

Education Reports in brief of Indian Wildlife Week, Part 2

Another Note from ZOO education division:

This is the second batch of summarised reports of Indian Wildlife Week 50th year celebration, held at hundreds of zoos, wildlife organisations, forest departments, universities, schools, etc. Rising to the occasion Zoo Outreach Organisation prepared five new packets featuring threatened species of India and the region and offered over 100,000 kits containing various items -- packets, posters, t-shirts. Over 80 institutions ordered kits and now they are sending excellent reports of their programmes.

Our space and photo quality limitations prohibit us from publishing all the reports in their entirety but we are summarising them in ZOOS' PRINT and putting the articles and photos in their entirety up on our websites <www.zooreach.org> and <www.zoosprint.org>. We are also going to include them either in the last issue of ARNIZE News or in the first or second issue of our new network newsletter. Some of them will be published in one of the taxon newsletters, such as BatNet. Some of the best we will polish and submit to the Journal of the International Zoo Educators Association if the author doesn't mind.

Most of the institutions who organised workshops have given very good reports which include new ideas and concepts, new ways to use old themes, and other material too good not to share. So these will be published ... in time ... somewhere on paper, not just on the website !

We have started a new network for education which is more practical for this region than just zoo education. The people we serve in education come from a great variety of institutions including zoos, wildlife divisions, ministries, schools, universities, institutes, animal welfare organisations, social welfare organisations and even one or two commercial organisations which conduct education programmes. These institutions make excellent partners and we want to encourage that by creating a network named appropriately. The name of this network is still under discussion. We want it to reflect the whole range of institutions which are conducting dynamic collaborative conservation education as partners with us, including our generous sponsors, our taxon and disciplinary networks, our advisors, and our users -- the people who order the products and contribute energy, funds and space to communicate conservation education to the public. Ideas welcome.

Many thanks to our sponsors for this year's educational materials : Chester Zoo, UFAW, Columbus Zoo, Appendhel Primate Park, Knowsley Safari Park and others.

Check out our websites and see the lovely range of programmes and photos celebrating the conservation of wildlife.

Sally Walker

Ahmedabad Zoo celebrates Wildlife Week

This year again Ahmedabad Zoo celebrated wildlife week from 1st October, 2004 to 8th October, 2004 and have allowed 5514 students free entry just to encourage about conservation education.

We have organized different programme for schools like our Head Animal Keepers and Education Inspector are teaching and taking them to animals explaining about animal activities food habits and also supplied food in their presence.

Students tied Rakhis to each other and took oath to save wildlife and spread the message. Students are very happy after participating in these conservation activities.

Education Materials sent by Zoo Outreach Organisation is very useful to all teachers of different school even some of Professors also took this material and said this will be very useful for teaching college students. Now almost is all level syllabus having wildlife, Ecosystem, Environment subjects and all teachers and lecturers not having proper training and materials about wild life education.

Submitted by R.K. Sahu, Zoo Superintendent, Kamala Nehru Zoological Gardens, Kankaria, Ahmedabad 380 008

Bhilai, Maitri Baag Zoo Wildlife Week

To create awareness about wildlife conservation and help species, i.e tigers, bats, Lion tailed macaque and environment the Maitri Baag Zoo conducted a drawing competition among B.S.P. School's students for different level in different schools. i.e. primary, middle school and secondary and Hr. Secondary schools in the Maitri Baag Zoo on 3.10.04.

The students visited the zoo and participated according to age group. They had been given topic on "Wildlife Conservation". Many students participated and gave their contribution on this occasion. Winners were selected and prizes were given accordingly on the last day.

In this programme, during drawing competition, the management of B.S.P. had taken great interest. The General Manager, Shri H.K. Sethi visited during the competition in the Zoo. He also interacted with the children about Wildlife Conservation, about Maitri Baag Zoo contribution and the Zoo animals

Submitted by Ganesh Dubey, Superintendent, Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai

NCC Students from Bhilai at Maitri Baag Zoo for Wildlife Week

The Maitri Baag Zoo Organised an exclusive Zoo Education Programme for NCC Students of BSP Higher Secondary School, Sector – 2 Bhilai on 7.10.04 on the occasion of Wildlife Week. About 20 NCC students took around the Zoo and explained visitors behaviours in zoo area and how act with animals about "Do" and Don't". They carry with them placard in front animal enclosures and explained the visitors. They have also been explained Wildlife Act briefly. "What should be done and to be done for the zoo animals

and how they can take role in educating the visitors. The NCC students actively participated in this programme. They had also given information to the visitors "Oath expectation Maitri Baag Zoo having from visitors to follow the Wildlife Protection Act and provide better environment to Wildlife and good services to the visitors. The NCC students had taken oath, in the presence of Dr. G.K. Dubey by tying rakhi for help in saving protecting and conserving Wildlife in their lifetime and help in follow the Wildlife Protection Act. The programme was organized by Dr. G.K. Dubey, Dr. N.K. Jain and T. Kalaichelvan, Zoo Education Unit, Maitri Baag, Bhilai

Programme for Young School Children "Save Toad & Save Environment"

An exclusive programme on "Save Toad & Save Environment" was organized for 38 young students of primary school Angel Valley, Durg was organized by the Zoo Education Unit, Maitri Baag Zoo.

The neglected small vertebrates such as frogs and toads, some reptiles and also most of invertebrates play important role to maintain the eco-system. Students were given information on "Toad Conservation". The young people sometimes ignorantly disturb and even kill them. Frogs and toads play an important role to control pests, namely crop destroying insects. They also serve as prey for reptiles, birds etc., which helps maintain the food chain.

Due to lack of awareness among the students or children and young people, toads are killed and its habitat destroyed. In the rainy season children play with toads and frogs and disturb them and sometimes they may be killed. The rainy season is breeding season for them. During this period, the toads are killed which may affect the next generation or may disturb the eco-system.

The students were given much useful information on amphibians and also given information how to protect them. They have been given frog masks, stickers and textual materials which were provided by the "Zoo Outreach Organisation", Coimbatore.

Submitted by G.K. Dubey and T. Kalaichelvan of Zoo Education Unit, Maitri Baag Zoo, Bhilai

Wildlife Week celebrations in the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust

Wildlife Week celebrations were kicked off on Sunday, October 3, 2004 at the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust with a painting competition for 18 children from Vadanemelli village. The children were given Welfare of Daily Life Wildlife kits sponsored by Zoo Outreach Organisation. This kit has facts about wild creatures in our daily lives like bats, frogs, spiders, butterflies and insects. The role that each creature played in helping humans was pointed out, for example insectivorous bats control mosquito and insect population, butterflies help in pollination. The children also came up with the various creatures (frogs, snakes, lizards) that they have seen around their homes and the usefulness of each of them. This exercise lead to talking about other wildlife found only in protected forests in our country, the importance of these forests and the need for conservation of these forests. This was also the theme for the painting competition. The children used only natural materials like mud, leaves,

flowers, charcoal and indigo for their paintings. Three prizes were awarded for the best paintings.

On Tuesday, October 5, 2004, quiz competition was held for government primary and high schools. A total of 32 children representing 12 schools on the East Coast Road participated in the day's activities. The day started off with a tour of the Croc bank and the Irula Snake Catchers Co-operative Society. After tea and snacks, the high school children went on a treasure hunt based on clues pertaining to the different reptiles found in the Croc Bank. The all girl team from Govt Middle School from Alathur won the treasure hunt. While the treasure hunt was going on the teams from the primary schools went through a qualification round for the quiz. The top three scorers were selected for the final round of the reptile quiz. There were two rounds of direct questions on the Croc Bank and reptiles in general. The team from Panchayat Union Primary School, Chemenjeri won the primary school quiz. Prizes and certificate distribution for the 16 primary schools children were awarded after lunch. The high school quiz followed the prize distribution. The teams were given a questionnaire to answer and the top three scorers were selected to participate in the final round. The team from Nemelli Govt. High School emerged as the winners.

Wednesday, October 6, 2004, A half-day program for 23 children of class 11 from St. Mary's Kellambakkam was organized at the Croc Bank. They were taken for a tour of the Croc Bank and then activities were conducted using reptile kits sponsored by Zoo Outreach Organisation. During the tour students were asked to observe the turtles and tortoises in the exhibits carefully and make notes on each of the endangered species. The same applied to the three species of Indian crocodiles with the students observing the physical differences between the crocodiles and the uniqueness of each. The first activity was done using the Turtle & Tortoise kit. The students went through a booklet on the different endangered turtle and tortoise species of India after which they identified the images and shapes of the various turtles on a poster and filled in the common names and scientific names of the corresponding turtles. The kit also had various accessories like a turtle wristband and necktie, which the students tied on each other. At the end of the activity they went through the status of the turtles and the criteria by which they are classified. The next activity was done using the Gharial kit. The students enthusiastically adorned the headbands and held up the Go Gharial slogans. They then went through the booklet with the information on the history of conservation of the Gharial so far in India and the current status. One of the students then read out a letter in the booklet that they as students could write to the government to restart the Gharial conservation program. Some of the activities from the Great Gharial Games were also conducted. They went through the general information on the Gharial and other Crocs and identified the three Indian crocs by differentiating them by the scales and the snouts. The session ended with tea and biscuits for all.

The afternoon session was attended by 22 students from BKMS Higher Secondary School, Kelambakkam. Mr. Marimuthu from Zoo Outreach Organisation, Mr. Manimozhi, Biologist and Mr. Kalyanamorthy, Forest Ranger both from Vandalur Zoo also attended this session. The session followed the same schedule as the morning program. The

students were taken for a tour of Croc Bank followed by activities using the Turtle & Tortoise Kit. The group had a time limit from 3pm –5pm so only the Turtle & Tortoise kit was used for the afternoon session. Zoo Education

Submitted by Kundhavi Devi, Education officer, MCBT, Mammallapurm, TN

Action for Protection of Wild Animals, Orissa

Wildlife is a factor for ecological balance. Mankind will be protected if the animal life is protected. The idea is to reach out to people through children and their teachers. This year we have been celebrating wildlife week in a different manner through out the week. The program was more colourful interesting and learnable with inputs of educational materials provided by Coimbatore based Zoo Outreach Organisation. Daywise celebration report given below.

On 2nd October we inaugurated the Wildlife Week with participants tying rakhis each other with promise to protect wildlife. The animal printed rakhi was provided by ZOO, Coimbatore. A photo exhibition on wildlife was display. Gandhi Jayanti and Ahimasadiwas was on 2nd October. Violence is the expression of weakness, Non-violence is brave. An Eloquence competition was held among students of 8 different Schools on "Gandhi & Ahimsa". A Veterinary Camp was organized by APOWA for 217 large & small animals which were treated.

The Third day of the wildlife week celebration was organized at N.C. High School at Badamulabasanta with participation 12 other schools from Kendrapara Dist. The Various programmes were organized involving all the participants.

- a) Essay competition
- b) Know your Wildlife Welfare? ABCs?

The competition on "ABC of Wildlife" was held on this occasion. There are 46 no's of students participated and filled the blanks (the name of animals) booklet provided by Zoo Outreach Organisation, Coimbatore. It was seen that student are every happy to attend such interesting programme.

c) Bat – Count Competition

"Bat Count competition was more appreciated by the students and teachers. There are 52 no's of students count the number of bat. Most of the students tried to give right answer.

Fourth October was World Animal Day when a rally was organised by APOWA with the participation of Phokhariapara M.E. School Students with the students staging a rally with wearing mask (of different animals provided by Zoo) and holding placards. On 5th October, a quiz competition was organized by APOWA at U.S. High School on the topic "Wildlife of Orissa". and a short play was displayed by the students of USAK High School. On 6th October various game were organized by APOWA in relation to wildlife at Hatapatana School. The games like "Fire in the forest". "My Daily life Wildlife". "Amphibian art and activities". "Turtle size and shapes activity" were conducted among students. By 7 October a Valedictory Function of Wildlife week was organized at APOWA conference Hall premises. Every one appreciated the educational materials provided by Zoo Outreach Organization. This was most informative & interesting & attractive for School going kids. The week long program was evaluated and assessed which was administered to the students and the responses were evaluated by Prof. G.C. Tripathy. It was found that the responses were satisfactory.

Submitted by Bijaya Kumar Kabi, Director, APWA, Orissa.

A d v e r t i s e m e n t

FIELD BIOLOGIST FOR WILDLIFE RESEARCH

Action Oriented Wildlife Conservation Group offers opportunities for Field Biologist to assist with Primary Data Collection, Analysis of Field Data and Report Writing. Persons who are passionate about wildlife and committed to conservation and good science will be preferred. Experience in analysis of data & report writing in English is essential. Knowledge of Hindi will be an advantage.

Other skills which will be an advantage in the field are : driving, photography, computers, knowledge of wild animal behavior. Salary will depend on individual's skills. Send your bio data with 1) color photo 2) earlier work reports & 3) salary expectation by email to wsos@vsnl.com

Please enter subject in email as application for Field Biologist.

Note from ZOO publishers

PURCHASE OF LIFE MEMBERSHIPS ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

From 1 January 2005 we will not take any more LIFE memberships until further notice.

We regret that will will have to raise the price of LIFE memberships or arrange a different system in regard to receipt of ZOOS' PRINT magazine and Journal.

For a long time, the magazine and journal have been running at a severe financial loss, even with subsidies from our donor organisations. The cost of producing them far exceeds the subscription price and very quickly exceeds the Life membership fee.

We have to examine our options in this regard and see what can be done so that we can continue to publish without loss. **Editors**