

Education Reports

World Earth Day celebration at V.J.B. Udyan-Zoo, Mumbai, Maharashtra

As a part of the educational activities being conducted at the zoo, the "World Earth Day" was celebrated on 22 April 2012. Various programmes for creating empathy and awareness about protection and conservation of environment on mother Earth were organized for 23 children of Vainayakam Organisation based at Mahim area. Following Programmes were conducted. The posters containing oaths for protection and conservation of environment on the earth, in Marathi, Hindi & English languages were displayed at the main entrance gate of this Zoo and the participants read this and took oath. In all, 20 tree saplings such as Sundri, Tabeubia, Bottle brush & Kadamb were suitably planted in the zoo. Some of these saplings were planted at the hands of participating children under the guidance of the Horticultural Assistant of the zoo.

A nature trail was conducted inside the premise of zoo. The Education-cum-P.R.O of the zoo gave the information about zoo animals while the Horticultural Assistant gave information about some of the rare trees found in the zoo campus. The educational packages under the titles, "Bears, Forests and Biodiversity, Frogs Rock on the Amphibian Ark, Bats and Biodiversity" and the posters entitled "An ALL ANIMALS ALERT" and "Lion-tailed Macaque" were demonstrated by the Education-cum-P.R.O., to the participants with the brief information about threat to these important species and their role and importance in the ecology. These packets and animal masks were distributed among the participants. A Rakhi tying ceremony was conducted thereafter.

A question answer session was conducted at the end of the programme. The E.P.R.O., and the Horticultural Assistant, answered the queries of children about animals and plants respectively. At the end, the children were awarded with participation certificate. **Submitted by: A.M. Anjankar, Director. Email: vjbudyanzoo@yahoo.co.in**

Earth Day Celebrated by Madras Crocodile Bank Trust and Centre for Herpetology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Education is a crucial factor for long-term sustainable conservation. The MCBT team, volunteers and docents



Mr. Anil Paranjpe interacting with the children



Tree plantation at the VJB Udyan zoo by the children



One of the team making the poster at Madras Crocodile Bank Trust



Poster with the theme save the earth

devote a large part of their time to educating people of all ages and backgrounds with respect to the need for conserving reptiles and their natural ecosystem. On 22 April, Earth Day 2012, MCBT with the help of some students (9 and 10 class) were able to pass on a simple message to our many visitors, emphasizing how our planet is changing rapidly through a multitude of man-made or at least man-influenced factors. The impact of climate change, global warming, pollution, habitat destruction and other concerns were highlighted.

Eighteen students and two teachers from Orchid School in Pune, Maharashtra, visited Madras Crocodile Bank for a one-day camp. In some lively sessions, they were told about reptiles, their importance and how MCBT acts as a breeding centre for some of the Critically Endangered species such as the Gharial, the Siamese crocodile and the painted roof turtle. They also took part in Croc Bank's Earth Day program and made a fun poster presentation.

About the poster presentation: Before the students started with their presentation, the MCBT team gave them a briefing on who started Earth Day and why. We wanted to give them a sense of Earth Day, and what different things each of them could do to help reduce our negative impact on the planet. Colin Stevenson, the director of Madras Crocodile Bank, gave a small talk on climate change, global warming and how it is affecting the reptiles and amphibians. The 18 students were divided into 3 groups and materials such as old magazines, newspapers, coloured paper, discarded

plastic, etc were provided to make the presentation.

These posters were then displayed in our Young Reptiles' exhibit area where juvenile reptiles (Indian rock python and dwarf caimans) are on display. At this exhibit, our docents and volunteers present educational talks to our visitors, so was an ideal place to tell the visitors about Earth Day. A signature board was prepared for the visitors, with an explanation of Earth Day and how by doing little things every day, we can all play a role in helping 'save' the planet.

In keeping with the theme of Earth Day, MCBT staff took the following initiatives: Switched off our computers every time we left office; did not use the Air-conditioners; no use of plastic; used waste paper for printing where possible; sorted old papers,

magazines, and other paper items which will be sent for recycling. A few things which we have committed to carrying on include: recycling plastic; recycling paper; saving electricity; saving water; turning off computers when we leave for the day; reusing; donating old clothes; planting more trees; maintaining a vermicompost pit; outreach & awareness programs on endangered species.

We are grateful to the teachers and the students of Orchid School who, through their poster presentation, helped us to pass the message to thousands of people who visited our zoo today. Thanks to the Madras Crocodile Bank Team, the docents and volunteers who did their bit to celebrate this special event.

This is our planet. It gives us **everything** we need for our survival and copes miraculously with the serious mistreatment we have hit it with. But there is a tipping point that we are precariously close to reaching. Let's act before it truly is too late.

Submitted by: Mittal Gala & Gayathri Selvaraj, MCBT. Email: education.mcbt@gmail.com

Celebration of Animal Welfare Fortnight, 2012 at Jiwaji University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

As a part of Animal Welfare Fortnight Celebrations 2012 a one day programme was held at Indira Gandhi Academy of Environmental Education Research and Eco planning, Jiwaji University on 20 January 2012 highlighting the need and importance of animal protection.

Besides post graduate students of environmental science and zoology, research scholars of various



Guests looking at poster exhibition at Jiwaji University

departments of the university were participated. Mr. Ved Prakash, Commissioner of Municipal Corporation Gwalior, who shared the animal welfare programme of Nagar Nigam, Miss. Alka Gupta Head of Animal Care and Cure Animal Protection NGO, Dr. S.K Mittal, Veterinary Officer of Gwalior Zoo, Prof. D.N. Saksena, Prof. A.K. Jain, Prof. Sangeeta Shukla, Prof. P.K. Tiwari of School of Studies in Zoology and several other dignitaries gave presentations on animal welfare programme and appealed for animal care and protection.

At the occasion all the speakers stressed the need for complete protection of all animal species as animals are an inseparable part of nature and harmonious relationship between man and animals is beneficial to both. Voice was raised against age old animal exploitation practices like using animal in dissections, snake charming, and bear and monkey dancing which must not exist in any environmentally conscious society. At the end of the day booklets and posters containing information about animal protection, provided by Zoo Outreach Organization, Coimbatore were explained and distributed among the attendants. **Submitted by: Dr. R.J Rao, Director IGAEEER. Email: soszool@rediffmail.com**

Conservation Education Programmes in Aurangabad Schools, Maharashtra

The first program on Biodiversity Conservation was organized for teachers and students at Z.P Central School Nandar Tq. Pachod Dist. Aurangabad on 23 Feb. 2012. This programme was inaugurated by the hands of Mr. Kiran Kale, Snr. Correspondence, The Daily Lokmat News Paper Aurangabad. This function was presided by Dr. Dilip Yardi, Director Environmental Research Foundation Aurangabad. In his speech, he explained in detail about the biodiversity, its importance, how to maintain it, role of an individual in the development and protection of biodiversity etc. Other resource person Mr. Rameshwar Disane explained about the role and importance of reptiles in biodiversity. A total of 30 teachers and 150 students took part in the programme. Mr. Kulkarni S.R., Conservator of Forest Gov. of Maharashtra, was present as Chief guest of the programme and on this occasion Mr. M.N. Shaikh and Mr. S.G. Dhupe, School Headmasters, Mr. Subhash Shinde, Police Patil of the village were also present on the Dias. The second similar programme was organized on 28th Feb. 2012 at



Mr. Dilip Yardi demonstrating amphibian education materials



Teachers and students posing with ZOO education materials

Jaibhawani High school Aurangabad. In this programme 50 Teachers and 200 Students were participated. ZOO education materials were introduced, explained and distributed to the participants. They appreciated the education materials a lot. Both the above programme will be helpful for the maintaining the Biodiversity of the area. **Submitted by: Dr. Dilip Yardi, Member of Zoo Municipal Corporation & Hon. Wildlife Warden, Aurangabad, Maharashtra. Email: yardidilip@yahoo.com**

Spurti Education and Welfare Association SEWA, Gwalior celebrated AWF 2012

SEWA NGO is working in Gwalior has been doing several welfare programmes. As part of the Animal Welfare Fortnight, the members of SEWA gave presentations and conducted animal welfare awareness campaigns in several Gwalior schools. The SEWA members also gave

demonstrations and explained the need for welfare of animals to the visitors of Gandhi Zoological Park, Gwalior. At that time, the educational materials provided by ZOO Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore was explained in detail to the students and young visitors in the zoo. **Submitted by: Smt. R. Sarada, President, SEWA, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.**

World Environment Day Celebrations at TATA Steel Zoological Park

As run up to World Environment Day Celebrations this year, Tata Steel Zoological Park in association with Acharya Nandalal Bose Art Gallery, The Bengal Club Sakchi initiated an 8 day long art camp on theme 'Art for Nature Conservation' on zoo grounds from 26th May, 2012. The main aim of this camp was to bring awareness among zoo visitors through paintings, the plight of Indian wildlife and the environment in general. The camp concluded on 5th June with an



"Art for Nature Conservation" camp held at Zoo Nature Education Centre

exhibition of paintings and sculptures at the Zoo Nature Education Centre. The exhibition was inaugurated by painter and forester Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, I.F.S. A total of 120 artists participated in the camp. Prizes were given away to artists for their endeavour.

A two km. walk for generating awareness among the morning walkers and general public visiting the Jubilee Park was organized in the early hours of 5th June. NGO's and Eco clubs participated in this awareness campaign. The walk was flagged off from the zoo gate by Shri P.R. Prasad, Secretary, Tata Steel Zoological Society. A total of 75 young and adults took part in this awareness walk. Later on a competition was organized among students of various class based on amphibian behaviour. Students were asked to mimic like frog and toads. Best performing students were awarded with 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. This activity was done to make aware our young generation on the importance of conserving wetlands and their fauna.



A walk for generating awareness organized

Later in the morning hours, a tree plantation programme was organized in collaboration with Marwari Yuva Manch and their women's wing inside the zoo campus. Being symbolic to environment & nature conservation, Neem and other trees of medicinal value were planted. Say no to plastic was the theme adopted by the zoo for the entire day. Visitors to the zoo were educated by volunteers for avoiding littering the zoo grounds and the Jayanti Sarovar with plastic wastes. At the entrance gate, visitors were asked to deposit their PET bottles and collect them during their return. Any person who insisted to take the PET bottles inside was asked to deposit a security deposit of Rs.10/- which was refunded to them after they came back with the bottle. In gist, Tata Zoo used all forms of medium to communicate to its visitors and the general public at large towards need for immediate conservation of our Environment, forest and wildlife.

Submitted by: Director. Email: dirtatazoo@sify.com



Marwari Yuva Manch planting trees at zoo campus