P.O. Box 52 Hawaii National Park Hawai'i 96718

Mardie Lane, Park Ranger 808.985.6018

Hawai'i Volcanoes News Release

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Tour Historic 'Āinahou Ranch House and Gardens

Join park staff and Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on a walking tour of 'Āinahou Ranch House and gardens.

The free, behind-the-scenes tour is offered at 11:00am and 2:00pm on the following Tuesdays: August 4 and 18, September 1, 15, and 29, and October 6, 2009.

From the challenges of living and raising cattle on the slopes of an active volcano to developing a safe haven for nēnē, the endangered Hawaiian goose, 'Āinahou is rich in history.

Tour participants will explore the ornamental gardens, learn about the geology and history, and find out how the Mauna Ulu eruption resulted in the park's acquisition of this 6,324 acre mid-elevation 'ohi'a woodland.



Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 'Āinahou Ranch House was built in 1941 as a mountain retreat by Herbert C. Shipman, a descendant of one of Hawai'i's oldest missionary families. Photo by Lanaya Deily

Those who plan to join the tour should meet at least twenty minutes before the tour start time at the Mauna Ulu parking lot located 4 miles down Chain of Craters Road. Allow 20 minutes to drive from the Kīlauea Visitor Center to the Mauna Ulu parking lot.

Participants should be prepared to walk a mile over uneven surfaces at a leisurely pace; wear sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and a hat; and bring water, snacks, a camera, and raingear. Tours take place rain or shine, but may be cancelled on short notice due to poor air quality, severe weather, or volcanic activity.

Over the years, a cadre of dedicated volunteers has brought this special place back to life and is excited to share it with others. If you would like to be part of the park's volunteer team, call Volunteer Coordinator Laura Williams at (808) 985-6304.

To learn more about Friends of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, its special events and programs, go to http://www.fhvnp.org/ or call (808) 985-7373.

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