

Wildlife Week Education Reports

Nethaji Snake Trust celebrate Wildlife week in collaboration with Colleges in Madurai District, TN

NEST conducted two programmes during wildlife week. The first programme was held on 04 October at Thevar College, Usilampatti, Madurai. About 800 students participated. Mr. Balakrishnan, Supt. of Police, Madurai was the chief guest and he spoke about the need to conserve wildlife.

Dr. V. Muruganandan, Principal of the college talked about global warming. Mr. Balasubramaniam, Secretary of the College shared some rare information about the fruit eating bats. Mr. Ravichandran, Forest Ranger described about the Indian Wildlife Protection Act. Mr. Ramesh, Founder of Nethaji Sanke Trust gave detailed information of wildlife and particularly about vultures. Students planted saplings and set up herbal garden at the campus. They all wore the masks and took an oath to save wildlife. Mr. Masanam, President of the college gave vote of thanks.

The second programme on Human Elephant Coexistence was held at Meenakshi Govt. College for Women at Madurai. About 200 students participated. Mrs. Kannambal, Principal inaugurated the programme. Student's pre knowledge on the subject assessed through brain map and attitude assessment. Then, past and present range of Asian elephants through maps, the difference between Asian and Africana elephants, do's and don't's in elephant areas, dramas on habitat loss and saving fallen elephant from well were conducted. At the end the student's knowledge level increase was assessed by brain map and attitude assessment methods. They all took an oath to coexist with the elephants. Participation certificates were awarded to the students.

Submitted by: P. Ramesh. Email: ramesh_nsrc@yahoo.com

Lucknow University, UP celebrates wildlife week

Department of Zoology celebrated Wildlife Week sponsored by Zoo Outreach Organisation's Educator Network (ZEN), and Regional Science City, Lucknow. It was conducted at Regional Science City involving more than 700 students of class 4-8, High School, Intermediate, as well as Graduate, Post-graduate, N.S.S. (National Service Scheme), N.C.C. (National Cadet Corps), Rover & Rangers (Bharat Scouts & Guides) from about 35 schools, colleges and



Mr. V. Balakrishnan, Supt. of Police addressing in the celebration



Elephants past and present range countries learned through a map activity

Universities of Lucknow. It began with a "Wildlife Awareness Car", flagged off by Mrs. Meena Misra, wife of the Vice Chancellor Prof M.K. Misra. The car was then taken around the Lucknow City by Mr. Nafees Aalam and Mrs. Sheel Tiwari to make aware the public through the distribution of various flyers (turtles, eagles, vulture, sparrows, butterflies, amphibians etc.) During the 7 days 10,000 flyers both in English and Hindi were distributed.

Mr. Neeraj Srivastava, Bird Expert, made a presentation on "World of the Birds" with many interesting bird facts on the first day. Following this a movie "Journey to the amazing caves" was screened. A competition in Wildlife Play for Junior group was organized after that. On 2 October, on the

occasion of birthday of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri, students participated in fancy dress competition, family quiz and logo competition. During the programme, a rakhi tying ceremony was conducted in which the teachers, parents and students tied an animal rakhi to each other and took an oath to protect and conserve wildlife. Zoo Outreach Organisation's Educator Network (ZEN) provided the materials. On 3rd October the students participated in debate and expressed their thought for and against of sea food consumption, a threat to marine biodiversity. There were movies on vultures and Asiatic lions for the audience as well as a very informative lecture by Dr. R.L.Singh, retired PCCF who shared his experiences on wildlife conservation.



Participants posing with the materials received from ZEN

On 4th day a ppt presentation on Wildlife Trade was given. Dr. Ramjee Srivastava, Senior Scientist, U.P. State Biodiversity Board gave a lecture on "Perspective of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Wildlife". He informed students about the biodiversity of the State and major threats to wildlife. On 5 Oct, painting (theme amphibians and reptiles), slogan writing (on wildlife theme) and greeting card making (theme elephants and wild plants) were held with 500 students participation. Movies on Asiatic lions and Gharial were also shown. The students from HAL School presented on the spot skits on vulture, pollinators and bats conservation with the help of awareness materials received from ZOO. Collaborative Art was also an attraction of the day in which an incomplete landscape on board was completed by the participants, teachers as well as judges.

On 6 Oct more than 70 students from different schools and colleges participated in Rangoli competition on the theme Marine biodiversity. The students showed their creativity and reflected their thoughts in their creations. The students visited the wildlife photo exhibition. The school students interacted and learnt a lot from the material in display from Zoo Outreach Organisation, Tamil Nadu as well as Dept. of Zoology, University of Lucknow, Regional Science City and U.P. State Biodiversity Board.
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Vulture awareness programme in Assam school during Wildlife Week

In collaboration with Zoo Outreach Organisation's Educator Network (ZEN) an awareness programme themed

"Vulture Conservation in Assam" was held at Vidyaniketan Govt. High School, Pandu, Guwahati, Assam on 3 October, 2012. Thirty five students of Class VIII participated. The students were described about the theme. The Indian Vulture species have suffered a 99%-97% population decrease in Pakistan and India and between 2000-2007. "Extinction of vultures is a cause of concern. Almost 40 percent of remaining vultures are dying every year," Dr. Asad Rehmani, a senior member of National Board for Wildlife and Director of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

There are 9 species in Indian sub continent and 8 species are found in Assam, out of that 2 are Critically Endangered. Vulture conservation movement in the subcontinent is set to get a boost with Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) expecting 30 young vultures to be released from the Captive Breeding facilities in 3 places (Pinjor, Rajabhatkhowa and Rani) and also marking of vulture safe zones at three places in India by 2014.

The zone between Uttarakhand to Nepal, which spans from Corbett to Katriya Ghat, a Tarai belt, covering 30,000 sq kms, will be earmarked as 'Vulture Safe' zone. Similarly a belt between Dibrugarh (Assam) to North Lakhimpur (Arunachal Pradesh) will also be conserved as a vulture safe zone where slender-billed and white-backed species of vultures are found. The third zone would be in central India, covering Chhattisgarh, where white-backed and long-billed vultures are found.

Slender-billed vulture has a special significance as the species is now



Amity school students performed a skit on wildlife conservation

mainly confined to Assam and has almost disappeared from most of its distribution range in India which was from Himachal Pradesh to Assam. Regarded as the most endangered vulture in the country, only an estimated 1000 birds remain in the wild.

Established in 2007 as a collaborative project of the Assam Forest Department and Bombay Natural History Society, the centre houses 25 White-backed ones and 22 Slender-billed species, most of which were caught from the wild as juveniles. The birds take almost five years to reach adulthood. A nestling each of the white-backed and the slender-billed species have hatched at the centre. Born more than four months ago, the nestlings are healthy now.

Keeping in view the efforts of Assam Forest Department and BNHS for the conservation of vulture in Assam, this education programme has been planned to aware the students for conserving the Gyps vulture from extinction. The education materials on vultures was explained to the students and then distributed. They went through each materials. They tied rakhi with other and holding the placard. They read the flash cards. I want to thank Zoo Outreach Organisation for providing the vulture education materials. **Submitted by: Ms. Arpita Das, Assistant Science Teacher. Email: arpitadas_ghy@yahoo.co.in**

Wildlife Week at Sundarvan, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Sundarvan designed and conducted activities for different walk of people during wildlife week. A bat awareness programme for general public was arranged on 1 October. The education materials received from Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO) was used during the occasion to enhance our regular activities. Activities such as painting, quiz and elocution were conducted for school kids on 2 Oct. Gift vouchers to take part in Sundarvan's camps were given to top three candidates in each category. A half-a-day reptile awareness workshop was carried out on 3 Oct. School teachers and other interested people attended this programme.

Members and friends of Navgujarat Multicourse Training Institute under the guidance of Mr. Ketan Modi, displayed their photographs on 4th and 5th and Mr. Nirav Bhatt, Savannah Nature Conservation Society, displayed his photographs on 6th and 7th in the Sundarvan premises. The photographers generously provided



Govt. High School, Assam students with vulture placard committing for vulture conservation

their photographs free of cost purely in sake of creating awareness on nature conservation. A workshop on basic photography by Mr. Ketan Modi and one on birds by Mr. Maynk Ghadi were conducted for interested people on 4th and 5th respectively. A reptile awareness workshop was conducted for students of a reputed college from Ahmedabad in the park premises on 6th, where more than 300 students participated.

A one day field outing to Hingolghad and Lothal was arranged for general public on 7th. Apart from regular activities, importance of pollinators was explained to the participants using the education materials supplied by ZOO. **Submitted by: S. Sivakumar,**

Shivbhadrasinh Jadeja, and Rajendrasinh Jadeja. Email: wildlifessiva2050@gmail.com

Wildlife Week Celebration at Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner, Rajasthan

The wildlife week-2012 organized by Dept. Env. Science was inaugurated by Prof. A.K. Gehlot, Vice Chancellor of Rajasthan Veterinary University, Bikaner on the 1 October, 2012. Prof. M.M. Saxena, Dean and Dr. Meera Srivastava, Head, Department Zoology, Doongar College gave their views on the role and responsibilities of academicians in the education and awareness for wildlife involving the youth in wildlife conservation researches and studies. Dr. Pratap



School kids are learning about insect pollinations during field visit

Singh, Department Zoology, Doongar College, Bikaner presented a lecture on the "status of wildlife including mammals, birds and reptiles". About 90 students of Maharaja Ganga Singh University and other colleges participated in the poster competition, on the subject "Wildlife Conservation".

Participants visited the animal museum and plant herbarium of Government Doongar College, Bikaner on the second day. They were given detailed information about animal collection, preservation, and science of taxidermy, insect collection and preservation and herbarium sheet preparation by the staff of the colleges. Prof. G. R. Jakher, VC, MGS University, presented a lecture and film showed on "The Herbivores of the Thar Desert" on the third day. Then Dr. Anil Kumar Chhangani showed documentaries on vultures and Hanuman langurs social behaviors and also gave a lecture on the status of vultures in Rajasthan. Elocution competition on the topic "Wildlife Conservation" was organised 4 day in which 19 students participated. After this, education and awareness materials provided by the Zoo Outreach Organisation were explained its importance and distributed. On the 5-day, all the participants visited Jorbeer, a Protected Area near Bikaner. During the visit participants were given practical trainings for the field methods of floral and faunal surveys, population estimation, identification, etc. Use of the field equipment like Binoculars, Digital and SLR cameras, video

camera, camera traps, digital voice recording, Global Positioning System, reading of maps and toposheets, etc. Field training about the vegetation survey methods and plant species identification, collection and preparation of herbarium training in the field itself by Dr. Anil Kumar Chhangani, Dr. Rajaram Choyal, Dr. Leela Kaur and Dr. Prabhu Dan Charan. After the training the participants were divided in to teams and given various field exercises like, measurement, estimation and identification of floral and faunal diversity of the Jorbeer. This field visit was also joined by people from press and media headed by Shri Yogesh Sain, Chief Sub-editor, Rajasthan Patrka, Bikaner.

Day six and seven, the trained participants were sent in small teams to various schools and colleges of Bikaner city and also the places where children who do not go to school. They organized wildlife awareness programs through play, talk in local language and distributed the various education and awareness material provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation. All the participants were given certificates and winners of the various competitions awarded with the prizes. **Submitted by: Dr. Anil Kumar Chhangani. Email: chhanganiak@yahoo.com.**

BCF, Trichy celebrate Wildlife Week in Sathyamangalam, Nagapattinam & Trichy Dt. of Tamil Nadu

Biodiversity Conservation Foundation (BCF), a NGO based at Trichy,

celebrated this week and achieved the goal of this week through four different programs based at Sathyamangalam, Nagapattinam and Trichy. Wildlife photography exhibition was conducted in all three places to display the rare vignettes of wildlife ambience. Special Wildlife Week training programme was organized in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Police Department for Special Task Force (STF) on 1 October. Dr. A.Kumaraguru, followed by a discussion on "role of forensic science in wildlife crime" with the STF delivered a special lecture on "Biodiversity conservation". The importance of conservation was explained through the information booklet on Daily life Wildlife provided by ZOO.

Another programme was conducted at Sathyamangalam to address people of Bhavanisagar range with TamilNadu Forest Department (TNFD) collaboration on 2 October. People working and travelling across this forest range for their daily activities were contacted to create awareness on the importance of wildlife and its conservation through WLPE with a theme of animal welfare. We also distributed information pamphlets on role of plastics in global warming and the importance to avoid plastics bags and plastic dumping at the forest ecosystem to the people of peripheral villages. Wildlife week was celebrated at Nagapattinam on 9th Oct. with the support of TNFD, Nagapattinam and held at collectorate. Mrs.Asiya Mariam, Collector (in-charge) of Nagapattinam



Dr. Meera Srivastava explains about the insect collection and preservation at Doongar College



Dr. A. Kumaraguru, BCF with blow-up pollinator poster

district, District Chief Education Officer and TNFD headed by DFO, S.Ramasubramaniam IFS. More than 300 students and government officials witnessed the wildlife photographic exhibition themed "green landscape". BCF pamphlets pictorially represented the benefits of planting trees which extends the green cover of our country and reduces the impact of global warming. The documentary on bird migration and importance of conservation of Green turtle and mangrove flora at Point Calimere portrayed the importance of conservation of the green flora of this ecosystem.

TNFD, Trichy which has extended their support to conduct the wildlife week celebration exclusively for four days (October 10-13, 2012) at Poomalai Commercial complex, Trichy. Along with our photo exhibition we displayed the importance of pollinators (supported by ZOO) and global warming. Mrs. Jayashree Muralidharan, Collector of Trichy, inaugurated the wildlife photo exhibition and the documentary session on wildlife was inaugurated by Mr. Balamurugan, Regional Passport Officer, Trichy. The documentaries on tigers and wildlife conservation provided us with an easy way to reach people. District Forest Officer, Mr. Anwardeen, IFS, had encouraged and provided necessary support for special lectures every day by BCF

members. The topics addressed during the programme are "Biodiversity" and "Biodiversity Conservation and Role of Forensic Science" by Dr. A. Kumaraguru, Wildlife and its ecosystem" by T. Brinda, Scientist, "Wildlife Management – *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation" by Dr. U. Lakshmikanthan, Cryopreservation, scientist, BCF and "Biodiversity Conservation and Role of Forensic Science" by Dr. A. Kumaraguru, which is exclusively arranged for various levels of TNFD officials.

The theme of pollinators was focused to create awareness among students and people of the importance of pollinators in an ecosystem. However, tigers, lion and other charismatic species attract much attention from the government as well as field biologists during the Wildlife Week. But there are other species that are indispensable for the fragile ecosystems. And there are other species on the verge of extinction or endangered and also as important as tigers for the balance of ecosystems. Other animals, which are significant in an ecosystem, are pollinators, which include several fauna such as bats, butterflies, garden lizard, birds, monkeys, beetles and squirrels. The exhibition has been visited by more than 350 people mainly families along with their kids. Interactive sessions with them helped us to disseminate the importance of wildlife and to educate them that the key global wildlife conservation in the 21st century will be to craft solutions that meet the integrated ecosystem approach.

BCF expresses its sincere thanks to TNFD of Sathyamangalam, Nagapattinam and Trichy divisions who have approved our requests and supported us in immense ways in fulfilling our mission well. Our special thanks go to Mr. B. Rathinasabapathy who kindled our interest for this awareness programme. BCF thanks Zoo Outreach Organisation, SAsISG, UFAW and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium for the education materials. **Submitted by: Dr. A. Kumaraguru. bioconserve2010@gmail.com.**

Wildlife Week celebrations in Chennai schools, Tamil Nadu

Three conservation education awareness programmes were conducted during wildlife week on the theme daily life wildlife, pollinators and bats with the materials received from Zoo Outreach Organisation.



Forest tribal watchers of Sathyamangalam are looking at the photo exhibition

Daily life Wildlife: Forty Eco club teacher co-coordinators belonging to 3 Govt, 11 Corporation and 26 Government aided schools of Chennai observed Wildlife Week at Jai Gopal Garodia Govt GHSS, Saidapet Chennai. Mr. Pitchaimuthu, District Eco Club Coordinator welcomed and introduced the resource person Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran to the participants. The program began with the introductory talk on wildlife along with explanation of the technical assistance agencies like ZOO and WILD. Chances were given to the teachers who are going to retire in near future to distribute the booklets supplied by ZOO Outreach Organization. With smiles the participants looked into the nine pictures of animals and few started to mention their names. After explaining the difference between wildlife and captive wildlife the title created by ZOO i.e., Daily Life Wildlife was explained. With much enthusiasm the participants tied up the head band. Few colored the pictures too. Secondly ABC of Wildlife was dealt with. They were excited to know about bat, bear, frog, rodent and invertebrates. Participants really felt the cruelty done to these little creatures and appreciated the ZOO, India for their efforts besides extending thanks to ZOO and WILD. Finally they turned into little kids by looking into the invertebrate stamp album and started to paste, while majority liked their Eco club students to take this activity. They also thanked ZOO for the pictures of different types of eyes in the last page as it will be very useful when they see any animal at home, school and in the public places. All were instructed to carry out the program within three days to the Eco club students of the respective schools. Glad to inform that ZOO`s effort is not in vain, because we are receiving the reports from the teacher participants. The speed with which they have carried out the follow up shows the value of the effort taken by the director and the ZOO`s crew besides WILD

Pollinators: The second programme was held at Ebbas GR. HSS Chennai for about forty students of class 8 and their teachers on Pollinators on 9 Oct. 2012. Mrs. Jasmine Daniel, Head Mistress gave the welcome address. After the introductory talk on wildlife week, the booklets were distributed. Brightened were the students` faces, while they looked at the pictures on a bright white paper. With an uncontrolled voice they showed the bats, monkey and gecko pictures to one another. Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran briefed about ZOO and Columbus Zoo and Aquarium USA and South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group. On having the tag on pollinators-Save all Our Lives!!! They came to know the best pollinator is BEES. Their postures changed when they hold the placard with primates are also pollinators. They tied up the head band-pollinators came in all species, sizes, shapes



Students are looking out for pollinators at the school campus



Fruit bat cards are displayed by the students

and shades to each other happily. The details about the pollinator, their importance, kinds, and their decline in number were explained. The percentage of pollinators in the world has kindled their minds. The students collected their experience during bees and wasp bites and concluded that their sufferings at that particular time are nullified when compared to the benefits of this little creature. No Pollinators-No Plants-No Food-No Survival-this has turned into the thought for the day. There was a role-play with tag, bees-flower-honey besides a drawing competition. The winners were awarded with pictures. The students were divided into four groups to identify the pollinators in the campus. A follow up of data collection on pollinators in the campus during different months in different areas was given. All the participants and teachers filled with new experience departed to decentralize the days experience to others.

Bats: On 10 Oct. nearly 220 students of standard VIII in Montfort Mt. HSS Chennai celebrated wildlife week on the theme Bats in the International Year of Bat. Bro. KN Thomas, The Correspondent`s inspiring speech on wildlife, Mrs. Jessie Jeyakarans introductory talk and the distribution of educational kit by Bro. Arul Deeparaj, The Principal and Mr. Paul Jeyakaran. The students divided into four groups and each group taken each activity such as tying of rakhi, holding the placard, learning from the bookmark and reading the truth and untruth of Bat. Pictures on the cover had leaded them by self-learning. Participants were excited to know about the insectivorous and frugivorous bats. The 180 observers learnt a lot from the students. Elucidatory questions were asked at the end. The role play with the mask of family members Govt and forest officials add the real spirit. Identification of the bat pollinators from the fruit bat was very interesting. The drawing sheets and the clay model have thrown new knowledge to the onlookers. Students given their feed back at the end and they says: very informative; interesting and entertaining; excellent gifts with the pictures of bat; the assumptions about bat (wild, bad) are erased from my mind; wish to spread the news; on the spot questioning about the bat was appreciated; very proud to be a part of ZOO, India. The Principal distributed the gifts (post card, sticker with bat) to the winners of drawing clay model and on the spot answering. Ms. Susan and Ms. Nancy the teacher coordinators shared this to 106 science club students and 105 eco club students in the same week. Ms. Kanthimathi the reporter from The Hindu witnessed the entire program for publishing in the daily. **Submitted by: Mrs. Jessie Jeyakaran. Email: jessiejey@rediffmail.com**