

Hawai`i Volcanoes Institute 2009

A Day in the Rain Forest with Tim Tunison

February 28, Saturday, 9 AM – 4 PM



Explore park rain forests, from the youngest to the oldest. Learn about the habitat and inhabitants of this special park ecosystem. First visit a 35 year old rain forest just getting established on new lava from the 1969-1974 Mauna Ulu flows. Then explore a 200+ year old rain forest growing on the rim of Kīlauea Caldera. Here visit a research site investigating rain fall in the rain forest to understand the climate of the cloud forest.

Finally, investigate a 2,500 year rain forest on deep soil in the park's little visited `Ōla`a Forest. Find ecological features that define Hawaiian tropical rain forest including epiphytes, aerial roots, nurse logs, tree ferns, and filmy ferns. Discuss how these defining features are adapted to an environment in which water is not a limiting factor.

Demonstrate how the structure and biodiversity patterns of Hawaiian rain forests differ from those of continental rain forests. Identify common and interesting plants, including rare and unusual species not seen by most park visitors. Identify bird species and their role ecologically in rain forest ecosystems. Use an identification key to learn how to identify tree ferns and trees, shrubs, and vines. Investigate how invasive species modify Hawaiian rain forest and management actions that the park has taken to restore its rain forests to pre-disturbance conditions.

Your Leader:

Tim Tunison worked for 23 years as a botanist/vegetation management specialist and as Chief of Resource Management at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Since retirement he has been teaching courses in native plant identification and plant propagation/restoration through the Volcano Art Center. He is delighted to live in the rain forest summit of Kīlauea.



Seminar agenda:

- 9:00 AM - meet at staging area, the Park's Kilauea Visitor Center
- 9:15 - car pool to Mauna Ulu
- 9:30-11:30 - walk to Pu`u Huluhulu, on trail and cross country, to explore pioneer rain forest;
- 11:30-11:45 - car pool to lunch site (TBA)
- 11:45-12:00 PM - Lunch
- 12-12:30 - car pool to Thurston Lava Tube, walk ¼ mile down Escape Road, and enter rain forest at climatology research site
- 12:30-1:45 - Thurston rain forest
- 1:45-2:00 - travel to `Ōla`a Forest
- 2:00-3:30- explore `Ōla`a
- 3:30-3:45 - return to park
- 4:00 - Seminar ends

Who should attend?:

Those interested in native plants, plant identification, rain forest ecology, and able to walk about 2 miles total on primitive trails or cross country, and willing to get wet. Best suited to mature, life-long learning adults who enjoy field botany excursions.

Level of physical difficulty: Moderate.

Short, level hikes, but on irregular terrain, cross-country or on primitive trails. Walking cross-country on pāhoehoe, muddy trails in rain forest.

What to bring?:

You will need closed shoes or boots for walking on rough lava and muddy trails. Wear layers, as temperatures will vary in each locale. Have sunscreen as well as raingear! A hat, snacks, and water will add to your comfort. **Pack a lunch!** Walking stick, camera, magnifying glass and binoculars are optional.

What is provided?:

A 20 page handout, prepared by the instructor, is planned for the course, highlighting common and interesting species and natural history facts. Author will provide CD of digital file for students.



Transportation:

From the Park Visitor Center, participants will be asked to carpool to nearby seminar sites.

Tuition: Friends' members - \$40 Non-members - \$50

Timeline for payment/cancellation:

Reservations and payment are due one week before the seminar, by February 21. We will wait until the last minute (day before) the seminar to cancel and only for very heavy rain.

To register:

Call the Friends' office at (808) 985-7373. The office is staffed part-time, so leave a message and your call will be returned. Or e-mail your enrollment information to ainahou2@aol.com.

