**Narusawa Lava Tree Molds**

These tree molds are cavities in the igneous rock created when the ancient forest disappeared beneath lava flows from the Jogan Eruption of 864. Narusawa is unusual for the sheer number of molds—12 in all—that stand in close proximity. Some are 5 meters, in diameter, indicating how old and massive the trees were at the time the eruption remodeled the landscape.

Not all lava flows create tree molds, as conditions must be just right for their formation. The lava must have a relatively high silica content of approximately 50 to 51 percent, and the surface gradient must be around 3 percent, so that the flow does not move too slowly or too quickly. The lava flow must also be shallow enough for the cavities to survive. At Narusawa, visitors can see down into the well-like cavities, where the original surface lies just 4 meters below. Elsewhere in the Aokigahara Jukai Forest, the lava flows reached depths of 100 meters or more.

**Lava Spiracles in the Forest**

A 1993 geological survey also found lava spiracles in this area. Lava spiracles are formed when moisture trapped by the lava flow bursts to the surface as a rapidly expanding gas, leaving distinctive traces in the cooled lava. Narusawa has an unusual number of spiracle clusters even by global standards, and many are readily visible in low “cliffs” formed by ruptures in the cooling lava bed.