadigan were singled out for the club’s Volunteer of the Year award. Both had 12 years of active membership to their credit. Both have led hikes, Mary was Special Events Coordinator, and Jim served as treasurer for four years.

Marty Hanson, an active birder, wrote an article about identifying various birds by their sounds.

Jack Medill reported on the new Northwest Timber Trail (once called “the Waterfall Trail”) opened by DNR. The trail is 2.5 miles one-way with an elevation gain of 400 feet. It includes “a great waterfall, a high bridge, six sturdy log bridges, moss-covered maples, quiet open woods, and an easy pass into a silent, tranquil valley.”

Also on Tiger, Chief Ranger Bill Longwell delineated mile-by-mile the East Tiger Trail (4.8 miles). The description can be found in editions of his Tiger Mountain guidebook.

October to December:

Just as the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park was becoming a reality, a new issue was arising on Tiger Mountain—the proposed Park Pointe development. (Ed. Note: This issue was only recently resolved with a Grand Ridge land swap, enabling Park Pointe to avoid development.) George Comstock explored the issue, citing in particular developers’ intent to log an area near Lake Tradition



by access from the High School Trail. This was proposal was being vigorously opposed by IATC.

President Konigsmark made note of a King County Open Space plan to acquire 69 acres on Squak Mountain for east-west access from Cougar to Squak Mountain State Park. (Ed. Note: This was to become the West Side Trail off SR 900.)

Interagency Coordinator Margaret Macleod announced plans to continue the Rainier Boulevard non-motorized trail from Andrews Street to Second Avenue (a downtown link to Tiger Mountain access) and “rehabilitation of the historic station master’s house for use as an interpretive center/trailhead clubhouse.” It has remained such ever since.

The Bullitt Foundation deeded another 10.5 acres to State Parks to add to Squak Mountain State Park. The acreage is in the southwest corner of Section 4.

Records collected from visitor sign-ins top the Wilderness Peak Trail on Cougar revealed that visitors had come from 17 countries and 23 states. They ranged in age from 6 to 81 years. A third were in the 12-25 age group and half were with family or friendship groups.

With an apparently stabilized crew of hike leaders, just two newcomers took to the trails leading hikes this year: *Peggy Manning* (Harvey’s daughter) and *Patsey Parsons*.



Huge Crowd at IATC Meeting, continued from page 1



Issaquah parks.

LAURIE BENSON is new to the area DNR position, having succeeded recent retiree Doug McClelland. She discussed the plan to have 40 miles of new trails by the end of the biennium in 2018. She also cited work on a new trailhead for Mt. Teneriffe.

A variety of questions and concerns were raised from the audience, most of whom were involved in some specific constituency. Touched on were the loss of the interagency coordinator (since the passing of Margaret Macleod), disappearing viewpoints, the encroachment of development and sidewalk trails, and concern for the pending loss of Winterbrook Farm, a greenbelt in the May Valley area.

In the IATC general meeting, in his advocacy report, David Kappler discussed the ongoing issues with the Winterbrook Farm, owned by the Issaquah School District, the Milt Swanson property adjacent to Red Town and the Cougar Mountain Park on the west side, and the possible road access and development of the Bergsma property on Cougar's east side.

Cornelia Remy, having succeeded Joe Toyne as the overseer of the

hikes program, reported via George Potter that in the last six months of 2016, 12 active hike leaders led 136 hikes whose previous average of seven hikers was reduced somewhat due to winter weather.

Potter reported that the club had partnered with DNR on trail work projects, 32 in all, that totaled 105 worker days, mostly on Tiger Mountain.

President Lenard's membership report estimated that the club has 476 members, including lifetime members; 320 members have some activity with the club. In 2016, he reported, the club had a \$719 deficit. Seventy per cent of the club's expenditures were for printing of the "Alpiner," insurance costs, and the scholarship program. At year's end, the club had over \$25,000 in operating capital.

The need for staff help for professional services has led to some part-time bookkeeping hours and, as approved by the board, an executive director. (See the President's Report on page 1/3 for details.) Lenard was pleased to announce that Doug McClelland, retired local DNR leader, has agreed to be "strategic advisor" to the club.



President's Report, cont. from page 3

in sound, but somewhat static, financial condition. However, we now have good insight into where contributions are being spent and for what purpose. This is the solid foundation we need in order to chart out future initiatives and priorities.

We are also very pleased to welcome Doug McClellen to IATC as a strategic advisor to the board. Many of you know Doug from his many years of service with the Department of Natural Resources. In his new role, Doug will advise the board on strategic issues and help shape strategy and priorities for the club. We welcome Doug's counsel and perspectives.

As we learn how to make the best use of our new capabilities, expect to see new forms of communication with members, new initiatives for even more advocacy for wild spaces in the Issaquah Alps.

Last, thanks to all of you who turned out for our annual membership meeting in January! We had a standing room only, capacity crowd at the Issaquah Depot venue! We are encouraged by the interest and turnout and urge you to join us at any of our regularly scheduled board meetings and to participate in the various programs and activities as they are scheduled. Your voice and your support is essential to the continued success of our club and its mission!

See you on the trail soon,

Kirt



“Trail Width”, continued from page 5

Court ruling says that King County owns the 100-foot-wide easement formerly held by the railroad.

Landowners are disputing the ruling which they say encroaches on their property rights, including structures and gardens they were told years ago that they could use. They say the trail width should not exceed 16 feet, which is the width of the existing gravel trail.

The proposed trail has been redesigned to improve safety and offer nicer views of the lake, as it sometimes meanders left and right. The shoulders are needed for biker safety, the county says.

The East Lake Sammamish Trail is the missing link in a 44-mile “locks to lake corridor” that connects Seattle’s Golden Gardens Park and the Ballard Locks, passing through Bothell, Redmond and Sammamish to Issaquah and the foothills of the Cascade Mountains.

“Once the trail is done,” stated Doug Williams, Media Relations Coordinator for King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, “you will be able to ride a bike from downtown Issaquah to downtown Seattle.” Or hike it, of course.

George Toskey, president of the Sammamish Home Owners, says 16-foot width would be sufficient. “If the new trail went along the existing trails there would be no fight,” Toskey said. “They could build it tomorrow.”

Currently lawsuits between the homeowners, the City of Sammamish and King County are in force, delaying the final stage of the project. John Tremble, an advocate for the trails, says: “A few residents are costing the county millions of dollars.”

“We knew it was going to take time,” Williams said. “We didn’t know it was going to take a decade to go from a soft surface trail to a paved trail.”

*“Laurie Benson”, continued from page 6*

from the get-go, planning projects, getting involved with grant applications, and working with ongoing trail projects and partnership activities.

She cited a number of DNR projects she is involved with on Tiger Mountain, including phase 3 construction of East Tiger bike trails, design work for Tiger Summit trailhead expansion for mountain-biking, hiking and equestrian use. Also designing a viewpoint and picnic shelter on the East Tiger Summit, ongoing trail maintenance partnering with IATC and Washington Trails Association, and installing new and replacement bridges on the TMT and Section Line trails.

On Squak Mountain, a new 60-foot bridge will be installed and an equestrian/hiking trail is being rerouted. At Ollalie State Park, an 8.7 mile multi-use trail will be developed from the Cedar Falls trailhead to the Change Creek basin on the northern flank of Mt. Washington. In the Raging River area, phase 1 of trail design and a new trailhead and added parking for Rattlesnake and Snoqualmie Point are in the works.

Mount Si and Middle Fork projects include design and construction for a new Teneriffe trailhead this spring and a connector trail from Little Si to Teneriffe are ongoing, as is a trailhead and connector trail at Granite Creek. The final leg of the Mailbox Peak Trail is imminent and construction on Dirty Harry’s Trail is also planned. Finally, the Middle Fork access sites will see bridges installed, more parking added, and general site improvements.

Plans for the next biennium involve preparing several grant applications, expansion of the High Point exit 20 area off I-90, and trailwork from Grand Ridge to Preston and Mitchell Hill, more Raging River trailwork, expansion of South Middle Fork projects, and construction of the East Tiger viewpoint plans.

All this sounds as if Laurie Benson will indeed be busy for the next few years.



KEEP WINTERBROOK FROM DEVELOPERS

By David Kappler

The 80-acre Winterbrook Farm property of the May Valley Road is across from the south end Squak Mountain State Park Trailhead. The Issaquah School District bought this site years ago in a misguided effort to put one or even two schools on the site. Even if the laws restricting schools on rural lands were changed, this site is not where schools should be located.

There are two salmon creeks, large areas of wetlands and seasonal flooding, and a documented King County Wildlife Habitat Network on the property. This wildlife network connects Tiger, Taylor and the Cedar River Watershed to Squak Mountain. A herd of up to 30 elk are regularly seen on the property.

This property has the potential of connecting Squak trails to the Log Cabin Reach property and the Cedar River Trail. Unfortunately, the south 40 acres abuts the Cedar Hills Landfill property. The county so far has spent millions successfully stopping landfill-contaminated water from coming into the salmon streams on the property that feeds Issaquah Creek and in the past impacted hatchery operations.

The county has gone to great expense to deal less successfully with an “aroma” issue created by the landfill, where under certain weather conditions the smell from garbage piled up over several decades impacts this property. It’s hardly a place for schools or the

place to try and market high end estate homes.

A developer has an option on the property and is going through a feasibility process. We can only hope all critical area and “aroma” issues are recognized and understood. Overall, the highest and best use for this property is not residential. The county recognizes that the best uses for this property are agricultural and open space and is a ready and willing buyer at a properly done appraisal price that considers the assets and liabilities of this property.

Additional and updated information will be available on our website, issaquahalps.org. Included will be updates about the efforts to have this site acquired by King County, making sure there is permanent protection for critical areas, that there is a commitment to restoration of the creeks and wetlands and planning connecting trails compatible with preservation and enhancement of wildlife corridors.



“Executive Director”, continued from page 1

provide a good logistical foundation for both groups. She also serves on the board of the Lake Washington Saddle Club.

Born and raised in San Diego, Kagen attended Pomona College in Los Angeles, where she majored in comparative linguistics, focusing on French, German and other languages. She graduated in 1985.

“I’ve always been active in outdoor recreation,” Kagen said. “In college I did a lot of backpacking and got involved with horseback riding.”

Along the way she met husband Chris, who specialized in technical writing. They moved into the San Francisco Bay area for a few years, with an eye to the Pacific Northwest, which she has always loved. They came to the Eastside when Chris took a job with Microsoft in 1987.

Kagen has traveled to South America, Africa and Europe and hopes to go to Asia and Antarctica in the future.

She and Chris have two sons, Aran and Spencer, a daughter who was expecting earlier in March, and a foster daughter who resides in Australia with their two children. They communicate regularly on Skype.

The couple have a standing date every Wednesday from spring through fall to hike somewhere in the Issaquah Alps. They have to hustle sometimes to make it back before dark.

She is looking forward to meeting the IATC board members at the April 27th board meeting, which may include a light sandwich meal before the meeting.



BILL LONGWELL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Sponsored by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club

Up to \$2000 in scholarship money is available to graduating seniors from Issaquah, Liberty, Skyline or Hazen High Schools or to a son or daughter of a member of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. First place is \$1000 and two runner-up awards of \$500 and \$250 may also be offered. Entrants must complete the assignment below and submit their application and essay by May 1, 2017. (Include the information requested on the attached cover sheet with your essay.)

Participate in EITHER one hike sponsored by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club OR one trail work party through the Washington Trails Association or the Mountain to Sound Greenway. (Trail work parties are listed on their respective websites; some are also listed at issaquahalps.org) Talk with the hike or work leader as well as other members of the outing. In an essay of approximately 500-750 words describe the experience and what you feel you have gained from it. What insights did you gain about the organization how it has benefited recreation in this area?

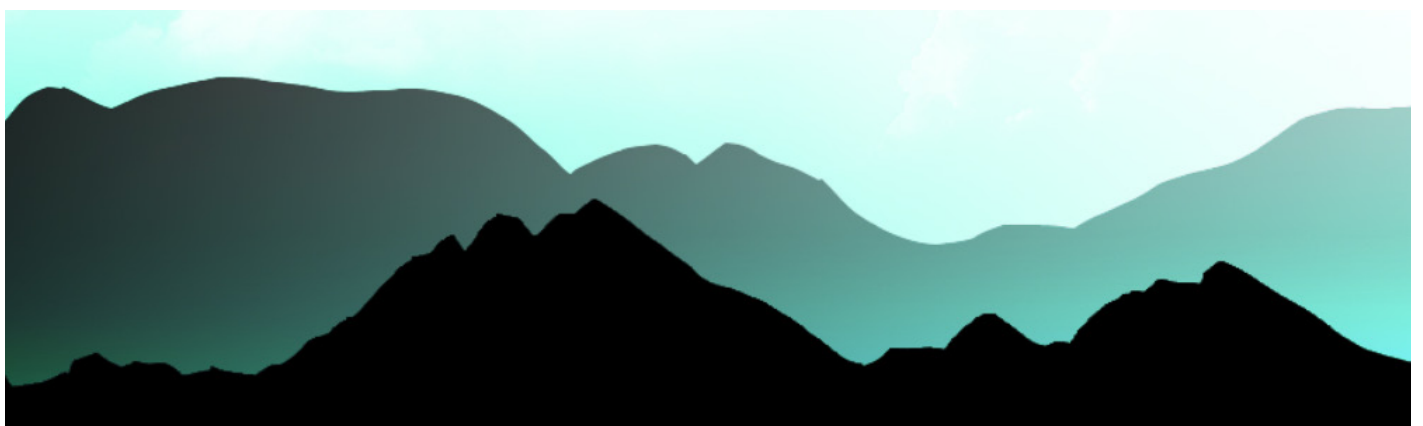
Complete your essay and attached form on or before May 1, 2017. You may submit electronically in Word format to scholarship@issaquahalps.org. You should receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application within 2-3 days. Winning funds will be applied to college tuition or related expenses.

APPLICATION

Name _____ School _____

Home Address _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email address _____



Walk in Hike Leaders' Shoes To Stan's Overlook

By Gail Folkins

Coffee in hand, hikers assembled, and sign-ups collected, four of us – two leaders and two participants – carpool to the Rattlesnake Mountain trailhead for our IATC hike to Stan's Overlook. While it's my first hike as a leader, I have welcome assistance from an experienced co-leader, Rachel Hopkins.

From Snoqualmie, the trailhead is close. We trade athletic shoes for hiking boots and gauge the weather, wondering if the rain will hold off long enough for us to make the 2-mile hike up to the overlook and back. Our group is small but friendly and ready for an outdoor break on this late-afternoon Monday in late fall.

We weave through the familiar woods at the start of the trail, Rachel leading to start while I bring up the rear. There aren't too many other hikers out this time of day and in this uncertain weather, the rain holding its breath for now.

This trail, located near Snoqualmie, offers a gradual ascent to start, the sound of I-90 not far away. Deeper into the woods, past an old-growth, pink cedar stump and moss-covered deciduous trees, the highways sounds are replaced by a creek rumbling loud from recent rains along with the few varieties of birds that have stayed for winter.

The trail steepens at its midpoint, and our pace evens. With a group this small, it's easy to gauge the pace or to stop to shed a layer or take a quick water break. It's also easy to involve everyone in the conversation, whether what kind of rain jacket works best or local hiking goals for summer.

We pass the time in quick strides, hiking the last flat stretch of trail until we reach our goal, the overlook, which offers a picnic bench and a view of Mount Si and the Cascades, even on cloudy day. We drink water, munch snacks, and comment on the luck we've had – no rain yet.

This doesn't hold on the way down, when showers pelt us, though the big conifers protect us most of the way. I lead the descent, Rachel bringing up the

THE TIGER NAME?

People often ask why the mountain is named Tiger. When IATC members Ken and Judy Becker posed that question recently, two possibilities were suggested.

Steve Williams suggested the name might have come from the profusion of Tiger Lily plants that previously grew in the Tradition Lake area.

Dave Kappler, having chatted years ago with Mr. Hailstone of the only family residing in the High Point area, got a different response. Hailstone claimed he could hear the tigers howling high up the mountain. Kappler points out that cougars or mountain lions were sometimes called tigers, among other names. Who really knows?

Next mystery: How and why did the old bus wind up in its position on Tiger's Bus Trail, for which it is named, of course?

rear, and it's on this stretch we start talking about popular culture and recent shows, whether *Poldark*, *Outlander*, or *A Place Called Home*. We share so many ideas, we're back to the trailhead before we know it, the rain falling in earnest and making my mind wander back to our earlier discussion on effective rain gear. On the trip back to our meeting point, we vow to do another hike soon, whether this mountain or one nearby, with more stories to share.

Tips for Day Hikes:

- Remember the 10 essentials (see full list at <http://issaquahalpsorgHikesEvents/10Essentials>). Bring water, a snack, have an idea of the route, and more.
- Gauge the distance to see how long you'll be out – your hike leader can help with this.
- Make sure you have a Discover Pass or other permits, or carpool with someone who does.
- Remember Washington weather is often changeable – dress in layers.
- Daypacks aren't required, but can help you carry water, a snack, an extra layer, and other small items (see 10 essentials list).

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 15

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
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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.

Don't forget to renew your membership!

- \$20 Membership Renewal (PDF Newsletter)
- \$25 Membership Renewal (Print Newsletter)

IMPORTANT: This form and your donation and/or membership request form should be mailed to:
IATC Foundation, P.O. Box 351, Issaquah, WA 98027