

Donald A. Swanson

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Dr. Donald A. Swanson (PhD Johns Hopkins University) is a Research Geologist at the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory. His career spans more than 50 years, 30 of which have been at the Cascades Volcano Observatory studying Mount St. Helens and the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory studying Kīlauea Volcano. He led a team that successfully predicted most of the dome-building eruptions of Mount St. Helens following its catastrophic eruption in 1980. In Hawai'i, he has been instrumental in recognizing the explosive past of Kīlauea and in showing that Kīlauea's eruptive style is cyclic on time frames of centuries, alternating between periods with a deep caldera and explosive eruptions and periods with a shallow caldera of dominantly effusive eruptions, such as the present. Swanson is the former Scientist-in-Charge of both volcano observatories. He is a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the Geological Society of America, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.