



WEDNESDAY EVENING SEMINAR

Education Program Presents

People, Fire and Changing Landscapes: Pyrogeography in the Asia-Pacific Region

Clay Trauernicht, Extension Fire Specialist
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Wailana Room, Imin International Conference Center

Humans and wildfire have had a long and sometimes troubled relationship. Is fire a natural hazard or tool, disaster or vital ecosystem process, crisis or opportunity? It really depends on your perspective. This presentation begins with a brief introduction to pyrogeography, or the patterns of landscape fire across the globe, linking climate, vegetation, and human activity. We will also consider how people have shaped entire ecosystems and developed radically different cultural perspectives of burning by adapting to and manipulating fire occurrence. Finally, we will draw on these lessons to examine dramatic increases in wildfire occurrence across Hawaii in recent decades and the impacts and opportunities that fire creates for natural resource management in the Pacific.

Clay Trauernicht is an Assistant Specialist in Fire Management in the Cooperative Extension Program in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He also coordinates the Pacific Fire Exchange (PacificFireExchange.org), a program to build partnerships and develop fire science information to meet the needs of landowners and resource managers in the Pacific Island Region, sponsored by the national Joint Fire Science Program. He has botanized professionally on projects throughout Hawaii and Micronesia, but got hooked on fire working as an ecologist in tropical savannas in India, South America, and Australia.



We are firm believers in food-based learning. Excellent refreshments will be served. Please bring your own cup, plate/bowl and utensil. The public is invited to attend.