

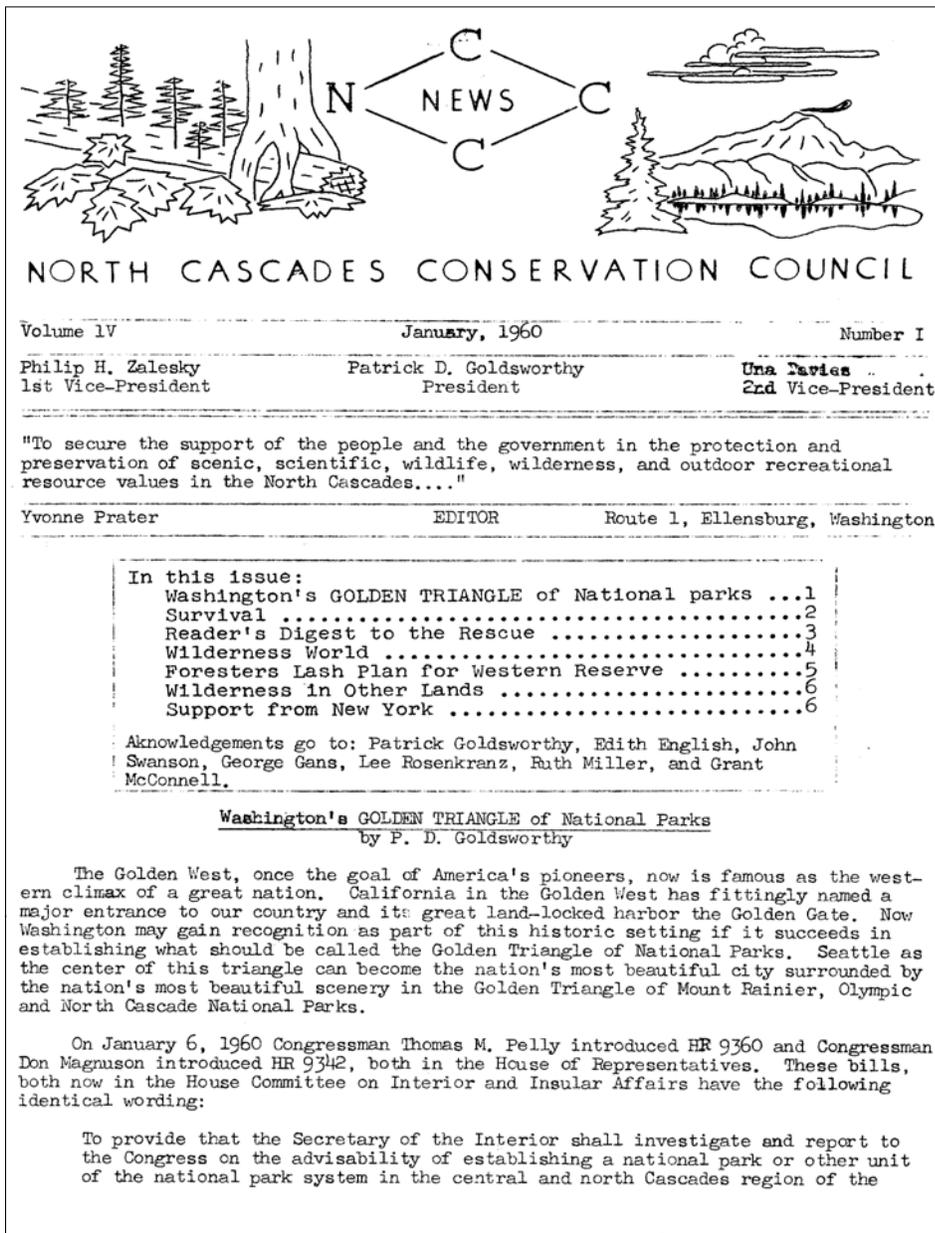
A brief history of *The Wild Cascades*: A call to action

By Tom Hammond

Betty Manning, Editor in Chief of *The Wild Cascades*, is stepping down from her position of running the publication. The editorial committee has been charged with taking on her duties, though not even a group of us can seem to accomplish what Betty has done since 1992. As the transition chugs along, we decided to chronicle the history of this publication, to take this time to reflect on where we've been, and where we're going.

My wife Athena and I met with Betty and Patrick Goldsworthy at the Manning Cougar Mountain hut to have a chat about remembrances. As we discussed *The Wild Cascades*, we noticed the conversation kept coming back to the future, and how our meeting was really a call to action for all of our membership. Sorry folks, but this article ends up with some "action items" and homework for all of us.

Patrick Goldsworthy, with Laura and Phil Zalesky, founded the North Cascades Conservation Council. The NCCC publication, *The Wild Cascades*, began in 1957 as NCCC News, a monthly report of the issues and concerns being worked by the NCCC. Usually about six pages, this mimeographed, stapled newsletter was the *de facto* journal of record of the NCCC, through which the organization reached out to members, constituents, lawmakers and adversaries alike.

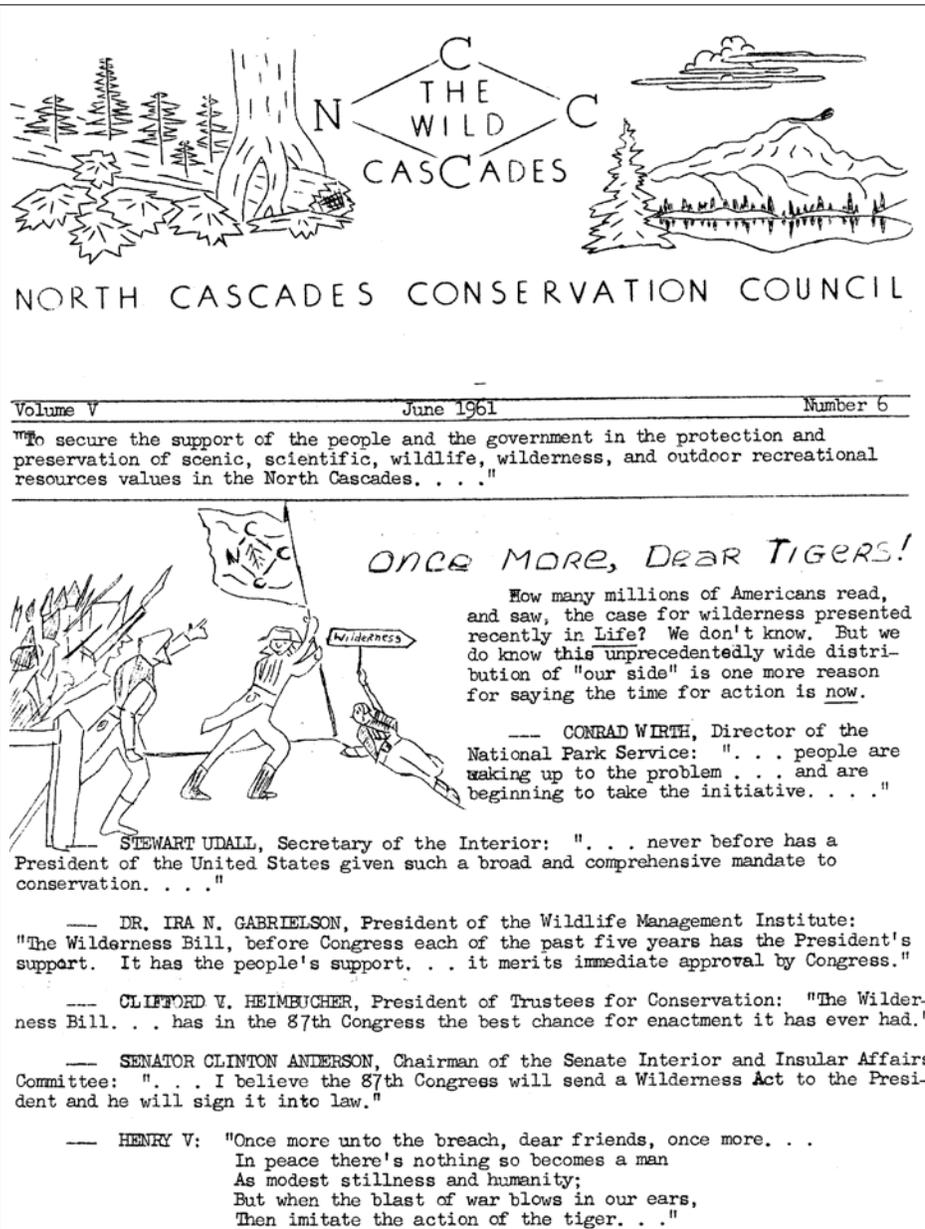


As seen here, NCCC News became *The Wild Cascades* in June of 1961, a momentous occasion in the history of North Cascades conservation efforts.

Patrick remembers typing page upon page, then running the mimeograph machine, and having board members come to his home to manually assemble and staple the newsletter. What doesn't appear on these reproductions is that the paper used was a mellow yellow color.

Enter the Mannings. The journal came out sporadically in the early years. Harvey

Manning became editor in the early 1960s. Harvey lent the considerable force of his pen to the publication, at times as The Irate Birdwatcher, at times as himself. The phrase, "Irate Birdwatcher" is now synonymous with "fighting conservationist." Harvey wasn't alone—Joe Miller, aka The Kaopectate Kid, unleashed his sharp wit on poor public lands policy, calling connected citizens to action. He is remembered, with his wife Margaret, for studying and saving the Big Beaver Valley from the threat of a higher Ross Dam.



From September of 1962 until August of 1992, *The Wild Cascades* appeared much as you see it today—grayscale with a more formal cover and look, though with smaller dimensions of 6.75" x 9.5".

Betty Manning took on the role of editor in 1992.

The professional and consistent layout that we see today was first done in February of 1993 with the help of former board member Kevin Herrick. Contributors are generally NCCC board members, an im-

pressive collection of scientists, professors, lawyers, engineers and other informed professionals and regular citizens passionate about our way of life here in the Pacific Northwest. Pat Hutson, a former Stehekin resident now living in Oregon, does a fantastic job of graphic design.

Throughout its evolution, *The Wild Cascades* has served as the means by which we inform and educate on the values of the NCCC and what we see as important to our region. There's a need for publica-

tions that adhere to high standards of journalistic integrity and honesty now more than ever. The issues brought forth in this publication are important and worthy, because the North Cascades and all who depend on these glorious mountains are important and worthy.

Despite the growth of online/computer media, we are happy *TWC* continues to fill its crucial role in championing and informing conservation ethics and efforts. And here's where all of you come in. We'd like to get to know you. We would like to see our membership become more engaged in all of our conservation efforts. We invite our membership to contribute in ways suited to your talents and abilities, not just with money. We have a blog, we have a website, we have this publication and we have a need for your energy and passion to protect tens of thousands of acres that remain outside national park and Forest Service Wilderness designation.

And what's the point, you might ask, of all this nostalgia? Is NCCC looking back just to praise itself and its heroes for past accomplishments? Far from it! We'd like to grow the membership, but more importantly, engage the membership, and *The Wild Cascades* is a perfect venue for that. Our vision for conservation of the Cascades includes *YOU* — and we need to hear from you! There are many pressing issues beyond those we've covered in past issues, ones you know and care about. Places you go that deserve better protection, ones that only you can tell us about. Help *YOUR* NCCC to help you pursue those issues *YOU* believe in!

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