

Wildlife Week Programme Reports from ZOO's Education Partners

ZOO WATCH Wildlife Week Activity

With the materials and designs sent to us by Zoo Outreach Organization, our members designed and made ten large flex boards that summarized very briefly the essential message of Year of the Frog - YOTF 2008. While doing this, we met with some criticism for making flex boards out of synthetic material. To this we replied that these boards



represent a considerable investment of time and money and they have been made to last us at least another ten years. Not only are they very

attractive, but they are also light weight, easy to handle and can be transported anywhere at a low cost. Also, the use of synthetics is only a problem when they are casually thrown away to pollute the environment, which is certainly not the case here. The huge advantage of creating ones own flex boards is that zoo organizations can take their topics to their target audiences instead of waiting for them to visit the Zoo. The boards were displayed 3rd October in Thiruvananthapuram Zoo. The Zoo Director Curator and Staff cooperated to the maximum level and ensured a smooth and hassle-free programme. Because the flex boards are designed to be impressive, our volunteers and members had very little trouble delivering the message of the Amphibian Crisis. Everywhere the reaction was the same: "Why doesn't the Government do something about this crisis? Why hasn't this been reported by the media? Why has no one told us about this problem before?"

ZOOWATCH conducted a second Amphibian Crisis public education programme on Sunday 5th October. This time our location in the Zoo was much better and we met with even greater success because we could motivate many panchayat leaders, teachers, school children and college students from different parts of India to spread the important message further in their educational institutions and neighbourhoods. We could also persuade several visitors to consider the possibility of starting their very own amphibian habitats in their back yards! After these two programmes we have



received several calls from local schools inviting us to visit them and hold a short talk on the YOTF topic, invitations that we have happily accepted.

Submitted by: Latha Tampi, ZOO WATCH, Trivandrum, Kerala. Email: lathatampi@yahoo.com

"Amphibiaz-08" Wildlife Week Celebration in Forest college, Mettuapalyam

Wildlife has long been an integral part of the Indian culture and mythology. The importance to conserve wildlife has gained momentum in recent years due to the extinction of several beautiful animals and 1000's of them endangered.



The wildlife week is celebrated on the 1st week of October every year. The "Salim Ali Nature Club" of Forest College and Research Institute,

Mettupalayam had organized a competition "Amphibiaz-08" for schools and colleges of Coimbatore district on 4th October. The main objectives of the event were: Awareness on wildlife conservation;

Current problems on wildlife in India; Pooling like-minded people on nature; Educating advancements in wildlife in India. The chief



guest for the inaugural function was Mr. P. Rama Subra-manian IFS, DFO, Sathyamangalam division. Several programmes were conducted on the day: Jungle walk, Wildlife quiz, Debate, Elocation, On the spot painting, Poster making, Kavithai and Essay writing. Around 8 schools and 10 colleges' participated, prizes were awarded separately to colleges and school students winner in the above competition. The school and college that won the most wonderful prizes awarded the wildlife trophies. SJN Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kallar and TNAU, Coimbatore bagged the overall championship in school and college categories respectively. **Submitted by K.S. Anbrasu, Salim Ali Nature Club, Email: ksaravanan86@gmail.com**

Amphibian Ark programme for NSS, Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry.

During the 5 day refresher course for the NSS programme officers of Higher Secondary Schools of Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry, organised by the Madras School of Social Work, Chennai. Thirty Three NSS programme officers from 15 districts namely Chengalpattu, Dharmapuri, Karur,

Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Perambalur, Thiruvavarur, Kancheepuram, Trichy, Tanjore, Tindivanam, Thiruvavarur, Thiruvannamalai, Vellore and Villupuram



underwent the training. With the introduction of India's concern towards sustainability with OHP sheets was

dealt with. After explaining the concept of Biodiversity, the Amphibian Ark session was started. The types of Amphibians especially the frog, its uses and the present condition were explained first. With the rakhi, placard, drama kit, sticker the concept was introduced. They enthusiastically participated in frog race and did the role-play with the kit. They have planned to implement this programme at their schools,

nearby schools and the target villages of NSS within 7 days i.e. before Deepavali. They decided to spread a speedy message "not to burn" the



burnt/un-burnt crackers/paper near the habitat of frog. They have planned to spread this message through various programmes like sports day, school anniversary day and on important religious festival times. **Submitted by: Mrs. Jessie Jayakaran, Virugambakkam, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Email: jessieje@rediffmail.com**

Tigers and Science at Calicut, Kerala

World Animal Day 2008 was celebrated on 4 October with Wildlife Week 2008 in the Regional Science Centre and Planetarium, Calicut for Plus 2 students. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to animals participated in the function and led the programme organised by the Conservation of Nature Society, Calicut with the materials received from the Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. The programme on tigers was inspired by the "Intensive Educators Skills Training in Wildlife Teaching" sponsored by WCS, USA and hosted by Zoo Outreach organisation. Various subjects of the tigers on which classes were taken by the members of the Executive Committee including the huge fall in the tiger numbers in India.

Shocking revelations came from the students when they related a recent study on low huge fall in migratory birds numbers in the Malabar Region due to the increasing number of "Mobile Towers" in the district which also subsequently destroyed the

trees around. As the programme itself was in the Regional Science Centre the topic came up for discussion. Leading press were invited to the pro-gramme.



Increasing cruelties to the captive elephants was also a major subject for the discussion in the day long programme. The students took an oath in the protection of wild animals, wild birds, sloth bear etc. The participants thanked the sponsors, Zoo Outreach Organisation, Wildlife Conservation Society, USA

The amphibian programme was also organised on the day. Our associate concern Dolphin Protection Committee took classes on the treat faced by the sea animals like whales. **Submitted by: V.K Damodar, Jt Sec, CNS. Email: mspca3@hotmail.com**

Wildlife Week organised by Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants, Adyar Poonga.

The environment education wing of Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants, Adyar Poonga celebrated Wildlife Week on 11th October 2008 and the theme for the program was Year of the Frog 2008. We had ordered around 30 Frogs Rock!, 30 Frogs Bumper sticker and 50 T-shirts. But of course, we received a lot of packets and stickers. The program was organised for 50 Eco-club students of Santhome Higher Secondary School, Chennai. The program was held at Adyar Poonga and it lasted for around two and a half hours. At first, the children were taken around the exhibition by the Demonstrators, which have been put into display for all kinds of visiting groups.

Mr. K. Cyril Rufus, Environment Education Coordinator gave a brief introduction about Amphibians which included the status, importance and threats. Following the introduction, Frogs Rock! On the Amphibian Ark packets were distributed to the students. The students did a follow up activity in the booklet on Amphibian identification. Mr.J.T. Rex Vaz, People Participatory Coordinator asked the



students to tie the friendship bands and mask to their partner. Slogans were raised saying "Save our Frogs! Save our Friends!" using the placards. Snake and Frog game was played among the students and each snake was

addressed to the students as a threat like diseases, global warming, habitat loss, etc. Then following

that a quiz on Wildlife of India was organised for the students. The students were split into 10 teams. The first three winning team members were acknowledged with a Guide to South Asian Primates book by Bro. Soosairaj, Principal of Santhome Higher Secondary School.



On behalf of our environment education team, I would like to thank Zoo Outreach Organisation for supplying and coordinating the education packets to us. **Submitted by: Cyril Rufus, Adayar Poonga, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Email: cyril4112@yahoo.co.in**

Elephant Programme at Kolhapur, Maharashtra. A

programme of "Maha-Hatga" was arranged at Shri. Renuka Mandir, Kolhapur jointly with Yuvak Mitra Mandal, Zoo outreach Organisation & Radio Mirchi Kolhapur. "Hatga" is a game where elephant puja is done, a photo of elephant was



placed in the center & girls sing songs related to elephant. There were 350 members present for, a traditional dress competition, & "Khirapat Olkha" competition. Dy. Mayor Mrs. Smita Mane was the chief guest & Prof. Mrs. Sadhana Zadbuke was special guest for the programme. More than 50 kids were present for the programme. Mrs. Zadbuke & Dy. Mayor told participants which care we should take while visiting a zoo (elephant etiquette for being captive elephants & importance of elephant in our life.)



The winners of the competition

are: Traditional dress-senior- Mrs. Radhika Malkar, Traditional dress-junior- Kumari Rachana Sankpal, Khirapat Olkha- 1gm Gold- Kumari Vaishali Mane. **Submitted by: Kishor Maruti Malekar, Kolhapur, Maharashtra. Email: captrohit@sancharnet.in**

WWF-India, Dehradun celebrates Wildlife Week.

This year we have Celebrated Wildlife Week with YCS (Young Climate Saver) and NCI (Nature Club of India) students of Dehradun. For this Rajaji National Park and RIMC have provided their full co-operation. On 4 October, 2008 WWF-India organized a "Conservation Trip" by youngsters. Eighty-seven students from four schools participated in this trip. We also called local students of school of Rajaji National Park due to their wholehearted effort of conservation in this area. They shared their view with other students. Three Scientists had been invited for this programme. Mrs. Aanchal Sindhu was

also present there. In this occasion WWF-India's Director, Wing Commander M.C. Pandey was also present. He organized a signature campaign for students and asked students to take a pledge to save the wildlife and Tiger. The main aim of this trip was the promotion of nature conservation among students. We participated in bird watching and Dr. A.P. Singh and Mr. S. Singh helped students in this. Students also identified some insects in the RNP area and Mrs. Aanchal helped students. Mr. Kailash gave some informations to students about Fungi and Likanes and their importance.

In this occasion some play related to wildlife conservation were presented by Welham Boys School and Dhudali Schools. On 5 October WWF-India had organized a "Save the Tiger Run" in RIMC and on 6 October a workshop on Environmental ethics and Wildlife Conservation was organized by WWF-India Field Office. **Submitted by: Dr. Jitendra Singh Rawat, WWF-India Field Office, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Email: jrawat@wwfindia.net**

WWF Kerala Wildlife Activity Report

An awareness programme at Le'Cole Chempaka School- WWF-India was conducted during a one day event at Le Cole, Chempaka, a School at TVM jointly with ZOO, Coimbatore on 3 October 2008. The programme included Slide Talks, Painting Competition, Colouring the Bat Competition and an activity session on Bears. Mrs. Meena Nair, Vice-Principal of Senior School welcomed the organizers and introduced the significance of Wildlife Week to the students. Slide show on 'Wildlife of Kerala and its Management' was carried out by Sri. Renjan Mathew Varghese, State Director and Sri. A. K. Sivakumar, Education Officer of Kerala State Office for the entire junior School and senior Schools separately in three slots with 70 students in each. The Painting Competition on "Wildlife in our Surroundings" was joined by fifty four students of Grade V. The 'Coloring the Bat' competition was attended by 70 students of Grade IV with the bat book supplied by ZOO, Coimbatore. The students of



Grade VIII presented six mini dramas on the topic 'Bears and Humans'. All the dramas were interesting and been awarded with mementos. The themes covered by the students were poaching, deforestation, animal teasing, plant animal interaction etc

The poster kit on 'Fruit Bats of South East Asia' were distributed to the students. WWF-India, KLSO has joined hands with IT @School, an educational project under Dept. of Education, Govt. of Kerala programme in conducting a series of film show on Wildlife at Museum Compound, TVM targeting general public from 2 October to 6 October 2008. Wildlife Quiz at St.Thomas School & Christ Nagar School **Submitted by: A.K. Sivakumar, Email: asivakumar@wwfindia.net**

Palakkad Awareness programme on Tigers WWF-India, KLSO jointly with Zoo Outreach Organisation (ZOO), Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), Southern Region and Eco friends Nature Club of Govt. Victoria College conducted a single day awareness programme in connection with the



Wildlife Week 2008 on 7 October at the College Seminar Hall. The programme was attended by 70 students from different colleges. The focal theme of the pro-gramme was "Tiger". The event was inaugurated by Sri.Winston S. Suting IFS, CCF (Wildlife) Palakkad Region who briefed on Tiger conservation in India. Sri. Guruvayurappan, Coordinator of WPSI Southern Region presented the topic Tiger conservation-National and State Scenario. In the afternoon session, Mr. A. K. Sivakumar led an activity session on "Tiger in Our Culture". The participants were grouped in to six and asked to find out the stories, names of places, products and other tiger related points we deal in our day to day life. The points were awarded with marks and were ranked as a competition. They came out with long list of songs, stories, range of products, cinemas, characters etc. This activity increased the energy level of the participants and helped them to share the knowledge base on tiger in our culture. This helped them to develop an attitude that Wildlife conservation is not just a scientific or conservation topic, but is the part of our life and culture. **Submitted by: A.K. Sivakumar, Email: asivakumar@wwfindia.net**

Awareness programme on Elephants at Wayanad

WWF-India Kerala State Office, Zoo Outreach Organization and Ferns Naturalists Society jointly organized wildlife week celebration programmes at Govt. Hr

Secondary school Kattikkulam on 6 Oct 08. School principal Smt. C. Kuncheriyann inaugurated the programme. Sri A.



Ajayakumar, Nature Club Coordinator delivered a talk on "Role of Students in Wildlife Conservation" and Sri. P.A.Vinayan delivered a lecture on "Human - Elephant Conflict and wildlife Conservation in Kerala". Resource material kits on Elephants provided by ZOO were distributed to the students. Documentaries on wildlife conservation and Wildlife sanctuaries were also screened. Kum. Sreeshya KR, President welcomed the resource persons, organizers and participants. Master. Jithin Mani, Secretary of Nature Club delivered vote of thanks. **Submitted by: A.K. Sivakumar, Email: asivakumar@wwfindia.net**

Bats for Wildlife Week. The EE wing of Pitchandikulam Forest Consultants, Adyar Poonga celebrated Wildlife Week on 17/10/08 on BATS. We ordered around 30 South Asia colour posters and a lot of packets and stickers. The program was organised for 30 Eco-club students of Rani Lady Meyyammai Girls HS School, Chennai held at the in the school premises and it lasted for around one and a half hours. A brief introduction about Bats which included the status, importance and threats was given. Bat education packets were distributed to the students. The students tied rakhis and masks to their partner. Slogans were: "Save our



Bats! Save our Friends!" The students were taught BAnatomy and were asked to draw the two kinds of bats in the booklet. Newspaper clipping about BATs was written in the space of "The Times of Bats" and students connected the dots to find out the bats. The best performer for each activity was given a set of Fruit bats of South Asia colour posters. Thanks Zoo Outreach Organisation, CCINSA and BCI for these. **Submitted by: Cyril Rufus, Adayar Poonga, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Email: cyril4112@yahoo.co.in**