



# Issaquah Alps TRAILS CLUB

— EST. 1979 —

Dedicated to engaging the public to preserve, protect, and promote the land, wildlife, and trails of the Issaquah Alps, for future and present generations.

*Newsletter of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club*

# THE ALPINER

April 2023

News – Events – Hikes

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# Great turnout to the public hearing

Kaytlyn Gerbin - April 1, 2023

Thank you to everyone who attended the March 2nd public hearing at Bellevue City Hall. It was a packed house, with supporters of Save Coal Creek attending both in person and virtually. Attendees and council members heard from many supporters, who gave thoughtful and impactful testimonies on record to support Save Coal Creek.



*March 2nd hearing at Bellevue City Hall*



*Save Coal Creek campaign leader Sally Lawrence being sworn in for testimony at March 2nd hearing*



*IATC President Anne Newcomb being sworn in for testimony at the March 2nd hearing*

You can review the Development Service's recommendation in the [permit bulletin of January 26th](#) . Search for "Park Pointe PUD" or scroll down to the Park Pointe PUD section in the document.

Are the environmental impacts too great?

Our team of environmental and legal experts are preparing the case that the Isola development will harm wildlife and is unfit for this location. The hearing on our appeal is slated for April 17, 18 and 19 - you can attend virtually by visiting the Bellevue [project page](#) . More details coming soon.

You can help prevent the proposed development from happening by contacting your city and county elected representatives

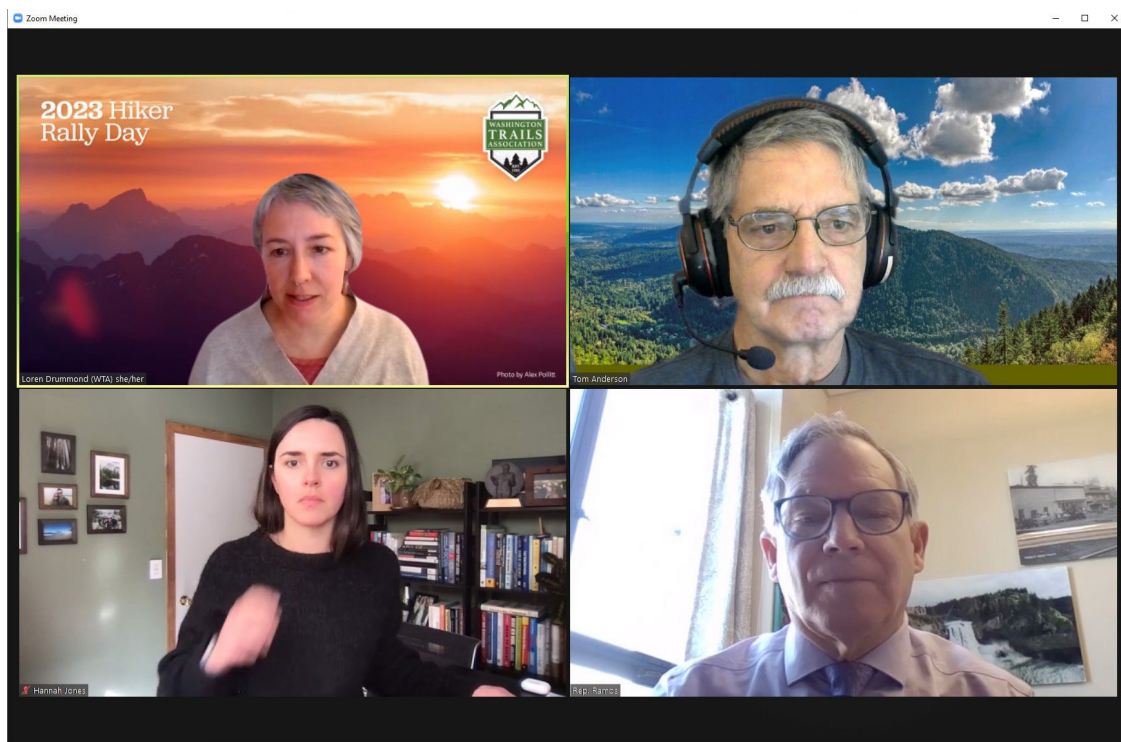
- **Bellevue City Council members:**  
Email [council@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:council@bellevuewa.gov), or reach out to Mayor Lynne Robinson, Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis, Jeremy Barksdale, Conrad Lee, Jennifer Robertson, John Stokes and Janice Zahn.
- **King County Council:**  
Claudia Balducci [Claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Claudia.balducci@kingcounty.gov) and Reagan.dunn@kingcounty.gov are leading the charge! They are committed to the effort to Save Coal Creek. They need our support and encouragement. Let them know that you support the purchase of the property and want to preserve this historic site so that future generations of people and animals can visit it for generations to come.
- **Ask your representatives to fund the purchase of the Isola Homes property on Lakemont Boulevard SE**

# WTA Hiker Rally Day Recap

Tom Anderson - March 26, 2023

Every two years the Washington Trails Association conducts "Hiker Rally Day" to speak up for funding of trails and public lands to our lawmakers in Olympia. Prior to COVID-19, meetings were in-person with representatives and senators in their offices in Olympia. This year, and in 2021, the meetings were conducted virtually, and alas, we humans have figured out how to make that work reasonably well.

I happen to live in the fifth legislative district, represented by Bill Ramos and Lisa Callan. To illustrate how the event is conducted, here is our session with representative Ramos, supported by a WTA facilitator and a fellow 5th district advocate:



*Virtual meeting with Representative Bill Ramos.*

More than 70 people from 40 state legislative districts participated in the event.

This year, the WTA emphasized two budget line items:

- Maintaining \$30m per biennium ongoing (\$10m per agency) for the Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife and Washington State Parks to help address their recreation lands maintenance backlog
- Advancing equity in the outdoors through professional development opportunities (Emerging Leaders Program)

Those two points provided some focus, but you can learn about the broader WTA legislative agenda here: [WTA Legislative Agenda](#)

## There Must be 50 Ways to Be an Advocate

Perhaps you are looking for ways to get involved as an advocate for trails and public lands. The club has various initiatives underway, the most prominent being the Save Coal Creek effort, but there are other opportunities that you can learn about on our advocacy page: [IATC Advocacy](#)

And our partner organizations, such as the WTA, have advocacy opportunities, of which "Hiker Rally Day" is just one example. Learn more about the WTA advocacy efforts here: [WTA Advocacy](#)

Opportunities abound. Let your voice be heard!

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# Celebrating the Life of Douglas Simpson - October 13, 1939 - February 28, 2023

David Kappler - March 11, 2023



*Douglas Simpson, presenting at the "History of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club" program in 2019.  
Photo by Stan Matsui.*

The Issaquah Alps Trails Club has a many-year history of accomplishments that occurred when an individual or a small group stepped up to take responsibility for an effort promoting our vision. With the passing of Doug Simpson we take note and give thanks for the many ways Doug contributed to our Issaquah Alps. Doug was always a gentleman and any task he took on was handled professionally.

Doug served many years on the board and several years as president. For many years he edited the Alpiner and instilled the quality of journalism that we are sure he expected of his students that did the Issaquah High School newspaper.

Harvey Manning and Charles McCrone did our Cougar guides and Bill Longwell did our Tiger guides and Doug filled the need for a Squak guide: "Squak Mountain an Island in the Sky." David Langrock did the trail guide part, but Doug did the history. Doug was able to interview Stimson Bullitt and get the story behind the 580-acre original donation that created the state park. Doug's book helped to popularize Squak which led to more state acquisitions and very large acquisitions by the county and city of Issaquah.

Squak Mountain and Doug's legacy are centered in the Issaquah Alps.

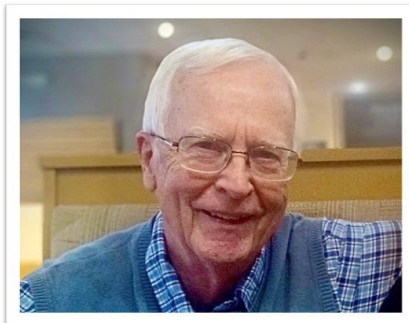
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The family invites all who would like to celebrate his life to the following event:

PLEASE JOIN US IN

*Celebrating*

THE LIFE OF



**Douglas Simpson**

October 13, 1939 - February 28th, 2023

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Sunday March 19th, 2023 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Issaquah High School Library  
700 Second Ave SE  
Issaquah, WA 98027

*We would like to gather to honor and remember  
an extraordinary man who is greatly missed.*

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[Click here for reflections on Doug Simpson when he retired as Alpiner editor](#)

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# We are hiring a new Executive Director

IATC Staff - March 11, 2023

Are you passionate about the Issaquah Alps or know someone who might be a good fit for the position? Please help spread the word.



# Events



## Partner Event: Sustainability Fair

Sunday, Apr. 16 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Come join the City of Issaquah at its inaugural Sustainability Fair, which is sure to inspire and engage you!



## ARBOR DAY Restoration of Berntsen Park

Thursday, Apr. 20 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join Mayor Pauly, Green Issaquah, and IATC at Berntsen Park as we plant over 50 trees in honor of Arbor Day.



## Restoration of High School Trail

Sunday, Apr. 23 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and Green Issaquah in celebrating Earth Month by restoring the High School Trail, a well-loved section of Tiger Mountain.



## Partner Event: Habitat Restoration at Park Pointe

Sunday, Apr. 29 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join MTSGT in a Habitat Restoration at Park Pointe, a 102-acre natural area located between Issaquah High School and Tiger Mountain.







### Sunset Hike – Cougar Mountain Loop from Talus

Thursday, Apr. 8 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Join Kelly Jiang, IATC Board Member, on a sunset loop hike with moderate elevation gain that starts and ends in the Talus neighborhood, with a visit to the “million-dollar-view” at Harvey Manning trailhead in between.



### EARTH DAY Trail Exploration – Better Connections Between NE Cougar & SW Squak Mtns.

Saturday, Apr. 22 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Make an impact on Earth Day and join this exploration party — sometimes on trails, sometimes off — to scout possible trail connections between NE Cougar and SW Squak Mtns.



### Native Plant Identification Hike to De Leo Wall – Afternoon Hike

Saturday, May 6 from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Join native plant steward Franja Bryant on the afternoon hike to De Leo Wall and along the way learn to identify native plants.



### Teddy Bear Hike – Swamp Trail

Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

This family-friendly hike along the Swamp Trail is meant for the young at heart. Starting at High Point Trailhead, kids will hear the story of Zoey and the Swamp Monster while exploring the beautiful forest and wetlands of Tiger Mountain.



### Forest Health Hike – E. Sunset Way

Sunday, May 14 from 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Join the IATC and Dan Hintz from City of Issaquah for a morning of plant identification and forest ecology education.



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# The Apparatus

## Club Founder

Harvey Manning

## Interim Executive Director

Anne Newcomb ([exec@issaquahalps.org](mailto:exec@issaquahalps.org))

## President

Anne Newcomb ([president@issaquahalps.org](mailto:president@issaquahalps.org))

## Vice President

Kelly Jiang

## Vice President of Advocacy

David Kappler ([advocacy@issaquahalps.org](mailto:advocacy@issaquahalps.org))

## Program and Volunteer Coordinator

Kim Ngo

## Board of Directors

David Dunphy

Kaytlyn Gerbin

Mark Griffith

Suzanne Kagen (Secretary)

James Li (Treasurer)

Ryan McIrvin

Gaurav Sharma

Nate Smith

## Issaquah Alps Trails Club

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