Washington State's Hiking Legends

We honor twelve elders who've made a huge difference for hiking and wilderness

If you've ever hiked in Washington and enjoyed the solitary peace of wilderness, you owe a debt of gratitude to a group of visionaries who helped promote hiking and protect wild lands in this state.

So much of what we take for granted—the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, North Cascades National Park, the wild coast of Olympic National Park—were saved by the work of dedicated activists and hikers.

In the days after World War II, opportunities for hikers were by no means a sure thing. Logging was at its peak, population was booming, and there was great pressure to push new roads and development into what remained of the Northwest's wild frontier.

This is the story of those who stepped up and helped promote hiking as an enjoyable recreation activity and as a means of protecting alpine meadows, high peaks, old growth forests, and those landscapes so integral to our way of life in the Northwest.

Some chose to work on legislative action. Others sought to promote hiking. Still others catalogued native plants, or documented the history of the region's mountains. All are modest about their accomplishments. But those accomplishments are very real. They're legends, but also real people who set an example for us to follow.

When we began this project, we intentionally set out to profile those of the generation that came to prominence after World War II, and those who are still living and in many cases, still actively working on the interests of hikers (Louise Marshall passed away not long after we interviewed her).

So think of this as a long thank you note, to those who worked hard, so that hikers today could have so many places to play. —Andrew Engelson

Louise Marshall 1915-2005

Louise Marshall, a national leader in the hiking movement for the last 40 years and founder of Washington Trails Association, passed away at her Lynnwood home in August of natural causes. She was 90.

Born in 1915, Louise Marshall was venturing into the woods before most of today's hikers were a gleam in their parents' eyes. Throughout her life, she shared her passion for the outdoors with others, and inspired hikers to work for preservation of the trails under their boots.

"Her contributions made a profound impact on the hiking movement, both locally and nationally," said Elizabeth Lunney, executive director of the Washington Trails Association.

Louise authored the first Northwest hiking book, 100 Hikes in Western Washington, which was the forerunner of the "100 Hikes" books published today. She created the first Northwest hiking magazine, *Signpost*, still published today as *Washington Trails*.

In 1966, Louise founded the Washington Trails Association, which she nurtured to become the largest state-

based advocacy organization for hikers in the country, and a powerhouse for volunteer trail maintenance. The American Hiking Society, which she co-founded, plays a critical role at the federal level as the only national voice for hikers, fighting to protect and preserve footpaths and the natural areas that surround them.

"Louise's legacy is not just in the amazing contributions she made to trails, but in the way she made them," said Lunney. "She really knew the issues that impacted hikers. She spoke her mind. She brought people together. Her actions made a difference, and they inspire us as trail activists today."

"Louise Marshall was a legend in the hiking community. We all benefit today from her tremendous contributions to foot trails and hiking," said Gregory Miller, president of the American Hiking Society.

Louise Marshall was REI's first female board member, where she served for 18 years.

"Outdoor people nationally, and particularly those of us in the Northwest, owe a great debt of gratitude to Louise Marshall," said Michael Collins, Vice President of Public Affairs at Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI). "In addition to her 18 years of board service to REI and its members, Louise also was a very important national leader and advocate for the trails that we appreciate and enjoy today."

Closer to home, Louise was dedicated to parks and open space preservation in the city of Lynnwood, Washington, where she lived for 53 years. She chaired the city Parks Commission, and sold the Marshall property, now Spruce Park, to the City of Lynnwood with the stipulation that it become a public park.

"My mother taught by action and example," said Ann Marshall, her daughter, who worked closely with Louise on a number of projects, including *Signpost* magazine. "Her example was that there are no limits to what you can do. Put your mind to it and you can get it done."

Louise first ventured out on the trails of Palisades State Park, New York, at a young age. By high school she and two girlfriends had formed the "Unholy Three" and were hiking every weekend. She met her husband Bill in graduate School at Columbia University, and they moved west to Seattle in 1952, eager for hiking adventures in the great Northwest.

But there was a problem: they could find no information on Northwest trails. Bill worked as an airline mechanic over some weekends, so Louise became a regular on outings with The Mountaineers, Seattle's hiking and climbing club. Soon Louise became the Backpack Committee Chair and began compiling trail information from the club's outings. Her goal was to provide information to a public hungry for hiking opportunities.

She later distilled her experience into the book *100 Hikes in Western Washington*, published by The Mountaineers in 1966. The initial print run was 5,000 copies. To everyone's surprise, the book leapt to the top of the bestseller list in Seattle for eight weeks and The Mountaineers were forced to schedule additional print runs to keep up with demand. The Northwest hiking boom had begun.

"My mother taught by action and example," said Ann Marshall, her daughter, who worked closely with Louise on a number of projects, including *Signpost* magazine. "Her example was that there are no limits to what you can do. Put your mind to it and you can get it done."

Also in 1966, she started a little newsletter of trail news she named *Signpost*. As with her book, Signpost became an instant hit and the circulation quickly grew to over 3,000.

Signpost gave Louise a platform from which she could advocate for the protection of trails, and many victories for trails and wildlands followed. She fought battles for hikers' rights and against wilderness logging, road building, all terrain vehicles, and a proposed open pit copper mine. Always the organizer, Louise took *Signpost* to the next level when she brought together a network of trail activists through the creation of the Washington Trails Association. WTA soon became the political voice for Northwest hikers, and it still is today.

In hindsight Louise said later that she did it all backwards. "You are supposed to first start an organization and then a publication. I did it the other way around," she said.

Trail activists stopped the building of a road from Lake Ozette to Rialto Beach in Olympic National Park. Louise organized a protest at the Suiattle River trailhead in hopes of halting construction of an open pit mine by the Kennecott Copper Company at Image Lake near Glacier Peak (today the Glacier Peak Wilderness). Some 50 people showed up, including Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. Kennecott cancelled its plans for the mine.

"Signpost had a tremendous following and it was amazing to me how copies circulated, were borrowed, loaned, pilfered or otherwise shared," said Bernie Smith, who is a retired District Ranger employed with the Forest Service. "It gave hikers an opportunity to be informed on issues of importance to them."

Louise's passion for trails was unstoppable, and in the mid-1970s she regularly traveled to Washington D.C. to lobby Congress about trails and wilderness issues. In 1976 Louise co-founded another organization, this one to speak for trails at the national level. As President of the American Hiking Society (AHS) in the late 1980s, funding for trails on federal lands was her top priority, and she worked hard to help pass legislation that increased budgets for trails in both National Parks and Forests.

"Louise was the ultimate networker. She knew all kinds of folks in key positions and scrounged Forest Service bucks for all kinds of trail projects," said Bernie Smith. "She was what good politicians used to be—a tireless and selfless worker for the good of the community. She was a uniquely strong woman who was at once a devil's advocate, a watch dog, a mentor, a collaborator and an advisor."

In many ways, Louise Marshall was the elder of her tribe. She experienced the explosive growth of hiking and significantly shaped the community that supports it.

"She was one of the towering, unsung heroes of the American trails community. She helped initiate or organize many efforts that have borne wonderful fruit." said Gary Werner, executive director of Partnership for the National Trails System.

A few months ago, when asked what words of wisdom she wanted to pass on to future generations of hikers, Louise thoughtfully replied, "Get organized. Most hikers are not joiners, but we need to be united behind a movement to be heard."

—Doug Beyerlein and Lauren Braden

Signpost logo, circa 1968.

Hiking with My Mother

As a kid, hiking with my mom and dad was a big adventure. My love of the outdoors, open sky and walking comes directly from them. As a young person I found my own group of friends to hike with, but I very much enjoyed traveling the trails with my mother again when my own children were small.

As my mother aged and gradually became unable to hike, I would frequently stop by her home to discuss my outings—always, she had been there before me and had stories to tell. When I started carrying a cell phone with me, I would call my mother from whatever high spot I was on and describe the scene; she would follow along on her Green Trails map. In recent years, we once more found ourselves hiking together. She acquired a little electric scooter that allowed her to get out and about if she was feeling well. My mother and I again drove up to the mountains, this time seeking out trails her scooter could manage, and sharing times in the outdoors as we did when I was small.

—Ann Marshall, former editor of *Signpost* magazine
Port Orchard, Washington

Polly Dyer

Ever wonder who to thank for the protection of wondrous places like the Glacier Peak Wilderness, the Quinault River Valley, or the coastal strip of Olympic National Park? If we look back over the past half century, at every struggle to protect each piece of wilderness in this country, it all started with an activist.

Without the determined activism of Polly Dyer, the map of Washington state would look considerably different. In fact, the map of the U.S. might look very different; Polly had a leading role in the 1964 Wilderness Act, which preserved millions of acres of wilderness throughout the nation.

Polly's activist lifestyle took shape in Berkeley, California nearly 60 years ago. Her husband John, an avid rock climber whom she'd met on a mountaintop in Alaska, was a leader in the local chapter of the Sierra Club there. When John took ill for several months, Polly figured if her husband could be a conservation leader, she could be one too, and took over for him.

That was the beginning, but far from the end. Over the next five decades, Polly and John Dyer stayed on the front lines of the wilderness movement, putting into effect their shared vision of permanently protecting huge swaths of wild areas from roads and chain saws.

After a move to Washington in the 1950s, Polly joined The Mountaineers and worked to help create the Glacier Peak Wilderness Area. Recognizing the many threats to parts of the North Cascades, Polly helped form the North Cascades Conservation Council, which forged the way for the creation of North Cascades National Park in 1964.

Also that year, Polly was among those whose tireless efforts helped pass the Wilderness Act, leading to the protection of over 100 million acres of wilderness. In fact, Polly helped shape one of the essential concepts in the Wilderness Act that really gets to the heart of what ideal wilderness is: those lands, already owned by the American people that were "untrammeled by man."

In the 1970s, Polly focused much of her attention on the Olympic Peninsula, particularly on the wild north coast, which was very close to her heart. Although Olympic National Park was formed in 1938, it is bigger today thanks to Polly, now comprising Shi Shi beach, Point of the Arches and the Lake Ozette area. This addition came after a hard-fought battle, and in the process Polly had to thwart an attempt by timber interests and some in Congress to accept the coastal addition only as a trade for 2,000 acres on the north shore of Lake Quinault and up into the Quinault Valley. Tenacious lobbying efforts, led by Polly, secured both as permanently protected in Olympic National Park.

In recent years, Polly has hardly rested on her laurels. She continues to organize the North American Wilderness Conference every two years, and still serves on the board of Olympic Park Associates. And you will still run into Polly and John at public hearings on roadless and wilderness issues, testifying on behalf of wildlands. Her words are always full of spirit, persuasive and straight from her heart—a most effective combination.

—Lauren Braden

Pat Goldsworthy

The moment, on October 2, 1968, when President Lyndon Johnson signed North Cascades National Park into law represented a triumph of hundreds, even thousands, of vocal citizens and activists. For Patrick Goldsworthy, the moment was personal, the consummation of fifteen years of work already. "It was his life when you come right down to it," says Polly Dyer, a colleague and longtime conservation advocate. Goldsworthy would devote the next nearly forty years to the North Cascades—as their guardian and spokesperson.

Goldsworthy's interest in the outdoors began in his youth in California, when he embarked on frequent camping trips to Lake Tahoe. On one of these trips, Goldsworthy met Cedric Wright, an eminent photographer and contemporary of Ansel Adams. Wright introduced Goldsworthy to the Sierra Club and conservationist David Brower. Brower became Goldworthy's inspiration and mentor, and he recruited Goldsworthy to help lead Sierra Club High Trips, *en masse* backpacking excursions involving over 100 hikers.

In 1952, after completing his doctorate, Goldsworthy accepted a faculty position at the University of Washington. On a friend's recommendation, Goldsworthy took a hike in the Cascades. He fell in love with the area and was quickly swept up in the movement to protect it.

In 1953, several activists, including Goldsworthy, began organizing the first Northwest chapter of the Sierra Club. By 1957, many activists believed that North Cascades needed its own advocacy group to focus attention on creating a park: they established the North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC). Goldsworthy became NCCC's president in 1958 and now sits on its board. In the 1960s, through his political conservation leadership, Goldsworthy developed a working relationship with Washington Senator Henry M. Jackson. He stole time from trips to national biochemistry meetings in Washington, D.C., to lobby for the North Cascades. Goldsworthy's confident and agreeable style won over many. At home in Washington, he gave talks throughout the state to gain supporters for the park.

Goldsworthy understood that the national park's creation was only a beginning to the need for conservation advocacy in the Cascades. Over the last four decades, he has tirelessly campaigned for wilderness protection. He served as a board member for the national Sierra Club and is now an honorary Sierra Club vice president. Through NCCC, he responds to threats to North Cascades National Park, and the National Park Service seeks his leadership on policy decisions. He and NCCC are actively promoting the Wild Sky wilderness.

Throughout his life, he has encouraged outdoor recreation. He now recognizes that a growing population is loving the parks to death. He exhorts conservationists to work to solve this problem. "Leave it for the next generation," he charges them.

—Madeline Ostrander

Ruth Ittner

On a day in the early 1970s, Ruth Ittner planned only to drop in on a policy meeting at Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, just out of curiosity, she says. Instead, she launched a thirty-year career as a trails activist. It began with a single discrepancy—a publication that claimed one of Ittner's favorite climbing haunts, the Mount Baring-Gunn area, was unused by hikers. Not known for shyness, Ittner challenged the forest supervisor, "I said to him, 'I've been up there three weekends in a row climbing in this area.' And he said, 'Nobody told us you were doing that.' That's when I realized there had to be better communication between the recreationists and the Forest Service."

A single meeting became a destiny. Having spent years of her life as both a climber and policy researcher for the University of Washington, Ittner was a natural at political activism. She soon became prominent on the national policy scene. Traveling with WTA founder Louise Marshall, Ittner made several trips to Washington to attend policy meetings and talk with the Washington Congressional delegation about improving funding for and information on trails.

It was a turbulent time for trails. The U.S. Forest Service had neglected recreationists for decades, focusing instead on the science of timber harvest, forest fire prevention, and grazing. In 1968, the National Trails System Act forced the Forest Service to change its tune. But it was an uphill battle. Existing trails were designed for mounted rangers to monitor forest conditions, not for frequent and large groups of hikers. And according to Ittner, budget shortfalls made it nearly impossible for national forests to take on citizen volunteers.

Ittner's skillful advocacy helped change many of these policies. She worked with Congressional staff to boost the funding for volunteers on public lands. She organized public seminars to educate citizens on forest policy. She pushed the Forest Service to establish more rigorous trail information systems for the public. She also worked in Washington State to help create the Sno-Parks system, a series of areas along highway mountain passes that are kept clear of snow to allow backcountry skiing.

In 1987, at the age of nearly 70, Ittner launched the project that has brought her perhaps the greatest public acclaim, the Iron Goat Trail, a route that follows the former track of the Great Northern railway. The project is a marvel of partnership and volunteerism. Dozens of organizations have pitched in, and hundreds of volunteers have contributed thousands of hours. Ittner's first-rate people skills may account for part of the project's success. Fran Troje at Volunteers for Outdoor Washington, a leading group involved in the trail, says, "She has a marvelous ability of bringing out the best in people and in projects." At 87, you can still find Ittner where her curiosity led her more than thirty years ago—working with organizations, volunteers, and the Forest Service as an unflagging advocate for trails. —Madeline Ostrander

Al Brooks

Art Kruckeberg

Plenty of hikers like plants. You might hear them say, "Look at that pretty blue flower!" Or in their trip reports, write: "Flowers abound along trail including lots of fringe cups, several types of false Solomon's seal, penstemon, Canadian dogwood, trilliums and twisted stalk." Very serious plant people might be overhead wondering, "Is this *Ceanothus sanguineus* or *Ceanothus integerrimus*? I never remember which one has the hairy twigs."

Then there's Art Kruckeberg, a master of Pacific Northwest botany. A bona-fide plant geek. He's the kind of hiker you don't just overhear talking about plants. You read his books, attend his courses, or visit his native plant research garden. Kruckeberg, a professor emeritus of botany, has taught scores of gardeners, horticulturists and plant enthusiasts the virtues of native plants in the Northwest. Now eighty-five years old, he divides his time between working at the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden in Shoreline, leading field seminars and lecturing at horticultural events.

Kruckeberg was born into plants. His father was a native plants advocate in Southern California and heavily involved in the Theodore Paine Nursery. While studying at Occidental College, the young Kruckeberg inventoried the campus' flora. For fun.

Many consider Kruckeberg something of a botanical guru. Kruckeberg speculated that the hundreds who've taken the adult short courses he teaches have formed the basis of that reputation. Co-founding the Washington Native Plant Society probably helped seal the deal. In many ways, Kruckberg's hiking has helped set him apart. His long forays into backcountry areas in California, Washington and around the world have helped him fill a niche among botanists. Kruckeberg has found that many of today's botanists have focused their studies on molecular biology and don't know much about Pacific Northwest flora as it exists "in the field," that is, in sub-alpine bogs, in deep river valleys, or on talus slopes. So, Kruckeberg says, when they have questions about a plant's natural setting, "they call me."

Washington's hikers owe Kruckeberg a debt of gratitude for his work to preserve our native flora in the field. Working with State Senator Lois North, Kruckeberg helped spearhead a Natural Areas Bill that initiated a process of identifying the highest quality, most ecologically important wild land sites in Washington and protecting them as Natural Area Preserves. Kruckeberg's plant lists helped establish the Eldorado Creek Research Area and the Olivine Bridge Natural Area Preserve, both sites with unique geology that represent examples of native vegetation on serpentine soils at low elevations. Kruckeberg is a leading expert on the relationship between serpentine (heavy, olive-green rocks high in magnesium and low in calcium) and the specially evolved plants that inhabit serpentine soils, including rare paintbrushes, junipers and ferns.

Considering that most or all our richest areas of ecological diversity are found on public lands, Kruckeberg believes federal land management policies are at the fore of either protecting or destroying our native plants. But, he also believes that the most critical threat facing our native plants is that most people simply don't know how rich we are. "Do we know what we're seeing in our scenery?" he wonders.

Through his published work and classes, Kruckeberg has helped many hikers to read that scenery—to identify the plants, trees, and ecosystems they encounter while hiking. Some of his books, notably the 468-page *Natural History of Puget Sound Country*¸ are best studied at home. Others are well-suited to backpacking. The idea to collaborate with Ira Spring on *Best Wildflower Hikes*, a combination hiking and wildflower guide, was hatched at WTA's Ninth Annual Dark Divide Weekend in 2002 where they were both leading hikes.

If pressed, Kruckeberg will tell you that his favorite tree is the mountain hemlock. He is particularly fond of a specimen collected decades back in the Teanaway that now stands near the entrance to the Kruckeberg Botanic Garden. Kruckeberg won't offer a favorite plant overall, but narrowing it down a bit, he thinks that his favorite sub-alpine herbaceous perennial might be phlox...or lupine...but it always depends on what he last saw.

—Lace Thornberg

Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Bill Longwell

Bill Longwell is a numbers guy. He keeps a meticulous record of every trail he's hiked, and over the years he's logged some 48,000 miles hiking and climbing. His guidebook to Tiger Mountain in the Cascade foothills includes detailed mileage notes—down to the tenth of a mile. "You'd often see him out at Tiger with a bicycle wheel and an odometer," says Dave Kappler, former president of the Issaquah Alps Trail Club. At age 69, Bill is the longtime Chief Ranger of Trails for the Issaquah Alps Trail Club, and he's spent a good portion of his life fighting to protect Tiger and Squak Mountains from development. It's thanks to Bill that residents of the greater Seattle area have a great system of trails and greenspace only minutes from the population centers of Puget Sound.

Certainly his attention to detail was part of his success, but also his skills as a negotiator and a quiet but persistent advocate for wildlands. "Bill is always a gentleman," says Kappler. "There are a lot of different personalities among us, but Bill has always been the statesman. Diplomatic, but unyielding."

Bill taught English in the Renton School district for 30 years, and during his time off headed up to explore Tiger and Squak Mountains. In the 1960s it was a very different place than it is today. Overgrown logging roads, clearcuts and hardly anything resembling a hiking trail existed in the foothills. In 1972, The Mountaineers tasked Bill, Phil Hall, Joe Toynbee and others with building a trail up Tiger. At first, the makeshift crews used simple garden tools to clear trail. But Bill eventually discovered the benefits of the Pulaski and McLeod. Still, building the 16-mile trail took 16 years. During that time, Bill involved his students, land managers, and anyone he could think of into creating a system of trails that would get hikers on the mountain—and eventually build a constituency that would insist on its protection. Working with Harvey Manning and the Issaquah Alps Trails Club, Bill created trails all over the foothills, including Mount Defiance, Taylor River, Dingford Creek and Squak Mountain.

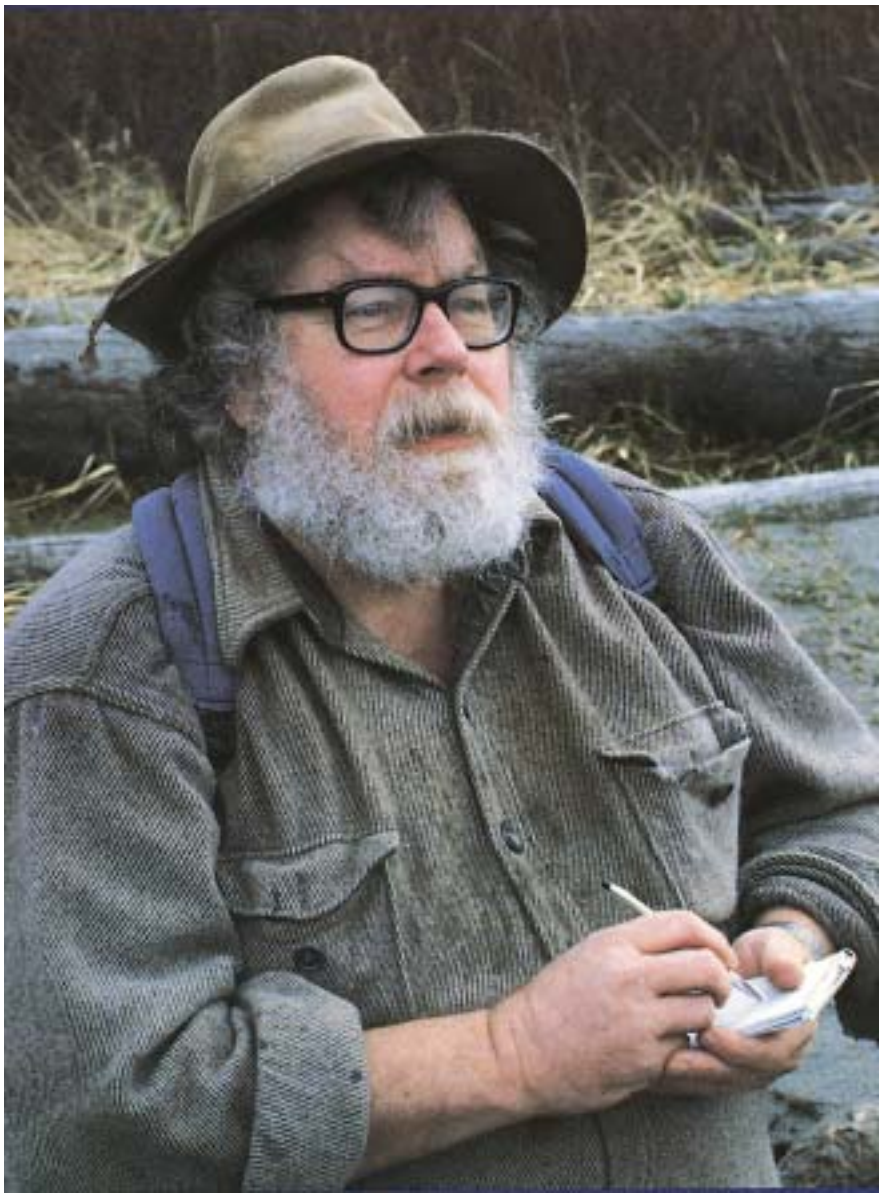
These days, Bill continues to lead IATC work parties and takes groups into the foothills in the spring, helping them identify wildflowers and birds. Without his hours of work (no doubt recorded in a logbook somewhere) residents of the Seattle area might not have these forested hiking refuges so close to home. "He really introduced hundreds of thousands of people to these areas," says Kappler.
—Andrew Engelson

Harvey Manning

Harvey Manning is one of my heroes. He has been backpacking since the 1930s, and he has written many books of great importance to the hiking, mountaineering and conservation communities. He chaired the editorial committee of The Mountaineers that produced the textbook *Mountaineering: The Freedom of the Hills*, first published in 1964. That book was such an unexpected success that The Mountaineers Books was born, with its *100 Hikes* guidebook series produced by Harvey and his long-time collaborator Ira Spring. Their *100 Hikes* books were instrumental in stopping the loss of trails after World War II, and set the standard for hiking guidebooks everywhere. Harvey also wrote the popular instruction guide *Backpacking: One Step at a Time* in 1972.

Harvey's books continue to introduce people to some of the most beautiful country in the world, and also exhort people to protect these lands for future generations. "Environmental impact is a central concern of our organization," said Helen Cherullo, Publisher of Mountaineers Books. "One of our trademarks is the

Ira Spring



ethic first promoted by Harvey Manning and Ira Spring—that it is not enough to hike responsibly. It is also incumbent upon us to understand the environmental issues and become an active voice to protect and save the wilderness."

Harvey has done great things for wildlands protection, and you have probably hiked in and cherished the wildness of places that Harvey helped keep wild. In 1957 he joined the North Cascades Conservation Council (NCCC), and learned activism from NCCC Board members such as Dave Brower, Polly Dyer and Grant McConnell. In the 1960s Harvey wrote *The North Cascades* (with Tom Miller) and *The Wild Cascades: Forgotten Parkland*, publicizing the area's natural beauty—both of which were instrumental in establishing North Cascades National Park in 1968. He edited the 1971 book *Alpine Lakes*, which helped convince President Ford to sign the bill creating that Wilderness. Washington state's Senators and Representatives were given copies of Harvey's 1984 book *Washington Wilderness: The Unfinished Work*, helping to establish much new Wilderness that year, including the Henry M. Jackson, Indian Heaven, Juniper Dunes and William O. Douglas Wilderness areas. His *100 Hikes* books have played a crucial role in protecting these and other wildlands. He continues his vigorous advocacy to this day, battling against commercialization, privatization, motorization and other dangers to wildlands. He and his wife Betty have long served as editors of NCCC's excellent journal *The Wild Cascades*.

Harvey also founded the Issaquah Alps Trails Club in 1979, leading hikes, wrangling with politicians and saving thousands of acres of lowland forests on Cougar, Squak, Tiger, Taylor and Rattlesnake Mountains, the wild backyard of Seattle-Bellevue urban areas. He wrote of the lowlands and "the wildness within" in his four-volume *Footsore* series, and in *Walking the Beach to Bellingham*. Later he helped launch the Mountains to Sound Greenway, linking and protecting green lands along the I-90 corridor.

I'm personally grateful to Harvey for the help he's given me over the years. Things were tough in 1992 when I became president of WTA, with its shrinking membership and plummeting finances. Harvey loudly rejoined WTA and its Issues Committee, adding his energy to our turnaround effort, and WTA has been getting better ever since. It was a pleasure to have Harvey and Ira at my dinner table meetings. Harvey introduced me to the boards of the Greenway Trust, Issaquah Alps Trails Club and NCCC. Later he and Ira wrote a series of columns for this magazine, providing timely updates to hike descriptions in *100 Hikes* books that were years away from revision—a great resource to readers. And in our court battles to protect wildlands from off-road vehicle damage, the lawsuit papers included many of Harvey's ideas. Both hikers and ecosystems have benefited immensely from Harvey's informed books, his ceaseless activism, and his principled stands.

Harvey called the little sermons he wrote for the *100 Hikes* books "Fighting Forewords" and the name is fitting. Yet he views his advocacy leadership role with humility. "As an old chicken rancher, I can confirm the observation that individual chickens are the definition of stupid, but the flock is pretty smart, does a good job of managing the chicken business," Harvey recently wrote. "I became distrustful of my personal opinions, became a strong supporter and advocate of the party line. That is what my forewords have been." Current and future generations of hikers are fortunate to have someone fighting so tenaciously on their behalf.

—Karl Forsgaard

Dee Molenaar

The basement is cluttered with geological treatises, landform maps, photographs, water colors, oil paintings, a library of books and climbing memorabilia. The attic is no different. Amongst this treasury of material, collected over an 87-year lifespan, Dee Molenaar stands and ponders if his wife, Colleen, and his three children will ever make sense of this massive collection after he is gone. That concern may be premature, as he races me up and down the stairs of his country home near Port Orchard, sharing stories of his amazing life. Furthermore, Dee has yet to finish and publish his autobiography, to be called *High and Wide with Sketchpad*. I was left with no doubt that this would happen long before his wife and children will be faced with the prospect of sorting through a legacy filled with enough experiences for four or five lifetimes.

To be a noted geologist, documenting groundwater resources in various parts of Washington and exploring for petroleum resources in Alaska, Colorado, Utah and Washington for the United States Geological Survey is certainly an accomplishment. Add to that the drawing of landform maps and landscape cartography that can be found in publications throughout the country. If this is not enough, you will find his artwork, often watercolors of mountain subjects, on the walls of many collectors' homes and in numerous books. His illustrations are found in climbing guide books. He has written a definitive history of climbing on Mount Rainier, *The Challenge of Rainier*. In addition to all of this he is a first class mountaineer, climbing with the "legends" on some of the most challenging peaks.

Dee developed his interest in the out-of-doors while growing up in California, but it is in Washington that climbing became a passion. He and his brother Cornelius fashioned ice axes from garden tools and climbed Mount Rainier. Dee subsequently made more than 50 ascents of the mountain, many of those during the time that he was a ranger for Mount Rainier National Park. His climbing and backcountry exploration was not limited to Washington. He assisted Bobby Kennedy up Mount Kennedy in Canada, helped rescue John Day on Mount McKinley, trekked round Mount Everest and in the Antarctic.

The most memorable day of Dee's life occurred on August 10, 1953. Dee was part of the team making the third attempt to climb K-2. When a team member, Art Gilkey, became seriously ill at 25,000 feet the effort to summit was aborted and saving the life of Gilkey became the first priority. In one of the most dramatic events of mountaineering history, the party was almost swept off of the mountain, saved only by the single belay of Pete Schoening, another climbing legend from the state of Washington. Had Dee not tied into this belay, it would have spelled disaster for the party.

In choosing the K-2 team, here is what the leader Charles Houston sought: "We chose the expedition intuitively. We avoided superstars, people who we thought were going to put themselves first. We were a group with common ideals, a willingness to share, and, if I may say so, a singular lack of self-aggrandizement." Those who know Dee can easily understand why he was selected for this expedition.

Dee Molenaar was with Pete Schoening on one of Pete's last hikes, to Big Four Ice Caves on the Mountain Loop Highway. Pete died last year, and many of Dee's closest climbing partners have now passed on. Dee has too much to do before this becomes his fate. There is still a basement and an attic filled with a lifetime of memorabilia that must first be put in order. —Chris Bell

Bill & Peg Stark

Bill and Peg taught us to love the Enchantment Lakes and their larch trees. Focusing almost exclusively on the Enchantments above Leavenworth on the eastern slope of the Cascades, the Starks visited this area hundreds of time over the years. Peg made her last trip to the lakes when she was 80.

Since some features were unnamed when the Starks first started visiting the Enchantments, they assigned evocative names from British mythology, such as Lake Viviane, Excalibur Rock, Rune, and Talisman, to those in the Lower Basin, and names from Norse mythology, such as Valhalla Cirque, Troll Sink, and Brisingamen Necklace, to those in the upper Basin. Tom Miller, long time climber and mountain photographer, says, "Not many people know that those names came from the Starks."

In 1968 the Starks led a weeklong Mountaineer outing to the Enchantments, introducing more than 80 hikers to their passion. They have made countless photos of golden larches next to white rock and blue lakes, evoking the trees' beauty and making so many of us yearn to see them in person.

In mid-life Bill left his Boeing engineering job, cashed in his retirement, and sold a waterfront home to finance a new concept, a backcountry ski camp. Originally called Scottish Lakes, now High Camp, the camp lies in the Chiwaukum Mountains at 5,000 feet. The Starks built a lodge and tent platforms; every year once enough snow had fallen they hauled skiing clients up 3,000 feet on a snow cat and snowmobiles. Peg, the mother of four grown children, did all the cooking and babysitting while the parents skied.

For a number of years they ran the winter camp, and though the Enchantments were still their first love, they made a success of the enterprise. Those who visit High Camp today will still find ski runs with such names as Wild Bill Hill and Peg's Promenade, commemorating the Starks. They are a couple with unusual courage, imagination and a passion that have made an indelible contribution to Northwest hiking.
—Joan Burton

Laura & Phil Zalesky

The Zaleskys are a conservationist couple who have been fighting to save Northwest wilderness for more than fifty years. According to Polly Dyer, long-time Northwest conservation activist, Phil and Laura were in on the ground floor of the movement. Ten years before North Cascades National Park was established in 1968, the Zaleskys were working to make sure wilderness in the area was set aside and the park established. To create a single voice to speak for the Park, they helped form the North Cascades Conservation Council, and Phil served as its first president

In their own community they helped with the establishment of the Snohomish County Land Trust in 1989. Phil served as its first president as well. They have been active with Pilchuck Audubon, for whom he teaches a birding class, and Olympic Park Associates. More recently they have campaigned for the Wild Sky Wilderness.

Laura's mission was to revitalize the Pilchuck Audubon Conservation Committee, now one of the strongest conservation organizations in Snohomish County. She also chaired the County Conservation Futures Fund for several years, which helped determine lands to be purchased for parks. One park she is particularly proud of is Spencer Island, which might not have been saved without her advocacy, says her husband Phil.

Retired Everett schoolteachers, the Zaleskys have always loved the Northwest outdoors and have spent their leisure time in backpacking and hiking in the Glacier Peak Wilderness and North Cascades National Park. Summer vacations were always spent on Northwest trails. In 1999 they were honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by The Cascade Land Conservancy, a group which seeks protection of rivers, wetlands and other sensitive lands by encouraging placement of land in trust or setting up easements for conservation purposes.

"We got into something that we really enjoyed together," says Phil. "We decided there was a need to be sure there are beautiful lands available for others to enjoy."

"We just hope that there's going to be a possibility for the kinds of experiences we've had during our lifetimes to be passed on to future generations," says Laura.

From saving the North Cascades as a National Park to present local campaigns, Phil and Laura Zalesky have been and continue to be tireless advocates.
—Joan Burton ♦