

Gems of Hawaiian Evolution

A Hawai'i Volcanoes Institute Partnership
with the Three Mountain Alliance

Saturday & Sunday, August 1st & 2nd, 2009

7:45 AM - 3:30 PM



This very special program looks at what makes the evolutionary process on our island so unique. We are pleased to have the expertise of **Sierra McDaniel**, **Rob Robichaux**, and **Patty Moriyasu** for this two-day field seminar.

After completing a Master's Degree in Tropical Conservation Biology, **Sierra McDaniel** now works to restore vegetation communities at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park including coastal lowlands, rain forest, 'ohi'a woodlands, and koa forest.

Rob Robichaux is the founder of the Hawaiian Silversword Foundation and currently serves as its Board of Trustees president. He has conducted research on the ecology and evolution of Hawaiian plants for more than 25 years. In recent years, he has devoted most of his effort in Hawai'i to endangered plant reintroduction and ecosystem restoration, with a focus on on-the-ground initiatives.

Patty Moriyasu is a horticulturist for the Volcano Rare Plant Facility. She specializes in the propagation of the most endangered native plants found throughout the islands.

Day One: Saturday, August 1, 2009

- 7:45 Breakfast/Check In
- Introductions/Waiver Forms
- Review Schedule
- 8:30 Presentation on Hawai'i's Natural History: A Brief Introduction
- Introduction to the natural history of Hawai'i, endemism, the adaptive process which occurred in Hawai'i, and the work being done to protect Hawai'i's natural resources.
- 9:15 a.m. Leave for Mauna Loa
- 10:15 a.m. Arrive at Kipuka Puaulu
- Introduction to the area (lava flows, changes in vegetation)
- 10:45 a.m. Drive up to trailhead
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Brief introduction to the Hawaiian Silversword Foundation and Rob Robichaux's work
- 12:30 p.m. Begin hike to silversword enclosure
- 1:30 p.m. Arrive at enclosure
- View silverswords
- Talk about the Silversword Alliance and adaptive processes with Rob
- Discuss hope for restoration and accomplishments so far
- Explore
- 2:15 p.m. Hike back to trailhead
- 3:15 p.m. Head back to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Day Two: Sunday, August 2, 2009

- 7:45 a.m. Participants meet for pastries and dry breakfast (bagels, etc.)
- Good morning
- Overview of the day
- 8:45 a.m. Leave for Volcano Rare Plant Facility
- 9:00 a.m. Begin tour of facility with Patty Moriyasu
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch
- 12:15 p.m. Leave Volcano Rare Plant Facility for Ola'a Tract
- 12:45 p.m. Begin hike into Ola'a Tract with Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park employee
- 1:30 p.m. Tour rare plant out-plantings
- Discuss the efforts the park has made to increase rare plant populations
- 2:30 p.m. Begin hike out of Ola'a Tract
- 3:15 p.m. Head back to Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
- 3:30 p.m. Wrap-up discussion
- Questions
- Evaluations

Level of Difficulty

Participants should be able to walk at least 2 miles over uneven terrain. The Ola'a Tract can be wet so participants should be fairly confident about negotiating wet areas. This program is rated moderate, and proper footwear is required.

Cost & Registration

The cost for this 2-day program, including light breakfasts, snacks, lunches, and transportation is \$45 for Friends' members and \$55 for non-members. Due the fragile nature of these ecosystems, registration is limited to 12 participants. Reservations can be made by calling (808) 985-7373 or emailing admin@fhvnp.org.

Your reservation is confirmed when you give us your credit card number or we receive a check payable to Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (FHVNP), P.O. Box 653, Volcano, HI 96785. All reservations are subject to our cancellation policy.