

More Activities

2007 was a very busy year indeed. Fieldwork was dominated by an extensive survey of the Muddy River Lahar (see 2007 Lahar Survey). In July, Roger traveled to Iceland, where he took part in the 2007 Surtsey Survey, conducted by the Icelandic Natural History Survey (See Surtsey). Here, he assisted with the complete plant, bird and insect sampling. He was lucky enough to spot the first occurrence of the oak fern, a species also found in Washington. The study of Surtsey is providing a contrasting view to that of Mount St. Helens. Even though the two volcanoes occur in very different “landscapes”, climate and isolation, many mechanisms, e.g. dispersal randomness, safe-sites and facilitation, are common to both.



Roger also had a chance to visit Mount Hekla, lava fields, sandurs, giant waterfalls (see inset, Gullfoss) and glacier forelands. Of particular interest was an area on the south coast where deep potholes were created several decades ago. These large depressions are reminiscent to potholes on Mount St. Helens, though they formed under very different circumstances.

In addition, with my wife, I traveled extensively in Turkey. This vibrant country does suffer from widespread soil erosion, but a great deal of effort is being made to reclaim land and to reforest the hillsides.

Finally, 2007 was marked by the publication of “Environmental disasters, natural recovery and human responses”, co-authored by Lawrence R. Walker.