

Education Reports

WWF-India, EE Division and Delhi Government's Earth Day Carnival

A grand carnival by Delhi Government and WWF-India marked the culmination of Earth Week 2013. Over 3000 children from across 400 schools in the city were invited to celebrate this event at the residence of Smt. Sheila Dixit, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi on Friday 26th April.

Once registered, the schools walked through WWF-India's thematic poster exhibition entitled "You Can Make a Difference," which raised awareness towards the earth's natural resources such as clean air, pure water, pristine forests and the unique wildlife therein, and encouraged steps towards green-living in the urban environment.

The carnival was flagged off by the Environment Secretary, Delhi Government. In addition The Delhi Chief Minister, Mrs. Sheila Dixit released the WWF poster of "The Common Butterflies of Delhi" and a BNHS book on "The Asola Wildlife Sanctuary". The renewed Nature Trail to showcase the flora and fauna of Motilal Nehru Place was also relaunched.

Each student calculated their own "Earth Day Quotient" and also signed a pledge to do their bit to nurture Mother Earth. An old recycled flex banner was used for this – this banner will be further up cycled into carry bags, to lay emphasis on the main theme of "Recycle, Reuse, Reduce".

Earth Day Poster Exhibition – "You can make a difference": This theme was well illustrated in the colourful décor of the venue – all the decorations were made from recycled materials used in our day-to-day lives. Flowers made out of discarded plastic bottles, bees made out of recycled paper, butterflies made from painted wood chips festooned the area, and a tree fashioned from old bicycle tyres was installed near the story telling tent – all this sent out a strong message to the school children and teachers.

Environmental games such as the Newspaper Habitat game (to highlight shrinking habitats for wildlife) and Animal Bingo (to create awareness for India's wild flora and fauna) were included in the activities. The winners were given prizes like WWF watches, mugs with and carry bags with an environment message. In addition the children participated in an Interactive Story-telling session, School Musical band concert, Animal mask making, Earth Day poster making and Wildlife



Mask making



Puppet show



Recycled cardboard bees



Old bicycle tyre tree

films for children were screened.

Tall men on stilts, traditional story-telling with puppetry, bioscopes and a dancing horse contributed to the fun and festivities. Every child was given a gift packed in a recycled pouch, and unlimited ice creams and cold drinks.

In addition to the 3000 school students around 800 teachers and 60 volunteers also participated in the event. It is anticipated that this wide range of environmentally friendly activities will capture the imagination of school children, and propel them towards adopting eco friendly behavior. This will help not only to instill a sense of responsibility in each one to make a difference, but may possibly inspire them to take up environment conservation as a larger activity or future career.

The benefit of highlighting such Environmental Awareness days will bring about self-awareness and realization that each action and choice that we make is a small but significant leaf for the future of our planet. It is hoped that the next and future generations understand and adopt more sustainable life styles, a vital need to preserve and perpetuate all life forms on Earth. **Submitted by: Ms. Payal Narain, WWF-India, New Delhi. Email: <pnarain@wwfindia.net>**

"Art in Nature" Workshop cum Painting Competition at Tata Zoo, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand to

commemorate International Year of Water Cooperation

In December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation. The objective is to raise awareness, both on the potential for increased cooperation, and on the challenges facing water management in light of the increase in demand for water access, allocation and services. Zoos are one of the key stakeholders identified by the United Nations to catalyze awareness among the general public regarding the need for conservation of our natural resources and their sustainable utilization.

Tata Steel Zoological Park (Tata Zoo) in collaboration with Acharya Nandlal Bose Art Gallery, The Bengal Club, Sakchi, and Jamshedpur organized a weeklong art workshop from 7-12 May 2013 involving school children to spread the message of water conservation. The theme was "Water Conservation and its relevance for preservation of forest and wildlife". Fifty-three students from 14 schools took part in the workshop. They were divided into three categories: Junior (Std.1 to 5), middle (Std.6 to 8) and senior (std.9 &10). Each category was assigned particular theme on particular day. On 07 May 2013 the topics were: Junior group. - Water Pollution; Middle group. - Pond Ecosystem; senior group. - Water: Conservation of planet earth. On 8 May: Junior group- Source of water, Middle group- Water: As a source of energy, senior group- Forest as a source of water. 9 May: Junior group- Water and Wildlife, Middle group- Conservation of rain water, Senior group- Water is Life. 10 May: Junior group- Water, Wastage and Contamination Middle group- Purification of Water (Natural), senior group- Sustainable Earth. On 11 May 'Green Earth' was the topic for all groups



Art in Nature painting competition at Tata Zoo



Few of the best drawings





Young artists with guests and zoo staff

Mr. Gyan Taneja, President of Rotary Club of Jamshedpur, inaugurated the workshop and owner of a city based art gallery- OF THE WALL. During the inaugural function all participating students were asked to take a pledge for putting into habit of reducing wastage of water and using it in a very conservative manner so that all life forms on the earth have access to fresh water for their living. During the workshop a team of volunteer artist led by Mr. Somnath Choudhury, took active part in guiding the participants on putting their vision of water conservation on canvas / drawing sheets and use of colours borrowed from immediate Nature.

The workshop concluded on 12 May, 2013 with prize and certificates distribution. It was presided over by Shri K. K. Chatterjee, IFS, Regional Chief Conservator of Forest, Singhbhum, Shri Bikash Mukherjee, President Bengal Club and Shri P.R. Prasad, Hon.Secretary, Tata Steel Zoological Society. In his address to the participants, Shri K.K.Chatterjee emphasized the need for conserving forests, water and wildlife. He said that only through more and more such activities, we could make people aware for conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. All the three guests applauded the participants and encouraged them to continue the good work. The paintings were judged by: Mr. Anup Sinha, Mrs. Sumita Banerjee, Mr. Shantanu Dinda, Mr. Krishna Mahato and Mr. Biplab Roy.

The winners were: *Junior Group*: 1 Prize- Himanshu Pandey, Sri Krishna Public School, 2 Prize- Muskan Kumari, Sri Krishna Public School, 3 Prize- Pranjali Kumari, KPS NML

Consolation- Vineet Ganesh Mishra, Motilal Nehru Public School
Middle Group: 1 Prize- Prankush Giri, Motilal Nehru Public School, 2 Prize- Zainab Shakeel, JUSCO School Kadma, 3 Prize- Simran Khemka, Sri Krishna Public School
Consolation- Sourav Kundu, Sakchi High School. *Senior Group*: 1 Prize- Rituparna Biswas, SDSM School for Excellence, 2 Prize- Sudeshna Sau, KSMS, 3 Prize- Rishav Mishra, KPS Burmamines, Consolation- Aman Kumar, Delhi Public School.

Shri Subendhu Biswas, Convenor, Acharya Nandalal Bose Art Gallery, The Bengal Club, Sakchi and Shri Bipul Chakrabarty, Director, Tata Zoo designed the weeklong workshop and the activities coordinated by Ms. Seema Rani, Biologist cum Education Officer, Tata Zoo and Mr. Somnath Choudhury, Artist, Awadh Dental

College, Jamshedpur. **Submitted by:**
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EE Programmes on various themes conducted in Tamil Nadu

Elephant Etiquette: On seeing the follow up of Frog and Bat education programmes at Krishnamal Ramasubbaier School (KRS) Madurai we found the enthusiasm among the students and teachers to learn more about biodiversity. So, we conducted another one-day programme on Elephant etiquette to the Biodiversity club students on 11 January 2013. In order to encourage them mask making competition was conducted and all the masks were displayed in the hall. Dr. G. R. Balakrishnan, Adviser gave a brief note on animals, their behavior and how they observed during the educational tour. Mrs. Shanthi,



Students trained to make elephant masks



Ele-kit packets used in the programme



Students looking at Marine Biodiversity poster



Presentation at the Meteorological Station

Principal welcomed the participants. Students explained how the masks were made. They walked with the mask did some action pertaining to elephants. Introductory questions were asked based on elephant habit, habitat, food and behavior. The free educational booklets from Zoo Outreach Organization were distributed. Elephants on the roads, in the temple and Zoo added more information to them. Rakhis were tied each other with a pledge to coexist with elephants, put up mask and headband and holding placard they went for a march. They shared their experience in the picnic spots, hill slopes etc. Four students received the prizes for on the spot answering. Their school records on Biodiversity revealed their interest.

Climate Change and Biodiversity

The Kids Talent Week competitions on

Biodiversity created much interest to know more about climate change and biodiversity among the students of C.S.I. Ewart Mat. H.S.S. Chennai. After gaining more information in 3 classes on India's Environment, the monuments and the marine forms found near the shore, the Biodiversity Club visited the Regional Meteorological Center, Chennai on 28 February during National Science Day to know about the weather and climate. Mrs. Geetha explained about the Headquarters, 6 Regional offices, weather observation, cyclone warning, aviation services agro meteorological services etc., Mr. Ramanan's discussion with the students had much attraction. Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran gave guidance based on the Living with Climate Change booklet supplied by Zoo Outreach Organisation. Mrs. Geetha described about the Climate change and its effect on Marine Biodiversity.

The participation of the Teacher Co ordinator Miss. Beulah on the National Science Day at this center is of much importance to do the follow up in the next academic year.

World Water Day: The World Water Day was celebrated on 22 March 2013 in the Christ Church Nursery and Primary School, Virugambakkam, Chennai. A number of 282 students along with their teachers participated. Rev. Wellington, Correspondent welcomed the participants and encouraged them. There were four sessions namely, water bodies, conservation of water, water testing, water and bio-diversity. By the introductory questions various types of water bodies like well, pond, lake, river, sea and oceans found in India were listed out. They named the animals present in each category. The second group studied about the percentage of loss/gain of water in our daily usage at home with water conservation gain chart. The third group drew the animals present in water bodies. S. Srinivasan of Std III won the first prize. R Mohammed Bilal drew a picture of frog on the road within few minutes. The nursery students observed the various physical properties of water like turbidity, clarity, odor etc. from various water sources. Thus the entire school participated in the World Water Day celebration and gained more knowledge while the leaders of the group shared their group work.

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