



# 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

December 2023

News – Events – Hikes

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# Join our Annual Campaign & help us earn a \$25,000 match!

Nicole Assumpcao - November 7, 2023 (Reprinted December 1, 2023)

Since 1979, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC) has worked towards its mission of education, conservation, and advocacy for the Issaquah Alps. You can see a piece of our legacy in our [Accomplishments Map](#). None of this work would be possible without the generous support of donors like you.

[Donate here!](#)

This year was a landmark year for us in supporting the legal fees associated with the fight to Save Coal Creek, which amounted to over \$160,000. These funds helped us raise awareness, gain over 5,000 petition signers, and helped secure \$9.2 million in King County Conservation Futures funding to help purchase the land. While the battle is not over yet, we could never have gotten to this point without our incredible community of supporters.



In 2023, we have also hosted more than 50 events with over 400 guests in attendance, including Hikes with a Purpose, restoration events, educational webinars, an Issaquah City Council candidate forum, and our annual public forum. We also welcomed a Program and Volunteer Coordinator in late 2022 who has leveled up all of our events and coordination. Your gift will enable IATC to:

- Enhance educational programming
- Increase our capacity to advocate for conservation legislation
- Host more environmental candidate forums for upcoming 2024 elections
- Collaborate with our land manager partners to expand and build a resilient Issaquah Alps ecosystem

Looking to the future, we hope to expand our educational programming and staff capacity to find creative new ways to pursue our mission.

Keep an eye out for our official fundraising mailer in your mailbox or Inbox, or get ahead of the game and [donate here](#) today! IATC's Board of Directors is generously matching up to \$25,000 in donations.

[Help us meet our \\$25,000 match](#)

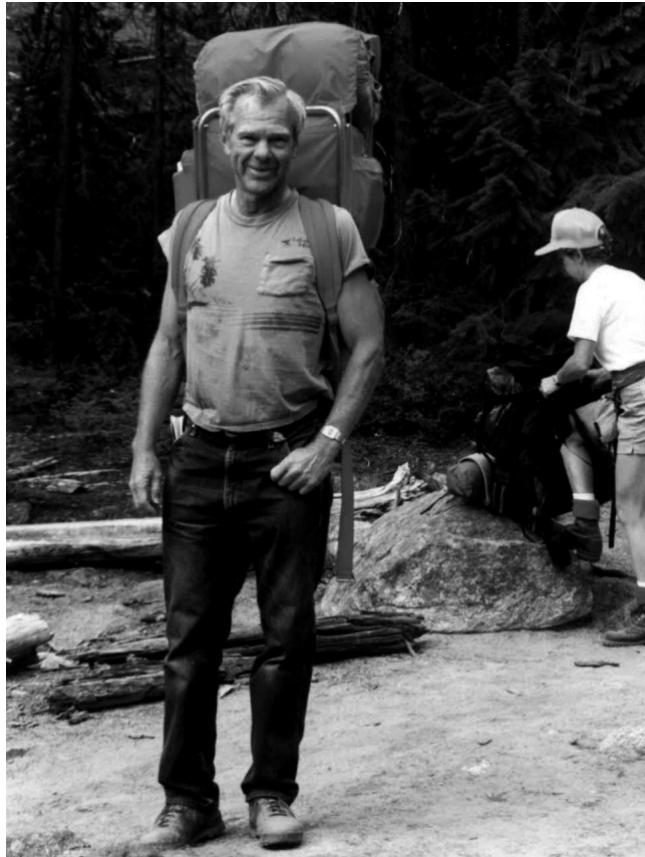


Just one of our many community engagement and education events

# In loving memory of Bob Gross and Cornelia Remy

David Kappler - December 5, 2023

## Bob Gross



Bob Gross -- inveterate hiker, hike leader, trail builder, and long-time IATC member, also a sailor and all-around nice guy -- passed away on November 17th at age 96.

Bob loved to hike, and to lead hikes, and was generally available to fill any vacancies in the hike schedule. He was leading hikes until he could no longer keep up with his charges, but even then continued to build and maintain trails, including one from behind his condo up to AA Falls. For a while he and John Johnson also did much of the maintenance (and a reroute) on the Little Si trail, and, with Jackie Hughes, rebuilt much of the Cedar Butte trail. Along with John he also did some trail work beyond the Issaquah Alps on Kachess Ridge.

Bob typified the energy and spirit of the core doers and shakers that envisioned and created an amazing trail and park system consisting of thousands of acres of private, city, state and federal lands entitled the Issaquah Alps.

John Johnson has provided additional information about the life and times of Bob Gross. Email [davidkappler@hotmail.com](mailto:davidkappler@hotmail.com) if you would like him to send you more about Bob's life in and beyond the Issaquah Alps.

## Cornelia Remy



We are also saddened to note the passing of another hard-working, wonderful to work with leader and doer that helped to create the amazing collection of trails, parks, open spaces which we still continue to call with a mostly straight face the "Issaquah Alps."

Cornelia Remy served several years as our very careful and thorough treasurer, but her main interest was in the planning, building and maintaining trail systems in and beyond the Issaquah Alps. She was the second person in the history of the Washington Trails Association to be given their award for serving 500 days on a WTA trail crew. And she certainly did not stop at 500 and worked on Issaquah Alps trail work parties as well.

My best memory of working with Cornelia was on the initial scouting of what became the Margaret's Way trail on western Squak. At the time the county acquired the 220 acres the trail now traverses staffing for county trail crews was pretty minimal. A small crew was given little time to flag a trail from the parking lot to Debbie's View. I had spent months working on getting the county to purchase the land and years working with Margaret who had tragically died of a rare form of cancer. The land and Margaret deserved a much more carefully planned trail. With literally days spent on the land several of us along with Cornelia came up with a route close to the present routing. We brought out the trail planning lead for WTA and with minimal modifications he agreed that the grade, topography, actual trail building and long term maintenance on the route we had proposed was the best. On your next hike over Margaret's Way think of both Margaret and Cornelia and their "WAYS" in the making of what the Issaquah Alps is today.

If you are interested in attending a celebration of life for Cornelia, to be held at a later date, please send an email with your name to: Denice Carnahan at [denicecar@yahoo.com](mailto:denicecar@yahoo.com).

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

David Kappler - November 18, 2019 (Reprinted December 1, 2023)

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 70½ 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 Nicole Assumpcao, Executive Director of the IATC at [exec@issaquahalps.org](mailto:exec@issaquahalps.org).

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!





# Events

## Partner Event: Painting in the Park

Saturday, Dec 9 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join FLSSP for a Painting in the Park party! Whether you're looking for a fun day out with friends or a creative way to unwind, this event promises to be an unforgettable experience. Space is limited to 12 people and recommended for ages 12 and up.



## Partner Event: LSSP Polar Plunge 24!

Monday, Jan 1 from 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Polar Plunge returns on New Year's Day 2024. Festivities will begin at 10:30 AM with registration, music, and merriment on the shores of Sunset Beach. The crowd will "plunge" at noon. \$10 registration fee.



## Restoration Work Party at Park Pointe

Saturday, Jan 27 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join IATC and Green Issaquah we continue our restoration efforts at Park Pointe. We will be removing invasive species, primarily blackberry bushes, to protect the forest and clear space to plant trees. Planting more trees will help us meet our Issaquah Climate Action Plan goal of 55% tree canopy cover by 2035.



## Restoration Work Party at Park Pointe

Saturday, Feb 17 from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

IATC and Green Issaquah will be back at Park Pointe to continue removing invasive blackberry bushes to make way for future trees. Come join our community effort to restore this important site!







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### Forest Carbon Hike: Harvey Manning Hike

Friday, Dec 15 from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Join Kathleen Farley Wolf, King County's Forest Carbon Program Manager, on an interactive hike to learn how KC's forest carbon credits program helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



### Winter Birding Hike to Debbie's View (via Margaret's Way Trail)

Saturday, Jan 14 from 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Bring along your binoculars and cameras to join IATC's very own Gaurav Sharma for a winter birding hike up to Debbie's View and, as a bonus, take in the stunning vista of Mount Rainier!



### Geology of the Grand Canyon of Tiger Mountain

Saturday, Jan 27 from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Join IATC on this much-awaited geological tour of Tiger Mountain in the seldom visited Grand Canyon of Fifteenmile Creek led by UW geologist, Dr. Will Hoover!



# The Apparatus

## Club Founder

Harvey Manning

## Executive Director

Nicole Assumpcao ([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 McIrvine

Gaurav Sharma

Alex Galeana

Stephanie Berry

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