

Hike on the Fern Forest Trail and Visit of an Eco Lodge in St. Ann

DATE: Saturday, March 11, 2017

MEETING: 8.00 a.m. at the Scientific Research Council (off Old Hope Road), collection of fees, carpooling (parking space both at the meeting point in St. Ann and at the trailhead is limited and efficient carpooling is mandatory), start at 8.15 a.m., meeting at 10.00 a.m. at the yellow painted field station of the Ministry of Agriculture at the lower end of the Fern Gully in St. Ann (image below, we are looking downhill towards Ocho Rios).



A basic bathroom is available. Participants from the North Coast may join in at that stage. We will explore the Fern Forest Trail and are expected at 12.30 at Durga's Den for lunch.

Costs: 1500 JA\$ for members, 2000 JA\$ for non-members (includes lunch and fee for a guided tour at Durga's Den)

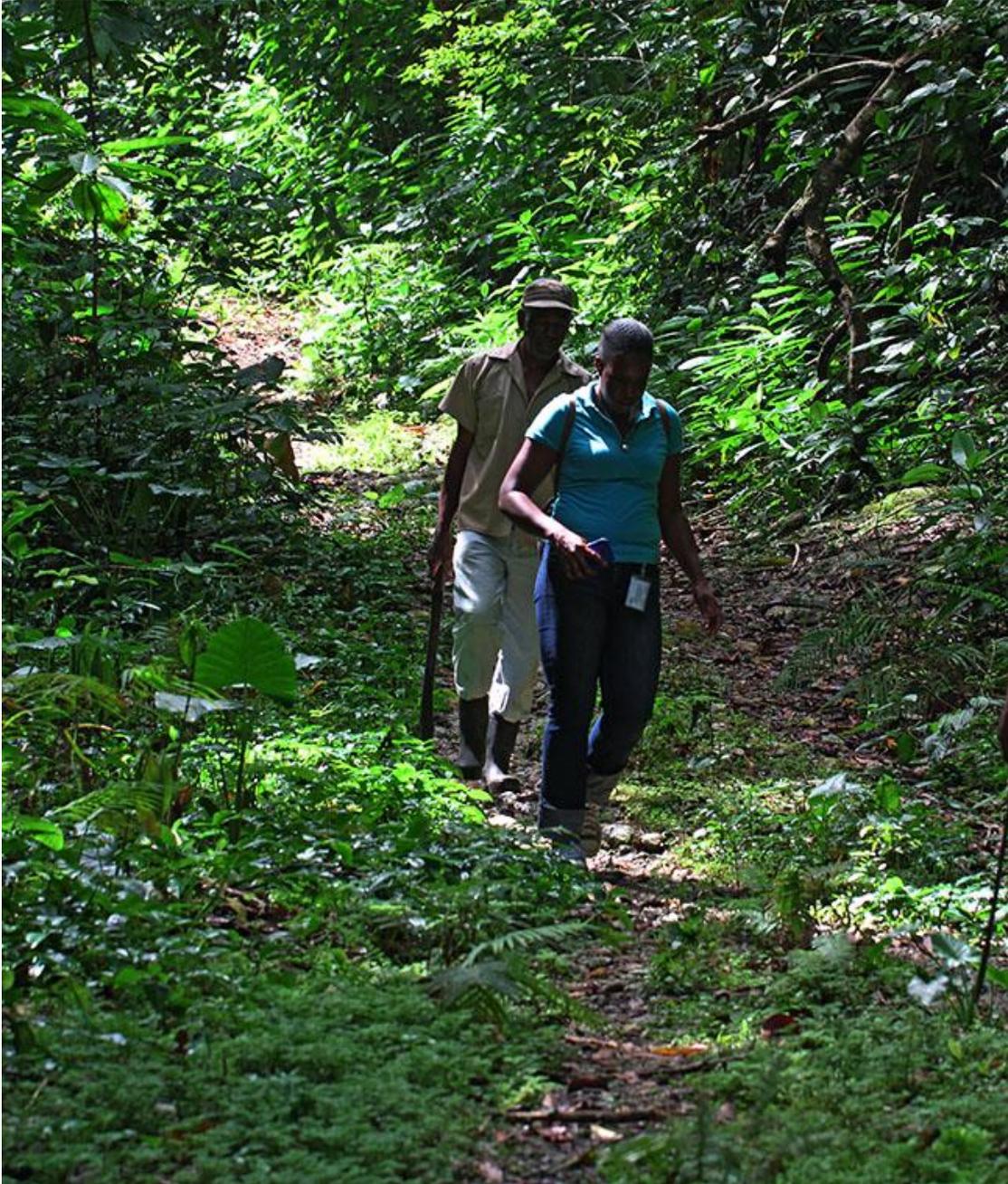
Booking: To organize lunch, we need to know the number of participants.

Please book with: klaus.wolf@uwimona.edu.jm

If you do not receive a confirmation via email within 24 hs, please phone 977 1076. Due to the space constraints in the dining area at Durga's Den, the number of participants in this field trip is limited to 30 persons.

Deadline for Booking: Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

Activities: Our next NHSJ field trip is planned to the Fern Forest Trail. It is an abandoned road off the Northern section of the Fern Gully in St. Ann. The area is used as a nursery by the Ministry of Agriculture for replanting the Fern Gully. The trail follows a gentle slope and is not demanding (see image below taken in early February 2017).



About 500 different species of ferns grow in Jamaica. The emphasis of this field trip will be on ferns, but there are also flowering plants to see. Mr. Patrick Lewis (Herbarium, Dept. Life Sci., UWI, Mona), Ms. Judeen Meikle (Ministry of Agriculture) and Dr. Trevor Yee (formerly Natural Products Institute, UWI, Mona)

will assist with identification. Ferns, a moss and flowering plants seen on a brief scouting trip in early February 2017 are compiled in a separate PDF. After the hike, we will have lunch (cold drink, soup, chicken and rice, desert) at Durga's Den (<http://www.durgasden.com/>) about 15 min. ride from the trailhead. A guided tour of Durga's Den follows.

Carry sun/rain protection, insect repellent, water and wear comfortable walking shoes.