



Issaquah Alps
TRAILS CLUB

— EST. 1979 —

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New Leaders Emerge to Keep IATC Alive

(Ed. Note: This article from the winter 2008 Alpiner was written to illustrate the effect of deaths by club leaders as well as the resiliency of IATC.)

By Doug Simpson

Just a few years ago, I was the new guy in the club. Because I had some ideas, I was reluctantly rushed into the club presidency before I was comfortable with the responsibility. After all, this was the club that had built its status and reputation through the efforts of giants like Harvey Manning, Bill Longwell, Jack Hornung, Ralph Owen, Dave Kappler, Ken Konigsmark, Steve Drew and many other outstanding leaders. Who was I to step into their shoes after just one year on the IATC board?

No longer president after four years in that office, am now third in seniority on the board—after Konigsmark and Scott Semans. In recent years three of our giants have passed away, in order Hornung, Manning and Longwell. Others have moved away or retired. How can a small club like IATC survive such losses?

One thing life has taught me is that no one is indispensable. After several years of leadership from Konigsmark and Drew, somehow with their help I managed to keep

the club functioning at a fairly high level. Now we are led by Steve Williams, who stepped up as I did when the need arose. IATC is indeed fortunate to have Steve as its president after his twenty-plus years of experience as manager of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. He brings valuable knowledge and new ideas that are revitalizing the club.

Similarly, when Fred Zeitler stepped down as hikes coordinator after year of exemplary leadership, the club seemed to have a serious crisis on its hands. No one person could or would do all that Fred had been doing, but a trio of capable and caring members—Jackie Hughes, Melinda Livingstone and Joe Toyne—took on the task and have done stellar work.

David Langrock and Sue Johnson were both very capable webmasters for the club, but needed to step down. And now Richard Amadei has taken control of the website (issaquahalps.org) and promises to further improve the efforts of his predecessors.

You get the idea. We're a little like the mythological hydra-headed monster. Lop off one head and another grows back. The recent losses of Manning and Longwell were very great ones to endure. But the Issaquah Alps Trails Club is a strong organization that countless people care about. When the need arises for new blood—and it will from time to time—there is always someone to step up take care of business.

Forest Health and Wildfire in the Issaquah Alps

by David Kappler, VP of Advocacy

King Conservation District and WSU Extension Service gave a presentation on wildfire issues impacting the Issaquah Alps at the Issaquah Library. With 90% of fires in our area having a human related start and not from lightning we need to be aware of the increased threat wildfire presents to our community.

The forest fire threat is increasing with higher summer temperatures and drier summer conditions resulting from global climate change. Conditions are further complicated by the increasing death of trees from lack of soil moisture and disease issues. Cedars, hemlocks and big leaf maples are dying at a faster rate than in the past due to summer drought conditions. Additionally, around Issaquah laminated root rot areas are expanding. The problem is apparent on and around the Tradition Lake plateau area. This disease may take many years to kill a big Douglas fir, but combining a tree with damaged roots and less available water for the working roots to reach tree death rates are likely going to increase.

For example, about twenty large Douglas firs will be taken out of the area between the East Sunset Trailhead and the nearby abandoned railroad grade. The patch of root rot along the Around the Lake Trail near the viewing platform overlooking Tradition Lake has significantly increased in the last few years.

Back to the concern about 90% of western Washington fires being started by humans: keep an eye out for people being careless with campfires, fireworks and the like. You may be wise to not confront them, but reporting them may make a big difference to our Alps.



Example of trees killed by Root Rot. Photo Credit USDA Forest Service

[Hannah Wheeler](#) December 18, 2019

IATC History- Chapter 28 (2008): Longwell Remembered

By Doug Simpson

January - March: Longwell and Trailwork

This issue of the *Alpiner* and the next were heavily devoted to the passing of William K. Longwell on November 28, 2007. Longwell, IATC's Chief Ranger, was perhaps the most important person in the evolution of the hiking club. He hiked voraciously in the Alps and elsewhere, developed and built trails on Squak and Tiger mountains, wrote IATC's most popular guidebook (*Guide to the Trails of Tiger Mountain*) and countless articles for the *Alpiner*, served for 26 years on the club's board of directors, and was a friend and inspiration to all. He was just 71.

Longwell was a true Renaissance Man, knowledgeable in history and literature, and taught both for thirty years at Hazen High School and brought many of his students onto his trailwork projects. He loved classical music and played the violin himself. He was devoted to Mimi, his wife of 44 years; together they raised two daughters (Gretchen and Ann), who became avid hikers and wilderness campers. He had other hobbies—record-keeping, woodworking and sports; he served as scorekeeper for state basketball tournaments. He was active in his church. How did he find time for all of this? And he was the ultimate gentleman.

The last original article Longwell wrote was in this issue, headlined "Scrounge," in which he recorded his constant searching for boards and other materials to be used to develop and shore up trails and bridges in the Issaquah Alps. For example, abandoned railroad ties. "I collected scores of them," he wrote, "and backpacked them to the slopes of Tiger to shore up the TMT. In 1983-84, I carried 24 railroad ties (80 pounds at a time) to bridge sites."

The National Recreation Trails Program presented grant funding of 40 projects, nine "beneficial to the terrain of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club," most in the amount of \$75,000. Areas benefited were on Squak Mountain, Tiger Mountain, Little Si, Granite Mountain and the Snoqualmie Lake Trail, as well as funding for the Mountains to Sound Greenway, King County Parks and the Alpine Lakes Wilderness projects.

A trio of sources, under the efforts of Interagency Coordinator Margaret Macleod, purchased 69 acres on Squak Mountain (the M & H Development) as green space for \$1.8 million. The donors were King County, Issaquah Park Board funds and the state's Recreation and Conservation Office.

Four of Tiger Mountain's 24 bridges were set for replacement by the State Department of Natural Resources with NOVA funds (Non-Highway Offroad Vehicle Authority).

Ironically, on the day of Bill Longwells's death (November 28th) an important link in the trail system was officially opened: a one-mile paved section from High Point to the East Lake Sammamish Trail. Ten feet wide, it is suitable for hikers and bikers.

April – June: Williams Becomes President

At the club's annual meeting in January, Steve Williams was elected president. The other elected officers were Ken Konigsmark and Doug Simpson, vice presidents, and reelected as treasurer and secretary were Jackie Hughes and Sally Pedowitz. Elected to the board were Joe Toynbee, Sally Davies and Larry Hanson. Reelected were Karen Tom and Richard Mann.

Ann Fletcher and Dave Kappler planned a series of family hikes for school age children and their parents. Participants were to meet at the Issaquah Library and then proceed to Issaquah Creek in April, Lake Sammamish Park in May, and Tiger's Tradition Plateau in June. Sponsors were IATC, Friends of the Issaquah Library and the Issaquah Environmental Council.

Former active IATC member Fred Weinmann discussed Harvey Manning's expansion of the club's "Ten Hiking Essentials" to add an 11th, a Teddy Bear hike, a tradition of Manning's which Weinmann maintained after moving to Port Townsend in 2004.

The rest of the issue, besides a holdover article by Longwell about signage, consisted of tributes to Longwell after his recent demise. Articles were written by Marty Hanson—"Bill's Mountain"; Ken Konigsmark—"Our Mountain Man"; Joe Toynbee—"A Very Special Person"; Doug Simpson—"Longwell Stood Tall"; and Arlene Williams—"Bill's Profound Impact." Hanson wrote of Longwell's knowledge and love of Tiger Mountain. Konigsmark focused on his love of the wildlands and "the majesty of mountains, forests, meadows and trails." Toynbee cited his deep passion for the natural world. Simpson wrote of his gentlemanly demeanor and his personal complexity. Williams, from shoulder rehab (like Longwell), spent hours over weeks taking in his "profound impact" as he told of trails, hikes and trips relating to the outdoors he loved. She concluded: "Bill Longwell was an extraordinarily humble servant and an angel on earth. It's our duty now to be good stewards of what he's left for us."

An estimated 150 people attended the tribute to Longwell held on Tiger Mountain February 18th. Speeches were given by long-time friends Joe Toynbee, Larry Hanson and Dave Kappler. Honorary hikes were led by Toynbee, Ken Hopping and Ron Howatson, with some 50 participants.

July – September: Another Winner of Kees Award

More Longwell. . . Bill's wife Mimi accepted for her husband the annual Ruth Kees Award for a sustainable community. The overdue award is given to one who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to environmental protection. Last year it went to IATC's Ken Konigsmark.

Marty Hanson wrote a feature story about berry-picking on Tiger Mountain, where the Hanson family resided. Marty drew an analogy of berry-picking to life itself. She advised taking some time looking for berries, not to rush. "Being in a hurry is not good—so many treasures are not found by moving too fast. . . sometimes the best berries are just out of reach. . . take that extra step, reach out and stretch a little to achieve the prize." Good advice for all of us!

After winter storms severely damaged and closed Tiger Mountain's Swamp Creek and Big Tree trails, they were reopened thanks to a grant from the National Recreation Trails Program funding over 2,000 hours of labor by the Mountains to Sound Greenway.

Vice-President Doug Simpson, chairman of the committee to raise funds for the Harvey Manning statue, appealed to readers to help them reach the \$65,000 needed for the project. By May, 68 individual donors had given from \$25 to \$5,000 and organizations \$39,500, leaving IATC still short by several thousand dollars.

October – December: Hike Totals Increase

A large timber harvest resulted in closure of the Tiger Traverse Trail up to the South Tiger summit. The expected \$850,000 would provide revenue for public education, state institutions and county services. Few hikers would be inconvenienced.

President Steve Williams wrote about people's reactions on the trail register atop Cougar Mountain. Most comments were overwhelmingly positive. He counted visitors from 22 foreign countries and 35 states. "Our little hills really are functioning as regional wildland Alps," he wrote.

Sally Davies reported that pioneer trailblazer Will Thompson had passed away at age 91. A legend among veteran hikers, there were few trails that Thompson had not explored and guided others to. He also did extensive trailwork on Mount Si and Tiger Mountain.

Hikes Coordinator Joe Toynbee pointed out that hike totals were up to 10.3% per hike, above the recent figure of nine per outing. He noted the distribution of hikes—24 on Tiger, 21 on Cougar, 10 on Squak and 15 at other destinations for the period studied.

Doug Simpson reported that the goal of \$65,000 for the Harvey Manning statue had been met.

Just three newcomers led hikes in 2008: *Sally Davies, Jean Lanz and Katharine Wisman.*

IATC Member David Kappler Writes Letter of Support for Critical Park Addition

Longtime volunteer and board member of the IATC David Kappler wrote a letter of support for a potential new park addition near Red Town Trailhead called Park Pointe to King County Council Member Claudia Balducci. See the letter in full below.

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

First, thank you for your leadership on climate issues and supporting the acquisition of the Bergsma property adjoining the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park in Issaquah.

I had a short discussion with you before the start of the Bellevue City Council meeting Tuesday night about the proposed PUD- Park Pointe on the southern edge of Bellevue and across the street from King County's Red Town Trailhead.

The proposal is on properties once owned by Milt Swanson and his brother. Two primary reasons for Bellevue to acquire the property deal with connecting Bellevue's Coal Creek Natural Area with King County's Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. One connection is to improve wildlife travel and another is make the connection between the two parks safer for humans. The existing crossing is too close to the curve to the south near the Newcastle-Bellevue border. The amount of traffic and the speeds traveled on this road both keep increasing.

The city and the county have had acquisition of this property on their wish list, but have not had a willing seller. Development of this property is complicated by coal mines, some easement/deed restrictions and basic water and sewer utilities being about a half a mile away.

The key to the acquisition of the Bergsma property was the owner became a willing seller as he faced huge development costs with a steep road, many retaining walls, storm water vaults and needed frontage road requirements.

The Trust for Public Land was able to work with the owner and the Trust was able to give Issaquah a one year three million dollar interest free loan to make the purchase possible for Issaquah.

Our hope is that the county and the city would ask TPL to simply explore with the owner the possibility of acquisition by the city. Perhaps such discussions have taken place in the past and maybe they are happening now, but in any case they need to occur in the present time.

The Trails Club is working with the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust to plan the 30th Anniversary Mountains to Sound Trek. On Saturday July 18 the trekkers and others will hike from Issaquah starting on a new trail through Bergsma, across Cougar Mountain to the Red Town Trailhead and take their chances crossing Lakemont Blvd. to Bellevue's Coal Creek Natural Area and then on to Newcastle Beach Park.

King County will be celebrating with Issaquah the Bergsma acquisition, what a great day it could be for the county to celebrate with Bellevue a Park Pointe acquisition as well!

Sincerely,

David Kappler

VP Advocacy

Issaquah Alps Trails Club

On June 28, 2007, I reached a major personal hiking goal, 50,000 miles. That's twice around the globe. This milestone came on a hike with companions on the Snoqualmie Valley Trail from Rattlesnake Lake to the small town of Snoqualmie. Basically, this accumulation of miles began in 1959 when I was 23 years old and began tallying each of my hikes. This year I am 71 and have kept that hiking tally for 49 years. . .

My total hikes since that 1959 list? **4972** hikes on **5275** days. Rain or shine. Twelve months a year. **2370** of those hikes solo. A 1992 retirement provided a boon to my hiking. Walking three to four times a week since then has boosted the total almost by half.

I keep all kinds of hiking lists. Foremost is the list of the hundreds of times I've hiked with my two daughters over the past 40 plus years. I keep bird and flower lists. . . Other lists? I have a half-century record of back country wilderness hikes (779), a list of my birthday hikes, cross-country hikes—no trail (77), solo and companion hikes, hikes on the PCT (almost 400), day hikes of 20 plus miles (217), Olympic ocean beach hikes (45), and Olympic Mountain hikes (31). Another list includes my trail work party hikes. Like a persistent runner, I know exactly how many miles I hike each time.

Until a recent lung disease curtailed most elevation hikes, elevation never deterred me. I climbed up trails as fast as I could descend them. Some of my favorite day hikes (I also backpacked them) included the PCT from Chinook Pass to White Pass. . . I did that 30-mile hike 27 times over the years. I've often hiked the Columbia Gorge on both sides of the river, hiked the Mt. Defiance Trail from I-90 exit 47 to Ken's Truck Town, about 24 miles (24 times). I walked a dozen times from Snoqualmie Pass to Park Lake and back in a day, about thirty miles, and walked around Granite Mountain (I-90, Melakwa, Tuscohatchie and Pratt lakes (44 times). Recently a favorite hike followed an American Ridge route that included Mesatchee Creek, the PCT near Chinook Pass and the Dewey Creek Trail. I walked the Chelan Lakeshore 19 times and have hiked into Stehekin 32 times on various trails. Of course, I hiked between Stevens Pass and Snoqualmie Pass in segments or the whole way over 60 times. I once walked between these passes in three days in dawn-to-dusk hiking. For almost 50 years I've walked from Spur 10 in Weyerhaeuser lands to Hancock, Calligan, and Moolock lakes and back.

Since my lung problems I've taken to a more measured, level hiking regimen and have walked seemingly countless times along the Iron Horse Trail, on Snoqualmie Tree Farm lands, along the Snoqualmie Valley Trail, and between North Bend and Issaquah along the King County Trail there. A person can't stay young forever, but I've had a good run.

My 5000-plus hikes include 268 backpacks in the three Western states, totaling about 8000 miles. Sixty-seven backpacks covered more than 50 miles and 24 of them were solo backpacks. Of course, my backpacks included the PCT from the Canadian border almost to Mt. Lassen in California. I've hiked the whole Cascade Crest Trail in Washington State twice, once on the old Cascade Crest Trail (original route) in the 60's and 70's and once on the current trail route in the 80's and 90's. My favorite backpack still remains the Chelan summit Trail #1259. That I've walked eight times. With numerous side trips and climbs, I have hiked up to 50 miles along this high and scenic trail in an eight-day backpack. Also, I try to backpack along the Olympic National Park Ocean Strip at least once a year.

Then came the "other" backpacks—380 of them, trail work-parties where I carried heavy machines to build or clear trails. . . handsaws, . . . iron wedges, loppers, all types of hardware, axes and sledge hammers. Through my hiking years I've had a hand in 1526 trail work-parties, many of them multi-day and 800 of them solo. . . It took me with a group of companions 16 years to build the 16-mile long Tiger Mountain Trail (TMT). . .

Much of my hiking in winter months followed pavement. In the 1980's and 90's I often took pavement walks after teaching a day at school. After leaving my home in the Renton Highlands, I walked to Bellevue or walked through Renton to Tukwila and picked up the Green River Trail to amble all the way to Auburn or until my wife got off work to pick me up. Fifteen miles. During two years in the late 1980's, I walked over 2000 miles doing this. And, without injuries.

So I count myself as indeed blessed that my body has kept up with my ambitious hiking intentions. With all my 50,000 miles, long back packs (seven over a 100 miles), hundreds of 20-30 mile day-hikes and cross-country hikes, I've never suffered an injury. Two small knee operations kept me from hiking only a few days. Only in the past year or so have my feet changed (common for older people), and so I have hiking boots I can no longer wear. I wear light walking shoes now. . .

Hiking. My life-long endeavor. 50,000 miles. Just a beginning.

**Giving and Saving: A Testimonial from one of our
longest serving volunteers and board leaders,
David Kappler**

Dear Friends of the Issaquah Alps:

I first heard about this crazy phrase "Issaquah Alps" in 1976 from some guest newspaper editorials. At the time I lived in May Valley at the base of Cougar Mountain and got up the courage to call the inventor of the phrase, well known author and environmental activist Harvey Manning. So you can figure I must be pretty old. Old enough to have to take the Required Minimum Distribution from my IRA account or really pay a heavy tax on the amount I was supposed to have withdrawn. Remembering that all my money in an IRA has not been taxed I have the option of giving some of that money to a qualified charity tax free if the money comes straight out of my account to a qualified charity.

I still give smaller donations to other charities by personal check, but for larger donations I am having them come directly out of my retirement account and thus untaxed. This year I am really pleased to give a significant donation to the club with some direction how I would like to see it spent. My interests include helping fund signage and improvements to the former Bergsma property and helping to support volunteer work parties to deal with some real bad infestations of ivy and other invasive plants on city and county property.

I can't force the club to do a certain thing with my gift, but since I'm stuck doing a RMD for as long as I live I expect they will do their best to honor my request especially since my parents both lived well into their 90s!

How to Give and Save

If you are 70 ½ and would like to support the IATC with a tax free gift from your IRA, please contact your financial advisor or IRA account administrator. If you have questions about making a donation, you are welcome to contact Lindsay Frickle, Executive Director of the IATC at (206) 940-2816.

If you are interested in learning more about giving tax dollars to a non-profit doing great work, we recommend reading this article from [Market Watch](#) for more information. Please consider supporting the mission of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club with a donation from your IRA, and thank you for your ongoing support!



IATC History-Chapter 27 (2007): Manning and Longwell

IATC History--Chapter 27: 2007

MANNING AND LONGWELL

By Doug Simpson

January – March: Harvey Remembered

On January 3, the recently deceased Harvey Manning was honored at Tibbetts Manor in Issaquah. Books, pictures, and other memorabilia were on display, a few

speeches about Harvey were given, and a slide show was presented. It was well-attended by friends, associates and admirers. The event was sponsored by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, the North Cascades Conservation Council and the Mountaineers.

Bill Longwell contributed an essay on Ruth Ittner, whom he described as “the inspiration and guiding force behind the Tiger Mountain Trail. She was a noted lobbyist and was also dedicated to trail-building. She is credited with the building of the Iron Goat Trail. According to Manning, “Ruth has long been our patron saint of the trails.”

Trail work projects nearing completion were the new trailhead at Snoqualmie Point, the reconstruction of the West Tiger 3 Trail and various improvements to Squak Mountain trails.

April – June: More Manning Tributes

To participate in Earth Day on April 22, Scott Semans and IATC organized a large work party to work on trails. The club’s trail working efforts continued after a busy 2006. Longwell reported that on 412 days, 408 trailwork trips were made by IATC for 694 worker days and 4228 worker hours. (Note: See the separate article for more examples of Longwell’s meticulous record-keeping.) On Tiger Mountain alone, 125 trips were made to spend 1067 hours working on 23 trails. Squak Mountain had 88 trips and 1174 hours on eight trails.

In a separate article, Longwell praised the trailwork efforts of Jim Cadigan, who was also IATC’s treasurer for several years. Cadigan is credited with “closing the gap,” connecting the Preston, Snoqualmie Falls trail to Preston by finishing the trail into Snoqualmie itself. He is also credited with a major role in building the club’s trail up Little Si.

In a Manning follow up, Brian Boyle, former Commissioner of Public Lands wrote about the IATC leader. Boyle who had hiked with Harvey a few times and later drank with him at the Rolling Log Tavern, stated: “I knew that whatever he said was vested in reality and observation. . . and I would believe it and take it to the bank. . . we learned that people could be trusted to help agencies plan critical for critical resources.”

Ralph Owen announced plans for his second year leading the July 4 fireworks viewing hike, this time from Poo Poo Point. Last year was the first such July 4 outing after a gap of some twenty years.

Governor Christine Gregoire, on official state letterhead, sent IATC a copy of her proclamation announcing Wednesday, January 3, 2007 as a day of tribute and remembrance of Harvey Manning. It included seven “whereas” statements as well as a final “therefore,” citing his “legacy of advocacy and leadership to the people of Washington State.”

July – September: Progress and Honors

Progress continued this summer with the forthcoming completion of the 8.5 acres Snoqualmie Point Park and availability of King County tax levies that would extend the East Lake Sammamish Trail with links to the Bear Creek and Sammamish River trails. The Snoqualmie Park, called “a hidden jewel,” would have besides parking spots, a picnic site, restrooms and a viewing perch.

Efforts were actively underway to solicit funds for a Harvey Manning statue to be erected in downtown Issaquah.

Bill Longwell continued his series on birds prevalent in the Alps, and Harvey Manning added to his series of “Reflections on Cougar” stories.

Ken Konigsmark was honored by the City of Issaquah as the 2007 recipient of the Ruth Kees award for environmental stewardship. Kees said, “I couldn’t approve more thoroughly of a candidate than I do of Ken Konigsmark.” Konigsmark noted how new environmental stewardship has progressed from controversial advocacy to a more collaborate, inclusive process.

Longwell wrote a feature story, “Twice Carried Boards,” about IATC’s trail crews bridge-making efforts on Tiger Mountain, sometimes using logs over again as bridges were moved or rebuilt.

October – December: Washingtonian Hikers

A Washington Trails Association report showed that nearly of all state residents went hiking at least once in a year. And one in three persons identified themselves as hikers, backpackers, trail runners or climbers.

Bridge-building continued in the Issaquah Alps with three new ones completed in recent months. The Bear Ridge Connector Bridge linked the Talus community to the Cougar Mountain trail system. On Tiger Mountain, replacement bridges were implemented on the Bus Trail and the Wilderness Lake Trail.

Bill Longwell discussed his efforts to restore some of the views on Middle Tiger which had been lost over the years to tree growth. Unfortunately, due to directional

uncertainty and fog, his crew topped some twenty trees only to reveal a glorious vista of a major King-County dump, Cedar Hills land fill, rather than Mt. Rainier the Cedar Hills dump.

With a stable crew of experienced hike leaders, only two newcomers led hikes for IATC in 2007: *Kyle Brummert* and *Jay Wilson*.

Bergsma Purchase Celebration

The efforts of grass-roots citizens, non-profit organizations and government agencies have all come to fruition - all funds necessary for the public purchase of the Bergsma parcel are in-the-bag. The milestone was celebrated on November 13 at the Harvey Manning Park at Talus, which abuts the Bergsma parcel. The event was sponsored by the City of Issaquah, in partnership with The Trust for Public Land, King County and the citizen group Save Cougar Mountain.

Speeches were made, followed by a short hike on the newly acquired parcel.

By way of background, the land is located on the northeast corner of Cougar Mountain between Newport Way Northwest and Talus has been proposed for development – most recently as 57 homes. It is one of the last significant pieces of privately-owned open space property zoned for development in Issaquah. The acquisition of this parcel will provide a gateway to the trails of Cougar Mountain from the Issaquah Valley floor, and is close to the Issaquah transit center. For more background, visit the [Save Cougar Mountain](#) website.

Here are some photos of the event:



King County Executive Dow Constantine makes a point.



Kay Haynes of Save Cougar Mountain speaks of the grass-roots effort that led to this milestone.



City of Issaquah Mayor Mary Lou Pauly reflects on the challenges that were met.



Kay Haynes cuts the symbolic ribbon-of-boughs so the debut hike can begin.



The hikers pause as David Kappler discusses features of the land with City of Issaquah Parks Director Jeff Watling.



Mission Accomplished - a gem of the "Wilderness Within" protected.

[Tom Anderson](#) November 14, 2019

Book Review: Guterson, David. Turn Around Time. “A Walking Poem for the Pacific Northwest.” Seattle: Mountaineers Press, 2019. 142 pages.

Guterson, David. *Turn Around Time*. “A Walking Poem for the Pacific Northwest.” Seattle: Mountaineers Press, 2019. 142 pages.

By Doug Simpson

David Guterson, best known as a novelist, especially for the outstanding *Snow Falling on Cedars*, of late has been writing primarily poetry. *Turn Around Time*, his second volume of poems, as the subtitle suggests, is about hiking in the Northwest. The Seattle-born and raised Guterson has been a lifetime hiker. He began his outings with elder relatives in the Cascades, and then as an adult now living on Bainbridge Island, he is really into hiking in the Olympic Mountains, mostly described in this volume.

The book is not for everyone, even every hiker, as it is rather scholarly in its vocabulary, its frequent literary allusions, and its random style without much narrative continuity. The title refers to heading back after an outing, though it has “in” and “out” sections. It has twelve chapters that range in length from three pages to five, with lots of quality illustrations by Justin Gibbens.

The poetry is free verse (no rhyme or meter) in five line stanzas with two lines added to conclude each chapter. To see if the poem appeals to you, here are three excerpts that seem to me more cogent to.

They say the key to walking well is joy,

not pain relief, but who are they?

Since joy could rout us from the trail later

and a switchback implies a return.

A cautionary shrink might say much production

Leads surely to dearth, and therefore, pilgrim,
walk undeterred, keep to the middle way.
We'll go that way among diverse "walks"—
this way, tall, on, away, on by, on the wild side,
on sunshine, the line, with me, the dog, on water, (p. 88, 1-10)

... Time leads no guides except those without a reference.
What do we do, then, absent correspondence?
Certain travelers prefer the downhill runaround
and plodding scrutiny across—
fine in summer, risky otherwise.

though those who take a line
can blow it too, as can those, deploying inference,
who enter trail builders' brains,
reading hills as if they held a pick in hand
and had to wield it. (p. 130, 1-10)

... We might end in limbo.
We might free-fall snow-blind
with our lives painted on our glasses.
Let's close a circle in this world, then:

There's a late slant of light to get home in.

We'll bring back freedom,

mingle in markets.

streams will meander,

flowers grow,

and love pour out of mountains. (p. 139, 11-20)

Trailhead Direct Ridership Increases in its Second Season

In its second season of operating, ridership on King County's Trailhead Direct program increased by 75! Trailhead Direct runs from Seattle to some of the most popular trailheads in our area, including the Issaquah Alps! This year, between April and October, Trailhead direct took people to more than 17,500 hikes. Around 7,921 of those hikes were to the Issaquah area, helping to reduce car congestion on roads in town, and free up already limited parking at popular hiking trails such as Poo Poo point.

Did you ride Trailhead Direct this year? If not, why? King County want to hear your feedback! Whether or not you rode on Trailhead Direct this season, you can take the survey [here!](#)

Find out more about Trailhead Direct's success this season, and see what's in store for next season [here!](#)

Yoga Class Runs in Issaquah for Hikers and Trail Runners

Great News IATC members! Local Yoga teacher Lori Heath is teaching a yoga class for hikers and trail runners!

Lori moved to Issaquah in 2015 and absolutely loves living in the Pacific Northwest. She has been practicing yoga since 1999. Although she was initially attracted to yoga for the physical challenge, she soon came to appreciate the more mindful benefits of her yoga practice. Making a positive difference in people's lives is important to Lori, so as her personal practice grew she wanted to bring yoga to other people. Lori earned her 200-hour Hatha Yoga Teacher Training Certificate at All People Yoga Center in Indianapolis in 2002 and studied Iyengar Yoga for several years with Jyoti Hansa. She began teaching vinyasa yoga at various yoga studios in Indianapolis in 2002 and currently teaches yoga in the Seattle area.

Lori appreciates any opportunity to share the joy of yoga with others. She aspires to integrate the physical, mental, and spiritual aspects of yoga in her classes through alignment, conscious breathing, and mindfulness. She hopes you will come to her classes ready to learn and laugh and leave feeling more peaceful, joyful, and contented.

In addition to yoga, Lori also enjoys hiking and trail running. In the four years she's lived in Issaquah, she has gone on countless hikes with both the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and the Mountaineers. She was recently elected to Secretary of the Foothills Branch of the Mountaineers.

Lori is looking forward to this workshop so she can share the synergies of some of the things she loves most: yoga, hiking and trail running!

So why should hikers and trail runners practice yoga? Yoga is a great complement for hiking or trail running. While hiking and trail running tend to shorten and tighten muscles, yoga lengthens muscles and improves flexibility. Plus, yoga is also a great way to develop the core strength and balance essential for hiking or trail running. A consistent

Why should hikers and trail runners practice yoga? Yoga is a great complement for hiking or trail running. While hiking and trail running tend to shorten and tighten muscles, yoga lengthens muscles and improves flexibility. Plus, yoga is also a great way to develop the core strength and balance essential for hiking or trail running. A consistent yoga practice can bring your body into better alignment, stretch tight muscles, and prevent overuse injuries.

During this 2-hour workshop, we'll explore the physical and mental benefits of yoga for hiking and trail running. You'll learn how yoga can:

1. Help you warm-up before a hike or run
2. Help your body recover after a long hike or run
3. Prevent and treat overuse injuries common in hiking trail running
4. Serve as a great strength and endurance cross-training workout.
5. Develop the mindfulness and awareness to take both your performance and training to the next level yoga practice can bring your body into better alignment, stretch tight muscles, and prevent overuse injuries.

See more info on her facebook post here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/903536826685426/>

Online Alpiner October, 2019

IATC Hosts Diversity and Inclusion Workshop



On September 25th the IATC hosted partner organizations and land management agencies for a Diversity and Inclusion Workshop at Camp Terry in Preston. Staff and volunteers from WA State Parks, King County Parks, U.S. Forest Service, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, REI, Save Cougar Mountain, YWCA, YMCA, Issaquah School District, Lake Washington School District, The Downtown Issaquah Association, Wilderness Awareness, Issaquah History Museum, Northwest Avalanche Center, The American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education, City of Sammamish, Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park, and Friends of Issaquah Salmon Hatchery joined the IATC for a four hour workshop facilitated by [The Avarna Group](#). Special thanks is due to the City of Issaquah for partially funding this important training, and [Cypress Coffee Company](#) for providing delicious brew and pastries!

The purpose of this workshop was to connect with our partners in the outdoor industries, education, and civic institutions to build a more socially and environmentally just community. We feel it's our moral responsibility, and intrinsically tied to our mission, to promote diversity and equity in the Issaquah Alps. As a volunteer driven organization, we feel that everyone should have a seat at the table, and that our work should collaborate deeply with our partner organizations. Social and environmental justice issues are interconnected; we can't do one without the other. As a collective group of PNW organizations, we endeavor to create an outdoor recreation environment that serves our diverse community. Everyone deserves to feel a sense of belonging and ownership over our natural environment and public lands.

The IATC will continue our important work on equity and inclusiveness in the outdoors with partner organizations and internally with our Board, Member Advisory Council, Volunteers, and Supporters. If you would like to volunteer to help us with this initiative, please reach out to Lindsay Frickle, Executive Director at exec@issaquahalps.org.

IATC Members Participate in National Public Lands Day

In celebration of National Public Lands Day on September 28th, several members of the IATC participated in a volunteer event hosted by the [Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust](#) throughout the Middle Fork Valley. Tom Anderson and David Kappler worked on the new Garfield Ledges trail, while John Sherwin and Anne Newcomb planted trees, spread cedar chips, and removed invasive species at Granite Creek. Following the event, volunteers were celebrated with food and a raffle hosted by REI. Tom Anderson took many photos of the event, see some of them below!



Doug McClelland welcomes a large group of volunteers to the event.



Joe Olbrych (MTSGT) and Nicky Pasi (MTSGT) lead a trail work party.



View from Garfield Ledges Trail



Volunteers pose at the top of the Garfield Ledges Trail.



Volunteers work near the top of the Garfield Ledges Trail.



Tom Anderson working in the trail.



After a hard day's work Ken Konigsmark and David Kappler celebrate with some lunch.

[Hannah Wheeler](#) October 18, 2019

IATC Annual Fund Campaign is a Huge Success!



Thank you to all of our generous donors who made the IATC's inaugural Annual Fund Campaign a huge success. With your help, we exceeded our goal and raised over \$40,000 for the IATC's 40th Anniversary year! This huge milestone wouldn't have been possible without the support of so many friends and volunteers. A special thanks also goes out to our Board of Directors, who made it possible to offer donors a matching challenge, doubling the impact of gifts made during the campaign.

Much gratitude goes out to our donors for investing in our trails, wildlands, and parks. All support raised during the campaign will go straight to the heart of our mission -- advocacy. The generosity of our community will help citizen activists organize, mobilize, and influence on a broader and deeper level than ever before. We have much more to do to ensure that our trails and public lands are preserved and maintained.

Plans are underway for an Advocacy Workshop to inform and empower citizen activists who want to help protect our public lands. Last month the IATC hosted a Diversity and Inclusion Workshop and we plan to implement several key take-aways through our Hiking Program, and in collaboration with partner organizations. Additionally, in January we will host our Second Annual Public Forum featuring a panel of land agency representatives from the City of Issaquah and Sammamish, State Parks, Washington State DNR and King County Parks. In the spring, we'll invite our community to participate in a public art mosaic project, featuring the Issaquah

Alps and commemorating the past 40 years of conservation efforts. Throughout next summer we plan to significantly increase volunteer participation and public engagement through the mosaic project, our Trailhead Ambassador, and Hiking programs.

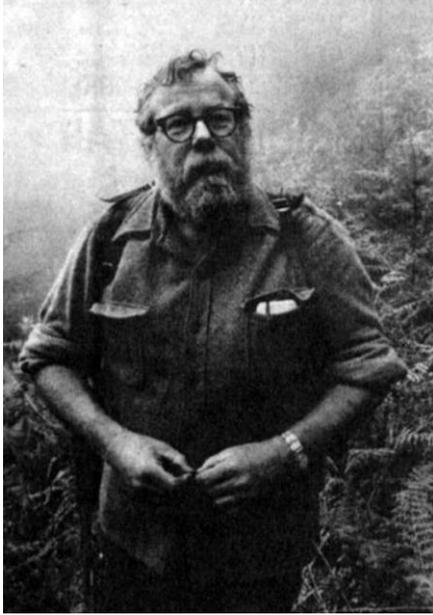
Thank you again to those who supported the IATC with a donation during our "Save our Trails" Annual Fund Campaign. Your generous gifts will help the IATC continue to engage the public to preserve, protect, and promote the land, wildlife, and trails of the Issaquah Alps for present and future generations.

The Tiger Mountain Trail 40th Anniversary

Forty years ago, on October 13, 1979, the Grand Opening hike of the newly-built Tiger Mountain Trail was conducted. About 30 people participated in the hike, undaunted by the rain and fog. The Issaquah Press covered the event under the headline "Fog Doesn't Spoil Trail's Debut." The coverage included the following photo of the group on the trail:



Harvey was there, too, looking a bit soggy.



The trail was first envisioned in May, 1972, by a committee of *The Mountaineers* headed by Ruth Ittner. Bill Longwell was also a member of that committee. (Remember that at that time, the IATC did not exist.) There were many obstacles with the land owners to be worked out during those early years, but they were resolved and construction commenced in 1977. Bill Longwell enlisted help of his students at Renton's Hazen High School, and the trail began to take shape. Bill estimated the effort to construct the initial 10.3 mile trail at 1355 construction hours and 288 worker days.

Work continued on improving and extending the trail over the following decade, finally reaching a length of 16 miles. The ragtag band of club members and Hazen HS students who pushed forward on this labor-of-love came to be known as "Longwell's Army." Here pictured is Bill Longwell affixing mile markers along the trail in 1990:



In that era, stylized "TMT" signs were also installed. Not many are left. Keep an eagle-eye out!



Photos by Larry Hanson and the Issaquah Press.

IATC History-Chapter 26 (2006): IATC Stretches to Greenway

Chapter 26: 2006

IATC STRETCHES TO GREENWAY

By Doug Simpson

January – March: Marathon to Greenway

In an article on the Issaquah Alps, Joe Toynbee pointed out the various peaks in each mountain. Cougar Mountain is about 3,000 acres with over 50 miles of hiking trails. Its summit is 1,595 feet at Wilderness Peak. Squak Mountain has about 2,440 acres of public ownership divided between King County and Washington State Parks. The highest point is just about 2,000 feet at Central Peak. Tiger Mountain is the largest and highest, with 13,500 acres of Tiger Mountain State Forest, and East Tiger is the highest point at 3,004 feet; Tiger has over 100 miles of trails.

On his resignation as Hikes Coordinator, Fred Zeitler reviewed his seven-year term (1998-2004), during which 1,004 hikes were led, with 8,962 hikers for an average of 8.9 per hike. Zeitler noted a decline in 2005, which he attributed to the club's hikes not being listed in newspapers or on the web.

A lengthy article reviewed the IATC career of Jack Hornung, who first took on a rehabilitation of Squak Mountain trails after years of relative neglect, and then promoted “marathon hikes,” which became known as Grand Traverses. In one letter, Hornung wrote about IATC’s “good people”—Harvey Manning, Dave Kappler, Bill Longwell, Ralph Owen, Gail Palm, Rodi Ludlum, Lauren McLane, Stan Unger, Gus Nelson, Tom Wood and Ted Thomsen. “These leaders of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club are a CEO’s dream—you couldn’t BUY this assemblage of talent,” he wrote.

Meanwhile, Ralph Owen elaborated on IATC’s first two Grand Traverses. The first was 26 miles with 6,500 feet of total elevation gain on October 29, 1988. The second, slightly longer, was on September 30, 1989. Both, Owen wrote, were results of Jack Hornung’s “marathon hike” idea and preceded the eventual establishment of the Mountains to Sound Greenway. The article is an excellent history of how these marathons were created and carried out.

April – June: IATC and Greenway Set in Motion

The club president reported that county officials and the U.S. Department of Interior were closing off large areas of the Cougar Mountain park due renewed danger from fires underground from old coal mining shafts. Possible cave-ins represent great danger. The biggest threat where areas were closed off is in the northwest section of the park.

Cougar Mountain trails were rated #15 in the nation in the Top 100 Trails by Trails.com.

At IATC's annual meeting January 26 two veterans were added to the club's board of directors—Bill Longwell and Steve Williams, now retired from his long-time post as manager of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. Doug Simpson, Ken Konigsmark, Jackie Hughes and Sally Pedowitz were reelected as president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary. By-laws changes approved were making the club presidency a two-year term and initiating a new position of president-elect. Former president Steven Drew and former treasurer Frank Gilliland left the board as they were moving out of the area.

Bill Longwell discussed the development of the IATC concept. "In the beginning. . . was Harvey Manning and friends. . . and the bus 210 bus." Longwell explained: "It seemed in those early years (the 1970s) that most people who hiked the Issaquah Alps came from Seattle."

After gaining cooperation with the Issaquah Parks Department, the first "Parks" hike was April 7, 1979. Harvey was to lead a hike up to the Middle Tiger summit with Longwell to bring up the rear. "And the rear was a long way back. . . as 68 people showed up in downtown Issaquah early on that Saturday morning. Soon, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club was organized as Manning and friends organized atop Cougar Mountain on the historic "Day of Three Thunderstorms."

In the same issue, Ralph Owen recounted the July, 1990 Mountains to Sound March, an 88-mile, 5-day march from Snoqualmie Pass to the Seattle waterfront. Jack Hornung was asked to represent the club at a meeting of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Commission. His impactful speech led State Representative Gary Locke to request a written proposal, which after written by Hornung was soon responded to by the leadership of Jim Ellis, who called it "one of the best ideas I have seen in a long time." After extensive and elaborate planning and execution, the march came off—and the Mountains to Sound Greenway soon materialized. (Editor's note: both the lengthy articles are well worth reading in their entirety.)

July – September: Issaquah Alps National Park?

The herculean efforts of Manning and Hornung raised visions of an Issaquah Alps National Park. One official asked Manning specifically if that was his goal. Ralph Owen discussed this possibility in the *Alpiner* issue. "Harvey believed that the National Park Services' overall management and planning skills would be the ideal way to coordinate the efforts of the individual land managers in the Issaquah Alps" including King County Parks, State Parks, State DNR, the local cities of Issaquah and Bellevue, the Seattle Water Department and the US Forest Service). Manning proposed this to Congressman Mike Lowry in 1980.

In an article entitled "Tiger Mountain Fireworks," Longwell told not only of Manning-led hikes and campouts up Tiger on July 4 to view fireworks from Seattle, but he also told of the lawlessness on Tiger Mountain in the 1980s. "Hikers in those days would often meet noisy motorbikes bearing down on them, hear constant gunfire, see animal poaching, see tree poaching, and find abandoned cars and garbage dumps." On one July 4 campout with his daughter Gretchen, the Longwells were terrorized by rockets fired east toward their Manning Reach campsite. (Note: camping is no longer allowed on Tiger Mountain.

October – December: Naked Volleyball?

IATC's president discussed the two-sided tug-of-war for Issaquah Park Bond moneys. The club and other "greenies" sought to preserve green space and acquire properties along Issaquah Creek and upon the Alps. The other side aggressively sought athletic fields primarily for soccer fields.

King County Councilman Larry Phillips announced that over a half million dollars was being used to purchase 40 controversial acres on Squak Mountain near the Bullitt Access Trail to preclude development there.

One of Harvey Manning's last articles, entitled "Naked Volleyball Anyone?" was a jocular piece about his confrontation (with friends) with leaders of the Fraternity Snoqualmie nudist colony off the Issaquah-Hobart Road. Manning drew the line over stripping to enter the group's clubhouse. He and Cathy Sarbo of the Seattle PI decided that while "nude is not lewd," Sarbo explained that naked karaoke or naked volleyball would be!

Bill Longwell told of the storm track phenomenon on Tiger Mountain, which presents unusually heavy windstorms on the West Tiger trails and peaks. Whereas "Issaquah receives about 38 inches of rain per year, five or six miles to the east, Preston receives 77 inches of rain." The Raging River, he noted, is the fastest rising river in King County.

The only new hike leaders in 2006 were *Rich Johnson* and *Karen Tom*.

Salmon Days Recap

Another great Salmon Days weekend is in the books. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth to visit.

On the advocacy side, we featured both the “Save Cougar Mountain” and “Save DeLeo Wall” campaigns, which garnered good support from our visitors. Here are a few pics of our booth in action:





Issaquah Mayor Mary Lou Pauly takes the pledge.



IATC President John Sherwin takes the pledge.

New at our booth this year was the opportunity to take the "Leave No Trace" pledge with Mr. Sasquatch (and to take a photo). Many took the pledge, including some local VIPs. Pictured here we have Issaquah Mayor Mary Lou Pauly, IATC President John Sherwin and IATC VP for Advocacy, David Kappler.



IATC Vice President David Kappler takes the pledge.

Our Friend Harvey

By Randy Revelle

(Note: After IATC founder Harvey Manning passed away on Nov. 12, 2006, the club printed a 16-page special edition on Harvey. This, one of many tributes, is by Randy Revelle, who was King County Executive from 1981 to 1985.)

Harvey Manning is one of the most unforgettable characters I have ever met. I will miss him very much. I first met Harvey in 1981, during my successful campaign for King County Executive. Thanks largely to his gift of persuasion, he convinced me to make Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park one of my top priorities.

In September 1981, during my campaign, Harvey and I held a news conference in the fog atop Anti-Aircraft Peak to proclaim that Cougar Mountain Park was at the top of my priority list. More coyotes than people attended the conference.

On June 5, 1983, I was thrilled to sign the Newcastle Ordinance approving the Newcastle Community Plan and officially creating a 2,750 acre Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. We also celebrated the first “Return to Newcastle” sponsored by the Issaquah Alps Trails Club.

On May 21, 1985, standing atop Anti-Aircraft Peak, we formally dedicated the Cougar Mountain Park and officially proclaimed “Harvey Manning Day” throughout King County. Many more people than coyotes attended the dedication.

Through the tireless efforts of many people, especially Harvey Manning, Cougar Mountain Park has become a priceless urban wildland for the people of King County. Harvey was the most dedicated, visionary, courageous, and cantankerous advocate I have ever known. Without him, there would be no Cougar Mountain Park.

In some ways, Harvey was a very private man. So Larry Phillips, chairman of the King County Council, and I felt honored and privileged when Harvey agreed to meet with us at his home some months ago. We spent a fascinating three hours reminiscing about the creation of Cougar Mountain Park and the history of his beloved Issaquah Alps Trails Club. We especially enjoyed Harvey’s sarcastic sense of humor and environmental zeal and wisdom. He was a fascinating man who left a valuable legacy of parks, trails, forests, and wildlife.

Harvey never stopped fighting for his environment causes. The day before Harvey died, Larry Phillips received a letter from him—typed as usual in his unique witty and rambling style on an old typewriter—advocating additional land purchases for Cougar Mountain Park!

[Hannah Wheeler](#) October 12, 2019

Online Alpiner September, 2019

History Corner - 1987 Salmon Days Parade

With Salmon Days near at hand, here is a little flashback to 1987 with our founder, Harvey Manning, as co-Grand Marshal of the Salmon Days parade with local historian Harriet Fish as the other co-Grand Marshal. They rode in style...



Harriet Fish and Harvey Manning - Grand Marshals of the 1987 Salmon Days Parade.



Harvey with his favorite Teddy Bear - the eleventh essential.
Photo credit: Larry Hanson

[Tom Anderson](#) September 26, 2019

Mountains to Sound Greenway, IATC, and Partners Send Joint Letter on SR 18 Widening

A joint letter in support of the SR 18 widening project was sent to Mark Allison, Project Engineer with WSDOT. Our organizations encourage WSDOT to include wildlife habitat connectivity and recreation connections as goals of this important infrastructure project.

September 19, 2019

Mark Allison, Project Engineer

Washington State Department of Transportation

15700 Dayton Ave. North

Seattle, WA 98133

Re: A Future Vision for State Route 18 between Snoqualmie and Maple Valley: WSDOT I-90/SR 18 Interchange Improvements projects

Dear Mark and members of the project team:

Thanks to the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for seeking input to inform the I-90/SR 18 Interchange reconstruction projects. On behalf of our organizations signing on below, please accept our thanks for these important infrastructure improvements.

Collectively, we have invested significant resources and more than two decades of advocacy to preserve the forested character of this rural interchange, just south of the city of Snoqualmie. Instead of mini malls and gas stations, we have a forested gateway to the Cascades. Now, it is time to ensure active transportation access and wildlife connectivity in this special place.

Designing dedicated shared use paths and crossings as part of the planned diverging diamond interchange will help pedestrians and bicyclists move safely through the interchange. Once this is built, a shared use path will connect with planned regional trails to Maple Valley along SR 18, to Snoqualmie Ridge along the Parkway, to Preston along a future extension of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail, and as a potential future route for the nation-wide Great American Rail-Trail, in addition to preserving the scenic character of the I-90/SR-18 interchange.

We will continue to support preservation of scenic character, wildlife habitat, and improved regional trail connections as planning for the interchange moves into its next phase.

Safe connections for wildlife

The Tiger Mountain and Raging River state forests are held in trust to benefit K-12 schools, counties, and junior taxing districts. Further, these vital working forests provide significant wildlife habitat and world class recreation. Improvements to SR 18 should connect these state forest trust lands and protect wildlife habitat in the Raging River basin.

We encourage WSDOT to make connectivity of wildlife habitat a key goal of SR 18 widening design. This phase of SR 18 widening – and future plans for widening all the way south to Maple Valley – should include safe passage for wildlife at river crossings and in key wildlife corridors. The Interstate 90 Snoqualmie Pass East project provides excellent examples of under- and over-crossings for wildlife that aid animal migrations and reduce the risk of collisions.

Safe connections for people

The SR 18 corridor also presents outstanding opportunities for expanding the regional trail network with connections from Snoqualmie south to Maple Valley and west to Preston, and with access to the wildland trails in the East Tiger and Raging River trail systems.

The new infrastructure being planned at the SR 18 interchange does include crossings for bicyclists and pedestrians. We would like to ensure that the design also includes connections for active transportation heading south. As we plan for SR 18 widening, now is the time to ensure that transportation infrastructure also allows for multi-use access beyond the interchange for bicyclists, pedestrians, recreation-seekers and commuters. Any new highway bridges, culverts, and other highway crossing infrastructure needed along SR 18, including over the Raging River and Deep Creek, should be built wide enough to accommodate a regional trail to improve safety, mobility, and access.

Ensuring seamless active transportation options will ensure that everyone has access to these places.

Bridges over Deep Creek and the Raging River: a once-in-a-generation opportunity

Widening the west end of both the planned highway bridge spanning the Raging River and the highway structure planned for Deep Creek will ensure future active transportation regional trail connections envisioned in King County's Regional Trail Plan, while serving the dual purpose of connecting between wildland trail systems on each side of the highway. Designing and engineering SR 18 highway infrastructure for active transportation must happen during this phase of the project, so that a pedestrian and bike path can be constructed during the same timeframe as the SR 18 highway widening project. This important community benefit was identified as a high priority during WSDOT's project outreach and will serve to reduce traffic in the project area by reducing vehicle trips for commuters and residents in the Snoqualmie Valley connecting to recreation trail system assets.

We encourage you to seek additional state funding to complete these projects as needed.

We very much appreciate the Washington State Department of Transportation tackling these complicated and important infrastructure projects that are of vital importance to our region and the state of Washington.

Sincerely,

Amy Brockhaus, Deputy Director, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Brock Milliern, Division Manager – Conservation, Recreation and Transactions

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Katy Terry, Acting Parks Director, King County Parks

Claire Martini, Policy Manager, Cascade Bicycle Club

Alex Alston, State Policy Director, Washington Bikes

Lindsay Frickle, Executive Director, Issaquah Alps Trails Club

Andrea Imler, Advocacy Director, Washington Trails Association

Yvonne Kraus, Executive Director, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

cc: Senator Mark Mullet

Representative Bill Ramos

Representative Lisa Callan

Washington State Secretary of Transportation Roger Millar

Mike Cotten, Regional Administrator, Washington State Department of Transportation

Barb Chamberlain, Director, Active Transportation Division

Justin Nawrocki, Active Transportation Coordinator, Washington State Department of Transportation

Mayor Matt Larson, City of Snoqualmie

An Update on the Bergsma Property

By David Kappler

The Bergsma property acquisition along Newport Way and adjoining the King County Big Tree Trailhead is moving along well. The land is still zoned for residential use and the city could legally sell it to a developer, but the city definitely does not want to do that, but they do need to get both county and state park/open space funds in order to retain the property as park/open space.

King County has approved significant funding to partially pay back Issaquah for their full cash purchase of the property. That funding is working through the county process and all indications are very positive. In order for the city to get the county funding a conservation easement will have to be placed on the land to make sure it stays park.

State funding is also expected, but not in the near future as that is a longer process that involves acquisitions and improvements to lands all over the state.

Issaquah is working through the rezone process to make sure the land is zoned correctly for its long term intended use. Issaquah has been working for years on transportation improvements for the adjoining Newport Way. The community has supported a narrowing of the right of way being used for the road from what was thought necessary if Bergsma was to be developed for housing.

Previous plans for the road including a wider road prism, more extensive and higher retaining walls and loss of large hillside trees and potential damage to additional trees. We have been greatly encouraged with the direction the city has been taking in redefining the appropriate road features with this much desired planned change of use to park and open space.

IATC History-Chapter 25 (2005): Huge Trailwork Efforts

Chapter 25: 2005

HUGE TRAILWORK EFFORTS

By Doug Simpson

January – March: HOW THE TMT CAME ABOUT

Celebrating 25 years of its existence, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club met at Gibson Hall recently. Some 40 active and retired members discussed the club's past and present. Former presidents Barbara Johnson, Dave Kappler and Ken Konigsmark spoke.

Male domination of the club was discussed. Barbara Johnson has been (and still is!) the club's only female president, yet women are usually in the majority on club hikes. And 23 men but only eight women had led club hikes in the past year. The IATC board has always had a large majority of males. Female leaders are sought.

Bill Longwell wrote a lengthy article discussing the origins of the Tiger Mountain Trail, which took some sixteen years from planning to completion. Construction began in 1976 with Longwell's Hazen High students working with him on the trail over a 14-year period. Longwell also gave great credit to DNR's Doug McClelland, Harvey Manning and Joe Toynbee and the Weedwhackers for their significant efforts over the years.

April – June: Massive Trailwork Efforts

In Longwell's annual trailwork report, he called it "an extraordinary year." IATC trail crews made 483 trips to the trails (374 solo), totaling 4352 hours! Scott Semans worked 47 times alone, Rich Johnson 53 days (some for the US Forest Service), and Ken Hopping went on 109 work parties. The December 2003 windstorm dumped at least a thousand trees across Tiger, Squak and Cougar mountains, necessitating major trailwork efforts. At least 75 different trails were worked on. Tiger alone had 157 trips, totaling 1667 worker hours. Squak was next with 31 trips and 595 worker hours.

At the January 31 board meeting, four new members were elected: Sally Pedowitz, Karen Tom, Melinda Livingstone and Richard Mann. Pedowitz became secretary. Livingstone was also a board member in 1985. Doug Simpson, Ken Konigsmark, Steve Drew and Jackie Hughes maintained their positions of the Executive Board.

The club president extolled retiring Steve Williams for his tremendous efforts as manager of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park for the park's first twenty years. "The careful stewardship that Steve brought to those lands will benefit both people and wildlife for generations to come," stated Ken Konigsmark. "Williams credits IATC's Harvey Manning for the concept of the park and cites the vision of politicians Randy Revelle, Larry Phillips and Gary Locke for making the park a reality," the president wrote. Williams cited the need to maintain a balance between preservation and exploration—"to preserve chunks of land for animals and yet to open space for hikers." Niki McBride was appointed Williams' successor, starting March 1.

Hikes Coordinator Fred Zeitler said that the club held 156 hikes in 2004, with a record 1498 hikers participating.

Vice-president Steven Drew was lauded as a community watchdog by the *Issaquah Press* in a winter 2005 issue. He was credited with staying informed on issues of land use, traffic problems, water quality and open space creation and preservation.

A bibliography of the writings of club founder and long-time president was annotated in the *Alpiner*.

July – September: Great Trail Progress

Club leaders were excited about the near completion of the East Lake Sammamish Trail from Issaquah to Redmond and beyond. It was an arduous battle to overcome the objections of local property owners.

The club president lauded not only the early leadership of Harvey Manning, but also the behind the scenes work of Dave Kappler, his first in a series of unsung club heroes.

Issaquah city officials announced that they had received the funds to build a needed one-mile connector from the city streets to the East Sunset Way interchange, an expensive project due to the I-90 interchange and the North Fork of Issaquah Creek with limited space to implement.

Heather Hansen, Squak Mountain park ranger, reported on several Squak projects—rerouting the north end of Phil’s Creek Trail and a new trail for use near the May Valley trailhead. She also noted efforts to spruce up the trails at Ollalie State Park and the popular Twin Falls Trail.

October – December: Zeitler Cites Hike Gains

Local environmentalist Ruth Kees sold over 15 acres of lower Tiger Mountain to the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the Cascade Land Conservancy, enabling the area to remain as green space rather than being developed by builders. “The cougars need a place to live, and the ecosystem needs protection,” she stated.

With Fred Zeitler stepping down as hikes coordinator, the club was in turmoil to manage hike scheduling and coordination. Jackie Hughes, Melinda Livingstone and Joe Toyne committed themselves to keep things rolling.

The president’s second unsung hero was Ron Howatson, tireless Tiger Mountain trailworker (a master with a chainsaw) who worked on over 120 trailwork projects in recent years. He also leads hikes, notably of the 16-mile Tiger Mountain Trail.

In his final Hiker’s Corner column, Zeitler pointed out that over the last eight years, 118 hikes in 1998 increased to 160 last year, and the number of hikers from 969 to about 1500. He commented on the variety of hikes, not just easy to strenuous, but family hikes, dog hikes, flower and bird outings, and woman walk hikes. Hike areas covered extend now farther out the I-90 Mountains to Sound corridor. Of the 30 hike leaders, 14 lead on a quarterly basis. Sixteen of the leaders were new in his eight-year tenure.

IATC legend Jack Hornung passed away. In just a few years in the late 80’s and early 90’s, he was the primary person in pursuing the Mountains to Sound Greenway concept; he initiated the club’s first Grand Traverse in 1988, then organized and led 85 people on a true Greenway trek from the Snoqualmie Summit to the Seattle waterfront. Ted Thompson, IATC member and the founding secretary

of the Mountains to Sound Trust, exclaimed: “Without Jack Hornung, there would be no Mountains to Sound Greenway.” A Harvard-educated easterner, he came west and was very active on Squak Mountain. Joe Toynbee called him “a mad genius, a visionary.”

In a year of great stability in the hiking program itself, the only new hike leader was *Scott Preuter*.

My Extended Family

By Joe Toynbee

(Note: This article is reprinted from the winter 2005 Alpiner issue.)



As readers of the Alpiner know, the IATC publication has a schedule of hikes conducted in the Alps by various leaders. Years ago I stated going on these hikes, and after I learned the terrain started leading some of them myself. At his time, I have participated in about 650 club-sponsored hikes, and have gone on perhaps 450 more with friends or alone. The three primary peaks have over 200 miles of trails: I have been on them all, some countless times.

After spending so much time in the Issaquah Alps, I have come to think of them almost as family. Tiger Mountain, the biggest and wildest, seems to me like a brawny big brother. Squak Mountain, much smaller and harder to access, seems like a shy retiring kid sister. Cougar Mountain, which has seen much development in recent years, seems to me like an elderly aunt who has fallen on hard financial times, and has been compelled to take in boarders.

Following are the character sketches of my family members:

My big brother Tiger has impressive dimensions: he looms over Issaquah. His head bumps against I-90 at High Point: he broadens out to six miles wide at his waist, and his feet are planted some six miles south of his head. Tiger's right shoulder is a relatively flat area known as the Tradition Lake Plateau; around his right hip are some housing developments. Most of Tiger is covered by the Tiger Mountain State Forest, managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. This forest is 12,000 acres, or some 19 square miles in size.

Getting to know a hulking fellow like my brother Tiger is not easy. Perhaps the best way to become acquainted is to explore his right shoulder. The Tradition Lake Plateau is best accessed from the High Point exit off I-90. For the more energetic, a great way to meet Tiger is to hike the Tiger Mountain Trail. This trail takes 16 miles to cover a linear distance of six miles, north to south.

My brother Tiger has many moods, depending on the time of year. In the winter, he tends to be chilly, somber and austere, sometimes hiding for days behind clouds, at other times glittering in a blanket of white. In the spring he pulses with life, frisking about in a cloak of bright green leaves and flowers. In the summer, he dozes through long lazy days, occasionally coming to life after a shower. In the fall, he dresses in a coat of bright colors, having a last fling before winter calms him down.

My little sister Squak sits demurely to the south of Issaquah. She is much smaller than big brother Tiger, measuring four miles from north to south and two miles across the waist. About 40 percent of Squak's 5600 acres are in public ownership.

Squak has a reputation for shyness because access to her wild and beautiful center is difficult; her extremities are on private land. At her heart is Squak Mountain State Park some 590 acres in size. Another 700 acres are King County land.

Getting to know sister Squak requires persistence and tact. Most people arrive at her doorstep by driving up Mountain Park Boulevard out of Issaquah, parking at an unmarked spot, and traversing a trail through private land to reach the park boundary. Squak can also be visited from east, south and west, but parking is

difficult and trails are hard to find, though the east can be accessed now on foot from town or by parking on Sunrise Place.

Those who make the effort to know Squak are richly rewarded. She has a charming personality. Because of difficult access, much of her is seldom visited and very wild. Her basic trail system is a system of old logging roads, connected with several primitive trails. Across Squak's waist there are three peaks, West Peak, Central Peak and Southeast Peak. Views from these peaks are very limited: Squak is indeed a shy thing.

Like Tiger, Squak is at her most charming in the spring, with a garland of flowers in her hair. Because her maximum height is only about 2000 feet Squak is generally home to visitors even in the middle of winter. Those who love her have mixed emotions about her remoteness: easier access would allow more visitors, but could destroy some of her charm.

My elderly aunt Cougar completes the roster of my extended family. Cougar lies closest to Seattle, rising from the shores of Lake Washington. She has a stocky figure, measuring five miles from north to south and six miles across at the waist. Compared to Squak, Cougar is easy to visit; trailheads are well marked and trails easy to follow. The sad part of visiting Cougar is passing through all the housing developments; poor aunt Cougar has been compelled take in many boarders. When a visitor finally penetrates to the attic of her house, in which Cougar lives, there is much charm.

Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park, my aunt's room, covers about 3000 acres. The terrain is quite varied with no prominent peaks and many ridges and valleys. Like her nephew Tiger and niece Squak, Cougar puts on her brightest clothing in the spring. Because of her lower elevation (1590 feet at the highest point), snow is minimal. Also, because of the greater number of softwood trees on Cougar (maple, alder, cottonwood), aunt Cougar puts the family's brightest colors in the fall.

You have met my extended family. On several occasions, I have managed to visit all three of them in one day. The Issaquah Alps Trails Club each year conducts at least one such traverse. Experiencing each of these varied personalities all within one day is a richly rewarding activity.

If you are inspired by this article to lead or participate in hikes, please see our [events](#) page for upcoming hikes or fill out our [volunteer form](#) to learn more about becoming a hike leader.

New regional Trailhead Ambassador Program takes off!

Trailhead Ambassadors is a collaborative trailside natural resource protection education program. With the long-term goal of reducing negative human impact on public lands, staff and volunteers from organizations and agencies that already work on public lands implement these Leave Not Trace-focused programs at popular trailheads along the I-90 corridor during the busy summer season. Our partners include WA State Parks, MTS Greenway Trust, WTA, WA DNR, Mountaineers, King County Search and Rescue, Seattle Outdoors Adventure, Cedar River Watershed Education Center.

Ambassadors have been greeting hikers at trailheads with simple and fun Leave No Trace educational programs. One example is the Trash Your Pet Waste program. Stepping in dog doo is never any fun...but seeing a bag of poo alongside the trail is frustrating too! Many of these bags are left behind by well meaning folks who intend to pick up the bag on the way back to the car but forget. Sadly, wildlife can be drawn to plastic bags and this can be deadly. Sometimes they end up in our waterways.

Others of us may wonder...If wild Animals can relieve themselves in the forest, why not my dog? Here are some answers for this question...Animals who live in the wild eat in the wild, so it keeps things in balance and can even help out by breaking down and spreading seeds around. Our Pups typically eat nutrient heavy pet foods designed to give them a complete and healthy diet. This creates stool that is heavy in nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. An excess of these nutrients has the potential to create conditions that lead to algae blooms in our waterways and create an easy habitat for invasive weeds to grow. Also, dog feces can harbor pathogens that are harmful to other animals.

Hiking with a warm bag of dog poo in hand isn't much fun. Here is a simple solution: a hard-sided pet waste container. After picking up the poo we can deposit it into our container and either put it inside our backpack or use a carabiner to clip the container to the outside of our pack. Poovault (poovault.com) has a sturdy looking container that can be purchased for \$14.99. If you are like me and like to reuse items to be found at home, you may consider an old Nalgene bottle. This can be clipped to the outside of a pack. For the inside you could think about a sturdy Tupperware or plastic container. The key word here is sturdy! As Ranger Rick would say "we don't want any messes inside our backpacks!"

Just to make sure the doggy doo container doesn't get mixed up with our lunch

container or water bottle, IATC has made "The Pet Owners Pledge" sticker to place on the reusable container. We will be handing these out at trailheads as ambassadors and events like Salmon Days. If you would like a sticker let us know and we would be happy to get one to you!



IATC Salmon Days Theme

Salmon Days, the annual festival of Issaquah, is fast approaching (October 5 & 6). The club will have a booth on the grounds of the Fish Hatchery, as usual.

This year we will have a "Leave No Trace" theme. In addition to handouts associated with that theme, humans will have the opportunity to take a photo with Mr. Sasquatch and take the "Leave No Trace" pledge. We chose Mr. Sasquatch as our mascot as he has been leaving no trace for years and years.

Those that take the pledge and post a photo to social media will qualify for a drawing to win fabulous prizes (to be announced). So, come on by and take the pledge!

And we are looking for volunteers to staff the booth. If that sounds interesting to you, contact David Kappler at davidkappler@hotmail.com.



Online Alpiner August, 2019

Bringing Together Hike Leaders for an Evening of Celebration

IATC Hike Leaders and those interested in becoming future Hike Leaders came together for an evening of getting to know one another, reminiscing, and lots of pizza. See the pictures below!



Denice Carnahan, who organized the event, welcomes past, current, and future Hike Leaders to the Hike Leader Summit aka the Hike Leader Appreciation Pizza Party!



Attendees went around the table, introducing themselves, and sharing their best and worst moments as Hike Leaders.



Many stories of happy and challenging hikes were shared as pizza from Flying Pie Pizzeria was devoured.



Hike

Leaders discuss upcoming hikes, and strategize ways to involve new Hike Leaders in the program.

We are looking for more Hike Leaders! If you are interested in becoming a Hike Leader, please fill out our [Volunteer Interest Form](#) on the website, or contact Lindsay Frickle at exec@issaquahalps.org.

Connecting Trails and Wildlife Across Highway 18

by Doug McClelland and Hannah Wheeler

Recently, the Washington State Legislature approved funding to widen Highway 18 over Tiger Mountain from Hobart Road to Raging River. The widening of the highway to five lanes will increase safety and reduce traffic before the I-90 interchange, which is also set to be improved starting in 2021.

However, widening the road also raises concern for safe recreational and wildlife passage over the road, especially given the proximity of the construction to trails on Tiger Mountain. To address these concerns, on a sunny day, Washington State Representative Bill Ramos met with advocacy leaders from the Issaquah Alps Trails

Club, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Sierra Club, and Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance to learn what needs to be done in order to allow safe wildlife and recreational trail crossings across the new five lane highway.



Representative Bill Ramos meets with the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Sierra Club, and Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance to learn what we must do to allow safe wildlife and recreational trail crossings as Highway 18 is widened to five lanes.

History Corner - The Formation of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park

With the passage of King County Proposition 1, lets reminisce on past accomplishments of King County Parks with our tax dollars. It is hard to imagine now, but in the 1970s and early 1980s, the top of Cougar Mountain was destined to be developed, or so it seemed. But thanks to visionaries like Harvey Manning, and concerned community groups like the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and Newcastle Citizens Committee, the idea of preserving the mountain top as a park took hold.

King County executive Randy Revelle became a proponent of the park as well, and On May 21, 1985, the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park became a reality with the transfer of the deed for a key 1067 acre parcel from Daon Corporation to King County. Here are a few photos of the celebration on the top of the mountain on that auspicious day, which Executive Revelle declared to be “Harvey Manning Day” in honor of his leadership in the formation of the park.



Harvey Manning speaks to the crowd.



Harvey joined by King County Executive Randy Revelle.



A Celebratory Toast – Harvey Manning, Randy Revelle, Daon corporate representative and Bruce Laing.



Jeanette Veasey, Harvey Manning, Evan Morris and Ralph Owen discuss the events of the day.



City of Issaquah Mayor AJ Culver on the left.



Chopper 7, even.

History Corner: The First East Fork Bridge

The First East Fork Bridge

By Bill Longwell

(Note: This article was originally printed in the 2003 Alpiner.)

When the East Issaquah Interchange opened this past August, it not only gave vehicles access to and from the Issaquah Highlands, it also provided hikers an unimpeded route to the north I-90 railroad grade, basically closed this past year.

This concrete route to the old Northern Pacific grade is indeed grand, but who remembers the original bridge access across Issaquah Creek to the north side of I-90? This original structure, built by Issaquah Alps Club members, basically turned the northside railroad from a seldom-used walking path to a popular multiple use route to the east.

In April, 1989, I spent much of the spring vacation repairing an ancient Puget Power lineman's bridge across High Point Creek. At that time a well-traveled trail followed the Puget Power (now Puget Energy) powerline from Preston into the High Point area. The High Point community was not keen about this repaired bridge because the trail threaded their neighborhood. Their complaints to DNR scuttled the completion of this bridge, and I was out of work. Towards the end of my vacation week, David Kappler called me to relay a message from the Issaquah High School cross country team. Could the Issaquah Alps build a bridge across the east fork of Issaquah Creek, preferably next to the freeway, so the team could easily access the northside railroad path?

At that time the team was crossing Issaquah Creek via the I-90 bridge! On the freeway! Sometimes I used the same route or waded the creek. One crossed the guard rail at the end of I-90's Exit 18 into Issaquah, found a way over or through the I-90 fence and gate (about this time someone had cut a hole through the chain-link fence—eventually DOT unlocked this gate), walked under both freeway lanes, squeezed through another fence back onto the west-bound freeway lanes, walked with roaring traffic across the bridge, squeezed through another tight-fitting fence opening and dropped to a trail on the opposite side of Issaquah Creek that led up to the old grade.

Dave and I looked the potential bridge site over and decided to build. So I was back to bridge-building. I spent three days in mid-April carrying timbers for the bridge approaches.

The next week Dave and I climbed the hill above the grade (now denuded by the new interchange route) and cut down two trees we needed for stringers. Now, how do we get the stringer down to the bridge site, 200 yards away? We did begin hauling one stringer a ways toward the creek. Hard work! We needed help.

Several people volunteered: Joe Toynbee, Bob Knutson, Dwight Riggs, Will Thompson and Marge Bates, the founders of early IATC trail work, all members of the “Weedwhackers.”

April 26, the bridge-building day arrived. At seven that morning I drove up to the Exit 18 guard rail and began unloading the bridge parts. I hurried because I worried that someone would stop to ask what I was doing. Someone did—the Issaquah city engineer.

He began quizzing me about my intention, which obviously looked suspicious. I hemmed and hawed and finally, after embarrassing moments, he said to me: “You know I don’t think I want to know what you’re doing here.” And he drove off.

The other bridge-builders soon arrived. My friend Phil Hall had given me a heavy-duty pulley and Bob Knutson brought another. With some stout rope and six strong people, we pulled the stringers down to the creek. Two of us waded the creek to attach them to both approaches.

It took us eight long hours but we finished the job. The result: a strong serviceable bridge, about three feet wide and twenty feet long, spanning the creek. Hikers, runners and bikers used that bridge for at least ten years. Soon after completion of that span I received a pleasant note from the Issaquah High cross country team, thanking me and IATC for the bridge. The team no longer would run on the freeway.

Late that fall, during an especially excessive rainy period, with the East Fork flooding, Kappler called me to tell me of his worries. He was going to check the bridge to see if it still stood. He called back to inform me the raging water was passing *under* the bridge and it remained strong.

When you cross the East Fork on the new concrete trail, think kind thoughts about its rough-hewn predecessor and its old-time builders.

IATC History- Chapter 24- Trail Work Issues Predominate

IATC HISTORY: 2004

Chapter 24: TRAILWORK ISSUES PREDOMINATE

By Doug Simpson

January – March: Trailwork Call of Action

Scott Semans reported that the huge windstorm last December, reaching 70 miles per hour, caused “massive damage to trails on Tiger and Squak mountains.” He foresaw weeks of trail work on Saturdays to rectify the damage. “Many trees rooted next to trails have fallen, leaving large craters, and structures such as retaining curbs and steps have taken hits,” he reported. Semans also updated his regular crew’s work on the Licorice Fern and Bear Ridge trails on Cougar Mountain.

Hikes Coordinator Fred Zeitler commented on the record year of 2003 for hikers, with about 1500 hikers on 160 hikes and work parties. He said that the core of 18 leaders was insufficient and that new hike leaders are needed.

Marvin Pistrang, author of the club’s “Bedrock and Bedsoles” geology booklet, passed away last May. He had been an active hiker and a member of the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Native Plant Society and Mountaineers as well as IATC.

Bill Longwell explained the history of Squak Mountain’s Phil’s Creek Trail, named for his close friend Phil Hall, who did much to clear and develop the trail, which in its primitive stage had been known as the “No Name Trail.”

April – May: Trail Work Heroes

Chief Ranger Longwell wrote in depth about IATC’s tradition of doing trail work. The club has two active crews—Scott Semans’ volunteer outings mostly on Cougar and Squak spent 661 hours working on the Bear Ridge Trail and 326 on the Licorice Fern Trail. The Longwell/Zeitler crew of seven regulars worked on 65 different trails in 2003.

“I’m astounded by people’s willingness to work,” said Longwell. Covering 65 trails in the region takes much dedication and planning.” One volunteer drove over 5000

miles to work 44 different days on seven trails. Longwell pointed out that his crew walked a total of 3001 miles “just to get to the trail work sites.”

Trail workers put in 3612 hours in 2003, which translates to 451 eight-hour days. If paid the \$11 per hour the Forest Service pays its crews, the IATC crew donated about \$39,000 worth of volunteer work.

Ava Frisinger, Issaquah Mayor, wrote to thank IATC for its efforts to repair the damage caused by wind and ice storms. “I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, and each volunteer who helped to clear the storm damage and downed trees from the Issaquah Alps trail system.” A similar response was received from Doug Sutherland, the State Commissioner of Public Lands.

IATC took an active role in June’s Greenway Discovery Days, sponsoring hikes by Frank Gilliland, Dave Kappler, Ken Konigsmark, Doug Simpson, David Langrock and Ralph Owen.

Noted writer and hiker Robert R. Wood passed away last December 1. Wood, who wrote “Olympic Mountains Trails Guide,” climbed Mt. Olympus 18 times. He wrote six guide and history books on the Olympic mountains. Wood was also active in the early years of IATC and is credited with planning and implementing the Old Griz Trail connector from Phil’s Creek Trail to Squak’s Central Peak. Wood was known himself as “Old Griz.”

July– August: “Our Alps Are Number One”

Reacting to tributes to Portland’s Forest Park as the largest park within a city limits, club founder Harvey Manning, while not putting down Forest Park, claimed number one for the Issaquah Alps with Seattle’s metropolitan area as not near a major metropolitan area, but “smacking inside.” Manning pointed out that whereas Forest Park has a public motorway and bicycle trails running through it, the parks on Cougar and Squak are *wheelfree*. And the land units in the Issaquah Alps total some 12,000 acres, dwarfing Forest Park’s 5,124 acres.

In my “President’s Column” I pointed out the advancing ages of most of the club’s leaders and encouraged efforts to reach out to younger hikers to revitalize the club for years to come. “We need to get younger,” I wrote.

After years of applications, permits, negotiations and lawsuits, on March 4 four miles of the interim East Lake Sammamish Trail were opened. The full trail between Issaquah and Redmond on the old railroad bed was a little closer to completion.

IATC celebrated its 25th anniversary in May with a barbecue at Gibson Hall. Efforts were made to reach out to club members from the early years of the organization.

Hikes Coordinator Fred Zeitler reported that after record turnouts in 2003 the first quarter of 2004 also had strong participation. The club's 38 hikes (with only three weather cancellations) drew 355 hikers, 9.4 per hike.

The state's NOVA program (funding from 1% of the state's sales tax) was altered favorably, decreasing the percentage of funds allotted to motorized projects and more for education and enforcement projects as well as hiking trails. The Fair Trails coalition, including IATC, had lobbied long and hard for those changes.

Bill Longwell wrote a lengthy article about the 25 bridges on Tiger Mountain, including the club's original construction projects and his efforts to find and use old spikes and wood to refurbish the bridges as needed.

October - December: Anti-Bypass Efforts

A draft of the Taylor Mountain Public Use Plan and Trails Assessment was issued in July. Trailwork renovation was underway, and Taylor was planned to be a multi-use recreation area; equestrians and mountain bikers will have extensive access, though mountain bikes were excluded for areas that go into the Cedar River Watershed.

The club president reported that the IATC board voted unanimously to publicly oppose the long-proposed Southeast Bypass, which would skirt Tiger Mountain. The club's four-page letter outlined the problems and objections to the Bypass proposal.

Susan Duffy reviewed the club's new book, "Squak Mountain, an Island in the Sky" by Doug Simpson and David Langrock.

Interagency Coordinator Margaret McLeod outlined efforts to gain grants for numerous projects, covering areas on Mount Si, Rattlesnake Mountain, West Tiger, Squak Mountain and Twin Falls. Also planned were use of NOVA funds for several offroad projects.

As part of its Community Town Hall program, the King County Council met in July at Marymoor Park in Redmond to discuss outdoor recreation projects. Several speakers cited problems and progress. Bill Chapman of Mountains to Sound Greenway, pointed out that 128,000 acres (200 square miles in the I-90 corridor) are now protected under public ownership. "Over 500,000 trees have been planted," he stated, "and 25 miles of trails have been opened or restored."

Gene Dubernoy of the Parks Advisory Task Force said, "People want the foothills preserved and they want parks nearby."

King County Parks announced that a new parking area and trailhead was in the works for the lower Nike site in the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park.

New hike leaders for 2004 were *Skip Geech, John Johnson, Richard Mann* and *Mary Nolan*.