

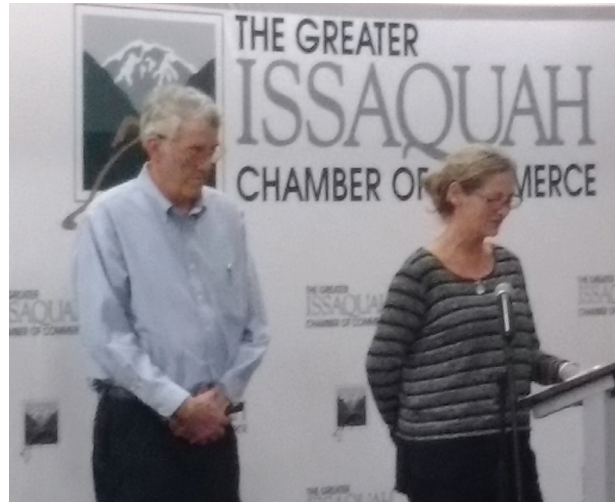


July ♦ August ♦ September 2018

Cougar ♦ Squak ♦ Tiger ♦ Grand Ridge ♦ Taylor ♦ Rattlesnake

ISSAQUAH HONORS KAPPLER

David Kappler, the longest serving active member of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and current vice-president for advocacy, has received the highest honor bestowed upon residents of the City of Issaquah: its Hall of Fame for a citizen making a lasting contribution to the community. The award was presented at the May 8 meeting of the Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce.



Kappler cited by Issaquah Mayor Mary Lou Pauly

Nominees for the honor were evaluated on the following criteria: inspiration, service, leadership, civic-mindedness, activity in drawing positive attention to the community, fund-raising efforts for the public good, and length of service to the community. Kappler was nominated by Ken Konigsmark, who wrote the following in his nomination:

“David Kappler has served and made enormous impact on Issaquah and its surroundings for over four decades. Dave was an original founder of the Issaquah Alps Trails Club and Mountains to Sound Greenway and has been instrumental to conserving the forested ‘Issaquah Alps’ landscape around Issaquah and to establishing a legacy of trails both within and around our city.

“Dave served for 19 years on the Issaquah City Council, where he had major impact on environmental and land use issues, including the timeframe when both Highlands and Talus were in work. To this day, Dave continues to serve the community by actively participating in and contributing to local governance and to fellow citizens who routinely seek his advice and counsel.

“Dave has routinely brought positive media attention to Issaquah and its outdoor treasures. He is an inspiring example to all of us in portraying how one person can effectively engage in and make their community stronger and better. Without Dave’s enduring legacy of efforts in open space conservation, trails, and environmental protection, Issaquah would be a much lesser place.

“Instead, Issaquah, known for its close connections to nature, stands out as one of the region’s and nation’s most desirable places to live. Dave Kappler well deserves a place in Issaquah’s Hall of Fame.”

The only other IATC member so honored over the years is Harvey Manning, club founder.

LOG THE DELEO WALL?

The DeLeo Wall is the most scenic location on Cougar Mountain, a favorite Cougar destination for hikers from IATC. But it may not be accessible to hikers much longer.

The viewpoint and its surroundings are privately owned outside the park boundary. The owners (Delpay Properties) have applied for a logging permit that would clearcut the mountain’s south side all the way down to May Valley below. At this time there is no active effort to purchase the acreage from Delpay, so the proposed

continued on page 8

The Apparatus

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

The Alpiner is published in January, April, July, and October.

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IATC subsists on member donations only. Please send your tax-deductible contributions to the address above to help sustain our efforts to preserve, protect, and promote the Issaquah Alps and local environment.

Articles are welcome, preferably via e-mail to: d.simpson6191@gmail.com
Send diskette or hard copy to post office box number above.

Issue deadlines: November 21 for January; February 21 for April; May 21 for July; August 21 for October.

(Note: All telephone numbers are area code 425 unless otherwise noted.)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By John Sherwin

Summer is close upon us, which is hard to believe. I find this a most invigorating time of year—one full of energy and possibility. This is also a very busy and exciting time for the Issaquah Alps Trails Club. In addition to the many guided hikes we provide, we continue to focus on creating new opportunities to engage youth and new hiker demographics, increase our community outreach, and expand and scale our advocacy program. We are also building and expanding partnerships with the City of Issaquah, REI, Sammamish YMCA and Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, to name a few.

Speaking of partnerships, we were delighted to partner with King County Metro and other non-profits to kick-off the second year of Metro's Trailhead Direct bus program. The "Issaquah Alps" bus route resumed service on April 21 and the new "Mount Si/Tenerrife" route started on May 19. On opening day, our Executive Director Suzanne Kagen and volunteer Annie Newcomb greeted hikers at the Mount Tenerrife trailhead and shared information about the club. These bus routes offer a convenient transportation alternative, help reduce congestion at trailheads and bring new hikers to our beloved Alps.

In early May, President-Elect David Dunphy, Suzanne and board member Joy Kacoroski hosted a meeting with other organizations at the Sammamish YMCA to discuss ways to engage youth in our community. All agree that attracting and retaining employees, especially among under-represented communities, is a challenge. David and Joy continue to work together to create new opportunities to educate and engage the next generation of Aps members. Exciting!

Board member To Anderson is leading the effort to plan and execute a fantastic 40th anniversary celebration in 2019, and we are working on assembling the story of the club and the course we are plotting for the future. Also, a big shout out to David Kappler, who was recently inducted into the City of Issaquah Hall of Fame! What a well-deserved honor and a testament to the incredible impact David and the club have on the community.

ADVOCACY REPORT: SPRING 2018

By David Kappler, Vice-President for Advocacy

Cougar Mountain

Cougar Mountain issues continue to be in the news. The SaveCougarMountain.org group has been a great partner in working to protect northeast Cougar and improving access to Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park. The club has been advocates for acquisition and protection of the "Bergsma property" since the inception of the club in the 1970s. Save Cougar Mountain was formed when the property was proposed for development in the last few years. They have been a great partner and are carrying the main efforts as we support and encourage them.

They are working with city, county and state officials to fund the purchase of the property and make sure any development recognizes the environmental limitations of the property, that critical areas are protected and the site is geologically stable and does not slide like Parcel 9 in Talus.

Josh Cohen did an excellent article on their efforts and some historical perspective to the importance of this property to the region. (<https://crosscut.com/2018/05/puget-sounds-boom-reverberates-cougar-mountain>)

The newest threat to Cougar Mountain is the proposed clearcutting of the DeLeo Wall. The group dealing with saving this part of Cougar, SaveDeLeoWall.org, has done a fantastic job of organizing and working with the cities of Renton and Newcastle, King County and Washington State Department of Natural Resources. See another article for more on this topic.

Issaquah Strategic Park and Recreation Plan

The club has been very involved with the development of a new park plan for the City of Issaquah. The plan deals with urban trails in the more developed parts of Issaquah with special emphasis on the Green Necklace trails and connections and routes for the Mountains to Sound Trail connecting from the Bellevue side of the city to the King County Issaquah-Preston Trail.

The City of Issaquah adjoins park or open space along

continued on page 9

King County Land Conservation Initiative Announced!

By Ken Konigsmark

King County Executive Dow Constantine announced on May 23rd a bold, new initiative to purchase the last, best remaining conservation lands in King County within the next generation. Constantine had directed a county staff team to evaluate how much and which lands across King County needed to be saved to preserve ecosystem functioning, livable communities, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities “before it’s too late.”

Given King County’s intense population growth, land and home price increases, and pressures for sprawl to consume these last, best places, Dow’s initiative seeks to preserve 65,000 additional acres of open space within a 20-30 year timeframe by accelerating and increasing the amount of funding available each year to be used for conservation acquisitions. Without such a creative push it is estimated it would take 60-plus years to be able to fund such acquisitions, many of which would have been lost to development before funding became available.

The Issaquah Alps area has benefited enormously over the years from King County’s Conservation Futures funding, including the notable recent acquisition of the Cougar-Squak Connector parcel and the creation of the Margaret’s Way Trail. Dozens of similar acquisitions since the 1980’s created the base of conservation lands that now include Cougar Mountain, county lands on Squak Mountain, Taylor Mountain Forest, Rattlesnake Mountain, and many more.

IATC is thrilled that King County Executive Constantine recognizes the irreplaceable value of remaining open space lands and is willing to boldly seek action that would greatly accelerate the acquisition of these lands before they are lost. He continues the long tradition of visionary King County leaders who have already created a lasting legacy of open space lands, parks, and trails that we all love and enjoy.

But IATC members need to help make this happen! This initiative requires approval by a full vote of the County Council that is expected in late July or August. Please contact your King County Councilmembers and urge them to support this initiative! This may be the only chance we have to save many of the lands, 65,000 acres worth, that still require public acquisition and protection.

CLUB LOSES YELLOW HOME

Twenty some years ago, the City of Issaquah, having purchased the old station master’s house at First and Bush streets, made the yellow house available to the Issaquah Alps Trails Club as a home base for its meetings and operations. Former interagency coordinator Margaret Macleod for years used the second story for her office.

Currently, the club is forced to hold its meetings in the Community Center, as the yellow house is being remodeled as additional office space for a growing Parks Department. It is expected that the club will eventually be allowed to have space for meetings kitty corner from its former base in the building which is housed by various city employees.

In addition, and partly as a result of the former home, it is possible that the location for assembling hikes may also be moved, perhaps to a park and ride location. This move, it is hoped, would coordinate with Metro Transit’s increased shuttle bus system started last year to ease transportation and parking for area hikers.

A Section of TMT Closes for Re-route

If you have hiked the TMT between Ruth’s Cove and Fred’s Corner you know that it starts out as a nice walk in the woods. But after ascending a ridge the trail drops down into a gully. From here to Fred’s Corner the trail alternates between rocky and muddy, and in the wet season it is a stream. It is also brushy with salmon berry and devil’s club. It is one of the worst sections of the TMT. There are two bridges, the first is a small bridge made with dimensional lumber for decking. It was rebuilt about four or five years ago by WTA. The one above is much larger and made from natural lumber. It has guardrails since it is more than 3’ above the water.

Rather than replacing it they decided to replace it with a re-route because of costs and reduced long term maintenance issues in the area.

The re-route branches off the TMT and re-connects to the connector trail between Fred’s Corner and Preston Junction on the Preston Trail Not to be confused with the Preston RR Grade over on East Tiger (Multi-Use/Bike trail).

WTA has already completed much of the re-route. DNR’s WCC will complete the work, but there currently is no due date.

ISSAQUAH PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN

By Doug Simpson

Ed. Note: This plan is an enormous project years in the making. At this stage of implementation, the plan booklet is 105 pages long, thus requiring at least two Alpiners articles. Following is the first.)

In the booklet's introduction, Parks and Recreation Director Jeff Watling stated about the plan: "This is a shared vision. It is the voices of Issaquah residents that helped shape and create this plan."

The local voices, Watling pointed out, spoke repeatedly of "potential opportunities," suggesting much that could be done in future projects. The Strategic Plan shaped by feedback from the public has resulted in five themes: 1) Placemaking, 2) Connectivity, 3) Innovative Thought, 4) Vital Environment, and 5) Active Lifestyles. Watling says the Parks Department will take on one project at a time.

No funding sources were included in the plan; these, it states, "deserve a policy discussion and strategy in itself."

The goals, policies and projects of the plan coincide with the state's Growth Management Act for the development of parks and recreational facilities, including opportunities for growing populations, retaining natural space, preserving fish and wildlife habitat and providing access points to waterways. And the state's Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) requires, among other things, a six-year capital improvement program identifying strategies and recommendations for implementation.

The plan's public engagement program about the city's parks and trails raised several questions, such as 1) how they were doing with existing parks and trails; 2) people's favorite ones; 3) people's vision for them; 4) (dreaming big) people's wish list for them; and 5) access to various parks and trails.

The Parks Board perceived numerous needs from public engagement, including: develop multi-use spaces; additional interpretative signage; creating a variety of activities for multicultural and multi-generational needs; enhance amenities for all-weather use; im-

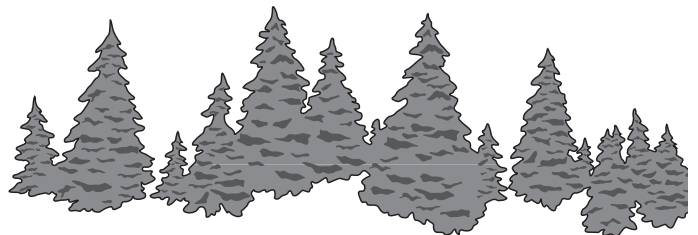
prove safety in parks and trails; increase connections throughout the park system; improve maintenance, including trash cans and restrooms; additional public-private partnerships and intergovernmental collaboration; and support regional tourism.

Survey participants numbered 359, 185 Issaquah residents and 116 outside Issaquah. The two greatest expectations were a preference for athletic field capacity, reinvestment in existing parks, and acquisition of open space. Non-Issaquah residents skewed the results to athletic field emphasis.

"Four out of five respondents stated that the City of Issaquah parks and recreation system played some role in their overall health and fitness and were highly satisfied with the quality of parks and recreational activities." Of respondents, 78 percent had visited a city park in the past year—for walking, playing, watching sports and taking children to play. Trail users went for walking (50%) and hiking (25%). Trail users prefer gravel and natural soil trails (68%) to paved trails (27%).

Projects and issues were highly sought as nine projects received between 62 and 90 percent favorability. Top ranked were acquisition of properties along creeks and preserving open space (90%); expanding the community center (83%), additional trails (79%), and additional playgrounds (75%).

Survey demographics noted that Issaquah, with a population over 36,000, is the twelfth largest city in King County. The residents tend to middle age (38.6 median age) with a quarter of the residents under 19. The population is 75% white with a growing number of Asians, 17%. Residents tend to be well-educated, as 96% are high school grads, and 61% have a bachelor's degree or higher. Income is above the county average at \$84,000 versus \$78% county-wide.



COUGAR MOUNTAIN: A BUSY PLACE

By Steve Williams

The big story pending on Cougar Mountain is the ultimate decision on whether or not the privately owned DeLeo Wall area on Cougar's southside will proceed with clearcutting from the popular viewpoint all the way down to the valley floor. More elsewhere on this.

FUN RUNS: Hundreds of runners will be on Cougar park trails, Saturday morning on June 9, July 14 and August 11. Hikers wanting peace and quiet should avoid those days. However, it is fun to watch, and spectators are welcome to come and cheer the athletes and learn about trail running for people of all ages and abilities. The Seattle Running Club sponsors these events, and registration money from each participant does come back to help pay for trail maintenance on Cougar Mountain.

NEW TURNPIKE: King County Parks staff just completed a new 100-foot long turnpike (raised gravel trail) on a very muddy section of the Eastfork Trail. The process involved setting curb logs and hauling in over 20 tons of rock and gravel, a big "all hands" project that took weeks of work, much of it in the rain. The Cougar District crew is responsible for 21 different park sites in addition to Cougar Mountain. So at any given time, they may be tending Margaret's Way Trail on Squak Mountain, horse trails on Taylor Mountain, or play areas, ballfields or restrooms elsewhere.

PRIME-TIME SPRING: Spring is prime time at Cougar. Everything is in bloom and there is green everywhere you look. The park is beautiful, and it has been discovered! Weekends the parking lots will be jammed, so it is recommended that hikers use the "Trailhead Direct" bus service to trails on Squak or Tiger, try a dinner-time hike after others have gone home, or try lesser used trailheads on Cougar, like Sky Country.

SCHOOL GROUPS: Spring is also a time for school field trips. The Eastside Historical Center and the Newcastle Historical Society have combined forces to lead six different coal mining history tours this spring. Weekdays, you can expect to see school busses in the parking lot, and kid groups on the trails. The Tiny

Trees preschool program also continues in the Rainbow Trail area at Cougar and shelter construction will happen soon, so you may see trucks in the area west of Red Town.

SQUAK MOUNTAIN: The county's Backcountry Trail Crew is busy re-routing some of the steep 'dozer road sections of the Chybinsky Trail on Squak's west side, so you may find it closed or difficult to get through.

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

By Nick Garberich

Educators, instructors, and program directors from around the Issaquah Alps gathered May 10 at Sammamish YMCA to discuss ways to collaborate and how to overcome challenges in getting youth outside. The meeting was hosted by the Issaquah Alps Trail Club, the Mountains to Sound Trust, and the Sammamish Community Y.

A resource map was created outlining what programs each organization offers for youth. The group held round table discussions about barriers to getting outside, such as hiring instructors that represent the populations they serve.

Another recognized challenge was retaining qualified instructors by having enough working hours in a seasonal industry. One proposed solution was for organizations to share employees.

The organizations also discussed better ways to communicate recreational and educational opportunities for youth, such as a master sheet sorted by age served, type of program, or location. This would enable organizations and teachers to easily work together.

"I was encouraged by the number of participants and the enthusiasm brought to the meeting," YMCA Teen and Outdoor Coordinator David Dunphy said. "We have so many organizations in our region providing outdoor experiences, but at times we're siloed. By working together, we can serve more youth, and the Issaquah Trails Club is stoked to be a part of that movement."

continued on page 9

IATC HISTORY: CHAPTER 20 (1999)

NEW TRAILS HEIGHTEN GROWTH

By Doug Simpson

January – March: East Village Impacts

President Barbara Johnson encouraged the IATC membership to let the city of Bellevue know that the idea of cutting trees in parks to improve the view of area homes is not good for the parks or the expended tax monies.

Charles McCrone clarified how the plans for Cougar's proposed East Village would not only leave untouched 450 of the 630 acres in question, but also not affect the Bear Ridge and West Tibbetts trails. However, the Shangri-La, Surprise Creek and Precipice trails would lose much of their existing trail space.

With Marilyn Moon stepping down as Women Walk leader, eight women were seeking a plan for 18 women to lead one hike per year on the last Saturday of each month with three simultaneous hikes in effect.

Facing huge budget deficits in a down economy, Washington State Parks was threatening to close up to 42 of its state parks. Ken Konigsmark pointed out that over the past 20 years park funding had actually decreased despite a 300% increase in use since 1968.

April – June: "The Hole in the Donut"

At the January annual meeting of the club, the IATC board was filled out as Steve Drew had become treasurer and Diana Bonner, a Texas transplant, assumed the secretarial position. Fred Zeitler took over as hikes coordinator.

The long-sought 120-acre Clay Pit atop Cougar Mountain came closer to becoming an official part of the park when owner Mutual Materials promised to donate the land when it was "no longer feasible" for them to process the clay. (Of course nearly twenty years later it hasn't happened yet.) Harvey Manning had long envisioned the property as the "Great Blue Heron Lake or Marsh."

The city of Issaquah's plan for a 1.25 million gallon water tank high on Squak Mountain was officially abandoned, partly due to its potential encroachment on wild parkland, as well as accessibility problems.

Manning reminisced about his early exploration of the Bear Ridge area on Cougar's lower east slope. He envisioned under city ownership (adjacent to the boundary of the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park) "space for half a dozen picnic tables scattered in private nooks by the Clay Pit and West Tibbetts creeks." He rhapsodized about the cool scenic beauty of the surrounding forest.

Chuck Lennox of King County Parks thanked IATC for its 16-year participation in the Return to Newcastle events, and though funding by the county would not continue, he advocated some interpretive programming in the Newcastle area with local lectures on area history.

July – September: New Trails in the Woods

Aided by IATC input, the City of Issaquah turned thumbs down on a proposal to raze the Pickering barn to build a four-story apartment complex. The still not fully resolved development of the East Lake Sammamish Trail was raised with interim planning supposedly set in motion. Hopefully, would-be hikers weren't holding their breath!

Charles McCrone praised high schooler Matt Neville for his enthusiastic and conscientious volunteer trail work, over 200 hours when this was written. "Trail-work," Neville stated, "has helped me a lot. I didn't just do it for a resume; it has been fun and it is my hobby." He was heading for Alaska to work in forest service and in his future career.

Zeitler noted the past quarter had 44 hikes, nearly half on Tiger Mountain and a quarter on Cougar, averaging seven persons per hike.

McCrone discussed the difficulty of accessing up the northeast side of Squak Mountain and explained coordinated efforts to begin constructing the Squak Mountain Access and East Ridge trails.

Manning wrote about his appreciation for the Licorice Fern Trail, a project given access by the Lankow family

continued on page 9

TIGER MINE SHAFT FOUND

By Tom Anderson

Have you hiked the Tiger Mountain Fifteen Mile Creek trail lately? If so, you may have noticed a new trail of sorts heading east just past the bridge over the south fork of the creek. Here's the scoop. . .

Doug Bristol, a volunteer for the Issaquah History Museum, has been researching the history and locations of the coal mining activity on Tiger Mountain. The Issaquah History Museum now offers a mine history hike on various dates throughout the year. One mine entrance is clearly visible these days, but a second entrance was visible in the recent past, as documented by Bill Longwell in his Guide to the Trails of Tiger Mountain.

Bristol, with the help of a long-time local resident, has identified the second mine opening, and has uncovered the geodetic survey marker which shows its location. This marker was placed in 1995 by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Surface Mining, when the entrance to the mine was closed.

A landslide sometime in the last 28 years had obliterated the marker and piled rocks, dirt, dead trees and other material on top of the site. To expose this marker once again, both for historical and safety reasons, the Issaquah History Museum formed a team and took on the task of removing the material that had covered the mine marker, now a completed task.

Want to learn more about the history of Tiger Mountain mines? The Issaquah History Museum sponsors mine history hikes, led by a team of trained hike leaders, numerous times each year. The hikes lead guests to the Issaquah & Superior, Grand Ridge, and Tiger Mountain mining areas, presenting photographs and stories, and pointing out artifacts along the way.

The hikes are very popular and often sell out quickly. You can watch for them on the events page of the IHM website: <http://www.issaquahhistory.org/events/>.

LOG THE DELEO WALL?

continued from page 1

cutting is thus far approved by the State Department of Natural Resources.

IATC's Steve Williams, who managed the Cougar Mountain Regional Wildland Park for its first twenty years, knows the mountain as well as anyone. He has written a formal letter to DNR requesting the acreage undergo greater screening as a Class IV special classification of the Forest Protection Act, based on inaccuracies and omissions in the Delpay application.

"It understates and minimizes significant adverse impacts to the environment," Williams wrote. He cited a proposed road adjacent to 7.97 acres of wetland. "The applicant denies the very existence of a May Creek tributary," Williams added.

Both the City of Newcastle and the City of Renton, along with the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, have questioned the legality and appropriateness of the logging proposal.

"The DeLeo Wall is a hiking destination and treasured viewpoint used by thousands of citizens every year," Williams pointed out. "It has spectacular southern views over May Valley and Renton all the way to the Black Hills in Olympia and Mt. Rainier to the east. The loss of the DeLeo forest, rare Madrona strands, trails and viewpoints would be felt (and resented) for years to come. It is certainly not worth destructive logging for a very limited private gain."

DNR's Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz has given the go-ahead for the logging since DNR "is much more constrained since that property is private—not public—forestland." Franz encourages partnership with King County interested municipalities or Forterra to see about purchasing the property from Delpay and conserving it as a natural area.

At this time, hikers and other interested persons could contact County Commissioner Dow Constantine, Councilman Reagan Dunn and about the need to partner and acquire the DeLeo property. In the meantime, Williams and others have challenged DNR to examine more closely the Delpay application.



Advocacy Report cont. from page 3

The City of Issaquah adjoins park or open space along most of its borders. Connecting the city to these great spaces is a priority need. Fortunately the city has a great relationship with DNR and State Parks and with King County and they value connecting their resources for the benefit of the city and the region!

Mountains to Sound Gateway at Exit 20

On the topic of regional cooperation and realization of potential Washington DNR is leading a planning effort for an Exit 20 on I-90 Gateway to the Mountains to Sound Greenway. The Gateway would include some kind of structure near Exit 20 that would provide facilities for educating the public, providing information about experiencing the Greenway and provide other functions to be determined. Issaquah, King County and Mountains to Sound are directly involved and supportive of the effort. Combined with this effort is additional planning of the park, open space and trails on Grand Ridge and Mitchell Hill.

Youth Involvement, continued from page 6

The Issaquah Trails Club would like to thank the following organizations for participating:

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, Washington Trails Association, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, Sammamish Community Y, Seattle Adventure Sports, YMCA Outdoor Leadership, REI Issaquah, REI Pudget Sound Outdoor School, Washington State Parks, Washington Department Of Fish and Wildlife, Lake Washington School District, Friends of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery, Seattle Public Utilities- Cedar River Watershed Education Center, Wilderness Awareness School and Compass Outdoor Adventures.

FACEBOOK CORNER

IATC'S Facebook presence continues to increase with a year-over-year growth rate of about 21%. We are well on our way to total world domination! You can help. Facebook shows posts to more people if it notices that the post is getting "likes." So, please, if you are a Facebook user: Like, Comment, Share!

From the first quarter of 2015 to the first quarter of 2018, IATC's likes on Facebook have grown each year, from nearly 500 to over 800.

NO MORE JOHN WAYNE

Since Washington State Parks trails abide by a policy that "gives preference to trail names that highlight geographic location, geology, archeology or history," the John Wayne Pioneer Trail is no more.

As of mid-May, the name was officially changed, along with the Iron Horse State Parks Trail, to *the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail*, for the route that crosses most of the state.

Chapter 20, cont. from page 7

with trailwork led by John Johnson through the 100-year old forest to connect to the Far country Trail on the Cougar park's southeast corner.

October – December: Alps in Green Trails Maps

Steve Drew pointed out that Green Trails Maps, Inc. has produced two new maps, one of Cougar and Squak mountains (Map 203S) and the other of Tiger Mountain (204S). Drew called them "validation of the amazing achievements that have occurred through the IATC's leadership in creating contiguous open space and regionally valued recreational opportunities."

With the spring approval of the Issaquah to Squak trail by the Issaquah City Council, the Rowley Agency contracted with IATC to build some of the trail for \$87,000. Once that section of trail is complete, IATC would partner with Cascadia Quest, Mountains to Sound Greenway and the Washington Trails Association to complete the trail to connect with the East Ridge Trail and the contiguous state park land.

Fred Zeitler announced that in 1999's first six months, the club held 69 hikes with 569 hikers, an average of 8.25 persons per hike.

Charles McCrone, in anticipation of the new Cougar Mountain Guidebook, printed an excerpt detailing an historical loop in the park's western side's Red Town area, a 1.7 mile outing.

Ken Konigsmark lauded DNR's trail improvements, citing in particular the High Trail, Poo Poo Point Trail, and Tiger Mountain Trail. The latter benefited from two new bridges helicoptered in for installation.

There were no new hike leaders in 1999, as a veteran contingent was well established under Zeitler's leadership.

Hiking Information

Hike Leaders

Hike leaders are volunteers who donate their time to lead people who want to hike and explore the trails in the Issaquah Alps and other nearby foothills (Cascades) in King County. Hikes are scheduled and led year-round unless severe conditions pose a safety hazard. Minimum attendance is three, including the leader.

Trails in the Issaquah Alps may be good or bad, easy or hard, muddy or dusty, brushy or clear, steep or flat—or all the above. Some are not much more than animal trails. As volunteers, neither hike leaders, the Issaquah Alps Trails Club (IATC), or Club directors are in any way responsible or liable for a hiker's comfort, transportation, property, safety, or general well-being while traveling to and from the trailhead or hiking or working on any trail.

The Club's sole purpose is to show hikers where the trails are and to lead the way. The public, other clubs, youth groups, church groups, and others are welcome and wholeheartedly invited to join hike leaders and others who want to hike these trails. Children under 18 should be accompanied by an adult. Please, dogs only on designated dog hikes.



Degree of Difficulty

Very Easy: up to 4 miles and 600 feet of elevation gain – for beginners.

Easy: up to 6 miles and 1200 feet gain – not difficult for occasional hikers.

Moderate: up to 10 miles with 1200 to 2500 feet gain – usually not difficult for regular hikers.

Strenuous: up to 12 miles and 3500 feet gain – for experienced hikers in good condition.

Very Strenuous: over 12 miles and/or over 3500 feet gain – only for experienced hikers in very good physical and aerobic condition.

Hike Description Modifiers

Leader's choice: The leader had not decided where to hike before publication of the hikes schedule.

Trail party: Trail maintenance work party.

Exploratory: The leader goes cross country off the main trail system to explore animal trails, canyons, old logging roads, or old railroad grades.

Expect to go through brush, over logs, tiptoe through wildflowers, and/or mud while having a good time hiking where others seldom tread.

continued on page 11

WEBSITE HELP NEEDED

IATC wants to update its website and could use help. If you are knowledgeable and can help, please contact George Potter at 425-557-6554.

HIKING INFORMATION

continued from page 10

Family hike: For parents and children. Easy pace. Call leader for hike particulars.

NOTE: Group hikes do not lend themselves to dogs unless on designated dog hikes.

Meeting Place

Trails Club hikes meet in the parking lot at the corner of First and Bush streets next to the IATC clubhouse (the little yellow stationmaster's house). To get there, take exit 17 (Issaquah Front Street) from Interstate 90 and turn south into downtown Issaquah. Go about one mile through town on Front Street, then go two blocks past the light at Sunset Way, and then turn left on Bush Street. Go two blocks to Rainier and turn into the lot on the left.

Clothing

Dress for the Pacific Northwest outdoors. Expect rain, snow, sunshine, fog, and everything in between. Bring extra clothing, raingear, food, drink, matches, flashlight, and first-aid supplies. Wear comfortable hiking boots or hiking shoes.

Trail Maintenance

Volunteers periodically organize and schedule trail maintenance parties as listed in the hikes schedule. Work parties meet at the same place as hikes (see above). The club is well supplied with heavy trail maintenance tools, but workers may also bring their own loppers, weed whackers, and other tools.

Trail work parties last at least four hours. Trail maintenance is vital to the Club's work and is

✓ Checklist:

- Food
- Water
- Daypack
- Raingear
- Warm clothes
- Hiking Shoes

Each item is required in order to participate in an Issaquah Alps Trails Club hike!

Don't leave the trailhead without them!

an integral part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) management plan for Tiger Mountain.

Work parties must limit their activity to trails listed by the DNR as scheduled for maintenance. Construction of new trails is not allowed. Work parties are a great way to meet people!



Issaquah Alps Trail Club
P.O. Box 351
Issaquah, WA 98027

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**Issaquah Alps Trails Club Foundation and
Membership Request Form**



Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

All donations are tax deductible. Your donations fund The Alpiner publication costs and the club's minimal operating costs first, with 100% of remaining funds being directed where they can best address the trail design, construction, maintenance and advocacy needs throughout the Issaquah Alps.

Don't forget to renew your membership!

\$20 Membership Renewal (PDF Newsletter)

\$25 Membership Renewal (Print Newsletter)

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